

# Teaching Aids

## SESSION 1

### Characters from the Parable

Read the information to the group before reading the Bible story.

**Traveler:** We do not know many details about the traveler who was robbed. He may have been Jewish. He was beaten so badly he appeared to be dead.

**Robbers:** Robbers often lurked along the remote stretch of road from Jerusalem to Jericho, hiding in the rocky desert. Many people didn't own extra outfits, so clothes were valuable loot.

**Priest:** Priests taught the laws from scripture and were in charge of offering sacrifices in the Jewish temple. They were bound by strict laws forbidding them to touch a dead person. They believed a corpse would make them impure even if they came near it. Mercy laws, however, allowed them to help an injured person who was still alive.

**Levite:** Levites assisted the priests in the temple. While they did not have to follow purity laws as strictly as priests, they were still forbidden to touch a dead person.

**Samaritan:** The Samaritans came from Jewish and non-Jewish ancestors after Jerusalem had been destroyed almost 800 years earlier. They did not worship God in the temple at Jerusalem like the Jews did. Jews looked down on Samaritans and the relationships between the two groups were hostile.

**Innkeeper:** The innkeeper was in charge of a public lodging place for travelers. Services included overnight rooms, meals, food for animals, and care for a sick person. The innkeeper received two days' wages from the Samaritan, which would have been enough to host the injured man for about two months.

## SESSION 10

### "Gifts of Love?" Scenarios

Use these scenarios during Explore (Wrestle).

**Gift of Teaching:** You notice that one of the violin players in the orchestra is having a hard time learning the new song. You know it well and could easily teach her how to play the song. Act out helping her in a boastful, arrogant way and then with humility.

**Gift of Generosity:** You mowed two lawns and made \$50. Your cousin calls and says that he needs help paying for his school trip. He has to turn in \$30 by tomorrow. Act out resentfully giving him the money, and then giving with kindness.

**Gift of Leadership:** You are chosen for student government at school. At the first meeting, one of the other students disagrees with your plan to raise money for the soccer team to get new uniforms. She thinks the money should go toward the drama club. Act out what it would look like to insist on your way. Then act out how it would look to work together.





**Gift of Encouragement:** Your friend is feeling sad about some difficult things happening in her family. He has been sad for weeks and hasn't been willing to talk about it. Act out how you could respond to him in an impatient way and then in a patient, encouraging way.

## SESSION 1

### "Imaginative Prayer" Instructions

Print or copy one for each youth for use in Explore (Words to Live By).

1. Pray asking the Holy Spirit to inspire your imagination.
2. Read through Luke 22:7–20, noticing any words that have to do with the five senses or emotions people are feeling. Make notes, perhaps using the chart below. Imagine the scene like a movie. Focus in on the different characters. What do they see, hear, smell, taste, touch, and feel inside? Feel free to imagine more than is directly mentioned in the story.
3. Put yourself into the scene. Where would you be sitting at the table? What would you be doing or saying? For example, imagine talking with Jesus. What does Jesus look and sound like? What do you say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you? Keep playing the scene out in your head. Go wherever your imagination takes you; don't worry if it becomes different than the biblical story.
4. After you are done imagining, ask yourself: What might this experience be calling me to do? How might my encounter with Jesus change how I live? What does Jesus want to affirm or celebrate about me?

<b>Story.</b>	
	<b>What do you see?</b>
	<b>What do you hear?</b>
	<b>What do you smell and taste?</b>
	<b>What can you touch?</b>
<b>What now?</b>	<b>How do you feel on the inside?</b>

## SESSION 2

### "Will You Come?" Readers Theater

Make enough copies so each person can have one during Encounter.

*Characters:* Narrator, Host, Servant, Invited Guest 1, Invited Guest 2, Invited Guest 3

**Narrator:** Someone gave a great dinner and invited many people. When the day of the dinner arrived, the host called his servant.

