

ENGLISH CORNER

Connecting Cultures Through English

Teaching English Through Parables and Discussion



Teacher's Guide

English Corner Program 2024

Kim and Ashley Hood
www.t4english.com
ozenglishcorner@gmail.com

Teacher's Guide

18th edition



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To contact English Corner:

e-mail: ozenglishcorner@gmail.com

Web page: www.youenglishcorner.net

By the English Corner Teaching Team:

Charles and Glenys Byrne

Kim and Ashley Hood

Ann Bishop

Margaret Pollock

Marie and Klaas Kuipers

Alex and Bec Lam

Richard Buchanan

Able Wong

Hugh Cook

Marg Borneman

Alex and Bleinda Patience

Warren Myers

Andrew Reid

George and Dorothy Mathieson

Jenny Spranklin

Beth Millis

Michael and Chasely Paech

Mark Cavanagh

Catherine Stoll

Beth Russell

Di and Ed Backhouse

Esther Harding

Sue McGuire

Yumi Takaoka

Masami Okubo

Rachael Ford

Mo Yang

Caren and Brad

And many others.....

Introduction

How we began

It was Easter of 1999 and my husband and I were studying at the Queensland Baptist College. As part of our cross-cultural studies we were encouraged to think about developing a cross-cultural ministry. We had a good friend Hong Mo from Korea who was working part-time as a chaplain to a language school in Australia. He lamented that many students came to Australia expecting to meet Australians and learn more about Australian culture and English but the reality is that they often only meet other international students and find it very difficult to make contact with Australians.

Around that same time I met an international student waiting outside the City Library. I started a conversation with her. After a while, I asked her if she had met many Australians. She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said: “I have been here for two years studying at university and you are the first Australian to begin a conversation with me.” At that moment the verse came to mind: “I am a stranger will you welcome me?”

We decided to invite Hong Mo’s Korean friends together with our friends from Bible College and hold an Easter BBQ. Many students turned up. We organised other activities to introduce Australian culture. Students enjoyed mixing and meeting other Australians. Knowing we studied at Bible College, some students approached us to teach them English through the Bible. They had seen the way we lived our Christian lives and wanted to know more. A couple preparing to be missionaries overseas joined us and we started doing English Bible studies.

This proved to be quite a challenge as we realised the Bible stories contained new vocabulary, Jewish and Greek culture and a Christian/Jewish worldview. So we started choosing parables and looked at the main idea from each parable. We then provided an interactive warm-up before the lesson to introduce the main idea and began with Hot Topics to connect the parable to the students’ own culture. Students then read/acted out the parable, checked for new vocabulary, cultural information and then answered discussion questions.

Over the past 20 years we have met hundreds of international students. Many of them keep in contact and have become close friends. We have held English Corner reunions in Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and China. Students have returned to their countries and have begun their own English Corner groups.

Through listening to their stories, their reasons for learning English, their hunger to know more about the meaning of life and how they became Christians, God has taught us many things.

We would like to share these with you. Many people have helped us along the way and we thank them for their wisdom, love and support. We welcome you to use the material, change and adapt it to suit your ministry situation.

May God bless you in your work with international students. It is a wonderful rich life not only meeting people from other cultures but also getting to know them deeply.

See www.t4english.com for more resources and an electronic copy of this Manual to download.

Kim and Ashley Hood
January, 2024

The Principles Behind English Corner

1. God is Drawing People to Himself

W

hen we pray for English Corner, we ask God to bring us the teachers and students He wants.

An important principle by which we operate is that God is in control. He is the one drawing students towards him and bringing open students to English Corner. We are continually amazed at how both teachers and students come to English Corner. When we have 100 students turn up – we have just the right amount of teachers. When there are 40, again we have a good ratio of students to teachers.

We never push students and hope to be open and respectful to students from other religions. We understand that God is the one who makes the seed of the gospel grow. We need to provide the right setting, be imitators of Christ and then let God's Spirit do the rest.

We work as a team, not only in English Corner but also with churches and other English ministries. When we have a baptism or a good-bye party we always see the other 'workers' in the field who have watered and tended the seed in that student's life.

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (CEV)

2. Authentic Christianity

WE endeavour to reflect an authentic Christianity to the students. This means being open about our Christian lives. When we are asked we are ready to “give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience...” 1Peter 3:15.

We find that students are always watching. They watch how you treat your family, your friends, and people from other cultures, the poor, the waitress, the bus driver. They are seeing if your life is different. When they see Christ’s light in you they want to know more. We have rarely sat down and shared directly with a student but some students have come up to us and said they want to know more about Jesus or that they have begun to pray or want to go to church. God is working in their lives without our even knowing it. Oh the mystery and wonder of God in people’s lives!

This takes the pressure off us both. We can sit down together as fellow sojourners, wanting to explore this mysterious life and its meaning. We are honest with our questions and our struggles. We have nothing to hide.

3. Relational

THe main reason students continue to come to English Corner and keep in contact after they return home is the relationships they have built with each other and the teachers. We create a family atmosphere where students are welcomed regardless of age, background or education. That goes for our teachers as well. We are a mixed bunch of people.

We endeavour to have students to our places for dinner and some of us also live with students. A number of us have made conscious decisions to rent houses with enough rooms to have a share house situation. In these houses community is created through house meetings, social outings, involvement in our church and daily lives. Events like Easter films and Christmas parties are held at our homes, as many students may never visit an Australian home.

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 (CEV)

4. Church

Introducing students to an ‘international friendly’ church is an important part of an English Corner ministry. It is at church they meet other Christians. They will need to be ‘walked through’ the various rituals and language of church. You may even want to sit next to them and draw stick figures to help explain the sermon. If you know the sermon topic or reading beforehand you can give out a translation of the passage in his or her own language. Church can be a very inclusive and welcoming place or an alienating and confusing experience for the new church attendee. Inviting students to your church needs prayer and preparation. Helping the people in the congregation mix with the students and to build relationships is a very important witness to the international student.

Students who have had a positive experience of church are more likely to search out a church when they return home. This is a very important part of their continuing spiritual development and growth.

How to Use English Corner Material

English Corner material has been developed with the following considerations in mind:

1. **That the majority of students attending English Corner do not come from a Christian background and have very little background information on the Bible.**

Implication: Assume nothing! Students even ask *what* is Jesus not *who* is Jesus. Any Bible story is steeped in cultural knowledge, a Jewish worldview and history. The cultural context of the story needs to be explored and compared to the student's own culture as well as Australian culture. Any biblical terms like: sin, prophecy, Pharisee, Sadducees, disciple, repentance, for example, need to be explained. They are not common English words students come across in their language classes.

2. **Most of the ESL (English as a Second Language) students involved in English Corner come from an Asian background – predominately South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China and Thailand.**

Implication: Students may come from a Buddhist, Confucius or Shinto worldview. Ancestral worship is very important. Ceremonies and rituals around funerals, death anniversaries involve all family members. Confucian ethics on respect for elders blend with Buddhist customs to make it very important that all the family is involved in the family worship. This is especially true for the eldest son, whose duty it will be to carry on the worship of the ancestors when he is head of the family.

Some families have many good luck charms and rituals to drive away bad spirits. Family members and friends often give the departing students paper with special words inscribed or other charms to keep them safe whilst they are away overseas.

Helping students examine their cultural, family and personal worldviews that influence their life is an important process in accepting Christ's worldview.

3. **Students learning English tend to be on a student visa or working holiday visa lasting around 12 months. Most students stay in the one place for around 6 months and then go travelling.**

Implication: You may not have your student for long! Often they get part-time work, move to another capital city, and go travelling. So each lesson needs to stand-alone. A series of lessons leading up to Christmas or Easter is possible if reviews are made before the beginning of each lesson.

4. Students initially come to Australia to learn English, experience a new culture and have an adventure.

Implication: In English Corner our lessons have the following aims:

1. Develop relationships between students and between teachers and students.
2. Provide a comfortable, supportive environment for students to practice their English. We encourage students to “Please Make Mistakes!”
3. Design the lessons so there is maximum student involvement. Students are encouraged to read out the questions, discuss in pairs, threes or small groups, and act out a story. By the end of the lesson hopefully the students have done 80% of the talking, reading, asking and answering the questions. This is not your typical Bible study.
4. Provide discussion topics, parables, and Bible stories for students to learn not only English but learn about the meaning of life, to introduce them to authentic Christianity and the Bible.
5. Offer hospitality and parties that explain important festivals – Christmas, Easter, Australia Day, and Anzac Day, World Cup soccer etc.
6. Be an information hub to give out free events information, explaining transport, finding work, accommodation, any good places to visit or cheap restaurants and movies. Information that students need but find very hard to access.

The Lessons

There are three main types of lessons used in English Corner. They are parables, learning English through discussion, and an introductory series to Jesus. Throughout the year, we alternate between doing a series on parables then moving into learning English through discussion and then, depending on the time of year, a series on Jesus leading up to Easter or Christmas. Interspersed throughout these series are one-off stories linked to public holidays like New Years Day, Australia Day, Anzac Day, NAIDOC week (National Australian Indigenous Day of Celebration) or Sorry Day (Day of Healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). Included in this manual are the parable lessons, the many meanings of lessons, the Jesus series, Christmas and the Easter lessons. You will need to change and adapt to suit your teaching context.

These lessons will now be explained and presented.

Parables

Jesus used parables throughout his ministry. He explained to his disciples why he spoke in parables: “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “though seeing, they may not see; though hearing they may not understand.” Luke 8: 9-10 *(CEV)*.

The use of parables will evoke the interest of those who have any spiritual insight and shield the truth from those who are not yet spiritually open. We have seen this so many times when using parables in our lessons. There will always be a couple of students in each small group who suddenly grasp the meaning of a parable with an ‘ah ah’ experience. Their eyes have been opened and the truth revealed. What may have taken a theological student hours of debate and discussion to understand, these non-Christian students just know. Other students in the group see the parable as an interesting story but that is where it stops.

Bill Perry in his Bible Study Series, 'Crossing Over with Parables' provides a helpful summary of using parables with international students. He suggests to:

1. Develop the context of the parable

To understand the true radical nature of the meaning of a parable, the reader needs to be aware of the culture that informs the text. Questions such as Who? What? Where? When? and Why? are important in developing the context of the parable and for checking for understanding of the students.

2. Look for the main point

There is usually one major theme contained in a parable. There will be other important secondary (no less important) issues but it is helpful to draw out the major theme and design your lesson around that theme.

3. Parables press the listener to respond

This is why parables are often an engaging evangelistic tool. Parables demand a radical change in the listener's worldview or approach to God, other people and life in general. Parables address these issues in a relational, friendly, indirect way that sometimes surprises the audience and clearly confronts them with a choice.

The Parable Lesson Format

Each lesson has the following format:

1. Warm-Ups

- Whole group: An activity that introduces the topic and students to each other.

2. Small Groups

- Break into smaller groups according to English proficiency levels, beginner to advanced (students usually self-select their English level).
- Assign a teacher/facilitator to each group.

3. The Lesson:

Hot Topics

- Introduce the hot topics. These relate the lesson to the students' culture or personal experiences.

The Story/topic

- Provide students with many opportunities to speak. Vary the format. Students may discuss questions in pairs or threes. They may act out the Bible stories. Students can take turns facilitating the discussion.

4. The Finish

- Whole group: Brief comment about the lesson, interview students leaving and announcements – free events etc.

Date	Topic	Text	Theme	Introduction Idea
23/1	Australia Day	No Text	Australian Slang	Naming the icons in the picture hand out.
30/1	Resolutions/ Goals	Isaiah 65:17-25	Goals and Dreams	Find someone they don't know and introduce themselves
6/2	Lunar New Year	John 11:25-26	Ancestor Worship/Respect	You can give out Fortune Cookies to students to eat and read. Ask what would they like to happen in 2016?
13/2	The many meanings of Love (Valentine's Day)	1 Cor 13:4-8	The true meaning of love	Get students to stand in a circle and put their hands in. They connect with another person and then have to work out how to 'unite' the knot and get it back into a circle again without letting go of their partners hands! <u>See: https://www.wikihow.com/Play-the-Human-Knot-Game</u>
20/2	Alone or Lonely?	Ps 139: 9-10	God is with us	Divide the room up into North, South, East and West. Get students to sit in the areas they come from. Get them to meet their neighbours. What activities or things are there to do in these parts of the city? E.g. cheap movie theatres, outlet shopping, parks, free events etc.
27/2	Community	Lk: 6:27-29, 32	Through God we can love all people	Group students into the types of accommodation they live in: share house, home stay, alone, other. ... Students can then talk about their living situations.
5/3	Faith – Ramadan – starts 22/3	Heb 11:1	Everyone has faith but in what?	Display pictures around the room of famous people. Ask students to stand next to a picture. Barak Obama, Mother Teresa, Tom Cruise etc. Who do students have faith in? Why or why not? They can discuss and then move onto the next picture.
12/3	St Patrick's Day	Acts 4:32-25	Amazing Life of St Patrick	Have Green Snacks to share
19/3	Jesus is Greater Jesus heals a man born blind	John 9	Jesus' power comes from God & Rejection by Pharisees	Discuss famous sports of each country
26/4	The Passion of Christ (Good Friday 19/3)	Mark 15: 16 – 39	The death of Jesus	Easter symbols
2/4	Jesus is Alive (Easter Sunday 21/3)	Mark 16:1-8	Jesus is Alive	Place some spices in paper bags – Students have to guess the name of the spices.
9/4	Tragedy – the Grief Cycle	Is 40:28-31	Tragedy – Grief Cycle	Matching Newspaper pictures with Headlines
16/4	Good News! Phillip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8:26 – 36	Gaining understanding and good news	Students try and teach each other to say hello in their language
23/4	Peace – Anzac Day	Luke 12.22-31	God cares for you	Conduct thumb wars - girls vs girls and boys vs boys
30/4	Work (Labour Day)	Col 3:23	How do we approach our work?	This lesson was designed for discussion about the Labour day public holiday. Ask students who are currently working to mime their job. Other students have to guess. Or do a job Pictionary activity where students are given an occupation, they have to draw the occupation and the other students guess the occupation.
7/5	Mother's Day (8/5)	Ps 139:13-16	God created us purposefully	Have some mother's day cards – students can choose which card they would want to give their mother and why.
14/5	Sleep	Phil 4:4-7	Sleep and stress	Find 'Someone Who' quiz: - sleeps more than 8 hours. - has fallen asleep on public transport and missed his or her stop. - who listens to music to go to sleep. - who talks or walks in their sleep. - who is a light sleeper. (other)
21/5	National Sorry Day	Luke 10:25-37	Loving Others	Saying sorry in different languages

Date	Topic	Text	Theme	Introduction Idea
28/5	Thanksgiving (National Volunteer Week)	1Thess 5:16-17	Being thankful	Write up on the board all the different ways we can say thank you and how we can reply or role-play it: Thanks a lot - No worries - It was nothing, Thanks heaps – No problem; Thank you – Anytime, Don't mention it; Ta, My pleasure
4/6	Multiculturalism	Gal 26,28	We are all one in Christ	A good topic to cover whenever there is a multicultural festival in your city/town.
11/6	Happiness	Matt 5: 3-9	True happiness	Ask students what are they happy about with their college/work and why.
18/6	Language Learning	Col 3:23	Who are you studying/working for?	Fill out the Language Learning Style questionnaire.
25/6	The Tax Collector	Luke 19:1-10	Being open to new ways of thinking	What would you do if someone gave you \$1000?
2/7	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14	NAIDOC Week Spiritual pride	Have 10 internationally famous people and groups have to order from best to worst.
9/7	Tour De France	1 Cor 9:24 – 27	The Race of Life	A French Quiz - What is the capital of France etc
16/7	Grace	Amazing Grace Song	God's Grace	Get students to act out a famous movie title 'charades' and discuss what is their favourite movie and why. Teacher then to introduce the true story of the movie, 'Amazing Grace'. As the end of the lesson you can have everyone sing the song together.
23/7	Self-control and Addiction	Prov 25:28	Root causes of addiction – living away from home – dealing with stress	Break students into groups and do Pictionary, drawing different addictions, e.g. gambling, drinking, and eating. Students from each group then take turns coming up to the front, see the word then run back to their group to draw the addiction.
30/7	Olympic Games		Fluctuating Feelings	
6/8	Leaving Home - the Prodigal Son	Lk 15:11-31	God's grace, love and forgiveness	Have you ever been lost?
13/8	The Farmer	Mt 13:1-23	People will respond differently to spiritual truth	Students are given an animal – they close their eyes and make the animal noise and find their animal group e.g. cows, frogs, pigs, cats, dogs.
20/8	Money and Materialism	Luke 12:13-21	True Life	How much does a can of coke cost in each country – compare prices of coke in different countries
27/8	Father's Day (4/9)	Romans 8:15	God is our Father	Students can draw a picture of a typical father and write down some adjectives to describe a father.
3/9	Sleep	Phil 4:4-7	Sleep and stress	Find 'Someone Who' quiz: - sleeps more than 8 hours. - has fallen asleep on public transport and missed his or her stop. - who listens to music to go to sleep. - who talks or walks in their sleep. - who is a light sleeper. (other)
10/9	Spring	Matt 6:25-34	God provides	Discuss what spring time is like in students' home countries – which plants grow, what are national animals, etc.

