

Play: First and last

Have a few races. The first race can be a simple running race, perhaps the full length of the room or garden. Set up the race and announce that both the first and last placed runners are the 'winners.' You can award them a small prize.

Repeat with further races as you wish, perhaps a variety of races; skipping, jumping, galloping, hopping or more complex races with props, if you so wish. Each time, announce that both the first and last placed children are the 'winners' and award prizes as appropriate. Today we will discover more about Jesus and what He said about being at the beginning and the end.

Play: J-E-S-U-S search

Before playing write out multiple sets of the letters; 'J, E, S, U, S,' and hide them round your house. When ready to play tell the people in your house that they have to find all the letters and spell out the name, JESUS. Today we are going to be thinking about Jesus and where He is now.

Discover: Jesus is alive testimony

Ask an adult in your home to share their short testimony explaining how they know that Jesus is still alive today, any personal proof they have, and how Jesus being alive directly affects their lives. Ask your adult any questions about their testimony that you might have.

Watch: Saul to Paul https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0p0W_Zbt1s

Read: Acts 9:1-19

Many years ago, there was a man whose name was Saul. He was an enemy of the Church and he did many terrible things to the followers of Jesus. He was even part of a group that stoned a man named Stephen because he was preaching about Jesus. One day, Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus to hunt for Christians so that he could have them thrown into prison. On the way to Damascus, a bright light appeared and Saul heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul answered, "Who are you, Lord?" Jesus replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. I have appeared to appoint you as my servant and to be a witness for me." After that meeting with Jesus, Saul's life was transformed. In fact, he even got a new name. From that day on, he became known as Paul and instead of trying to destroy the Church, he went from town to town preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus. People were amazed at the change that took place in Paul's life. Wherever he went, people said of him, "The man who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." That is what the transforming power of Jesus can do. Wouldn't you like to let Jesus change your life?

Saul had been someone who persecuted Christians. Why do you think Saul might have been so against Christianity? Many Jews thought Jesus was really evil because he claimed to be God. These Jews had not realised that Jesus really was the Messiah - they thought he was a false teacher who was stopping people from worshipping God properly!

What convinced Saul that Jesus was actually alive? How did that change Saul/Paul's life?

Pray:

What good things do we have in our lives because Jesus is alive? (We know we can go to heaven. If Jesus is still alive then we can also live forever. We have a friend in Jesus. We have someone to answer our prayers. He can do miracles today! He can help us to change our behaviour. Our lives matter because Jesus is watching ...) Blow up some balloons and on each write one good thing we have in our lives because Jesus is alive. Bat the balloons into the air and shout out the thing that is written on that balloon. Play sound party music dance and sing celebrating that "Jesus is alive today!". Finish with a short time of "popcorn prayer" saying thank you to Jesus in one sentence prayers, that he is alive today!