**Host:** Go and tell the invited guests that everything is ready.

**Narrator:** So the servant went out to everyone who had been invited.

**Servant:** Come, for everything is ready.

**Invited Guest 1:** I'm sorry, but I can't come. I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it.

**Servant:** Come, for everything is ready.

**Invited Guest 2:** I'm sorry, but I can't come. I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out.

**Servant:** Come, for everything is ready.

**Invited Guest 3:** I'm sorry, but I can't come. I have just been married.

**Narrator:** The servant went back and reported this to the host.

**Servant:** None of the people you invited are able to make it for dinner.

**Host:** What? How could they do this? Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in people who are poor, people who cannot walk or see.

**Narrator:** The servant did as the host asked.

**Servant:** Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.

**Host:** Go out into the roads and lanes and tell people to come in so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were first invited will taste my dinner.

## SESSION 4

### "I Want It Now" Readers Theater

Make enough copies so each person can have one during Encounter.

*Characters:* Jesus, Younger Son, Older Son, Father

**Jesus:** A father had two children. The younger one came to him and said,

**Younger Son:** Father, give me the money that I will receive when you die. I want it now.

**Jesus:** So the father divided all that he had between his two children. The younger son packed his bags and went as far away from home as possible. He began spending money left and right, wasting his wealth on extravagant living. Soon the money ran out, and he was in a miserable state.

**Younger Son:** The only work I can find is taking care of pigs. I'm so hungry, I wish I could share the pigs' food; but no one tosses me even a bean pod.

**Jesus:** Finally, the younger son came to his senses.

**Younger Son:** You know what? My father's servants have more than enough to eat, and here I am—his son—starving to death. I will go home and confess my wrong. I am no longer worthy to be his child, but perhaps he will hire me on as a servant.

**Jesus:** While his younger son was still a long way off, the father spotted him in the distance. Moved with compassion, he ran to meet his son and hugged and kissed him. The son tried to speak—

**Younger Son:** Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your child.

**Father:** (*to his servants*) Quickly! Go find the best robe we have and dress my son in it. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Kill the calf we have been saving for a special occasion. We must celebrate and have a great feast, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found.

**Jesus:** They all began to celebrate. The sounds of the party were drifting out of the house as the older son returned home from working in the fields. When he asked a servant what was going on, he found out about his brother's return and his father's instructions to have a party. The older son became angry and refused to enter the house. When his father came outside to plead with him, the older son said,

**Older Son:** Listen! For all these years I have worked faithfully for you, doing what you asked me to do; yet you have never given me even a young goat for a celebration. Now this son of yours comes back after wasting your money, and you kill the fatted calf for him!

**Father:** My child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice today, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.

**SESSION 4**  
**Drawing Cards**

Copy and cut apart the cards for use in Explore (Collaborate).



<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Coin</b>	<b>Shepherd</b>	<b>Ten coins</b>
<b>Lamp</b>	<b>Broom</b>	<b>Priest</b>	<b>Road</b>
<b>Samaritan</b>	<b>Robe</b>	<b>Ring</b>	<b>Sandals</b>
<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Table</b>	<b>Oxen</b>	<b>Field</b>
<b>Wedding</b>	<b>Neighbor</b>	<b>Friend</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

## SESSION 5

### "Imaginative Bible Story" Prompts

Copy and cut apart the prompts for use in Explore (Respond). Each youth needs one.



1. Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to inspire you as you imagine being present in the Bible story. Feel free to draw pictures or write down words or symbols as you complete the activity. Or just focus on imagination.
2. Read Luke 19:29–34. Imagine being the one to get the donkey. What would you see, smell, touch, hear? Imagine the conversation with the owner of the colt.
3. Read Luke 19:35. Imagine being the one to put your cloak on the colt and help Jesus onto it. What does Jesus look and sound like? What do you say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you?
4. Read Luke 19:36–38. Imagine being part of the crowd. Where would you be standing? What would you be doing or saying?
5. Read Luke 19:39–40. Imagine being one of the Pharisees. How are you feeling? What is your tone of voice as you talk to Jesus?
6. Imagine that you are Jesus. What stands out to you from the trip to Jerusalem? How did you feel? What will you remember?