Date	Topic	Text	Theme	Introduction Idea
17/9	Life Events	Acts 9:36 – 41	The Rollercoaster of Life!	Show emotion icons and get students to choose how they are feeling now.
24/9	Water	John 5:1-18	Water and its use	Water taste testing – tap water vs bottled water
1/10	King's Birthday (7/10) - Gifts	John 3:16	God's Gift	Line up according to which month you were born in. Who is having a birthday soon? Sing happy birthday to them.
8/10	Sickness & Disease	Luke 5:17-26	Jesus the Physician	Discussion some symptoms of illness like headache, fever, soreness?
15/10	Hospitality and Forgiveness The Pharisee and the Woman	Lk 7:36-50	Debt and forgiveness	Hospitality customs in different countries. Different ways of greeting.
22/10	Leadership	Luke 22:24-27	Servant Leadership	The leader/teacher of the class can offer students drinks, serving them as part of the warm up.
29/10	Fear - Halloween	Ps 34:4-5	Escape from Fear	The topic of fear can be adapted to many different situation students may be facing at different times. Issues of health or cultural festivals like Halloween, which are based around the idea of fear, can all be a reason to introduce this topic.
5/11	Determination – The Great Race (Melbourne Cup Day)	Heb 12:1-3	The race of life	Place students into groups. Ask them to select one student to be their representative in the race. Ask some Yes/No questions. If the racing students answer correctly they can move forward one step, incorrectly move back one step. Questions can be about the particular race (Melbourne Cup, Olympics etc) or about famous sporting heroes etc.
12/11	Tragedy – the Grief Cycle	Is 40:28-31	Tragedy – Grief Cycle	Matching Newspaper pictures with Headlines
19/11	Light & Darkness	John 8:12	Jesus the Light of the World	Activity using a flashlight?
26/11	Christmas Part 1: The Announcement	Luke 1:26-38 Matt 1.18-25	The miraculous conception	Bring a bag of Christmas symbols (tree decorations are useful). A small Christmas tree, a gift, a star, a nativity scene (picture), Santa Claus. Ask students what they think each symbol tells us about the meaning of Christmas.
3/12	Christmas Part 2: The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-20	The angels announce the birth	Show pictures of royal palaces, opulent surroundings, and then compare with pictures of a stable. Discuss the humble surroundings.
10/12	Christmas Part 3: The Reaction to the Birth of Jesus	Matthew 2:1-23	Understanding the different responses to Jesus' birth	"Merry Christmas" in different languages – have students guess the language, and add their own.
17/12	Christmas Play	Drama		

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day is a public holiday all around Australia.
Today our discussion topic is on Australia!

HOT TOPICS

About Australia Quiz...

1. If someone asks you what you are doing this 'arvo'. They want to know what you are doing:

- during the holidays
- at lunch time
- this afternoon

2. If someone offers you 'a cuppa', they are offering you:

- a cupboard
- an Australian cake
- a cup of tea

3. If someone tells you to 'ava good weekend', they mean:

- be careful because bad weather is forecast
- drive carefully
- have a good weekend

4. Look at the Aussie Icons (famous things of Australia) and try and name each one.

5. About your country...

When is your country's national day? Why is it your national day? How do you celebrate your country's national day?

Australia Day Discussion

- Australia Day is a day when we celebrate the nation of Australia. It is a day of both celebration and remembering. We remember the arrival of the British in 1788, and we also remember the Aboriginals who have lived in Australia for 1000's of years. For some people it is called Invasion Day due to the British arrival and the impact it had on Indigenous Australians. What history do you know about Australia? *In threes discuss*
- Most Australia Day activities focus on what it means to be Australian. As an international visitor to Australia – How would you describe Australians and the nation of Australia? *In pairs.*
- How are Australians and the nation of Australia different from your country? *In different pairs*
- What are some common important beliefs and activities that Australians share? *Whole group.*
- What are the main religions in Australia? Do you think Australia is a 'Christian country'? Why or why not? *Whole group.*
- What is one thing from Australia you would like to bring back to your country?

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
New Year's Goals

HOT TOPICS

At the beginning of a new year people like to make goals or new year resolutions. Today's topic is about the year ahead and goals.

QUESTIONS

A **resolution** is a promise that you make to yourself.

It is a tradition for people to make resolutions at the beginning of a new year. There are different kinds of resolutions.

Below is a list of the top 10 resolutions from America, which do you want to work on this year?

1. Spend more time with family & friends
2. Exercising more
3. Healthy eating
4. Quit smoking
5. Travel
6. Quit or reduce drinking
7. Get out of debt
8. Learn something new
9. Help others/volunteer
10. Get organized

1. (A) Are these resolutions similar or different from people in your country? (B) What resolutions (goals) do you have for yourself this year? For example:
 - a. **Health:** diet, healthy habits... "I will eat more healthy food (3 serves of vegetables and 2 serves of fruit and go to bed before midnight)".
 - b. **Mental:** books to read, new skills to learn...I will try and learn five new words every day"
 - c. **Physical:** exercise..."I will walk to work every day"
 - d. **Social:** working on relationships (friends, husband/wife, work colleagues, family)... "I will contact my family every week"
 - d. **Spiritual:** prayer, meditation, relationship with God..."I will spend 20 minutes time alone praying and reading the Bible."
2. What travel plans do you have this year?
3. What was your dream of coming to Australia? Have you found your dream? What might stop you reaching your dream? E.g. too shy, lazy, not enough money....

A man called **Isaiah** had a dream about what God was going to do in the future. In his dream, God promised Isaiah a bright future for those who believe in him. His dream is found in the Bible:

"I (God) will create a new heavens and earth; everything of the past will be forgotten. ...Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. Those who live to be 100 will be considered young. People will build houses and get to live in them – someone else will not use them. They will fully enjoy the things that they have worked for. The work they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous. I the Lord have spoken!" Isaiah 65:17-25.

4. What things did God promise Isaiah in the dream?
5. What would it be like to live in this new creation?
6. Describe your dream-land?

Vocabulary

Creating: To make something happen or make something out of nothing.
Heavens: the place where people who believe in God go after they die.
Forgotten: to forget: to not remember something.
Infancy: When you are a baby or a small child.
Life span: The amount of time that a person lives.
Successful: Achieving what you want to achieve.
Disaster: Something that causes a lot of damage or harm or an extremely bad situation.

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2. What travel plans do you have this year?
3. What was your dream of coming to Australia? Have you found your dream? What might stop you reaching your dream? E.g. too shy, lazy, not enough money....

A man called **Isaiah** had a dream about what God was going to do in the future. In his dream, God promised Isaiah a bright future for those who believe in him. His dream is found in the Bible:

"I (God) will create a new heavens and earth; everything of the past will be forgotten. ...Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. Those who live to be 100 will be considered young. People will build houses and get to live in them – someone else will not use them. They will fully enjoy the things that they have worked for. The work they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous. I the Lord have spoken!" Isaiah 65:17-25.

4. What things did God promise Isaiah in the dream?
5. What would it be like to live in this new creation?
6. Describe your dream-land?

Vocabulary

Creating: To make something happen or make something out of nothing.
Heavens: the place where people who believe in God go after they die.
Forgotten: to forget: to not remember something.
Infancy: When you are a baby or a small child.
Life span: The amount of time that a person lives.
Successful: Achieving what you want to achieve.
Disaster: Something that causes a lot of damage or harm or an extremely bad situation.

Lunar (Chinese) New Year 2024

Happy Lunar New Year

Welcome to the year of the dragon! In many Asian countries, Lunar New Year is being celebrated. Before the New Year, many Chinese families clean the house to get rid of the old and get ready for the new.

Delegating Cleaning Jobs

(a) Do you like doing housework?

1. Yes, I do.
2. No, I don't.
3. Sometimes. It depends on what type of housework.

(b) In your house, who usually does the housework? Mother, Father, Children, other...

(c) Role play an angry Mum cleaning the house in groups of four:

Mum: What a mess! Whose **shoes** are **these**?

Child 1: **They** are mine. They are my shoes.

Mum: Whose rubbish is **this**?

Child 2: It's not mine.

Mum: Is **that** your **dirty coffee cup**?

Husband: Yes, it is, sorry.

(d) Mime the following actions and the students have to guess what action the mime artist is doing.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. pick up the... | mop the ... | take out the ... |
| 2. dust the ... | clean and | wipe the .. |
| 3. sweep | scrub the ... | |
| 4. buy some ... | prepare the ... | |
| 5. set the ... | light the ... | |
| 6. blow up the ... | put up the.. | |



(e) Speaking Practice: one person delegating jobs preparing for a Chinese New Year celebration at somebody's house.

Sue: Excuse me, **can you** help me prepare for the New Years' festival?

Everybody: Yeh, sure.

Sue: Ann, **can you** sweep the kitchen?

Ann: Ok. I can do that.

Sue: Nang, **can you** buy all the ingredients to make dumplings?

Nang: That's fine by me.

Sue: Mint, **would you mind** buying some firecrackers?

Mint: No problems.

Sue: Nong, **I was wondering if you could put up the red banners**?

Nong: Sure, I can also buy some red envelopes.

(f) What do you usually do during Chinese New Year? What will you do this year?

(g) Chinese New Year is not only about cleaning the house but cleaning out or appeasing (satisfying) evil spirits. Do you know stories in your culture how people have tried to get rid of or appease evil spirits? For example.

Thailand: Bird (Spirit) houses: Spirits kept from tormenting people or businesses by using spirit houses

China: Put red banners over the doorways to keep evil spirits out of the house.

Other....

(h) There is a famous story in the Bible about how evil spirits were gotten rid of.

See next page for the story.



Mark 5 A Man with Evil Spirits

5 Jesus and his disciples crossed Lake Galilee and came to shore near the town of Gerasa. **2** When he was getting out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit quickly ran to him **3** from the graveyard where he had been living. No one was able to tie the man up anymore, not even with a chain. **4** He had often been put in chains and leg irons, but he broke the chains and smashed the leg irons. No one could control him. **5** Night and day he was in the graveyard or on the hills, yelling and cutting himself with stones.

6 When the man saw Jesus in the distance, he ran up to him and knelt down. **7** He shouted, "Jesus, Son of God in heaven, what do you want with me? Promise me in God's name that you won't torture me!" **8** The man said this because Jesus had already told the evil spirit to come out of him.

9 Jesus asked, "What is your name?"

The man answered, "My name is Lots, because I have 'lots' of evil spirits." **10** He then begged Jesus not to send them away.

11 Over on the hillside a large herd of pigs was feeding. **12** So the evil spirits begged Jesus, "Send us into those pigs! Let us go into them." **13** Jesus let them go, and they went out of the man and into the pigs. The whole herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

14 The men taking care of the pigs ran to the town and the farms to spread the news. Then the people came out to see what had happened. **15** When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had once been full of demons. He was sitting there with his clothes on and in his right mind, and they were terrified.

16 Everyone who had seen what had happened told about the man and the pigs. **17** Then the people started begging Jesus to leave their part of the country.

18 When Jesus was getting into the boat, the man begged to go with him. **19** But Jesus would not let him. Instead, he said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how good he has been to you."

20 The man went away into the region near the ten cities known as Decapolis and began telling everyone how much Jesus had done for him. Everyone who heard what had happened was amazed.

1. Draw the story

1. Re-Tell the story to a partner using your pictures.

2. What do you learn about people in this story?

4. What do you learn about Jesus in this story?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

The many meanings of LOVE

Friends/Family: to like a friend or a person in your family very much. *He loves his kids.*

Enjoy: to enjoy something very much or have a strong interest in something. *I love kimchi. I love football.*

Romance: to like someone very much and have romantic feelings for them. *She loves her husband very much.*

Hot Topics

1. February 14th is Valentine's Day. Do you have Valentine's Day in your country? What do guys/girls usually give each other?
2. In English the one word love, means so many different things. I love you, I love my shoes.....In your country do you have one word for love? Or do you have many different words?

Break your group into men and women. Discuss the following:

3. **Friends/Family**
 - a) Is it possible to love all family members equally?
 - b) How do your parents show they love you?
 - c) How do you show your love to your friends and family?
4. **Enjoy**
 - a) What do you love about your country?
 - b) What do you love about Australia?
5. **Romance**
 - a) who was the first person you fell in love with?
 - b) Is it possible to love and hate the same person?
 - c) Do you think you can only love one person in your life?

Come back together as a group and discuss:

6. How would you define love?
7. In the Bible (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), love is defined as:

**Love is kind and patient,
never jealous, boastful, proud or rude.
Love isn't selfish or quick tempered.
It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that
others do.**

**Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.
Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.
Love never fails!**

Vocabulary

Equally: adv. To the same degree or level.

Kind: adj. Kind people do things to help others and show that they care about them.

Patient: adj. the quality of being able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when something takes a long time.

Jealous: adj. unhappy and angry because you want something that someone else has.

Quick tempered: when someone becomes angry very easily.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

ALONE or LONELY?

alone: adj,adv. Without other people. *She lives alone. I like being alone.*

lonely: adj. Unhappy because you are not with other people.

Usage

alone or lonely?

Alone means without other people. If you feel **sad** because you are alone, you are **lonely**.

*Sometimes I like to be **alone** to think.*

*She has been very **lonely** since she came to Australia.*

HOT TOPICS

(Choose one topic to lead a discussion on).

