

WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Purpose

For all people in the worshipping community to celebrate and explore together the question that Jesus asked, 'Who are you looking for?'

Key Scripture

Judas had promised to betray Jesus. So he went to the garden with some Roman soldiers and temple police, who had been sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They carried torches, lanterns, and weapons. Jesus already knew everything that was going to happen, but he asked, "Who are you looking for?" John 18:3-5 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Easter services can be very distressing for some people within the church, especially children. Seeing graphic images of the Jesus that they love being treated so cruelly can be traumatic and disturbing. In this worship service we have looked for ways to present the critical messages of Easter without bringing unnecessary

distress for vulnerable people within our church communities.

Take the time to read through John 18-21. As you read, take notice of the questions that are asked. For example,

John 18:7 "Who are you looking for?"

John 18:17 "Aren't you one of that man's followers?"

Reflect on your own responses to these questions.

You will need

- For Introduction – Who are you looking for?
 - ❖ Prepare some helpers to act out John 18:3-5 as you read the verses
 - ❖ Provide simple props such as torches, lanterns and weapons
- For Guessing Game – Who am I?
 - ❖ Choose several members of your congregation and prepare a list of clues that will help everyone to guess who it is. Try to choose members of different generations.



- ❖ Prepare three people in advance to call out the questions regarding Jesus
- For Group Brainstorm – Who is Jesus
 - ❖ Coloured cards or post-it notes (enough for about 4-5 per person)
 - ❖ Sticky tape
 - ❖ Butcher's paper
 - ❖ Use the Butcher's paper to prepare a poster wall
- For Egg Hunt
 - ❖ Take an estimate of the number of people in your congregation and divide it by six. This is how many groups you will need for this activity.
 - ❖ Each group of six people will be assigned a different colour. (If you have a large church community then you could give the same colour to two groups and mark each egg in one set with an 'A' and each egg in the second set with a 'B'. The groups will then be assigned a colour and a letter. For example, Red A, Red B, Blue A, Blue B, etc.).
 - ❖ Purchase six plastic Easter egg shells in each colour.
 - ❖ Print enough copies of the clues, in Appendix A, for each group.
- ❖ Insert a clue into each egg shell and hide them around your space.
- ❖ **Note:** You could use coloured cardboard instead of egg shells. Cut the cardboard into oval shapes and paste the clue onto the front.
- ❖ Chocolate Easter Eggs for everyone.
- For Drama
 - ❖ Prepare some helpers to act out John 21:4-6, 9-12 as you read the verses
 - ❖ Provide simple props
- For Prayer and Reflection
 - ❖ markers/ crayons/ pencils
 - ❖ Prepare in advance a cardboard or wooden cross.
 - ❖ The clue cards can either be glued or taped to the cardboard cross or nailed or pinned to the wooden cross.
 - ❖ Glue, tape, nails and hammer or pins

Introduction

Who are you looking for?

I wonder if you have ever lost someone and had to go looking for them. *You might like to share a brief story about a time when this happened to you.* Perhaps

Outline/ Key Components

Introduction	Who are you looking for?
Guessing Game	Who am I?
Link 1	
Group Brainstorm	Who is Jesus?
Link 2	
Easter Egg Hunt	
Drama	John 21:4-6, 9-12 (CEV)
Link 3	
Prayer Activity	
Opportunity for Reflections and Response	
Conclusion	This is Jesus

you lost sight of one of your children? Maybe you remember losing your parents in a shopping centre. It could have been a friend or even a pet. I expect that when you realised they were missing you went looking for them. Maybe someone asked you the question, "Who are you looking for?" I want to share with you a story about a time when Jesus asked this question.

Prepare some helpers in advance to act out this short scene as you read the verses.

It was a cold, dark night but lots of people were up and about preparing for the Passover celebration. Jesus took some of his close friends and went up to a quiet place on a hill to pray.

Jesus was speaking to his friends, when Judas the betrayer came up. He was one of the twelve disciples. He took with him Roman soldiers and temple police, who had been sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They carried torches, lanterns, and weapons. Judas had told them ahead of time, "Arrest the man I greet with a kiss. Tie him up tight and lead him away."

Jesus already knew everything that was going to happen, but he asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Adapted from John 18:3-5 and Mark 14:43-44

Guessing Game – Who am I

Invite a couple of different people to read out the clues for this activity. Consider asking a child to team up with an adult to take turns reading the questions.

I am going to give you some clues and ask you to guess who it is I'm looking for. Each of these people is here today. Children, when you think you know who it is you can go and stand next to that person. Adults, you can give your suggestions to the children and help them along.

Read out the prepared clues for the first person.

Great, you found the person that I'm looking for **OR...** No one has guessed who I am looking for. The person is...

Repeat for the second person.

When we are looking for someone we have to know who they are. Imagine how hard it would be to find someone if you didn't know who you were looking for!