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## SESSION 5

### "Jesus Enters Jerusalem" Readers Theater

Make enough copies so each person can have one during Encounter.

*Characters:* Narrator, Jesus, Owner, Disciples, Pharisees

**Narrator:** Jesus went on ahead to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples.

**Jesus:** *(to Disciples)* Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tied there. It is a donkey colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say "The Lord needs it."

*(Disciples go to "colt" and start to untie it.)*

**Narrator:** So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owner asked them . . .

**Owner:** Why are you untying the colt?

**Disciples:** The Lord needs it.

**Narrator:** Then they brought it to Jesus. After throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As Jesus rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

*(Disciples bring the donkey colt to Jesus; everyone spreads jackets along the path. Jesus "rides" along the path.)*

**Narrator:** As he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen.

**All (except Jesus):** *(together, loudly, two times)* Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!

**Narrator:** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him . . .

**Pharisees:** *(to Jesus)* Teacher, order your disciples to stop.

**Jesus:** I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout.

**SESSION 5**

**"Words to Live By" Cloaks**

Copy and cut apart the boxes for use in Explore (Words to Live By).

<p><b>Then he took</b></p>	<p><b>a loaf of bread,</b></p>	<p><b>and when he had given thanks</b></p>	<p><b>he broke it</b></p>
<p><b>and gave it to them, saying,</b></p>	<p><b>"This is my body,</b></p>	<p><b>which is given for you.</b></p>	<p><b>Do this</b></p>
<p><b>in remembrance of me."</b></p>	<p><b>And he did the same with</b></p>	<p><b>the cup after supper, saying,</b></p>	<p><b>"This cup that is</b></p>
<p><b>poured out for you</b></p>	<p><b>is the new covenant</b></p>	<p><b>in my blood."</b></p>	<p><b>—Luke 22:19–20 (NRSVue)</b></p>



## SESSION 7

### "This Is Now" Reflection

Lead the Explore (Link) activity by following the directions below.

Introduce the Casting Crowns song/lyric video "This Is Now" by noting that it's a song mostly written in the voice of Peter, who reflects on different parts of his journey as a disciple of Jesus.

1. Have one or more youth read Mark 1:16–18. (Peter was also called Simon.)
2. Listen to the first verse of the song (from beginning to approximately 0:42).
3. Have one or more youth read John 13:3–9, then listen to the second verse of the song (from approximately 0:42 to 1:05).
4. Have a youth read Matthew 26:31–35.
5. Listen to the next section of the song, which is the first chorus (from approximately 1:05 to 1:38).
6. Tell youth about that one time Peter and Jesus were in a boat when a big storm arose. Have one or more youth read Matthew 14:28–33.
7. Listen to the next verses and reprise of the chorus (from approximately 1:38 to 2:53).
8. Have a youth read Luke 22:52–64 (from today's Bible text).
9. Have one or more youth read about Jesus' encounter with Peter after he is raised from the dead (John 21:12–17).
10. Conclude by listening to the rest of the song, which shifts from Peter's words to Jesus' words.

## SESSION 8

### "Voices of Hope" Scenarios

Use the scenarios for Explore (Peace Pursuit).

- The school relay team lost their relay race at the state track meet. Everyone was sure they would win, but they got second.
- Your friend's dad died suddenly.
- Your brother had tickets to a concert, but it was canceled at the last minute. He had been looking forward to the concert for nine months.
- One of your teachers just found out he has cancer. He isn't going to be able to teach for the rest of the year because of his treatment.
- Your mom got laid off from her job. Your family really needed that money and it's difficult to get jobs right now.
- Your sister studied really hard for a test, but still failed it. Now she might have to take the class over again or go to summer school.
- Someone broke into your neighbor's house and took lots of important things. Your neighbor is now struggling to sleep at night and feels scared.