1. What is the difference between being alone and being lonely?
2. Did you come to Australia alone? How did it feel? What did your family or friends think of you coming alone? When have you felt lonely in Australia?
3. If someone was feeling lonely in Australia, what advice would you give them:
You could...
Why don't you...
Have you thought of...
5. Where do you like to go to be alone?
6. Have you ever been to the movies alone or eaten at a restaurant alone? Why or why not? How did it feel?
7. Why are we sometimes afraid of being alone?
8. Do you agree with the following statement:
"No man is an island"

Everyone experiences loneliness. You might have felt it as a child when your classmates laughed at you because you were the last one chosen for a team. You might be feeling it now being away from your family and friends. Listening to native speakers talking and not being able to join in the conversation because you can't understand can leave you feeling lonely. Loneliness is a universal human experience. Everyone at some stage in his or her life has felt lonely. How we live with loneliness is important. Many bad habits, addictions, stress headaches, over eating or under eating, can be caused from loneliness.

Many people in history, who have faced great suffering, have experienced loneliness. How they managed their loneliness was the way they survived. One famous Christian in World War II was a prisoner in a German concentration camp. Her belief in God kept her from giving up all hope. She writes, "I could face each day because I knew I wasn't alone. God was with me in every difficult situation. To know I was not alone kept me alive. I can face anything because God is with me, comforting me, loving me, giving me strength."

What helps you when you are feeling lonely?

A person from the Bible wrote about God:

*"Suppose I had wings like the dawning day
and flew across the ocean.*

Even then your powerful arm

would guide and protect me."

Psalm: 139:9-10.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
Community

Community: (noun). People who live in the same area. *I live in a small rural community.*

Community: *A group of people with the same interests, nationality, job etc, the business/Chinese community*

Community: *a group of individuals who have learned how to communicate honestly with one another, whose relationships are deep and accepting of others.*

Hot Topics

1. Where do you live in Australia? What kind of accommodation do you live in - share house, home stay, alone etc. How do you organize:

- Food?
- Cooking?
- Cleaning?
- Meal times – do you eat together?

Are you happy with your accommodation? Do you feel 'at home' where you are living? What could make it better?

2. Many students, who come to Australia, have never lived with other people apart from their family. What things have you learnt about yourself or other people since living with other people?

3. When people work or live together in a group, the relationships may go through four stages.

1. **Forming** – this is when you first move in or join a new group. It is the 'honeymoon stage'. Everyone is nice to each other and excited about the new share house/class etc.
2. **Storming** – 'the honeymoon' period is over and people begin to notice annoying habits or personality differences.
3. **Norming** – if people have not left during the storming period, they can choose to 'put up' with the other person/people, but don't get too close or ignore them.
4. **Performing** – if people learn to accept each other's differences and actually appreciate the other person then the group or share mates become very close and life long friendships are formed.

4. Which group are you involved in at the moment? A share house, home stay, workplace, class... What stage is your group in? Is it possible to move to the performing stage? How?

A thought on community

Community is a place of belonging, a place where we learn to accept other people's differences and stop trying to change them. We learn to forgive again and again. We learn to love ourselves and love others – even from different cultures!

Jesus says: "But I say to you that hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you...If you love those who love you, what good is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them (Luke: 6:27-9; 32). (CEV)

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

The many meanings of FAITH

FAITH (noun). TRUST. The belief that someone or something is good, right, and able to be trusted. *Have faith in me. I won't let you down.*

FAITH (noun). STRONG BELIEF. Strong belief in God. *Throughout her illness she never lost faith in God.*

FAITHFUL (adjective). RELATIONSHIP: If your husband, wife or partner is faithful, they do not have a sexual relationship with anyone else. *They remained faithful to one another throughout their marriage.*

FAITHFUL (adjective). LOYAL. Always loyal. *His trusted and faithful friend.*

This month is Ramadan. Muslims around the world are fasting each day for 30 days. Muslims have *faith* that during this time they can get closer to Allah. This week's topic focuses on the word:

Faith.

Hot Topics

1. Is Ramadan celebrated in your country? What happens during Ramadan?
2. Around the time of Ramadan, many Muslims say they have special dreams. Have you ever had a special dream or spiritual experience?
3. In pairs, describe a person whom you have *faith* in. How do you know you can trust them?
4. Can you think of a time when you lost *faith* in someone? What happened? *In threes*
5. Is it possible to remain *faithful* to your husband/wife for the whole of your marriage?
6. Since being away from home. Who has been a faithful friend to you? What have they done?

The Bible defines *faith* as:

"*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*"

7. Who do you have *faith* in:
 - a) political leaders?
 - b) parents?
 - c) employer?
 - d) friends?
 - e) God?

Vocabulary

Ramadan: A Muslim festival where Muslims around the world stop eating from sunrise to sunset.

Certain: no doubt, completely sure.

Evolution: A theory that describes how the world began.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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St Patrick's Day



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Happy St Patrick's Day!

- March 17th is St Patrick's Day celebrated in many parts of the world. Green is an important colour for St Patrick's Day.
- What is your favourite colour?

My favourite colour is _____

What colours best describe these feelings?

- Happy
- Sad
- Surprised
- Life changing
- Excited
- Depressed

- Mark with different colours major turning points in your life on this timeline

Born _____ → now

For example

- In 2001,
- 5 years ago,
- When I was 12,
- When I was studying at university ...
- When I moved to ...

St Patricks Day

Patrick was **born** in England in the fourth century. When he was sixteen, he was **kidnapped** by Irish robbers and **taken** to Ireland as a **slave**. He **was put in prison** for six years. In prison he was **told** by God in a dream to escape from prison to the coast, where he would find a **ship** and **return** to England. He became a Christian and his life changed. He returned to England and studied to be a **priest**. He **spent** 12 years studying. In 432, God called him back to Ireland to **tell** people about Jesus and his love. He **used** a shamrock to **explain** the Christian teaching of God to the Irish people. He **helped change** a nation that did not believe in God to a country that now has many schools and churches. He **died** on 17 March 461.

- Show on the map the journey of Patrick
- Read the story from the Bible.
- How is this story similar to St Patrick? What caused the change in their lives?

Sharing Possessions (Acts 4)

³² The group of followers of Jesus all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other. ³³ In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, ³⁴ and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money ³⁵ to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it.

Discussion

Do you want your life to change? What areas do you want to change? How can this happen?

EASTER SERIES

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9)

Christmas and Easter are the two main holidays in Australia each year.

To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and why we believe they are worth celebrating.

HOT TOPICS

Opinion Time: Which one of these do you think is greater or better? Why?

1. Dogs OR Cats?
2. McDonalds OR Hungry Jacks?
3. Apple OR Android?
4. Travel to the past OR Travel to the future?
5. Be smart OR Be beautiful?
6. Live in USA OR Live in Europe?
7. Mountains OR Beach?
8. Be able to fly OR Be able to read minds?
9. True love OR \$10,000,000?
10. Be in Brisbane OR Be at home?

THE STORY

7 Characters are needed in today's story from the Bible:

Narrator, Jesus, Disciples, Man, Neighbour1, Neighbour 2, Lawyers.

Vocabulary

Sabbath: a religious holy day

Disciples: a follower or student of a teacher / leader.

Begging: action of **beg** = to ask for something urgently

Sinned: past tense of **sin** = to break God's law – do something wrong.

Miracle: an extraordinary or special event that cannot be explained by nature or science.

Mud: when earth (dirt) and water are mixed.

Pool of Siloam: Siloam means "one who is sent". It is a man-made pool of water in Jerusalem, Israel.

Narrator	On Sunday (the <u>Sabbath</u>), Jesus and his <u>Disciples</u> saw a man who was born blind <u>begging</u> on the side of the road.
Disciples	Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents <u>sinned</u> ?
Jesus	No, it wasn't! Because he is blind, you will see God work a <u>miracle</u> for him.
Narrator	After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some <u>mud</u> and put it over the man's eyes.
Jesus	Go and wash off the mud in the <u>Pool of Siloam</u> .
Narrator	When he had washed off the mud, the man could see!
Man	(Very excitedly) I can see!!!!
Neighbour1	Could this really be the same man?
Neighbour2	No, he only looks like the beggar.
Man	I am that man!
Neighbour1, Neighbour2	
Man	Someone named Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go and wash it off in the Pool of Siloam. When I did, I could see!
Narrator	Because the day was a Sunday (the Sabbath), the religious lawyers were angry.
Lawyers	This man Jesus doesn't come from God. If he did, he would not break the Sabbath law. Man, tell us the truth! This Jesus must be a sinner.
Man	I don't know if he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see! God doesn't listen to sinners. This is the first time in history that anyone has ever given sight to someone born blind. Jesus could not do anything unless he came from God.
Lawyers	You are a liar! You are no longer welcome in our religious meetings.
Narrator	When Jesus heard what happened, he went and found the man.
Jesus	Do you have faith that I came from God?
Man	Yes Lord, I will put my faith in you!
Disciples	Jesus, you really are the Son of God!

DISCUSSION

1. Divide into pairs. Each pair answers a WH question: **Who** is the story about? **What** is the story about? **When** did it happen? **Where** did it happen? **Why** is this story told?
2. Some people believe in Karma – receiving good or bad luck as a result of one's actions. How does this story show that Jesus is greater than the idea of Karma?
3. Why were the **Lawyers** angry?
4. How will the **Man's** life change after this experience?
5. What authority/power did **Jesus** have to perform this miracle?
6. How will your thinking about **Jesus** be changed by this story?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

EASTER - The Good Friday Story

To understand Easter you need to know some information about the man behind Easter – Jesus.

Review: In your group discuss – (5 minutes)

1. What are some things that Jesus did?
2. What are some things that Jesus taught?
3. Why did people follow him?
4. What did the religious leaders of the day think about Jesus?

Have you seen Mel Gibson's Movie: "The Passion"? It shows the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many people don't understand why Jesus died. Today we will look at the story of Jesus' death.

Below is the story of Jesus' crucifixion (dying on a cross). In your groups you will need: a narrator, soldiers (4), religious leader 1, religious leader 2, Jesus, Crowd, criminal 1, criminal 2. Read the story once for understanding and then act out the story.

The Passion of Christ

Narrator: (*soldiers do the following actions*): The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on Jesus, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorny branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted:

Soldier 1: Hail! You king of the Jews!

Soldiers 2,3, 4: Long live the King of the Jews!

Narrator: The soldiers beat Jesus on the head with a stick. They spat on him and led him off to be nailed on a cross. (*Pause*).

(*Women do the following actions*): A group of women followed Jesus weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said:

Jesus: Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children.

Narrator: Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus to a hill to be crucified. They crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one of his right and the other on his left. Jesus said:

Jesus: Forgive them Father! They don't know what they are doing!

Narrator: (*soldiers do the following actions*): The soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The crowd stood there watching while the soldiers mocked him.

Religious Leader 1: He saved others. Now he should save himself!

Religious Leader 2: If he is the Messiah—God's chosen one—come down from the cross!

Soldier 4: Save yourself if you are the King of the Jews.

Narrator: One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at Jesus:

Criminal 1: Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

Narrator: The other one, however, told the first one off.

Criminal 2: Don't you fear God? Aren't we getting the same punishment as this man? We got what we deserved, but he didn't do anything wrong.

Narrator: Then criminal 2 turned to Jesus and said:

Criminal 2: Remember me when you come into power!

Narrator: Jesus said to him:

Jesus: I promise that today you will be with me in heaven.

Narrator: When Jesus was crucified, some women stood at a distance to watch because they were afraid the soldiers might arrest them, as they were family and friends of Jesus. They were upset and cried for Jesus. The sky turned dark and Jesus shouted:

Jesus: Father, I put myself in your hands!

Narrator: Then he died. A Roman soldier saw what happened and said:

Soldier 4: Jesus must really have been the Son of God!

Discussion questions

1. Why do you think Jesus died?
2. Who killed Jesus? Was it the soldiers? Was it the Jewish religious teachers? Was it the crowd? Or was it God's plan?
3. In your group your teacher will show you an example to explain why Jesus died – (The Book example).
4. This is why we have Good Friday, the first public holiday of Easter. Why do you think we call it 'Good' Friday? What will you be doing on Good Friday?

Vocabulary:

Arrest: If the police arrest someone, they take them away to ask them about a crime which they may have committed.

Made Fun. To tease or make a joke in an unkind way.

Messiah: God's saviour for the world

Criminal: someone who has committed a crime.

Punishment: When someone is punished. To make women suffer because they had done something bad.

Robe (noun): a long, loose piece of clothing. Usually worn for special occasions.

Beat (verb) to hit a person or animal hard many times.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

EASTER Sunday

Over the last few weeks we have been talking about Easter and what it means. Today's discussion is the most important part of the Easter story. What happened after Jesus died. This story is about what the women saw when they went to visit Jesus' grave. This is a public holiday in many places in the world.

Hot Topics

1. What are your funeral customs?
2. Is there a special day to visit graves in your country? Explain.
3. In your country what do people believe will happen to you after you die?

The Story – The resurrection of Jesus

(You will need 4 people to read the story; A Narrator, Mary, an Angel and Jesus.)

Narrator: After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought **spices** to go and **anoint** the **body** of Jesus. Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they said to one another,

Mary: "Who will **roll** away the **stone** for us from the **entrance** to the **tomb**?" (It was a very large stone.)

Narrator: Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they **entered** the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe—and they were alarmed.

Angel: "Don't be alarmed", he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here—he has been **raised**! Look, here is the place where he was placed. Now go, and give this message to his disciples, including Peter. 'He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.'"

(Jesus appears to his disciples)

Narrator: The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus said to them:

Jesus: "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Go, then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

Discussion

1. Jesus had told his followers before he died: "*I will be sentenced to death and they will make fun of me and spit on me. They will beat me and kill me. But three days later I will rise to life.*" Why were the women surprised that Jesus' body was gone?
2. Why is it so important that Jesus was raised from the dead? What does it say about who Jesus was?
3. Around the world the Easter festival has two important days. Good Friday – the day that Jesus died and Easter Sunday the day that Jesus was raised. Discuss what people usually do on these days.

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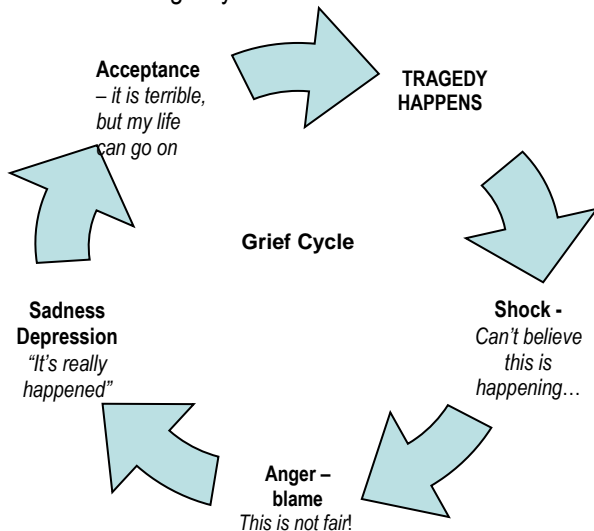
TRAGEDY

Today's topic is on tragedy and how we respond when something very bad happens in our lives or to other people.

Tragedy: an event or situation, which is very sad, often involving death.

HOT TOPICS

1. What have been some tragic events in the news recently in Australia, in your country and in the world?
2. When something terrible happens, we usually respond in the following way:



Talk about this cycle with a partner. When have you felt like this?

4. In life, everyone will experience some kind of tragedy. In the Bible it talks about how we can respond to tragedy and find a hope beyond tragedy. In the book of Isaiah it says (*break into threes and read*):

Voice 1: Why do you complain that God doesn't know your troubles or care if you suffer bad things?

Voice 2: Don't you know? Haven't you heard? God is the everlasting Lord; He created all the world.

Voice 1: He never grows tired or weary.

Voice 2: No one understands His thoughts.

Voice 3: He strengthens those who are weak and tired

Voice 1: Even those who are young grow weak –

Voice 2: Young men can fall exhausted.

