

TOGETHER

APART



Over the last few months the world as we know it has been flipped upside down, so while we have to be APART for King's Club Extra this Summer we hope these sessions will help you to explore TOGETHER some ways in which Jesus flips our lives around.

King's Club

Extra



by POST



The following icon indicates there is a video to watch. The links for these videos will be sent in an email.



The following icon indicates that there is something in the bible to read. If you cannot get your hands on a bible, we have included these readings at the back of the booklet.

TRUSTING IN GOD



Who/what do you trust?

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Watch the video for day 1



In the video, Glen talks about his uncertainty of whether God

could be trusted. Thinking back to the opening question, who/what do you trust? What makes you trust something? If someone breaks your trust, would you ever trust them again?

On a scale of 0-10, how important do you think trust is in a friendship? (0 = not important, 10 = very important)



Is God someone you think of as trustworthy?

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The bible uses the word 'faith' a lot. Faith simply means putting your trust in someone or something. We have faith in all sorts of things, for example if your Mum was to tell you she will pick you up after school, do

you go and wait for her? If you would, then you are putting your faith in your Mum because you believed what she said and therefore acted upon it.

In the same way the bible encourages us to have faith in God, to trust him. But how do we trust God if we do not know him? The simple answer is, we get to know him and seek to understand whether he is trustworthy or not. Over the next few days we will be looking at the evidence written down in the bible which can help us to discover who God is.



Bible reading - John 3v16

'For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.'



What do you think this bible reading is saying?

God loves all of us and because of his love he has come into the world (as Jesus) to save us and to give us life with him. We are left to decide whether we will place our faith in him or not.



How does it make you feel to know God loves you?

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JESUS CHANGES LIVES



Do you think bad people should be forgiven?



Watch the video for day 2



What do you think about what Justin said?



Here are some words people have used to describe Jesus:

God's son

Miracle worker

Teacher

Bad

A criminal

Good

Saviour of the world

Crazy

Kind

From what you know of Jesus, which of these words would you use to describe him (circle them)? Do you have some of your own you could add?

From Justin's story he said

"God loved me for who I am, before I did anything to deserve it."

How does that statement make you feel?

Do you agree with Justin that it's a fight not to do bad things sometimes?

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Does someone just need to say sorry to be forgiven?
What about people who've done really terrible things- should they be forgiven?

Read the bible story or watch it



Luke 15:11-32 The story of the lost son



What do you think of the younger son's actions?
How did the father respond to his younger son?
Did he deserve to be forgiven and receive special treatment?

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This is a story Jesus told to a crowd of people and it's about a father and his two sons. The father in the story represents God. The younger son represents all those that have chosen to live their lives without God. The older brother represents the religious leaders, who think that God only accepts people who behave in a certain way.

Jesus uses this story as an illustration of how God responds to both. The father forgives and welcomes the younger son home. God's arms are opened wide to welcome anyone that would come to him and ask for forgiveness.

The elder son does not think his father has responded correctly to his younger brother and is very angry. He believes that his brother doesn't deserve forgiveness. Jesus is showing us that the elder brother believed that only the 'good' people deserve God's love, forgiveness and acceptance but Jesus says no it is freely given to all who would come to God.

CURIOSITY & CONVICTION



Would you stand up for something you believed in, even if everyone else was against you?



A true story

A few years ago, 11-year-old Tilly Smith, holidaying with her family in South-East Asia, did not expect to become caught up in one of the biggest disasters of modern times. However, when she was, her presence of mind saved more than a hundred other tourists from the deadly waves of the infamous tsunami.

Playing on a beach in Phuket, Thailand, Tilly was struck by strange goings-on in the sea. She noticed that the water was bubbling: 'all frothy like the top of a beer'. This occurred to her as odd, before she remembered similar images in a video shown to her in a Geography class - a video about how a tsunami forms. Immediately she warned her parents, but they did not believe her.

Tilly was not about to give up - she was sure that danger was not far away. She became hysterical, and, eventually, her mum and dad warned other holidaymakers to clear the beach and

hotel. Shortly afterwards, the tsunami hit the now empty beach. Around 200,000 people across the region were killed. The tourists from Tilly's beach survived.



Do you find it hard to believe that she managed to persuade everyone to clear the beach? Why do you think that?

What does Tilly's story say to you about having courage in your convictions?

In what situation have you 'stuck to your guns', or backed down when perhaps you shouldn't have? What happened?
Are there times when it is right to back down?



Watch the video for day 3



Read Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist prepares the way



Do you notice the similarities between the two stories?

Just like Tilly, John the Baptist prepared people for the life changing things that were about to happen.

Why do you think John did this?
What effect did it have?

John the Baptist has a job that he was determined to complete. He was to warn people and let them know that Jesus, God's Son was coming and when he did come, things wouldn't be the same. John knew that Jesus was coming to offer a way for people to be forgiven and for them to enter into a relationship with God. A relationship that is life changing. Both of these stories show us that sometimes we have to stand up for what we believe in, even if that means going against others.



Why do you think people stand strong for their faith in God?
Do you think it could have something to do with how strongly they believe in it? How do you feel about this?



What convictions are most important to you?
How far would you go to defend these convictions?
How do other people view your deepest convictions?
How do you view the deep convictions of others?



GOD'S PLAN



Do you believe things happen for a reason?



Read this story about Gordon Ramsey (if you don't know who he is, ask a family member).