## SESSION 9

### Movement Prayer

Use the prayer during Explore or Empower.

**God, you made us, and we are yours. We offer you our whole selves.**

*(Pause. Raise arms to sky.)*

**May we worship you with the work of our hands—our touching, lifting, embracing, and caring.**

*(Pause. Stretch arms wide.)*

**We offer to you our feet and legs—our walking, running, dancing, and all the work of our feet.**

*(Pause. Rise up slowly on tiptoes and then lower again.)*

**We give you the work of our bodies—the bending, the breathing, and the work our organs do without any guidance from our minds.**

*(Pause. Bend slowly to one side and then the other.)*

**May we worship you with our senses and faces.**

*(Pause. Place one hand on each side of your face.)*

**Energize our minds and spirits.**

*(Pause. Place one hand on top of your head and one hand on your heart.)*

**We offer ourselves to you in gratitude. Teach us respect for the gifts of our bodies. Amen.**

*(Pause. Fold arms over self in an embrace.)*

## SESSION 12

### "Letters from Jail" Discussion Guide

Use these prompts to have a conversation about the "Letters from Jail" Teaching Poster during Explore (Peace Pursuit).

1. Read the letter to the Philippians on the "Letters from Jail" Teaching Poster.
2. According to Paul, what good things came from his imprisonment? *(It helped the gospel to spread; many people became aware of why he was there; it encouraged other believers to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.)*
3. While good things sometimes come out of unjust situations, it does not mean that prison is God's desire or a tool that God uses. Talk about how the Bible often speaks about prison, but the focus is on freedom and liberation. Look up what the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 42:6–7 and what Jesus said when he proclaimed his ministry in Luke 4:18–19. When God freed Paul and Silas from the Roman jail in Acts 16, everyone's chains were unfastened, not just Paul and Silas' chains.
4. Read the letter from Martin Luther King Jr. on the "Letters from Jail" Teaching Poster.
5. Typically, extremism is seen as dangerous or problematic. What do youth think of King's idea that Paul was an extremist for the Christian gospel? That Jesus was an extremist for love? What does it look like to love at all costs? How can we let love guide every decision we make and every action we take?

## SESSION 13

### Game Grids

Copy the grids, two per person. On one of the grids, have each person write "God is love" somewhere, one letter per square. The words do not have to be next to each other. They can be spread out and written vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Pair youth and make sure they do not see each other's grids. Play the game using the instructions in Explore (Collaborate).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A										
B										
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										
I										
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**SESSION 13****"Words to Remember" Puzzle**

Connect the letters through the grid to discover messages from the letters to the early churches. Each sentence ends with a period and the next sentence starts right away. The words go up, down, and side to side. There are no diagonals.