When Jesus was living on earth people kept on trying to figure out who he is...

Prepare some people in advance to stand up and shout these questions out...

- ❖ Are you the King of the Jews?
- ❖ Are you the Messiah?
- ❖ Are you the Son of God?

Link 1

Today there are a lot of people who are looking for Jesus but they don't know who he is. Some of them don't even know where to look. These people have a feeling inside them that they have missed out on something important but they don't know what it is. When we are looking for Jesus ourselves or helping other people to find Jesus, it is important for us to know who he is.

So, let's have a think about who Jesus is.

Group Brainstorm – Who is Jesus?

Supply different coloured cards (or use post-it notes) for each group along with plenty of sticky tape (use the tape even if you are using post-it notes to avoid having them falling down throughout the rest of the service).

Prepare a poster wall in advance by sticking together approximately four sheets of butcher's paper.

In your group, have a chat about what you know about who Jesus is.

Write each answer on a separate card and add them to the poster wall.

If you have some questions about who Jesus is, you can write them on a card and add them to the wall too. No one has all the answers and it's smart to ask important questions.

Wrap up this activity by reading out some of the responses on the wall.

Link 2

Jesus is special because of who he is. He is also special because of the things he has done.

Easter Egg Hunt

Ask everyone to stand up and move around the space.

When I say 'stop' form a group of six with whoever is close to you. Every group must include at least

one person who is under twenty and one who is over twenty.

Assign each group a different colour.

Hidden around the room are six eggs in each colour. You need to find the eggs that belong to your group.

When you have all the clues you can bring them to the front with your group and collect a chocolate egg each.

Then find a space with your group, open the eggs and read the clues together and enjoy your chocolate!

When everyone has had enough time...

These are just some of the amazing things that help us to understand what Jesus has done and who it is that we are looking for when we look for Jesus.

Prepare some helpers in advance to act out this short scene as you read the verses.

John 21:4-6, 9-12 (CEV)

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize who he was. ⁵ Jesus shouted, "Friends, have you caught anything?"

"No!" they answered.

⁶ So he told them, "Let your net down on the right side of your boat, and you will catch some fish."

They did, and the net was so full of fish that they could not drag it up into the boat.

⁹ When the disciples got out of the boat, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it. ¹⁰ Jesus told his disciples, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter got back into the boat and dragged the net to shore. In it were one hundred fifty-three large fish, but still the net did not rip.

¹² Jesus said, "Come and eat!" But none of the disciples dared ask who he was. They knew he was the Lord.

Link 3

The disciples had spent lots of time with Jesus and they knew who Jesus was, even when he surprised them by what he did or where he showed up. Maybe you have spent lots of time with Jesus and know him well too. I know Jesus well but he still surprises me.

Prayer and Reflection

In your group

- ❖ Take a clue card (from the Treasure Hunt) each and decorate it using the markers/

crayons/ pencils

- ❖ Talk to each other about why you think this is an important clue about Jesus

Read out one question at a time and wait for the groups to discuss their answers

- ❖ Think about how well you know Jesus
 - ❖ What do you know about who he is?
 - ❖ What do you know about what he has done?
- ❖ Ask him or someone in your group any questions that you have about him
- ❖ Think about the times when you have been surprised by Jesus

Prepare in advance a cardboard or wooden cross. The clue cards can either be glued or taped to the cardboard cross or nailed or pinned to the wooden cross.

When you are ready, bring your clue cards up and stick them to the cross.

Conclusion – This is Jesus

The cross represents the most important things about Jesus. He came to Earth so that we could really understand who he is. He lived a life that helps us to see what it means to be God's people. He died on the cross, even though he had not done anything wrong and he made a way for us to be forgiven by God even though we sometimes make bad choices. The reason that he did all of this is that he LOVES US and he wants us to be with him forever. This is the Jesus that we are looking for and the Jesus that we can find if we look for him with all our hearts.

The Clues

1. He left Heaven and came to earth as a man, even though he is God.

Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:47 (NLT)

2. He healed people.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the Jewish meeting places and preaching the good news about God's kingdom. He also healed every kind of disease and sickness. Matthew 4:23

3. He came back to life after three days.

*This is because Christ died and **rose** to life, so that he would be the Lord of the dead and of the living. Romans 14:9*

4. He forgives us for the bad choices we have made

*This is my blood, and with it God makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their sins **forgiven**. Matthew 26:28*

5. He did miraculous things like turning one boy's lunch into enough food for thousands of people.

*Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up toward **heaven** and blessed the food. Then he broke the bread and handed it to his disciples to give to the people. He also divided the two fish, so that everyone could have some. Mark 6:41*

6. He loved (and loves) all people, even when we make bad choices.

*I have **loved** you, just as my Father has **loved** me. So remain faithful to my **love** for you. John 15:9*