Voice 3: But those who trust in God for help will find their strength renewed.

Voice 1: They will rise on wings like eagles.

Voice 2: They will run and not get weary.

Voice 3: They will walk and not grow weak.

5. Have you felt weak, exhausted, tired and weary? Where do you get your hope from to keep going?

Vocabulary

Complain: to say something is wrong

Suffer: to experience pain or something bad

Everlasting: last forever

Weary or exhausted: very tired

Renewed: starting again in a stronger way.

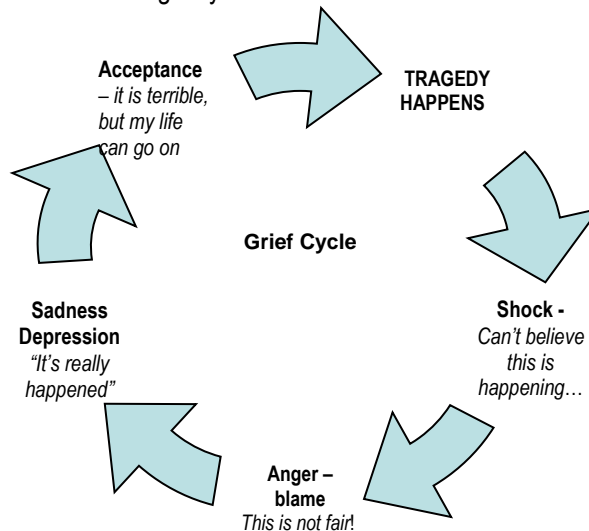
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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion
Good News!

Today's story is about good news. It is about a traveller who found some good news that changed his life.

Hot Topics

1. What good news have you had recently? Have you found a job or a good share house...?
2. When you read something you cannot understand, do you:
 - a. Ignore it
 - b. Look up your dictionary
 - c. Read other sentences around it to try to understand
 - d. Ask somebody to help you
 - e. Other....

Practice in pairs asking someone to explain something to you that you can't understand. For example, 'Excuse me what does _____ mean?'

Today's Lesson...

Today's story is from the Bible and it is about two travelers. You get to be actors and actresses – a great way to practice your reading and expression!

Introduction

The time of this story is around 70 AD after the death of Jesus, when Jesus' followers were going around and telling people about the Good News – the reason for Jesus' birth, life and death. Read and find out why this was such Good News.

Choose six people to act out the following parts:

- Narrator, Angel, Holy Spirit, Philip, Ethiopian, and Isaiah
1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.
 2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.
 3. Interview (see discussion section for interview questions)

The Story (Acts 8:26 – 36) (act out as you read)

Narrator: An Angel of God said to Philip:

Angel: Go south along the desert road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza.

Narrator: This road is in the desert. So Philip got ready and went. Now an important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road in his chariot. The Ethiopian was the chief treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia. The official had gone to Jerusalem to worship God and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading from Isaiah (a book written by the prophet Isaiah before the birth of Jesus found in the Bible). The Holy Spirit said to Philip:

Holy Spirit: Catch up to that chariot.

Narrator: Phillip ran over and heard the Ethiopian reading from the book of Isaiah. Phillip asked him:

Phillip: Do you understand what you are reading?

Ethiopian: No. How can I understand unless someone helps me?

Narrator: And he invited Phillip to climb up and sit in the chariot with him. The official was reading from the book of Isaiah. In this book, the prophet Isaiah talks about God's future Saviour for the world. It reads:

Isaiah: He (God's Saviour) was like a sheep on its way to be killed. He was silent as a lamb whose wool is being shorn, and he didn't say a word. He was treated like a nobody and didn't receive a fair trial...

Narrator: The official asked Phillip:

Ethiopian: Tell me, who was Isaiah talking about? Himself or about someone else?

Narrator: So Philip began at this place in the bible and explained the Good News about Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

Discussion

1. Draw a timeline of the story. Discuss as a group
2. God planned for Philip to travel on the desert road. Who plans your life? *Discuss in threes:*
 - a. you
 - b. other people/family/friends
 - c. fate or luck
 - d. work
 - e. God
3. What is the Good News about Jesus? *In threes discuss*
4. The teacher will now show you an example (*The Book example*) explaining the Good News.
5. Who can you tell this good news to?

Vocabulary

Desert: a dry place

Chariot: a four-wheeled vehicle pulled by horses

Chief Treasurer: the person who manages the finances of a country

Catch up to: Go up to

Prophet: a messenger of God, someone who predicts the future

Saviour: someone who saves

Shorn: wool that is cut from a sheep

Didn't receive a fair trial: The Saviour was taken to court but not treated well or justly/fairly

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Anzac Day - Peace

April 25th is Anzac Day. It is a public holiday to remember people who served during the war and it is also a time to remember peace. Today we will talk about the many meanings of the word *peace*.

Peace: *noun*: 1. where there is no war, violence, or arguing. 2. When there is quiet and calm a *feeling of peace*. 3. Peace of mind a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything.

HOT TOPICS

1. What are you going to do for the Anzac Day holiday? *In threes discuss*. What do you normally do in your country on a public holiday?
2. Peace has different meanings. **First meaning of peace:** *Where there is no war, violence, or arguing*. What countries are in conflict at the moment? Why is there no peace in these places? Do you think world peace is possible? *In threes discuss*.
3. Are you a peacemaker? When there is an argument between two people do you:
 - a) join in
 - b) take sides
 - c) go silent
 - d) try and mediate
4. Second meaning of **peace**: *Peace of mind a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything*. What are you worried about now? Does worrying help you?
5. When you go to sleep at night, what do you worry about?
 - English?
 - Family?
 - Money?
 - Accommodation?
 - Work?
 - other ...
6. What do you do to stop worrying?
 - Listen to music?
 - Get up and get a drink?
 - Write in a journal?
 - Read a book?
 - Check Face book?
 - Pray?
7. In the Bible, Jesus said:

"I tell you not to worry about your life. Don't worry about having something to eat, drink or wear. Isn't life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth more than birds? Can worry make you live longer? Don't worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today. (Luke 12.22-31)

a. How do Jesus' words written above give you peace? *In threes discuss*.

Vocabulary

Mediate: verb: to try to find a solution between two or more people.

Worry: to think about bad things that might happen.

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Learning English Through Discussion

WORK – Labour Day

Work. **Job** To do a job. Akiko *works* at the Sushi Station.

Work. **Succeed** Her plan to make friends with people from different countries *worked*.

Work. **Effort** To do something that needs a lot of time and effort. You have to *work* hard to study English.

Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated all over the world. It remembers the efforts of the labour union movement and celebrates the economic and social achievements of workers. Labour Day began in Melbourne on 21 April 1856. Stonemasons and building workers stopped worked and marched to ask for an eight hour working day. They were successful and were the first organised group to achieve an eight-hour day with no loss of pay.

HOT TOPICS

1. Do you have Labour day in your country? What are the typical working hours in your country?

The many meanings of work.....

Work (Job)

- Do you have a job? If yes, what work do you do? How are the working conditions similar or different from in your country? If no, what kind of work are you looking for? (*try and pair up with someone who works and someone looking for work*).
- Do people in Australia work harder than in your country? Compare work hours. (*In threes discuss*)
- What kind of job do you want to do when you return home? Is it similar to your parents' work? (*in pairs*)
- Are you being paid fairly?

Work (Succeed)

- What are you plans for your time in Australia?
 - Learn English?
 - Meet international and Aussie friends?
 - Get a job?
 - Travel?
 - Experience new things?
 - Think about your life and purpose?
 - Change your life?

Have your plans **worked** out? What is stopping you reaching all your plans? E.g. being anxious, afraid to make mistakes, (*in different pairs*).

Work(effort)

- How much **work** do you put into:
 - Studying English?
 - Meeting new people?
 - Going to new places?

Do you ever feel like giving up? How do you keep going? (*in threes discuss*).

Work (Attitude)

Many people learning English have to find a part-time job. They do work they have never done in their own country – cleaning, farm work, kitchen hand, waitress. These jobs can be very hard. An important way to survive in these jobs is having a good attitude. In the Bible it describes a good attitude towards work as: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as if you were serving God, not just your employer. For it is Jesus whom you are serving. (Colossians 3.23 CEV)

3. How can we approach our work?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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Learning English Through Discussion

MOTHER'S DAY

Next Sunday is Mother's Day in Australia. It is a time children give gifts and spend time with their mothers. Today our discussion topic is about mothers!

HOT TOPICS

1. Do you celebrate Mother's Day in your country? How do you celebrate it? What do you do? What are some typical gifts people give their mother?

2. (*In threes*) In your country what things does a mother do (in the home and outside the home)? Is it similar or dissimilar to mothers you have seen in Australia?

4. (*In pairs*) Describe your mother. What does she look like? What does she do? What is her personality (see vocabulary box below)? How are you like (similar to your mother) how are you different?

5. (*Divide your group into girls and guys*)

Girls: If you get married – what kind of mother do you want to be?

Boys: If you get married what kind of mother do you want your wife to be like?

6. In your country, after a woman gives birth, what are some things she can and cannot do?

In the Bible it says;

"God, you are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvelous!...Nothing about me is hidden from you! I was secretly woven together and with your own eyes you saw my body being formed. Even before I was born, you had written in your book of life everything I would do! *Psalm 139*

7. Wow! You are wonderfully made! This is very different to what society says about us. What do magazines and advertisers say we need to look like to be beautiful?

8. Is cosmetic surgery popular in your country? What would you have changed?

9. Is it possible to be content (happy) with your appearance?

Vocabulary:

Womb: the place in the body where a woman carries a baby before it is born.

Typical: usual

Marvelous: wonderful! Very, very good.

Personality adjectives:

+	neutral	-
kind	outgoing	quick tempered
generous	shy	critical
encouraging	reserved	nagger

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

SLEEP & STRESS

HOT TOPICS

When you live in another country – there are many differences and this can be quite stressful on your body. This stress can affect your sleep. This discussion is about dreams and sleep and dealing with stress.

Dream/Sleep

- Share about a time you
 - nodded off
 - slept in very late
 - crashed: went to bed very early and slept for a long time
 - experienced insomnia

- Here are some sleep expressions and idioms:

- I might go and have a (cat) nap*
- I might go and have forty winks*
- I might go and have a lie down*
- I might go and have a short sleep*
- I might just put my feet up for a little while*
- I might catch up on some sleep*

Have you used any of these before? Which one would you choose if you were desperate for a rest? What are some other sayings you can use?

- Do you think you sleep:
 - Too much
 - Not enough
 - Just right?
- How much sleep do you get each night (on average)? Is this more or less than when you were in your country?
 - What sleep differences have you noticed between people from your country and Australians?
 - Do you believe that dreams can help solve our problems? Do you try and understand the meanings of your dreams?

Stress

- Often, we are not happy with the amount of sleep we get. The quality of sleep can be affected by many things in a new or strange environment: the bed, house, noise; feeling stressed or being anxious about our life.

- In Australia, what affects your sleep?
- What are you anxious about at the moment?

Vocabulary

Stress: feelings of worry caused by difficult things.
Affect: To influence someone or something, or cause to change.
Insomnia: when you find it difficult to sleep.
Worry: to think about problems in a way that makes you feel anxious.
Anxious: worried and nervous.
Disciple: someone who follows a master, or teacher.
Fierce: extremely strong, violent or aggressive.
Drown: to die by being trapped underwater.
Calm: no wind, quietness.
Faith: complete trust or confidence in someone.
Obey: to listen and behave according to someone's orders.

The Story – Mark 4:35-41

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

You will need: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Disciple 1, Disciple 2, Disciple 3.

NARRATOR 1: As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

NARRATOR 1: The disciples took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind, while some boats followed them. But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were splashing into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up, shouting,

DISCIPLE 1: "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

NARRATOR 2: When Jesus woke up, he ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet. The wind stopped, and everything was calm.

JESUS: "Why were you afraid? Don't you have any faith?"

NARRATOR 2: The disciples were more afraid than ever.

DISCIPLE 2: (asking the other Disciples) "Who is this man?"

DISCIPLE 3: "Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Jesus could sleep? Who do you think he is?
- Why were the disciples stressed?
- What "storms" are you facing in your life?
- Do you think you can have faith in Jesus to help you with your storms of life?

In the Bible, the following words are found in the book of Philippians:

"Always be glad because of God! I say it again: Be glad. Always be gentle with others. Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God."

Write down some of your worried thoughts.

For example: "I will never improve my English"

"I will never find a good person to marry"

"It is impossible to find a job at the moment"

Now turn these thoughts into prayers, and give them to God.

For example: "God please help me to...."

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

National Sorry Day

s:

This week is an important week for all Australians. It is a week for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to remember the past and look forward to the future together.

Hot Topics

1. What do you know about Australian Indigenous history?
2. Have you met an Indigenous Australian?
3. Who are the Indigenous people in your country?

Today's Lesson...

Today's story is about 2 people groups—the Jews and the Samaritans. The story shows how relationships can be improved.

Today you get to be actors and actresses – a great way to practice your reading and expression!

Introduction

Jesus told some great stories. Stories that teach about life. Today's story is about two **ethnic groups**. The Jews and the Samaritans. There was great **bitterness** and hatred between the Jews and the Samaritan people. This story is based around 2000 years ago. The story is set along a road from Jerusalem to Jericho. The road was narrow and **steep**. It was surrounded by wild, **desolate** country. Travellers had to be careful of robbers.

Vocabulary

Ethnic: a particular group of people

Bitterness: angry and upset because something happened that you cannot forgive.

Desolate: a desolate place is empty and makes you feel sad.

Steep: a hill or slope that goes up or down very quickly.

Trap: to trick someone into something.

Soul: the part of the person, which is not their body, which continues to exist after they die.

Robber: someone who steals.

Stripped: to take someone's clothes off.

Beat: to hit someone very hard, many times.

Eternal: lasts forever

Pity: a feeling of sympathy for someone

Poured: to make liquid flow

Wounds: An injury

The Story – Luke 10: 25-37

The Story (Choose 9 people to act out the following

parts: Narrator, Jesus, Lawyer, Traveller, Robber, Samaritan, Priest, Levite, Hotel manager.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.
2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.
3. Interview (see discussion section for interview questions)

Narrator: One day a lawyer wanted to know who his neighbour was (the people he should love). Jesus told this story to him.

Jesus: There was once a traveller who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, **stripped** him, and **beat** him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by, on the other side of the road. In the same way a Levite came along, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. But a Samaritan man who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with **pity**. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to a hotel, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the Hotel manager.

Samaritan: Take care of him and when I come back this way, I will pay whatever else you spend on him.

Narrator: And Jesus concluded:

Jesus: In your opinion, which one of these three people acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?

Narrator: The lawyer answered:

Lawyer: The one who was kind to him.

Jesus: You go and do the same.

The teacher will now interview each person.

1. (to the Priest) Why didn't you stop to help the traveler?
2. (to the Levite): Why didn't you stop?
3. (to the Samaritan): Why did you stop?

Discussion: (in pairs)

Who is your neighbour?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

THANKSGIVING/National Volunteer Week

May 26 is the National Day of Thanksgiving and this week is also National Volunteer week. Many churches, communities and individuals will come together on this day to say thank you.