Start	G	O	D	X	O	L	B	Y	G	O	I	C	E	I	
	D	W	A	I	B	H	F	R	S	E	J	F	O	U	N
	S	N	H	S	C	E	F	D	V	S	E	C	B	J	T
	.E	V	O	L	G	U	V	N	C	R	R	E	C	Z	H
	L	R	U	V	Q	S	Z	O	T	F	.Y	R	R	P	E
	O	P	W	D	N	M	T	F	D	B	H	C	O	K	L
	V	E	Z	S	A	J	N	R	P	E	A	P	W	Y	O
	L	O	F	N	R	E	D	B	R	A	C	Y	T	S	R
	Y	N	J	B	F	X	O	T	U	C	E.	J	O	Q	D.
	K	E	H	R	Z	W	G	R	O	N	D	O	N	X	W
	G	A	N	O	T	M	S	I	S	P	E	F	V	C	E
	Q	D	C	U	H	P	U	R	F	Y	H	N	E	R	A
	A	V	E	F	E	T	S	Z	E	G	D	C	O	F	G
	T	E	J	S	R.	J	E	G	N	U	R	W	N	J	R
	R	F	K	D	T	E	M	O	.Y	D	O	B	E	G	F
	H	K	P	Y	H	D	X	C	I	E	G	T	G	D	B
	I	M	I	N	K	J	K	A	F	J	F	R	D	U	J
	K	G	Y	F	A	O	D	N	J	H	E	V	E	K	L
	J	F	N	V	L	J	A	Z	K	F	X	M	N	G	R
	T	V	E	I	L	M	U	D	I	C	K	J	M	B	E
	G	N	I	H	T	L	R	S	O	U	R	Y	W	G	S
	S	T	H	E	I	Y	C	I	T	G	C	E	C	C	A
	T	G	D	S	J	C	J	S	B	V	O	V	Y	U	B
	H	A	H	C	E	W	R	U	F	J	R	W	V	N	F
	R	F	I	S	T.	J	E	S	Y	M	N	D	X	L	R
	O	V	R	G	E	V	D	J	H	J	E	R	S	T	O
	U	N	H	W	R	J	H	F	V	Y	P	H	W	B	N
	G	H	C	X	T	H	K	U	T	V	Y	U	Q	R	E.
	G	E	W	V	R	W	K	T	V	U	T	K	U	C	End

**SESSION 13**

**"Words to Remember"  
Sentences and Solution**

**Order of Sentences:**

- God is love.
- Love one another.
- Jesus is our peace.
- Do not worry.
- Rejoice in the Lord.
- We are one body.
- I can do all things through Christ.
- Jesus is our cornerstone.

Start	G	O	D	X	O	L	B	Y	G	O	I	C	E	I	
	D	W	A	I	B	H	F	R	S	E	J	F	O	U	N
	S	N	H	S	C	E	F	D	V	S	E	C	B	J	T
	.E	V	O	L	G	U	V	N	C	R	R	E	C	Z	H
	L	R	U	V	Q	S	Z	O	T	F	.Y	R	R	P	E
	O	P	W	D	N	M	T	F	D	B	H	C	O	K	L
	V	E	Z	S	A	J	N	R	P	E	A	P	W	Y	O
	L	O	F	N	R	E	D	B	R	A	C	Y	T	S	R
	Y	N	J	B	F	X	O	T	U	C	E.	J	O	Q	D.
	K	E	H	R	Z	W	G	R	O	N	D	O	N	X	W
	G	A	N	O	T	M	S	I	S	P	E	F	V	C	E
	Q	D	C	U	H	P	U	R	F	Y	H	N	E	R	A
	A	V	E	F	E	T	S	Z	E	G	D	C	O	F	G
	T	E	J	S	R.	J	E	G	N	U	R	W	N	J	R
	R	F	K	D	T	E	M	O	.Y	D	O	B	E	G	F
	H	K	P	Y	H	D	X	C	I	E	G	T	G	D	B
	I	M	I	N	K	J	K	A	F	J	F	R	D	U	J
	K	G	Y	F	A	O	D	N	J	H	E	V	E	K	L
	J	F	N	V	L	J	A	Z	K	F	X	M	N	G	R
	T	V	E	I	L	M	U	D	I	C	K	J	M	B	E
	G	N	I	H	T	L	R	S	O	U	R	Y	W	G	S
	S	T	H	E	I	Y	C	I	T	G	C	E	C	C	A
	T	G	D	S	J	C	J	S	B	V	O	V	Y	U	B
	H	A	H	C	E	W	R	U	F	J	R	W	V	N	F
	R	F	I	S	T.	J	E	S	Y	M	N	D	X	L	R
	O	V	R	G	E	V	D	J	H	J	E	R	S	T	O
	U	N	H	W	R	J	H	F	V	Y	P	H	W	B	N
	G	H	C	X	T	H	K	U	T	V	Y	U	Q	R	E.
	G	E	W	V	R	W	K	T	V	U	T	K	U	C	End