

Children's Church at Home 28 February 2021

Jesus talks about what is going to happen to him. Mark 8:31-38

Craft: you will need either ready-made plain biscuits or make some biscuits (recipe below). Icing sugar, food colour and / or writing icing in red and green.

First: do you have days when nothing goes right? People are unhelpful, you feel cross and bad tempered, you get into trouble, you can't resist saying something which hurts someone's feelings, you break something because you were careless, then you get told off ...? And how do you feel then?

Story: Mark 8:31-38 ERV - Jesus Says He Must Die - Then Jesus - Bible Gateway

Video: <https://youtu.be/G1DdKxN-k8U>

Think: Jesus had a group of friends; we call them the disciples. Any idea what that means? Followers or pupils. So these friends were following Jesus around, trying to follow his teaching and trying to learn about God. Like your teachers and your parents, he told them things, explained things and was happy to answer their questions. Sometimes he asked them questions to see how much they understood. In today's story, he explains what is going to happen to him. He knows for sure that it will happen. And he knows why. But Peter is very worried and tries to change his mind, after all, Peter has seen that Jesus can do wonderful superhuman miracles, hasn't he? 'Don't let that happen to you!' he protests. And it seems a bit shocking to us that Jesus replies, 'Get behind me, Satan!' or we might say, 'Go away, you're my enemy!' Poor Peter! He's not evil! But the evil one has put an idea in his head, one which is quite the opposite of what Jesus is thinking. Jesus is talking about Easter: how he must die to take the blame for all the things that people have done wrong, all through time. Then he explains how his father God will bring him alive again after three days, and we'll celebrate that on Easter day. All this had to happen. (and more about Easter later!)

We must try to be good followers and pupils of Jesus! But he might get cross with us like he did with Peter! What are the things we must try not to do? Well, there are the 10 commandments, and the first two are the ones Jesus says are most important. Do you remember? Love God and love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:29-32) but there are things we need to remember every day as well.

Let's say these together. I've swapped Satan for Enemy.

When I think that I know better than Jesus! .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I lose my temper and hurt other people .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I don't listen before I speak .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I think I'm better than someone else and forget that God has a job for **all** of us .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I disrespect the people who love and care for me .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I forget to tell God about everything that worries me .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I get impatient with other people .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I don't say thank you to God for all the good things I have .. Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I forget that Jesus loves and understands me ... Go away, you're my Enemy!

When I forget that I am blessed... Go away, you're my Enemy!

Craft: Stop Go biscuits. Here is a recipe for biscuits.

225 g plain flour 1 teaspoon baking powder 100g butter 100 g caster sugar A couple of drops of vanilla essence 1 egg	Mix the flour and baking powder and then rub in the butter or mix in a food processor. Add the sugar, vanilla essence and beaten egg and mix to a smooth dough. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead lightly. Wrap and chill in the fridge for 15 minutes. Roll out on a floured surface and cut shapes. Cook on a greased baking sheet for 10 minutes, until turning golden. 190° or 170° fan. Leave for a couple of minutes and then cool on a wire rack. Decorate with glacé icing (mix about 4 tablespoons of icing sugar with a little hot water, maybe a teaspoon.) Then write Stop! In red on some and Go! In green on the rest. If you don't have writing icing, you may be able to pipe the words, or just colour some of the icing red and some green. You'll know what it means.
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Eat a red Stop biscuit. Try to think of something the Enemy might be tempting you to do and think Stop! Eat a green Go! biscuit and think of something Jesus would like you to do! Then go ahead and do it!

Don't forget to share! And here's a cheeky extra: you could put some chili powder in some of the Stop biscuits. Whoever eats those will get a surprise!

Activity: Play follow my leader round the house or outside. Now turn one person round and play again. How difficult is it to follow when you can't see the leader? We must always keep our eyes on Jesus! Take turns to lead.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please help me to decide what I should do and what I shouldn't. remind me to say 'Go away, you're my enemy' when a bad idea pops into my head. Amen.

this is taken from Psalm 51:10-12, Easy-to-Read Version

¹⁰ God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again. ¹¹ Don't push me away or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you. Amen

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.