HOT TOPICS

1. Does your country have a national day of Thanksgiving? What do you do on this day? Why? (*Large group*)
2. In your living situation – family, share house, home stay. Who normally:
 - a. Cleans the toilet?
 - b. Cleans the bathroom?
 - c. Cleans dishes?
 - d. Cooks the dinner?
 - e.
3. Who do you need to say thanks to? How can you say thanks? *Discuss in fours*....
 - a. Write a note; Give a card; Say thanks; Give a small gift.....How do you say thanks...
 - b. Thanks a lot, thanks a million, really appreciate it, you're the best, ta, thanks heaps,
4. Being thankful does not come easily or naturally. It is hard to be thankful when we are tired, depressed or homesick. In the Bible, there is a story about one man who was thankful....Break your group into threes to read the story together. You will need a **narrator**, **Man 1**, **Man 2** and **Jesus**.

Jesus and the Ten Lepers: Luke 17:11-19. CEV

Narrator: Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice!

Man 1: Jesus!

Man 2: Master!

Man 1: Have pity on us!

Jesus: Go, show yourselves to the priests.

Narrator: And as they went, they were cleansed (healed).

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him – and he was from the country of Samaria. Jesus asked the man:

Jesus: Why was this foreigner the only one who came back to thank God?

Narrator: Then Jesus told the man:

Jesus: You can get up and go. Your faith has made you well."

4. Nine men did not go back and say thank you? Why? One man did go back and say thank you. Why?

5. In your life who has done something special for you? How have you thanked them? In pairs, discuss what would you say to them.

Vocabulary

Leprosy: a skin disease

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English through Discussion
Multiculturalism

There are many multicultural festivals in Australia.
What is multiculturalism? An easy definition is many cultures living together.

Multicultural Australia Quiz

Guess: True or False?

1. 43 % of the Australian population was either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas.
2. There are people from 120 countries living in Australia.
3. At the end of WW2, Australia's population was 7 million with around 90% born in Australia. Today the population is 23 million, with 75% born in Australia.
4. The most common languages other than English spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Italian and Arabic.

Hot Topics

1. Is your country multicultural? Why or why not? What other cultures are living in your country?

2. The Multicultural debate. Break your group into two teams.
Topic: **Multiculturalism is a good thing.**

Team 1: you have to **agree** with this statement. Together discuss reasons why multiculturalism is **good**. *For example: I think multiculturalism is good because we can learn about other cultures...*

Team 2: discuss reasons why it is **bad**. *For example, I think multiculturalism is bad because people from different cultures are too different and history shows that people from different cultures cannot live together peacefully...*

After 5 minutes, present your ideas to the whole group. The teacher will facilitate the debate.

3. Is multiculturalism possible in today's world? Why or why not? Discuss.

4. Sometimes one culture thinks it is better than other cultures. 2000 years ago, some Jewish people thought they were more special than other cultures around them. In response to this Paul, a Jewish Christian, wrote in the Bible (Galatians 3:28):

"It is through **faith** we are all God's children, **united** by Christ. So, there is no difference between Jews and **Gentiles**, between slaves and free people, or between men and women; we are all one in Jesus Christ.

5. What was Paul telling the Jewish and Gentile Christians? What can people from different cultures have in common and how?

Vocabulary

Faith: To believe in someone or something.

United: joined together.

Gentiles: People from other countries and cultures.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU
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Quiz answers: 1. T 2. F – 200 3. T 4. T

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

HAPPINESS

'What Makes Us Happy' is a topic of a news article in the Sydney Morning Herald. The article reported the following things:

1. Money can't buy happiness.

The article said: "Over the past 50 years many countries in the world have become richer. But happiness has not increased. Americans **were less** happy in the 1990's than in the 1940's, even though they are much richer. People in Japan, who went from being poor in the 1950's to rich in the 1980's, did not become happier". What do you think? Does being richer make you happy? Why or why not?

2. Four in 10 Australians think life *is getting worse* even when our economy is better off than many other countries.

Do you think life is getting **worse** or **better**? Why or why not? What about in your country?

3. **The majority of Australians** (77%) think politicians should try and make us **happier** - **not** richer." What could the government do to make people happier? For example: Make more parks and BBQ's for people to enjoy.

4. Almost three in five Australians said their relationship with their family is the most important thing that made them happy.

What are the **5 most important things** that make you happy?

- Living in Brisbane
- Having a girl friend/boy friend/husband/wife
- Wearing the latest fashion
- Having a job
- Owning the latest technology
- Spending time with family
- Finding a good share house/ home stay
- Being healthy
- Knowing God
- Having friends
- Other.....

5. Only 5% of Australians surveyed said God was the most important relationship that made them happy. *In the Bible, Jesus talked a lot about true happiness.*

Jesus said:

1. **Happy** are those people who know they are **spiritually poor** – the kingdom of God belongs to them.

2. **Happy** are those who **mourn** – God will comfort them.

3. **Happy** are those people who are **humble** – they will receive what God has promised

4. **Happy** are those people whose greatest goal in life is to **do what God wants** – God will satisfy them fully!

5. **Happy** are those who are **merciful** to others – God will be merciful to them!

6. **Happy** are those who work for **peace** – God will call them his children!

The happiness that Jesus is talking about is a deeper happiness. It is not just a feeling but also a sense of peace and joy. A knowing about God and about yourself.

Vocabulary

Spiritually poor – know they need God's help

Mourn – are very sad about the sin or bad things they have done

Humble – not proud. They know they are not perfect

Merciful – kind and gentle

Peace – calm mind and heart. Not anxious or worried

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Perseverance – Language Learning

Perseverance: *noun*: when you persevere. To study English you have to have a lot of **perseverance**.

Persevere: *Verb*: to continue to try to do something even though it is difficult. Despite the difficulties with studying English, I decided to **persevere** and keep going.

1. Ask and answer the following questions.

a) On a piece of paper draw a graph of your English study since you came to Australia. On the x-axis record your feelings/motivation and on the y-axis the length of time studying in Australia - in weeks or months. Discuss your graph with a partner.

b) It is very normal to sometimes feel down about your study. When you first arrived in Australia, everything was new and exciting. You couldn't wait to begin studying English. After 2-3 months, Australia is no longer exciting. Life becomes routine. You can lose your motivation to study English and to meet new people. Some of you may be feeling: low or frustrated or depressed about your study.

c) What can someone do when they lose their motivation to study? Give some suggestions:

You could.....

Why don't you.....

Have you tried.....

1. Sometimes finding different ways to study can help you keep motivated. Share with your group some ideas for practicing your

- Speaking
- Listening
- Writing
- Reading

2. Difficult times can help grow us as people. Read the following passage from the Bible (*Romans 5:3-5*).

"We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts.

1. Name some different ways people can suffer.
2. How does suffering produce perseverance?
3. How are you developing perseverance in Australia?

Vocabulary

suffering: *noun*: when someone experiences pain or unpleasant emotions.

character: *noun*. Strength of personality

hope: *noun*. A positive feeling about the future.

disappoint: *noun*. To make someone feel unhappy because someone or something was not as good as they had expected.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English through Discussion
The Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10)

End of Financial Year

This week is the end of the financial year. In all the shops, there are end of financial year sales. Businesses are busy getting ready to put in their tax returns.

Hot Topics

1. How much tax do you pay in your country? Do you have different tax rates?

2. Why do we pay taxes? Do you think tax rates should be higher or lower? Why or why not?

3. Australia has very strict tax laws. People are worried about 'The Tax Man'. A popular saying in English is: *One thing certain in life is death and taxes.* What does this mean?

Today's Lesson...

Today's story is from the Bible and is about a Taxman and Jesus. The time of this story is around 2000 years ago and is set in Jericho, a town near Jerusalem in the country of Israel. At that time, Israel was ruled by a foreign country, Rome. The Romans made the Tax Collectors take a lot of money from the Israeli people to give to the Roman government. The Tax Collectors were seen as traitors to their own people. The Tax Collectors were friends with the enemy!

Vocabulary

Sinner: having done bad or wrong things against God.

Grumbling: Complaining about something. Not happy.

Traitor: Someone who betrays another.

Passing through: Going through, travelling through.

Crowd: many people.

Cheated: not being honest, tricking someone.

Belongings: Things that belong to you.

Break your group into four. Give each group member one of the following parts: Narrator, Jesus, Grumbling person, and Zacchaeus the tax collector.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.

2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

The Story (act out while the story is being told)

Narrator: Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho. There was a tax collector named Zacchaeus, who was very rich. He was trying to see

Jesus (because he had heard about the amazing things Jesus had said and done) but he was a small man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree to see Jesus. When Jesus got there, Jesus looked up and said:

Jesus: Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to visit your house today.

Narrator: Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus with great joy. (Pause)

All the people who saw that Jesus was going to the tax collector's house started grumbling and complaining.

Grumbling Person: This man Zacchaeus is a bad man, a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him.

Narrator: Later that day, Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus:

Zacchaeus: Jesus! I will give half of my belongings to the poor. And now I'll pay back four times to everyone I have cheated.

Narrator: Jesus said to Zacchaeus:

Jesus: Today you and your family have been saved. I, Jesus have come to look for and save people who are lost.

The teacher will now interview each person.

1. (to the grumbling person): What did you think about the tax collector?
Why?
2. (to the tax collector): How did you feel when Jesus said he was coming to your house to stay? What happened to you?
3. (to Jesus): Why did you stop and stay at Zacchaeus' house?

Discussion: (in threes)

1. What have you learnt from this story?
2. What have you learnt about the Tax collector? The grumbling man? And Jesus?
3. Zacchaeus' life changed dramatically after he met Jesus. Has there been any person who has changed your life dramatically? *Talk in threes.*

NAIDOC Week

Next week is NAIDOC week in Australia, (National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration). NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated by Australians from all walks of life.

Hot Topics

1. What do you know about Aboriginal (indigenous) people in Australia?
2. Who are the Aboriginal (indigenous) peoples of your country?
3. What are the relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Australia and in your country like?

Today's Lesson...

Often the majority group of people in a country can think they have more power and may feel superior to those people from minority groups. Similarly, people can think they are better than others and look down upon everyone else.

Today's story is from the Bible and is about two different people, a tax collector and a Pharisee (a religious leader).

Vocabulary

Superior: To be better than

Pharisee: a religious leader

Sinner: having done bad or wrong things against God.

Humble: opposite of proud. To think about yourself honestly.

Pity on me: Be kind to me even though I am not good.

Break your group into four. Give each group member one of the following parts: Narrator, Jesus, Pharisee, and tax collector.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.
2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

The Story (*act out while the story is being told*)

Narrator: Jesus told some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else.

Jesus: Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee a religious leader and the other man a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

Pharisee: God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I'm glad that I'm not like the tax collector over there. I go without eating for two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all the money I earn.

Jesus: But the tax collector stood off at a distance and didn't think he was even good enough even to look up towards heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed:

Tax Collector: God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner a bad person!

Narrator: Then Jesus said **Jesus:** When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was pleasing to God. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be made great.

The teacher will now interview each person.

1. (to the Pharisee) What did you think about the tax collector? Why? What is your reaction to Jesus' words? *"If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself you will be made great."*
2. (to the tax collector): How were you feeling when you were at the temple? What is your reaction to Jesus' words? *"If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself you will be made great."*

Discussion: (in threes)

What have you learnt from this story today?

Who can you tell this story to? (practice retelling the story in pairs)

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Tour De France, Wimbledon...

Over the next few weeks there are some major sports events, including the Tour De France. Over 219 cyclists will ride through France covering a distance of 3,430 km. The Tour de France is regarded as one of the greatest bike races in the world.

HOT TOPICS

1. Are you watching the Euro Cup, Wimbledon or the Tour De France ? What is your favourite sports event to watch? Will you be watching the Olympics?
2. What sporting event is your country famous for?
3. Have you ever competed in a sporting event? Did you or your team win a medal?
4. Riding in the Tour De France bike race takes a lot of determination. Many times the riders go into the 'red zone' where they feel they cannot keep going and want to give up – good riders push through this and find the strength and energy to stay in the race. When have you been in the 'red zone'. How did you keep going?

Today's story is about another race, the Race of Life. It is from the Bible (1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27). Paul is writing to people in a town (Corinth) in Greece.

You have all been to a stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs but only one of the athletes wins a prize. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You want a medal that lasts forever. So run to win! Run the race of life to the finishing line. Give it everything you have! Don't run without a goal.

Discussion

1. What race are you running now?
 - a. getting a good TOEIC/IELTS/Cambridge score?
 - b. finding a job?
 - c. finding a husband/wife/boyfriend/girlfriend?
 - d. finding a share house?
 - e. loving God and other people?
 - f. losing weight, staying healthy?
 - g. making lots of money.....
 - h. being successful
2. What are you doing to train for your race in order to win your medal? For example, going to free English classes to get the medal of a good TOEIC score... handing out my resume to different places.....to get the medal of a good job....
3. When you finish your race, for example getting a good TOEIC score, a job, making lots of money....which medal will last forever? Which medal will fade and tarnish...?
4. Ask your teacher about the race they are running and what type of medal they are running for.

Vocabulary

Event: activity

Medal contender: a good chance of winning a medal

Medal: Gold (1st) or Silver (2nd), Bronze (3rd) prize.

Tarnishes: When a metal is not cleaned, it loses its shine.

Fades: Lose its colour of brightness

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace is the title of a movie. The movie tells the story of how slave trading was stopped in Britain. It is also the title of a very famous song, 'Amazing Grace'. (**Grace**: showing kindness to someone who does not deserve it.)

Hot topics

1. What do you know about slave trading? Does slave trading still exist today?
2. Do you know the song, 'Amazing Grace'? Can you hum the tune of Amazing Grace?

This song was written by John Newton, (1725-1807).

John Newton became a sailor at the age of 11. He joined the slave trade and sailed to Africa, forcibly capturing Africans and taking them to America and Britain to be sold as slaves. The slaves were treated very badly and many died on the ship.

During one trip, a terrible storm hit the ship and John Newton nearly died. He cried out to God to save him and God did. John Newton couldn't believe that God would save such a terrible person like himself. A person who had done unspeakable evil to other human beings. He said, "Only God's amazing grace could take such a rude, evil, slave-trading sailor and change him into a child of God." John Newton wrote the lyrics to the song Amazing Grace from this experience of God's grace, where he said he was once blind but now could see. He became a Christian in 1748 and stopped being involved in the slave trade. He became a Christian priest and wrote many other songs.

3. Read the lyrics of the song below and discuss:

Amazing Grace

How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind but now I see...

- a. In this song, what words show a change that has happened to this man? *In threes*
- b. Have you ever been lost? What happened? How did you feel when you were found? *In pairs*
- b. When you read the words of this song, what feelings does John Newton express? *In threes*
 - relief
 - remorse
 - joy
 - amazement
 - happiness
 - gratefulness
 - regret
 - Other...
- c. Have you ever experienced this kind of grace in your life? *In threes.*

4. John Newton turned to God to save him. This is what God promises John Newton and us in the bible (Ephesians 2: 4-5)!
"God is merciful! We were dead because of our sins, (all the bad things we have thought, said and done), but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Jesus Christ, and God's wonderful kindness and grace is what saves us."

Vocabulary

Slave: a person who is owned by someone else.

Unspeakable: So bad, you cannot talk about it

Wretch: a terrible person

Relief: feeling happy that a burden has been taken away.

Regret: sadness over something that has happened. The person wishes it had never happened.

Remorse: a strong feeling of regret. Feeling very sorry for something bad that has been done.

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ENGLISH CORNER
Learning English through Discussion
SELF-CONTROL AND ADDICTION

Self-control: noun. The ability to control your emotions and actions.

Addiction: noun. When you cannot stop doing or taking something because you are addicted to it.

HOT TOPICS

Today's topic is about self-control and addiction.

