

What is a Christian? Someone who has **FAITH**

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Leader: Bernie

A 5 minute video that explains the three "new" things it means to be a Christian 1. New love (Jesus now sits on the throne) 2. A new identity (found in Jesus) 3. A new mission (to live a life of purpose for Jesus)

5 Mins

Impossible task

Leader: Bernie

Get two students up and give them a challenge- to cut a hole in a piece of paper big enough so they can step through it! If they get it that's ok. If not then show them how to do it. Focus on the fact it seems an impossible task- but it's not impossible.

5 mins

Point: some things are hard or tricky- but if you know how to do them totally possible! Other things are impossible! Jesus did many things that are impossible for us but totally possible for God! We call them miracles!

4 pictures one miracle.

Leader: Josh

Based on the popular game 4 pictures one word. This game is 4 pictures on miracle and is used to get students thinking about miracles Jesus performed while here on earth. Basically get a volunteers from each side to play. Take turns to try to use the 4 pictures to guess the miracle.

10 minutes

Lead into the idea that Jesus performed miracles whilst here on earth. He did them for a reason. He made a lot of promises and he was showing us he is more than capable of keeping them!

Briefly look at the miracles and what promise they go with/ prove Jesus is capable of keeping:

Water to wine- come that we have and abundant life, evil spirits into pigs- remove evil from the world, feed 5,000- promises to give us all we need, heals the paralytic-heal us spiritually and physically (in new creation) heals blind man- promises to help us see God, resurrection- promises to give us eternal life, walk on water- promises that if we follow him in faith he will make sure we stay with him!

Activity: walking on water

Leader: Glen and Josh

One of Jesus' miracles was walking on water. (Before revealing the activity) ask if anyone believes they can walk on water. Then reveal A bunch of paper cups filled with water and students are asked if they think they could walk across the paper cups filled with water- without then squishing or spilling water? Have students come up and try- asking first if they believe- then getting them to show they believe and trust by walking across the cups! (Cups are mounted on a bit of cardboard and another bit is placed on top before the walk. It is possible to walk across them because there is enough cups and they have water in them)

5 minutes

The point: faith is more than just believing in Jesus- it is trusting in him. *It's not a leap into the darkness, it's a step into the light!*

Bible story: Jesus walks on water and so does peter

Matthew 14:22-33

Leader: Michael Cruz

Watch the bible story- What is faith- taking the initial step off the boat- (not a leap into the darkness BUT a step into the light) putting your trust in Jesus that he has won eternal life for us by his death on the cross- Peter trusted Jesus that he would be able to walk on the water because he could see Jesus doing it already. We can trust that Jesus can deliver on the promise of eternal life because we know he rose from the dead and has eternal life now! Did peter doubt- yep that's why he sunk- he took his eyes and a bit of trust off Jesus and sunk. But Jesus didn't leave him under the water he picked him up. We might falter and lose sight of Jesus but he won't leave us he will show us how to trust in him and have faith.

5 mins

Object lesson: water bag

Leader: Bernie

Hold a large zip lock bag over someone's head. Push 7 really sharp lead pencils through the bag without bursting the bag. The point- the first few times you put a pencil through the bag there was a bit of tension in the room, gasps etc. the person underneath was a bit afraid and apprehensive. However after the first few it got easier and even boring as people knew it wasn't going to burst and was possible. So it is with faith. At first trusting in Jesus seems hard, and different and challenging because it's all new, but after we do it for a while it becomes easier and not so scary.

5 mins

Abseiling analogy*Leader: Michael Cruz*

Use a personal experience of abseiling if possible. When you go abseiling and see people go before you, you're all set in the harness and you know it's possible and safe. However that initial walk off the cliff is still really hard. On top of the cliff you trust in yourself and your ability to stand and stay away from the edge and not fall! Once you're on your way there's no more trusting in yourself- you have to have complete trust in the person below you and the rope set up for you.

That's what faith in Jesus is like! After the first step off the mountain- when we put our life in Jesus hands and ask him to be the boss of our life, It's a journey where we trust in him to secure our eternal life- we simply follow him and strive to live for him.

5 mins**Balloon and fire object lesson***Leader: Josh*

Balloon and water and fire illustration: empty balloon will burst when a flame is put underneath it but a balloon filled with water wont burst when has flame put underneath. Shows difference between faith and no faith.

If we have faith in Jesus we are filled with his spirit and this makes us new- gives us a new life (refer to 3 new things in first video). Lead into bible story

5 mins**Game: a bit dicey***Leader: Glen*

Minute to win it game- a bit dicey. Players must try to stack 6 dice onto a paddle pop stick held with their mouth, in one minute.

Lead in- what we build on is important- the dice are hard to stack on an unstable surface. This next bible story also talks about how it's important what you build on....

5 mins**Bible story- wise and foolish builders***Matthew 7:24-28**Leader: Josh*

Wise and foolish builders- watch the story of the wise and foolish builders. Explain that what we build our life on is important. If we build on eternal things then we will last, if on things that will perish then we won't! Link with the balloon illustration- both balloons were subjected to flame- the diff was what was inside them. Both houses where subjected to a storm the difference was what was underneath them. If we have faith and trust in Jesus and therefore follow his commands we have Gods spirit come to live in our heart and it changes us and gives us eternal life in relationship with God- the bible calls us new creations. We might still go through storms or flames but we will come out the end without being destroyed as we have been given eternal life!

5 mins*Possible if seminar runs fast: **Video: nooma rain****Leader:**Nooma video based on the wise and foolish builders.***10 mins**