Gordon Ramsey dreamed of becoming a professional football player throughout his childhood. And when, during a match for his youth team, he was spotted by a Glasgow Rangers scout, it seemed all his dreams had come true.

After completing trials, Rangers signed Gordon aged fifteen. For three years, he played for the youth team of a club who were consistently at the top of the Scottish Championship, and one of the best teams in Europe for a young player to be learning his trade with. However, there was a problem. One of Gordon's knees was consistently giving him problems, and he often missed matches through injury. Eventually, doctors told Gordon that his knee wasn't healing properly. His professional football career was over before it had really begun.

Most people are planning their first career when they turn 18, but Gordon was already faced with the reality that he'd have to embark on a second. Devastated, he had to rethink his entire future.

After careful thought, he began his second career as a chef, a decision that saw him leave his hometown in Scotland to study in London and Paris, with some of the best chefs in the world. Thanks to his determination and hard work, Gordon is now a well-known celebrity chef, with several TV programmes, as well as restaurants in London, Tokyo and New York. He still occasionally plays a game of football for charity, but it seems strange to think that, had it not been for a sad and heartbreaking problem, Gordon's true gifting might never have come to the surface.



Imagine you are in the position Gordon found himself in, when he found out he would never be able to play football again. How would you feel?

Looking back now, do you think Gordon would be able to see the 'bigger picture', and not feel angry about having to give up football?

What do you think Gordon learnt from his first career as a footballer and from his injury?



Read Luke 22:39-46 Jesus prays



What do you notice about Jesus' prayer to God?

Jesus knows what is coming and has a conversation with God about it, asking him if there is another way. I wonder how many times Gordon Ramsey asked if there was another way to repair his knees?

Staggeringly Jesus follows this question with "Yet I want your will to be done, not mine". Jesus is saying to God that no matter what, he understands that God will have the best plan for him. It is this plan that sees Jesus arrested, put on a cross, crucified and buried in a tomb. However, the bible tells us that three days later God raised him from the dead, meaning the promises that God had made came true. This meant that God was no longer distant but able to have a relationship with each and every person who chooses believe in him. If Jesus had not followed God's plan, this would not have happened.



What would it look like for you to ask God for his plan for your life? Would you be willing to trust?

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PRAYER



? Do you think prayer works?



Watch the video for day 5.

Feel free to skip over the bit about setting up a prayer room at the end - unless you want too?!



What stands out to you in the video?
Were there any ideas that are new to you?
Has it changed how you would answer the first question?

We see how Jesus modelled what a prayerful life should look like. He taught people how they should pray, what they should pray about, and led by example, to show others how important prayer is.

Jesus would often go somewhere alone where he could get away from everything and just sit and talk to God (Luke 5:16).



Read Matthew 6:9-13 The Lord's Prayer

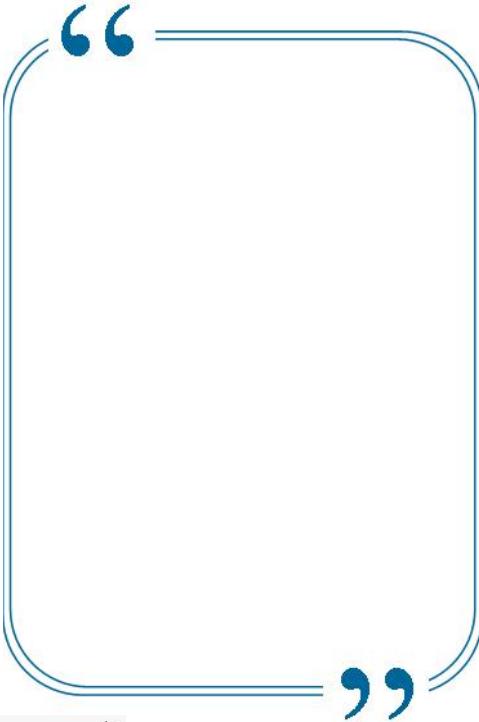
You may recognise this reading as the Lord's Prayer. It's how Jesus said we should pray.



If God knows what we need even before we ask him (v8), do you think we should still prayer?



How would you rewrite the prayer in your own words?
(Here is an example by Eugene Peterson)



Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best -
 as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three
square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you
and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from
ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge!
- The Message



Read John 11:38-44 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

Jesus uses this moment with Lazarus to give everyone a glimpse of who He is. That He is the Son of God and as such has power over death. However, he also uses this experience to teach the crowd something about prayer.



What is the main thing Jesus' prayer tells us about God?

God isn't like our friends who ignore us when we get in touch. He hears every prayer we say, and he always answers. It may not be the answer we would like, or a solution might not come as instantly as we would hope for, but he always answers.

The bible readings

Day 2

Luke 15:11-32 The story of the lost son

¹¹ To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

¹³ "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴ About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."

²⁰ "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

²² "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, ²⁶ and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

²⁸ "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, ²⁹ but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and

never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. ³⁰ Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!

³¹ "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. ³² We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"

Day 3

Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist prepares the way

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began² just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

"Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.

³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming!
Clear the road for him!'"

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

Day 4

Luke 22:39-46 Jesus prays

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

³⁹ Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. ⁴⁰ There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation."

⁴¹ He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

⁴² "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

⁴⁵ At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation."

Day 5

Matthew 6:9-13 The Lord's Prayer

⁸ Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be kept holy.

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,

as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,

¹² and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,

but rescue us from the evil one.

John 11:38-44 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

³⁸ Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹ "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" ⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

ALL OF THE BIBLE READINGS ARE TAKEN FROM THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NTL).