1. Rate the following things that people can be addicted to (1) most harmful to (12) least harmful Why? *In threes discuss:*
 - a) food
 - b) drugs
 - c) coffee
 - d) cigarettes
 - e) alcohol
 - f) shopping
 - g) exercise
 - h) gambling
 - i) sex
 - j) pornography
 - k) chocolate
 - l) relationships
2. What is the 'drinking culture' in your country? For example in Australia – we 'shout' our friends a drink. We say 'it's my round'. What does this mean? There is also a binge drinking culture where people drink a lot very quickly to get as drunk as possible. In your country what is the drinking culture?
3. Why do people get addicted to things? Is it because of?
 - **social** (community/family influence). For example if your father drinks a lot of alcohol you will...
 - **environment** (pubs, casinos). When you walk past the casino, you decide to go in to play the pokies.
 - **-or physical** (person's genetics, personality etc.) factors? I can't help it – the addiction is part of my personality or genes.
4. What are some common addiction problems in your country?
5. What would you say if you thought your friend was addicted to drugs, alcohol, or gambling? E.g. ___can I speak to you about something? I am worried about the amount of time you spend (*at the Casino*)...is everything ok?
6. There are some good words of wisdom from the Bible. Read and discuss: What do they mean?

You say, "I have the right to do anything." But not everything is helpful. Again you say, "I have the right to do anything." But not everything builds us up. 1 Corinthians 10:23 [CEV]

But if we **confess our sins** to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take **our sins** away. 1 John 1:9[CEV]

Vocabulary

Addict: *noun*. Someone who cannot stop doing something
Addiction: *noun* when you cannot stop doing something
Addicted: *adjective*. Not able to stop taking or doing something.
Addictive. *Adjective*. If something is addictive, it makes you want more of it.

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The Olympic Dream or Nightmare...Fluctuating Feelings

The Olympics have begun and already we have seen feelings of great joy and great disappointment – fluctuating feelings.

Hot Topics

1. In a previous Olympics, Park Tae Hwan, the famous Korean swimmer was disqualified after winning his heat race. The same thing happened to him 4 years ago in the Beijing Olympics. Just before the finals, he was told he could swim. He came second and received a silver medal. Describe the fluctuating feelings of Park Tae Hwan and his supporters before, during and after the 400 m freestyle final race.

Vocabulary

1. 2004 Olympics
2. Pinned their hopes
3. Optimistic
4. Let down
5. Jaws dropped (shocked)
6. Despondent
7. Angry
8. Overjoyed

Fluctuating feelings

- (a) Listen to the teacher when he/she explains his/her feelings when he/she lived in another culture. What words did the teacher use to describe his/her fluctuations?
- (b) 5 different verbs – sort the verbs under the 5 different types: Increase (1), Decrease (2), Level (3), Turning point (4) and Mixed (5).

Verbs for example:

rose (1) dipped (2) peaked (4) fell (2)

Now sort the rest of the verbs:

fluctuated	dropped off	evened out	nose dived
jumped	up and down	increased	hit rock bottom
decreased	plateaued out	steadied	remained stable
improved	started off	skyrocketed	started to get better

- (c) Complete these sentences.
 1. My feelings rose sharply because ...
 2. My feelings dived dramatically when ...
 3. Then my feelings slowly got better because ...
- (d) Draw a line chart and share your feelings for one of the following situations.

	+ ☺	
	-	☹
	Time	

 1. Living in another culture.
 2. Learning another language.
 3. Being in a relationship.

Fluctuating Feelings in History – Resurrected Hope

In the papers, one headline read: “Park Tae-Hwan’s hopes of defending his Olympic men’s 400m freestyle title were resurrected Saturday as he was reinstated in the wake of his sensational false start disqualification in the heats.

(f) Many famous people have experienced highs and lows in their life time. One famous person was Jesus Christ. At the beginning of his ministry, the crowds loved him because of the many miracles, wonders and things he said. But the religious leaders became jealous and planned to kill him by nailing him on a cross. But 3 days later Jesus was resurrected from the dead (came alive again) and appeared to many of his followers. This roller coaster of emotions is remembered every Easter festival around the world.

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ENGLISH CORNER
Learning English Through Discussion
Leaving Home

Hot Topics

1. Why did you decide to travel overseas?
2. What did your friends and family think about your travel/study plans? (In threes discuss).
3. Is your lifestyle in Brisbane the same as back home? How is it similar or different? (in pairs).

TODAY'S LESSON...

Today you get to be actors and actresses – a great way to practice your reading and expression! In today's lesson you are going to find out what happened when a younger son asked his father for money to go abroad.

Time: 2000 years ago

Setting: Jesus is telling a story about a father who had two sons.

Vocabulary

My share of the property: Give me part of the land, house, objects that belong to me.

Wasted: a bad use of something, such as time or money when there isn't much of it.

Reckless living: living in a way that is reckless – not caring what might happen to you. Drinking too much, spending too much money etc.

Famine: when people living in an area do not have enough food to eat.

He came to his senses: to start to understand that you are behaving stupidly.

Starving to death: Don't have enough to eat.

Calf: a young cow.

Let the Story Begin!!

Choose six people to read the following parts: Narrator, Jesus, Younger Son, Father, Elder Son, and servant.

1. Read through once – checking for new vocabulary.
2. Read story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding.
3. Interview the people in the story (see discussion section for interview questions)

Jesus: There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him:

Younger: Father, give me my share of the property now.

Son

Jesus: So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days, the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent all the money. Then there was a severe famine in the country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to find a job. He went to a farm and fed pigs. He was so hungry he wished he could eat the pig's food. At last he came to his senses.

Younger: All my father's workers have enough to eat, and here I am starving
Son to death! I will get up and go to my father and say: Father I have sinned against God and you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son treat me as one of your workers.

Jesus: So the younger son got up and went back to his father. He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son and kissed him. The son said:

Younger: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no
Son longer good enough to be called your son.

Father: (to the servant). Hurry bring the best clothes and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the best calf and kill it, and let us have a celebration! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost but now he is found.

Jesus: In the meantime the elder son was out working in the field. He heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants.

Elder son: What's going on?

Servant: Your younger brother has come back home and your father is celebrating, because your brother has returned.

Jesus: The elder brother was so angry that he could not go into the house; so his father begged him to come in. But the elder son said:

Elder son: Look, all these years I have worked hard for you, and I have never been bad. What have you given me? But this son has wasted all your money on prostitutes, and when he comes home you kill the best calf for him!

Father: My son, you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.

Interview Questions - The teacher will now interview the actors.

Younger Son: What did you ask your father for? What did you do in the other city? Why did you decide to go back home?

Father: Why did you give your son his share of the property? How did you feel when he left home? Your son spent all your money – why did you celebrate his return?

Elder son: How did you feel when your brother returned?

Discussion:

1. In the story the father says to the younger son: You were dead but now you are alive. You were lost but now you have been found. Was the son really dead? Why did the Father say it?
2. Jesus told this story to explain about God the father's relationship with us. We are like the son who left home. If God is like the father in this story – what kind of welcome can we expect?
3. Has your relationship with your family changed since you have been in Australia? How?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

The Farmer...Your Heart.....

Hot Topics

The Brisbane Ekka begins this week! For 10 days, the country comes to the city. In celebration of the Ekka, this week's English Corner story is about the country and a farmer.

- * Are you a city slicker or a country bumpkin?
- * Have you ever worked on a farm?
- * What are the major crops produced in your country?
- * What problems do farmers have in your country?

Today's Lesson...

Today's story is about a farmer but it is also a story about your heart.

Vocabulary

EKKA: Exhibition. The annual Brisbane show.

Scatter: verb. To throw objects over an area so that they land apart from each other.

Field: noun. An area of land used for growing crops or keeping animals.

Rocky: adjective. With lots of rocks.

Choked. If something is being choked it stops breathing or living

The Story

Choose 5 people to read out the different voices. You may want to break your group into 2 if you have large numbers.



The Farmer *Mathew 13:1-23.*

Voice 1: Now listen! A farmer went out to **scatter** seed in a **field**. While the farmer was scattering the seed,

Voice 2: some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds.

Voice 3: Other seed fell on thin, **rocky** ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn't very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots.

Voice 4: Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked out the plants. So they did not produce any grain.

Voice 5: But a few seeds did fall on the good ground where the plants grew and produced thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was scattered.

Voice 1: Then Jesus said, "Listen, then, if you have ears!" Then Jesus told them: If you don't understand this story, you won't understand any other. The farmer sows God's message.

Voice 2: **The seeds that fall along the road** are the people who hear God's message. But **Satan** soon comes and takes it away.

Voice 3: **The seeds that fall on rocky ground** are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it straight away. But they don't have any roots, and they don't last long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them into trouble, they give up.

Voice 4: **The seeds that fell among the thorn bushes** are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life. They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything.

Voice 5: **The seeds that fell on good ground** are the people who hear the message and accept it. They produce thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was planted."

Divide into groups of 4. Each person chooses a part of the story to draw (see Table below) Then take turns, explaining the whole story using the pictures that you have drawn.

1. A farmer scattered some seeds on a path. The Birds ate the seed. (Voice 2)	3. Other seeds fell among thorn bushes and the thorn bushes choked the plants. (Voice 4).
2. Some seeds fell on rocky ground. The seeds grew but the sun burned the plants and they dried up. (Voice 3)	4. But some seeds fell in good soil and the plants sprouted, grew and produced grain. (Voice 5)

Discussion

The story of the seeds has a deeper meaning. It is about different ways people respond to hearing God's message. God's message is found in the Bible.

1. Look at the first picture. What does the message of God mean to these people?
2. Look at the second picture. These people accept God's message but what happens to these people when life gets hard?
3. Look at the third picture. Why don't these people produce fruit?
4. Look at the fourth picture. Why do these people produce so much fruit?
5. Which picture best describes you? Which picture would you like to be?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Money and Materialism

Match the Money Idioms with the right definition (in pairs)

Money Idioms	Definition
cheapskate	have lots of money
chicken feed	pay the bill
flat broke	a person who will not spend much money
loaded	have no money
on a shoestring	feel wonderful
pick up the tab	spend a lot of money for something
splurge	a small amount of money
feel like a million dollars	with little money to spend, on a very low budget

Hot Topics

- Are you a cheapskate or do you like to splurge? (in large group).
- When have you felt like a million dollars? (in pairs).
- In your country who picks up the tab when you go out to eat? (in large group).
- Who are the rich people in this world? What makes them rich?
- Why are some people poor? (in pairs)
 - They are lazy
 - They are experiencing a natural disaster
 - Bad luck
 - God is punishing them
 - It is their destiny
 - The greed and sin of this world
 - Other...
- There is a story in the Bible (Luke 12:13-21) that Jesus taught about riches. It is called **The story of the rich man**. You need people to read the parts of Jesus, narrator, God and the rich man.

Jesus: Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because a person's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he is.

Narrator: Then Jesus told them this story:

Jesus: There was once a rich man who had land, which grew good crops. He began to think to himself:

Rich man: I haven't anywhere to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do; I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store corn and other goods. Then I will say to myself, 'Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!'

Narrator: But God said to him:

God: You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?

Narrator: And Jesus concluded:

Jesus: This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God's sight.

- From the story, what does the 'true life' mean? (In threes).
- How can we be 'rich in God's sight'? (large group).

Vocabulary

Guard: be ready to deal with something difficult.

Wealth: when someone has a lot of money.

Crops: plants grown in large numbers like wheat or oats.

Goods: things he owns, like wheat or oats.

Barns: large shed to store things in.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Money and Materialism

Match the Money Idioms with the right definition (in pairs)

Money Idioms	Definition
cheapskate	have lots of money
chicken feed	pay the bill
flat broke	a person who will not spend much money
loaded	have no money
on a shoestring	feel wonderful
pick up the tab	spend a lot of money for something
splurge	a small amount of money
feel like a million dollars	with little money to spend, on a very low budget

Hot Topics

- Are you a cheapskate or do you like to splurge? (in large group).
- When have you felt like a million dollars? (in pairs).
- In your country who picks up the tab when you go out to eat? (in large group).
- Who are the rich people in this world? What makes them rich?
- Why are some people poor? (in pairs)
 - They are lazy
 - They are experiencing a natural disaster
 - Bad luck
 - God is punishing them
 - It is their destiny
 - The greed and sin of this world
 - Other...
- There is a story in the Bible (Luke 12:13-21) that Jesus taught about riches. It is called **The story of the rich man**. You need people to read the parts of Jesus, narrator, God and the rich man.

Jesus: Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because a person's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he is.

Narrator: Then Jesus told them this story:

Jesus: There was once a rich man who had land, which grew good crops. He began to think to himself:

Rich man: I haven't anywhere to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do; I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store corn and other goods. Then I will say to myself, 'Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!'

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

FATHER'S DAY

The first Sunday in September is Father's Day in Australia. It is a time when children give gifts to and spend time with their fathers. Today our discussion topic is about fathers!

HOT TOPICS

1. Do you celebrate Father's Day in your country? How do you celebrate Father's Day? What do you do? What are some typical gifts people give their father?
2. In your country what things does a father do (in the home and outside the home)?
3. What characteristics are usually used to describe a father?
 - Gentle
 - Kind
 - Strict
 - Stubborn
 - Proud
 - Strong
 - Smart
 - Leader
 - Hard-working
 - Lazy
 - Handsome
 - Fun-loving
4. In your country, what role does a father have in parenting? Is it usually a 50/50 split between the father and the mother?
5. (*In pairs*) Describe your father. What does he look like? What does he do? What is his personality like?
6. How are you like (similar to) your father? How are you different?
7. (*Divide your group into girls and guys*)
Girls: If you get married – what kind of father do you want your husband to be?
Guys: If you get married, what kind of father do you want to be?

The Bible tells us that we all have a Father in heaven who loves his children unconditionally.

Matthew 7:7-12 (Good News Translation)

Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock. Would any of you who are fathers give your son a stone when he asks for bread? Or would you give him a snake when he asks for a fish? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So then, do for others what you want them to do for you.

8. What is unconditional love? Is it possible? Have you ever been loved unconditionally?
9. Christians believe that God is our Father in heaven who loves us as his children. If you believe in God, do you see God as your father? Do you believe that he loves you unconditionally? Why or why not?
10. Have you ever given someone a bad gift or received a bad gift? Share with your group your experience.
11. Christians also believe that God hears us when we pray to him (ask – seek – knock). Have you ever tried praying to God? If you haven't, ask your teacher how you can learn to pray.

Vocabulary:

Stubborn: determined not to change your ideas, plans etc.
Strict: makes sure children or people working for them behave well.
Unconditionally: done or given without asking anything in return – absolute, unlimited love.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

SLEEP & STRESS

HOT TOPICS

When you live in another country – there are many differences and this can be quite stressful on your body. This stress can affect your sleep. This discussion is about dreams and sleep and dealing with stress.

Dream/Sleep

7. Share about a time you
 - a) nodded off
 - b) slept in very late
 - c) crashed: went to bed very early and slept for a long time
 - d) experienced insomnia

8. Here are some sleep expressions and idioms:
 - a) *I might go and have a (cat) nap*
 - b) *I might go and have forty winks*
 - c) *I might go and have a lie down*
 - d) *I might go and have a short sleep*
 - e) *I might just put my feet up for a little while*
 - f) *I might catch up on some sleep*

Have you used any of these before? Which one would you choose if you were desperate for a rest? What are some other sayings you can use?

