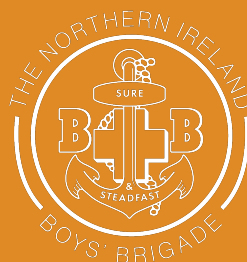


# THE BIBLE



Juniors Leaders' Resource Guide

**This resource has been created in partnership with The Northern Ireland Boys' Brigade (BBNI) and Scripture Union (SUNI). In SUNI and BBNI, we want to share God's Good News and Advance Christ's Kingdom with children, young people and families.**

**This resource is designed to help you lead a session about the Bible with Juniors. We want to encourage children to understand what the Bible is, why it's so important and how to engage with it.**

**This session is 40 minutes long.**

**For this session you will need:**

- **Bibles**
- **Projector & Audio (for the video)**
- **A leader to share how important the Bible is for them.**

**Tip: If some of the children don't have a Bible, the Church or BB may think about providing some.**

# THE BIBLE

## Introduction (1 min)

Take time to explain to the children that over the next 40 minutes you'll be exploring the Bible, what the Bible is, why it's important and how we can use it today as we follow Jesus.

## Game: Follow the leader (5 mins)

- Ask the children to make one long line with a leader at the front and a few leaders in different stages of the line.
- Explain everyone has to follow the leader at the front who will sometimes move fast or slow, in long or short steps, they might move in a straight line or in circles, or freeze, they might even ask you to move like an animal!
- The leader shouts out to the rest of the line the next instruction. If you have time you could change the leader to an older child.
- At the end of the game gather the children and explain that today as we explore the Bible we will hopefully realise that God wants us to follow Him and He tells us how to live and what to do through His Word!

## Discussion: What's your favourite book (5 mins)

- Ask a leader to share (even bring in to show the children) what their favourite story is and why.
- Lead an open discussion asking the children the questions below:
  - **What's your favourite story?**
  - **What makes a good story?**
- Finish the discussion by explaining that today we're going to be exploring the biggest and best story, God's big story, the Bible!

## **Video: Play until the pause at 05:24 (5 mins)**

- Gather the children together to play the video and explain you'll be pausing in the middle to ask some questions.
- Pause the video at the marked time of 05:24 (there will be a countdown on screen)

## **Interactive Bible Story:(10 mins)**

- Using the interactive drama script on the next page, take the children through the drama based on the passage from Matthew 21:1-11
- Take time to ask the children the questions below:  
(If you have a child that's younger, has additional needs or less Biblical knowledge, you might want to read out options for them to vote on for each question).

○ ***Do you remember from the story what the people were waving?***

(Answer: Palm leaves)

○ ***I wonder what the disciples thought when Jesus wanted them to get a donkey?***

○ ***I wonder why the disciples did what Jesus asked?***

○ ***What were they shouting?***

(Answer: "Praise God, Hosanna, Glory to God")

○ ***Why were the crowd so excited?***

(Answer: Jesus was the King)

○ ***I wonder what you would have shouted if you saw Jesus riding on a donkey?***

## Interactive Bible Story

Explain to the children that you're going to read out the story. They have to listen out for the key words (written below) and when they hear them say the following lines:

Key Words:

**Donkey:** "eee- aww",  
**Can't do that:** "oh yes, you can!"  
**Grumble/grumbling:** "it's not fair!"

Jesus and his followers have been travelling for a long time and they are tired and worn out. Some of the disciples are even starting to **grumble!**

So Jesus gets them all together and says:

"Listen guys, I think it's time for the **donkey.**"

"What **donkey?**" his disciples ask.

"The one that you are going to get for me from the next village", Jesus replied.

"Right, hmmm, hang on a minute Jesus – a **donkey?**"

Yes, a **donkey.**

Jesus...look...**we can't do that!**

So Jesus sat them all down and said –"Here's the deal guys –this **donkey** is part of an important plan that I made a long time ago.

So Jesus chose two of his disciples and said "this is the job for you". I want you to go to the next village and when you see the **donkey**, untie it and bring it to me".

But the two disciples weren't sure about this plan so they started to **grumble**...in fact they were complaining so much that the rest of the disciples started to **grumble** with them, they even said these two men '**can't do that!**'

But Jesus said to all of them– "there's no point moaning'. You two go to the village as I've told you and bring back the first **donkey** that you see. If anyone bothers you just say 'the master needs it' and all will be fine".

So the disciples headed off into the village, sure enough they saw the **donkey** that Jesus was talking about and they began to untie it. But as they were untying it some men arrived and started to **grumble**... "you **can't do that**' they said "it's our **donkey**".

But the disciples explained “the Master needs it” and sure enough, just as Jesus had said, the men allowed them to take it with them.

As soon as the disciples got back, Jesus got onto the **donkey**. Then he rode into Jerusalem. As he rode in, huge crowds of people all lined up along the street to meet him and started shouting and singing praises to God. They were saying things like “Hosanna, Glory to God, Praise God”

Some of the people even spread out their clothes in the road in front of Jesus and others cut down branches from trees and waved Palm leaves to greet him. Most of the people were so excited to see Jesus on the **donkey**, but some of the religious leaders started to **grumble** and complain. But the people didn't care - they were really excited, because to them Jesus was their King.

### **Back to the video! (5 mins)**

- Play the rest of the video with the children.
- Please note that at 07:00 there's a game of “Rachel says” where the children are invited to stand up and take part. (You might want to pause the video to allow everyone to get ready for the game).

### **Game: Bible challenge (5 mins)**

- Divide the children into teams.
- Give each team at least 2-3 Bibles (ideally each child would have a Bible).
- Ask everyone to hold up their Bible and explain that the Bible is split into two parts (you could ask children what these parts are called, the Old and New Testament).
- Ask everyone to turn to the contents page of their Bible and explain to them that these are the books of the Bible and point out the page numbers to help them find the book.
- Explain that in each book you'll find a large number which are called chapters and a small number which are called verses.
- Explain to each team you're going to give them the name of a book, chapter and verse and they have to run up from their team and show you when they've found it.

- Choose a variety of books from both the Old Testament and New Testament. You could even choose some of your favourite books and stories to show the children how important the Bible is for you.

### **Story: Leader (3 mins)**

- Ask a leader to share about how reading the Bible has made a difference in their lives.
- They might want to share some of their top tips with the children - see below for some ideas.
  - Before you start, talk to God and ask for His help to understand what you are reading.
  - Read a small part of the Bible or a Bible story, you might want to ask an adult to help you or listen as they read it if the words are a little tricky.
  - After reading it ask yourself what does this part of the Bible tell me about God? What is He like? What does He do? What might God be saying to me through this part of the Bible?
  - Lastly is there something you want to say to God about what you have read, or is He asking you to do something or maybe He wants you to share what you've been learning with someone else?

### **Pray (1 min)**

- Encourage the children to continue to explore the Bible. They could join their SU group or Sunday School in their local church. (Tip: name whatever groups are relevant in their local church).
- Take time to pray collectively for the children as they take time to read the Bible this week.



# THE BIBLE

[www.suni.co.uk](http://www.suni.co.uk)

[www.boysbrigadeni.org](http://www.boysbrigadeni.org)



**Scripture Union**  
Northern Ireland

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