

Jesus the liberator

Leader Notes

The aim of this session is to introduce the young people to Jesus the liberator. In this session we will explore the character of Jesus through the lens of liberation. This will provide a theological framework to help your young people, to embrace and understand the other.

In today's session we will explore Jesus' Manifesto. To fully appreciate Jesus as a liberator, we will need to take time to explore His life, and His message.

Session Advertising Jesus Icebreaker - All Age Activity

Time 15-20 minute

Equipment Paper, Pen, Cardboard, Musical equipment or musical software

If you had to create an advertising campaign to market Jesus what would you say and how would you advertise him?

You can encourage young people to create a five-minute drama sketch within their teams to advertise in Jesus and his message.

Things it might be helpful to include:

- A narrator
- Music/ a soundtrack
- A storyboard to think through ideas
- Actors and actresses
- A slogan

Tip for the facilitator

If you have older teenagers (15+) in your group, consider filming the sketches and uploading them to social media.

Session Story Brand
Icebreaker 11-15
Time 15-20 minute
Equipment Paper, Pen, Cardboard

What do you stand for?

You will need the young people to break into teams of two. You may need to adapt it if you have a larger group.

The aim of the icebreaker is to get young people to come up with a manifesto. The young people will need to choose a celebrity, and create, a manifesto or slogan to communicate this person's message and mission. Please Feel free to add your own to suit your context.

Panel of Judges

You will need a panel of judges to decide which team has the best manifesto. You can use these criteria

| Scoring criteria | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Clarity of mission | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Presentation and delivery | | | | | |
| Acknowledgment of topic | | | | | |
| Number of young people involved in the presentation | | | | | |
| Do you believe this manifesto would work? | | | | | |

Session Story Brand
Icebreaker 15+
Time 15-20 minute
Equipment Paper, Pen, Cardboard

What do you stand for?

You will need the young people to break into teams of two. You may need to adapt it if you have a larger group.

The aim of the icebreaker is to get young people to come up with a manifesto. Things they hope to achieve to change their community

They will need to come up with a statement or a slogan. The other teams will have an opportunity to question them on how they hope to achieve the changes.

Panel of Judges

You will need a panel of judges to decide which team has the best manifesto. You can use these criteria

| Scoring criteria | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Clarity of mission | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Presentation and delivery | | | | | |
| Acknowledgment of topic | | | | | |
| Number of young people involved in the presentation | | | | | |
| Do you believe this manifesto would work? | | | | | |

Session Let talk about Jesus
Bible Studying
Time 15-20 minute
Equipment Paper, Pen, Access to the Bible

Discussion & Bible Study

For the discussion you need young people in small groups. The aim of this discussion is to find out what young people think about the message and life of Jesus.

Opening Discussion question

Tip for the facilitator

It is important when you introduce this question, to encourage young people to say the first thing that comes to mind.

- What comes to mind, when Jesus is mentioned?

Tip for the facilitator

You can ask the young people to write down what people say or create a list. This is a good way to stay on top of people's opinions and ideas.

Jesus' Manifesto / Bible Study

Ask the young people to look up the following passages:

Luke 4:18-19

**"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."**

Tip for the facilitator

It is important to be aware that different young people will have different reading abilities. So, one way to avoid embarrassment is to read the passage yourself or ask an individual who is comfortable to read it. This will provide you with good information on who is comfortable with reading out loud and who you can ask for future bible studies.

The Spirit's Anointing (Luke 4:18)

When we see these words the spirit of the Lord is upon me, what does that mean?

When Jesus stepped into the synagogue, he was reading an ancient passage from **Isaiah 61:1**. This was written many hundreds of years before Christ lived on earth. This passage was preparing God's people, for the Messiah. (The Anointed one, He will be a special person bringing in the reign and rule of God.)

Jesus was not the only special person in the Bible there are number of other people who were anointed.

- 1 Samuel 16:12-13
- Exodus 29:7; 30:30
- Numbers 35:25
- 1 Kings 19:16

In our passage the anointing of the Spirit of God is to accomplish a particular purpose, which is both an empowerment and a commissioning.

Questions

Do you think it's reasonable for us to expect the power of the Spirit to act the same today?

Preaching Good News to the Poor (Luke - 4:18)

The first area in Jesus' message is to preach the good news.

Question

- What is the good news?

Ask young people to read the following passages:

- John 3:16
- Ephesians 1:13
- Colossians 1:5
- 1 Timothy 2:4; 3:15 4:3 6:5;
- 2 Timothy 2:18 25; 3:7,

What do we think of preaching to people?

Please discuss the following passages:

- 1 Corinthians 1:21
- Hebrews 4:12
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 2 Timothy 4:1-4

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners (Luke 4:18) The next section of his message is to proclaim freedom for the prisoner.

Questions

How should we interpret this message? Do we need to physically set people free in prison or is this a figure of speech?

Physically being set free

- Act 5:19
- Act 12:7-10
- Acts 16:26

Spiritually being set free

- John 8:36
- Galatians 5:13-14
- 2 Corinthians 3:17.

Questions

- Did Jesus give preferential treatment to the poor?

- Do you think it's possible to be a true follower of Jesus and ignore the poor?

- Who are the poorest people within your community?

Recovery of Sight to the Blind (Luke 4:18)

The next section of Jesus' message was to bring "recovery of sight to the blind." John the baptiser's disciples questioned whether Jesus was the fulfilment of prophesy or whether they should look for someone else. Look at the following passage to see what He says in response:

Luke 7:20-22

This shows Jesus really did live out his message. You can read the following passages for further explanation.

- Mark 10:46
- John 9:1-8

Release to the oppressed (Luke 4:18)

Questions

- What is God's view about oppression?

1. Isaiah 1:17
2. Proverbs 14:31
3. Psalm 72:4
4. Psalm 34:18
5. Psalm 146:7
6. James 2:6

Questions

- Who are oppressed in our day?

- How do we as Christians deal with the oppression we see in our society?

The Year of Jubilee (Luke 4:19)

The final section of Jesus' message is "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." What does that mean?

In the context of Isaiah 61:1-2, it seems to refer to the Year of Jubilee that occurred every 50 years at that time.

In that year all Hebrew slaves who may have been enslaved due to debt were set free.

- Leviticus 25:8-13
- 2 Corinthians 6:2
- How can we practically live this truth of releasing debt in our lives?

Response: Dear God

Releasing to the oppressed (Luke 4:18)

This could be a great opportunity for young people to write a letter to God about the things they feel are oppressing them this may include a range of emotions and experiences.

If you provide a letterbox for young people to post a letter to it can be a process of release and clarity for them. It would be good if young people want to share what they've written that you have appropriate adults around them, to allow them, time to talk about it.

Dear God,