9. Do you think you sleep:
 - a) Too much
 - b) Not enough
 - c) Just right?

10. How much sleep do you get each night (on average)? Is this more or less than when you were in your country?

11. What sleep differences have you noticed between people from your country and Australians?

12. Do you believe that dreams can help solve our problems? Do you try and understand the meanings of your dreams?

Stress

13. Often, we are not happy with the amount of sleep we get. The quality of sleep can be affected by many things in a new or strange environment: the bed, house, noise; feeling stressed or being anxious about our life.
 - a) In Australia, what affects your sleep?
 - b) What are you anxious about at the moment?

Vocabulary

Stress: feelings of worry caused by difficult things.
Affect: To influence someone or something, or cause to change.
Insomnia: when you find it difficult to sleep.
Worry: to think about problems in a way that makes you feel anxious.
Anxious: worried and nervous.
Disciple: someone who follows a master, or teacher.
Fierce: extremely strong, violent or aggressive.
Drown: to die by being trapped underwater.
Calm: no wind, quietness.
Faith: complete trust or confidence in someone.
Obey: to listen and behave according to someone's orders.

The Story – Mark 4:35-41

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

You will need: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Disciple 1, Disciple 2, Disciple 3.

NARRATOR 1: As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

NARRATOR 1: The disciples took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind, while some boats followed them. But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were splashing into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up, shouting,

DISCIPLE 1: "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

NARRATOR 2: When Jesus woke up, he ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet. The wind stopped, and everything was calm.

JESUS: "Why were you afraid? Don't you have any faith?"

NARRATOR 2: The disciples were more afraid than ever.

DISCIPLE 2: (asking the other Disciples) "Who is this man?"

DISCIPLE 3: "Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

QUESTIONS

5. Why do you think Jesus could sleep? Why was he not stressed about the storm? Who do you think he is?

6. Why were the disciples stressed?

7. What "storms" are you facing in your life?

8. Do you think you can have faith in Jesus to help you with your storms of life?

In the Bible, the following words are found in the book of Philippians:

"Always be glad because of God! I say it again: Be glad. Always be gentle with others. Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God."

Write down some of your worried thoughts.

For example: "I will never improve my English"

"I will never find a good person to marry"

"It is impossible to find a job at the moment"

Now turn these thoughts into prayers, and give them to God.

For example: "God please help me to..."

HOT TOPICS

September marks the first month of Spring in Australia. Have you noticed the days are getting longer and warmer? In Australia, Spring is a time for picnics, for flowers to bloom, and new life to appear. It is a time when farmers have to work hard in the field!

1. Are there any special Spring festivals or celebrations in your country? What happens during these festivals?
2. Australia has many unique animals and plants due to its location and climate. We call these our flora and fauna. What animals or plants are unique to your country?
3. Spring is also a popular time for weddings in Australia because the weather is usually good (not too hot or cold). In your country, is there a particular time of year when couples like to have their wedding?

TODAY'S LESSON

Today's lesson focuses on some very wise words spoken by Jesus about 2000 years ago. He was a great teacher whose words are true not only 2000 years ago, but are still true today for each of us.

Take turns reading the passage on the right. Read it once to check for understanding, then a second time to practise your speed and pronunciation.

VOCABULARY

Unique: special to a place or person; the only one of its kind.

Climate: the weather conditions in a certain area or country.

Flora: the plants of a particular area.

Fauna: the animals of a particular area.

Harvest: the process of gathering crops.

Barns: large buildings used for storage.

King Solomon: the most wealthy king in the history of the country of Israel.

Faith: complete trust or confidence in someone.

MATTHEW 6:25-34 (GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION)

Jesus said,

"This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?"

"And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass — grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have!"

"So do not start worrying: 'Where will my food come from? Or my drink? Or my clothes?' Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things. So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings."

DISCUSSION

1. How much do you spend on rent and food per week (on average) back home in your country? Has this amount increased or decreased since coming to Australia?
2. Do you have a job, or are you looking for a job at the moment? If you have a job, is your pay enough to cover your cost of living? Do you ever worry about your finances?
3. What does Jesus say that we don't need to worry about? (3 things)
4. From our lesson, Jesus teaches us that we should only worry about what is most important in life. What do you see as the most important things in your life – what are your goals in life? What do you live for?
5. Jesus points out that God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers because he is a God who provides. He says that God will also do the same for us if we choose to put him as the most important thing in our lives. What would life be like if we can trust God to feed and clothe us? Can you have faith that God will provide for us if we put him first?
6. This Spring, will you choose to worry less about how you live – your food, clothes, and what's going to happen tomorrow?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

LIFE EVENTS

1. Write down 3 important dates in your life and ask your partner to guess what they are.

for example:

a. 29.03.1980. b. Sept 1995 c. 10th August 2002

a. I was born, b. I finished high school, c. I got married

2. Share more about your life using this grammatical pattern (present, past and future)

My name is _____. I am from _____ I

like _____. I was born in _____

I studied/worked _____

Now I am _____

In the future I hope to _____

3. Life can be like a roller coaster, Share about your feelings in the **last 12 months** of your life. For example:

a. 12 months **ago**, I was **excited** because I moved to Australia.

b. After two months, I felt **sad** because I missed my family

c. After six months, I felt **happy** because I made a new friend

d. One month later, I felt **depressed** because I got very sick

e. Now I feel **excited** because I found a great job.



Feelings

Ecstatic 😄

Excited 😁

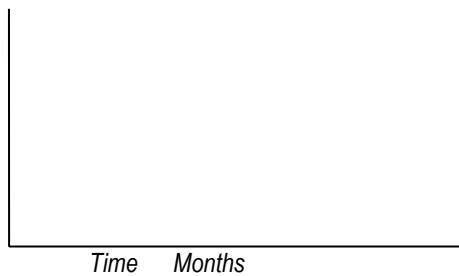
Happy 😊

So-so 😐

Sad 😞

Frustrated 😡

Depressed 😔



Share about your last 12 months with a partner:

12 months ago, I felt _____ because _____

_____ months ago, I felt _____ because _____

_____ months ago, I felt _____ because _____

Now I am _____ because _____

A Story of a Major Life Event!

Practice reading with expression!

Choose people to read the parts: Narrator, Men, Peter, Widows

Peter Heals Tabitha (Acts 9:36 – 41)

Narrator: There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha. She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. ³⁷ About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. ³⁸ But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him:

Men: "Please come as soon as possible!"

Narrator: So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Tabitha had made for them

Widows: Crying... Look what she did for us

Narrator: But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said,

Peter: "Get up, Tabitha."

Narrator: And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive.

1. Who is this story about?

2. What happened in this story?

3. What do you like about this story?

4. What surprised you about this story?

5. What feelings were experienced by:

- The Men
- Peter
- The widows
- Tabitha

6. Do you know any other stories of amazing life events?

Water

Many countries have festivals around water. This month is the start of the Brisbane festival. Australia is a very dry country making water a very important resource. The festival celebrates the importance of water in our lives - In our work, our home, our play and our spirit.

Hot topics

1. Are there many major river/water festivals in your country? What happens at them?

2. What role does water play in your life? What do you use water for? *In threes discuss*

Everyday use e.g. drinking...

For work: e.g. manufacturing....

For recreation: e.g. swimming...

For spiritual/religious ceremonies: baptism....

3. In India, Hindus believe the Ganges River is a very spiritual river. People wash themselves in the river to cleanse themselves of sin (the bad things they have done); they float their dead down the river for a smooth journey to the next life. In your country do you have a special river, spring, well, that people drink, wash in, to clean themselves of sin (bad things they have done) or to receive a blessing? *Discuss in pairs.*

Today's story is found in the Bible, (*John 5:1-18*). They story is about a famous water pool in Jerusalem, 2000 years ago and what happened there. Break your group into threes. Assign each person a role to read out: Narrator, Jesus and Man.

Narrator: Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. In the city, was a water pool. Many sick, blind, paralysed people were lying close to the pool. Beside the pool was a man who had been sick for 38 years. When Jesus saw the man, he said:

Jesus: Do you want to be healed?

Man: Sir, I don't have anyone to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. I try to get in, but someone else always gets there first.

Jesus: Pick up your mat and walk!

Narrator: Straight away, the man was healed. He picked up his mat and started walking around.

Discussion:

1. In small groups, try to retell the story to each other.
2. What happened to the man? How was he healed?
3. What do you want to be healed of? *In pairs discuss.*
 - a. something physical – a cold, flu, sore back.
 - b. emotional – scared of heights, sadness, homesickness
 - c. spiritual – (my sins – the bad things I have done in my life)
 - d. other

Vocabulary

Spring: Water from underground, comes bubbling up to the top.

Well: A hole in the ground where people get water from.

Baptism: A Christian ceremony symbolizing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. When a person becomes a Christian, they ask God to forgive all their sins – so when they go under the water, it is like their sins have been washed clean – the old life is gone. When they come up out of the water it represents their new life, following God.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Gifts

Monday, October 2, is the King's birthday holiday in Queensland. Today's topic is about birthdays and gifts.

Hot Topics

1. Do you know how old King Charles is? *Whole group.*
2. Does your country have a king or queen – or did you have one in the past? Is it a good idea to have a royal family? Why or why not? *Whole group.*
3. Which birthdays are special in your culture? What do you do for those birthdays? In Australia, 18th, 21st and 40th are important birthdays.
4. What is the best present you have ever received for your birthday? *In pairs.*
5. What would be the best present these people could receive:
 - a. a 7 year old child _____
 - a 17 year old in Brisbane _____
 - an International student learning English _____
 - yourself _____
6. What is the worst present you have ever received – be honest! In English we can say many different things after we receive a gift. *Practice them in pairs:*
Person A: Gives Person B a present.
Person B: "Oh thank you"
"Oh it's just what I wanted!"
"Oh, I love it!"
"Oh, you shouldn't have!"
7. In your country, do you celebrate a birthday for someone famous? Whose birthdays do you celebrate? *In threes.*
8. In Australia we have two public holidays for two famous people: – the Queen's birthday and the birth of Jesus. The Queen will receive gifts on her birthday – like we do. But at Christmas, God gave us a gift, Jesus. The Bible tells us about that gift:

"For God so loved the world he gave his only Son, whoever believes in Him should not die but have eternal life." John 3 16

9. What does this gift mean? Discuss.

Vocabulary

Eternal: lasts forever

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
SICKNESS AND DISEASE

COVID-19 has impacted the world. We all have at least some knowledge about or experience with sickness. People of all ages and nationalities suffer diseases. In this lesson we will discuss some of the ways sickness and disease affect us and our society.

HOT TOPICS

1. What is the health care system like in your country?
 - a. What are the costs? Do you pay to see the doctor?
 - b. What benefits does your government provide?
 - c. What's the emergency response time like?
 - d. What are hospital waiting times / bed availability like?
2. (*In threes*) Share about a time you were sick and/or needed medical treatment.
3. (*In pairs*) Share about a friend or relative who you know has suffered from an **injury**, sickness, or disease.
4. Why do you think things go wrong with our bodies? Do you believe science will one day be able to prevent / heal disease altogether?

Today's Story...

JESUS THE PHYSICIAN

Our story illustrates a major part of Jesus' ministry as a **physician** in more than just one way.

Choose five people to read out the story: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Pharisee, Crowd.

Vocabulary

Sickness: being ill.

Disease: a disorder or malfunction of the body.

Injury: hurt, damaged, harmed.

Physician: a healer / doctor.

Paralysed: unable to move.

JESUS THE PHYSICIAN (Luke 5:17-26)

NARRATOR 1: One day some Pharisees and experts in the Law of Moses sat listening to Jesus teach. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. God had given Jesus the power to heal the sick.

NARRATOR 2: Some men came carrying a **paralysed** man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

NARRATOR 1: When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the paralysed man:

JESUS: My friend, your sins are forgiven.

NARRATOR 1: The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves:

PHARISEE: Jesus must think he is God! Only God can forgive sins.

NARRATOR 2: Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked:

JESUS: Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

NARRATOR 2: So Jesus said to the paralysed man:

JESUS: Get up! Pick up your mat and walk home.

NARRATOR 1: Immediately the man stood up in front of everyone. He picked up his mat and went home, giving thanks to God.

CROWD: We are amazed! Praise God! What we saw was a big surprise. We have seen a great miracle today!

ACTIVITY

Take one part of the dialogue in this scene and translate it into your own language. Draw the characters and write the translation into speech-bubbles. (Like a comic-strip)

DISCUSSION

1. Which part of the story is more amazing – the healing, or the forgiving? Why?
2. What were the two different reactions (the Pharisees vs the Crowd)?
3. Just after this story in the same chapter, Jesus says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Why do you think Jesus compares 'sinners' to 'sick' people?
4. When do you feel 'paralyzed' in Australia?
 - a. Learning English
 - b. Feeling homesick
 - c. Not having enough money
 - d. Can't find a job
 - e. Other

ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
HOSPITALITY & FORGIVENESS

HOT TOPICS

1. Have you felt welcomed in Australia? How have people made you feel welcome or not welcome? What did they do? (*Discuss in pairs*)

2. How are foreigners received or welcomed in your country? Did you ever have any foreigners for dinner in your country? (*Discuss in threes*)

3. Have you been to an Australian house for dinner? Was the hospitality different than in your country? (*Discuss in two groups*)

Today we are going to look at a story in the Bible from Luke 7:36-50. It is about hospitality and forgiveness. You will be the actors so that you can practice your reading and expression!

The Story:

Read through the story twice. After the first time, work out any words you don't understand. The second time read with expression!

Choose a role:

Narrator, Simon, Woman, Jesus and the Guest.

Setting: It is set in the Middle East, in the house of Simon a Pharisee (a Jewish priest), eating a meal. Simon had heard about the famous teacher called Jesus and invited him for dinner. A woman turns up. Read to see what happens!

VOCABULARY

- Pharisee:** a religious leader
Prostitute: someone who sells their body for sex.
Sinful: having done bad or wrong things against God.
Prophet: someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or say what will happen in the future.
Owe: to have to pay money back to someone
Debt: when you owe money to someone.
Forgiven: to restore a relationship. Not to punish him or her for what they deserve.
Hospitality: welcoming guests.

The Story – Luke 7:36 – 50 (CEV)

- Narrator:** A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him. So Jesus went to the Pharisee's home to eat. When a sinful woman in that town found out that Jesus was there, she bought an expensive bottle of perfume. Then she came and stood before Jesus. She cried and started washing his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. The woman kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them. The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this and said to himself:
- Simon:** If this man really were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him! He would know that she is a sinner.
- Narrator:** Jesus said to Simon, the Pharisee:
- Jesus:** Simon, I have something to say to you.
- Simon:** Teacher, what is it?
- Jesus:** Two people were in debt to a money lender. One of them owed him 500 silver coins, and the other owed him 50. Since neither of them could pay him back, the moneylender said that they didn't have to pay him anything. Which one of them will like him more?
- Simon:** I suppose it would be the one who had owed more and didn't have to pay it back.
- Jesus:** You are right.
- Narrator:** Jesus turned towards the woman and said to Simon.
- Jesus:** Have you noticed this woman? When I came into your home, you didn't give me any water so I could wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn't even pour olive oil on my head, but she has poured expensive perfume on my feet. So I tell that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love.
- Narrator:** Then Jesus said to the woman.
- Jesus:** Your sins are forgiven.
- Narrator:** Some other guests started saying to one another:
- Guest:** Who is this who dares to forgive sins?
- Narrator:** But Jesus told the woman:
- Jesus:** Because of your faith, you are now saved. May God give you peace.

Teacher to interview:

Simon the Pharisee: How did you feel when the woman came and washed Jesus' feet?

The Woman: Why did you wash and kiss Jesus' feet?

Jesus: Why did you tell the story about the money lender?

DISCUSSION

In threes discuss: 1. What would you do if you knew that all your sins (all the bad things you have done) could be forgiven? How would you respond? (What would you do, how would you feel?)

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Leadership

This week's topic is about leadership and the qualities of a leader.

Hot topics

1. Name four world leaders.
2. What are some of the concerns world leaders are facing?
E.g. terrorism, security, trade, global warming...
Which issues concern the leaders of your country?
3. Who is your country's leader and how would you describe his/her leadership style?
 - wise
 - tough
 - corrupt
 - strong
 - honest
 - gentle
 - arrogant
4. Have you ever been a leader? In your school, university, workplace, sports team, church? What are some of the pressures of being a leader? For example: making decisions, planning, communicating to others.
5. Who do you think is a good leader? What type of person are they?
 - just
 - honest
 - listens to others
 - good decision-makers
 - other...
6. There have been many great leaders in history – Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Jesus. In the Bible there is a story about some followers of Jesus who were arguing over who was the greatest leader.

An Argument about Greatness (Luke 22:24-27)

Break into pairs, one person reads **Narrator** and the other **Jesus**.

Narrator: The disciples of Jesus got into an argument about which one of them was the greatest. So Jesus told them:

Jesus: Foreign kings order their people around, and powerful rulers call themselves everyone's friends. But don't be like them. The most important one of you should be like the least important, and your leader should be like a servant. Who do people think is the greatest, a person who is served or one who serves? Isn't it the one who is served? But I have been with you as a servant.

Narrator: Jesus shocked them by saying he is the servant leader.

7. This is a very different kind of leadership – servant leadership. Can you give any examples of some servant leaders you know? What do they do? How are they servants?

Vocabulary

Security: protection against terrorism
Global warming: concern that the world's temperature is getting warmer.
Wise: able to apply their knowledge. Make good decisions
Tough: strong, not sensitive
Corrupt no honest, takes bribes
Strong: not weak. Gives their opinion forcefully
Honest: truthful. Tries to do the right thing
Gentle: not forceful, sensitive
Just: thinks of fairness, acts for all people equally.
Arrogant: proud, boastful, thinks they are better than others.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Halloween - Fear

The end of October is Halloween. The shops are selling many bats, witches, jack-o-lanterns.....So today's topic is about Halloween and fear.

Fear: (noun).To be worried or frightened that something bad might happen.

Hot Topics

1. Introduce yourselves and name one thing you are afraid of. For example, *I am afraid of....because...*
2. In your country do you have Halloween or a similar festival? What do you do on that day? *In threes of different nationalities (if possible) discuss.*
3. Do you like horror movies? Why or why not? *In pairs.*
4. Do you believe in ghosts or evil spirits? *Change pairs.*
5. In your country, how do people try and control or get rid of evil spirits?

Today's story comes from the Bible (Mark 1:21-28). It is a story about a man with an evil spirit.

Choose 4 people to read/act out the story. Narrator, Man, Jesus, Person 1 and Person 2.

Narrator: Jesus and his disciples came to a town and on the next Sabbath Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught, for he wasn't like the teachers of the Law; instead he taught with authority. Just then a man with an evil spirit in him came into the synagogue and screamed:

Man: What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you here to destroy us? I know who you are – you are God's holy messenger!

Narrator: Jesus ordered the spirit:

Jesus: Be quiet, and come out of the man!

Narrator: The evil spirit shook the man hard, gave a loud scream, and came out of him. The people were all so amazed they started saying to one another:

Person 1: What is this?

Person 2: Is it some kind of new teaching?

Person 1: This man has authority to give orders to the evil spirits.

Person 2: And they obey him!

Narrator: And so the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere.

Discussion

1. Why were people listening to Jesus amazed at Jesus' teaching? *In threes discuss.*
2. Who did the Evil spirits say Jesus was? What do you know about Jesus? *In different threes discuss.*

Vocabulary

Sabbath: Jewish holy day once a week

Synagogue: Jewish temple

Disciples: Followers of Jesus.

Jewish: a Hebrew person. The main area where they live is in Israel.

Authority: the power to influence people because of inspiring respect, having special knowledge.

Evil spirit: a wicked or harmful being.

Shook: to move something with short quick movements from side to side or up and down

Obey: to do what one is told.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
THE GREAT RACE

Determination: noun. When someone continues trying to do something although it is very difficult.

HOT TOPICS

(Each person chooses one topic to lead a discussion on).

1. Melbourne Cup is held on the first Tuesday of November each year. The Melbourne Cup is an endurance horse race. It is 3200m or 2 miles long. To be successful the horses have to be very fit. The horse that runs with the greatest determination wins.
2. Many people gamble on horse racing. Next week millions of dollars will be spent on this race. Is gambling in your country legal or illegal? Do you agree with your country's laws about gambling? Why or why not?
3. What kind of things do people in your country bet on? E.g. horse racing, soccer matches...
4. The Melbourne Cup is a handicap race. This means the faster horses have to carry extra weight, to give the other horses a chance of winning. Do you think this is fair?

Today's story is about another race, the Race of Life. We need to run it with determination. Here is a reading from the Bible (Hebrews 12:1-3). It was written to Christians who were facing persecution around 2000 years ago:

“Let us get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!

Discussion

1. In this Bible reading, it says, “we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go.” The Melbourne Cup horses have weights to slow them down. What are the weights in your life now? Write down a short list of the things that are slowing you down now, and then share with a partner.
2. What is the race you are running now? (E.g. becoming a good English speaker in 6 months). Are you running with determination or do you want to give up? (*discuss in groups of three*)
3. What does it mean, “We must keep our eyes on Jesus?” Who do you keep your eyes on to help you run your race?”

Vocabulary

Gamble or bet: to put money on the result of a game, race or competition

Legal: Allowed by law (opposite: illegal)

Sin: breaking the law of God; wrongdoing

Throne: a special chair that royalty sit on

Insults: say or do something to hurt somebody

Discouraged: to feel down, lose heart to feel sad.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
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ENGLISH CORNER
Learning English through Discussion

THE LOST GET FOUND

HOT TOPICS

Some English words look or sound very similar to one another, which makes them tricky! Try to work out which word belongs in each of the following sentences.

1. "Did Sam LOSE / LOOSE his wallet?"
2. Mt Glorious is a beautiful place – there are many bushwalks THEIR / THERE.
3. "WHO'S / WHOSE coffee is this?"
4. "This Friday, YOU'RE / YOUR welcome to come to my house for dinner."
5. I like to go to the State Library because it's nice and QUITE / QUIET for study.
6. "Do you ACCEPT / EXCEPT American Express credit cards here?"
7. The song *Amazing Grace* has an inspiring background STORY / STOREY.
8. The dog made the cup BREAK / BRAKE by knocking it off the table.
9. My father once built a house with his BEAR / BARE hands.
10. There is a large DESSERT / DESERT in the middle of Australia.

TODAY'S STORY

Learning English can sometimes make us feel lost, confused and we can feel like giving up. Here are two stories about being lost and not giving up!

Have you ever lost something **precious** to you? Share with your group your experience:

- What happened?
- How did you feel?
- What did you do? Did you find it, and how?
- (If you found it) How did you **react**?

In today's story, we will read about two people who lost something precious to them. Read the story together. You will need the following **characters: Narrator, Lawyers, Jesus, Man, Woman.**

Luke 15:1-10 – One Sheep and One Coin

Narrator Tax collectors and sinners were all crowding around to listen to Jesus.

Lawyers This man is friendly with sinners. How can he still be a good teacher?

Narrator Jesus knew they were saying this about him, so he told them a story.

Jesus A man had a hundred sheep and one of them became lost. He left the ninety-nine sheep in the field and went to look for the lost sheep. When he found it, he was so glad that he put it on his shoulders and carried it home.

Man I am so happy I found my lost sheep! I will call my friends and neighbours to come and celebrate with me.

Jesus In the same way, there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to.

Narrator Then Jesus told the people another story.

Jesus A woman had ten coins and lost one of them. She lit a lamp, swept the floor, and looked around carefully until she found it.

Woman I am so happy I found my lost coin! I will call my friends and neighbours to come and celebrate with me.

Jesus In the same way, God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him.

ACTIVITY

Here are four pictures showing the events of the story of the Lost Coin:



On the back of this page, **draw a storyline for the Lost Sheep**. Then re-tell the whole story to the person sitting next to you.

DISCUSSION

In each story, someone loses something **precious** to them. When they find it, they celebrate.

1. What do you learn from these stories?

VOCABULARY

Precious: Of great value, not to be wasted or treated carelessly.

Sinners: People who have done wrong things.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English through Discussion

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

As Christmas draws closer, you may start to see many shop windows filled with Christmas lights, gifts and other decorations. Many shopping centres, buildings and houses will also put up Christmas lights and **decorations**. Some suburbs become beautifully lit up at night with colourful lights. It is important to remember who Christmas actually celebrates – the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Hot Topics – Different Kinds of Lights

1. Are Christmas lights and decorations common in your city / in your country?
2. In Brisbane, there will be fireworks at South Bank over 5 evenings (17-21 December) to celebrate Christmas. When are fireworks used for celebrations in your city/ country?
3. Australians are very fortunate because 100% of our population has access to electricity, even in **remote** areas. Is this the case in your country? (*Share with the group.*)
4. **Quiz:** Try to guess the world's largest consumer of electricity. Rank the following countries in order of use: (1= uses the most electricity; 8 = uses the least electricity)
___ Russia ___ Taiwan
___ United States ___ China
___ South Korea ___ Japan
___ France ___ Brazil
5. Have you ever experienced a **black out**?
 - How did you feel when you were trying to find your way in the dark?
 - What did you do during this time?
 - How did you feel when the lights turned back on?

Discussion

Sometimes, feeling lost and confused is like trying to walk in the darkness. When you first try to learn a new skill, it can feel like you are in the dark until someone shows you the light.

In today's passage, Jesus teaches that living without him is like living in darkness. Jesus 'turns on the light' in our life so that we are able to see and understand God.

John 8:12

Jesus said,
I am the light of the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life.

6. Have you ever felt like you are living your life in the dark? eg. Have no direction, feeling lost / confused, not sure of your goal. How can you overcome this?
7. How do you think things would be different if you were living in the light that Jesus offers?

Vocabulary

Decoration: Items that make something more attractive.
Remote: A place far away or distant from major cities.
Black out: When a house/building temporarily loses electricity.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English through Discussion

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English through Discussion

Christmas

The next 3 lessons are about the story of Christmas.

Hot Topics

1. Do you celebrate Christmas in your country? If so, how?
2. Where are you going to have Christmas in Australia?

Vocabulary

Pictionary:

Take one vocabulary card each. Look at the definition and then draw the meaning on the other side of the card. In pairs, show the drawing to your partner they have to guess the word. Then show the rest of the group your word and definition as you read the story.



The Birth of Jesus

Christmas is the story of God's love. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to earth to be our Saviour so that we can have a relationship with God. This is the first part of the Christmas story. Read through together once to check for understanding. Then act out the story. You need two Narrators, an Angel, Mary, Joseph and a prophet (Luke 1:26 – 33).

Narrator 1: God sent an angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said:

Angel: Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.

Narrator 2: Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. But the angel said to her:

Angel: Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him King, and his kingdom will never end.

Narrator1: Mary asked the angel:

Mary: How can this happen? I'm not married and I am a virgin!

Angel: The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Nothing is impossible for God!

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. Let it happen as you have said.

Joseph Learns the Truth:

Narrator 2: Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant – even though he hadn't had sex with her. Joseph was a good man and didn't want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. But while he was sleeping he had a dream and an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said:

Angel: Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.

Narrator 1: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet a long time ago:

Prophet: *The virgin (a person who has not had sex) will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel -*

Narrator 2: Which means 'God is with us'. When Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. Mary was engaged to Joseph. What is the role of engagement in your country?
2. In your culture what happens to women who become pregnant before they are married? What happens to the child? (in pairs)
3. What does your name mean? What does the name Jesus mean? (in threes)
4. How is this pregnancy different from other pregnancies?
5. God is 'with us' - what does that mean? How does this affect the way we live?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English through Discussion

Christmas continued...

Hot Topics

1. Where were you born?
2. After a baby is born, is there anything the mother/father should do or not do?
3. Were there any special celebrations/ceremonies after you were born?
E.g. 100 days in Korea, baptism etc....

Vocabulary

Wrapped: to cover something or someone with cloth, paper etc.

Strips of cloth: long narrow pieces of cloth.

Manger: an animal feed container that contained hay.

Inn: a hotel

Fields: An area of land for growing crops or feeding animals.

Shepherd: someone whose job is to look after sheep.

Glory: great beauty

Frightened: afraid or nervous.

Saviour: someone who saves people from great harm.

Praising: to give respect and thanks to God



The Birth of Jesus

Introduction

Christmas is the story of God's love. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to earth to be our Saviour so that we can have a relationship with God. This is the first part of the Christmas story. The Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus. His birth is very special as Mary became pregnant through God's Holy Spirit. Today we are going to read about the birth of Jesus.

You need: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Angel, Angel 1, 2 and 3, Shepherds 1 & 2.

Jesus is born Luke 2:1-20 (DB)

Narrator 1: Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, when the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, as there was no room at the inn.

Narrator 2: That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were looking after their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from God, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened, but the angel said to them:

Angel 1: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Narrator 1: Suddenly a great number of angels appeared, praising God

Angels 1,2,3: Praise God in heaven and peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.

Narrator 2: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

Shepherds 1& 2: Let's go to Bethlehem!

Shepherd 1: And see this thing that has happened.

Shepherd 2: Which the Lord has told us about.

Narrator 1: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger on a bed of hay.

Narrator 2: The Shepherds returned praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

Quick Review Quiz

In two teams try and answer the following:

1. Who are Joseph and Mary?
2. What was the relationship between Joseph and Mary?
3. What was special about this pregnancy?

Discussion Questions:

1. Where was Jesus born? Is this the kind of place for God's son?
2. What do the circumstances around his birth tell us about God?

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

CHRISTMAS – PART 3



Hot Topics

Soon after Jesus was born in his home town of Bethlehem in Israel, his parents Joseph and Mary are forced to take him on a long journey to another country. They had to pack up all of their things quickly and leave their home during the night.

1. Are you good at packing? Do you usually bring too much, or too little?
2. Have you ever had to pack in a rush? What was it for and how did you feel?
3. What is the longest journey you have taken? Did you travel by land, sea or air?
4. How do you feel when you arrive at your destination after a long journey? What do you like to do to relax?

Today's story from the Bible tells us about how some people reacted to the birth of Jesus. Read the story twice – the first time to check for understanding, the second time to act out the story.

You will need: **Narrator 1, Narrator 2, King Herod, Wise Men, Angel, Joseph.**

VOCABULARY

React	A person's response to something that has happened.
Bethlehem	A small town in the country of Israel.
Worship	To show respect and love for someone or something.
Lied	Past tense of 'lie'. To tell something which is not true.
Trickery	To deceive/trick someone.

The Reaction to the Birth of Jesus

Matthew 2:1-23

Narrator 1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the days of King Herod, wise men from the East arrived in Israel.

Wise Men Where is the new-born King of Israel? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him.

Narrator 1 When King Herod heard this, he was very angry.

King Herod Where is this King of Israel? Wise Men, go and find this baby so that I can also go to worship him.

Narrator 1 The Wise Men followed the star and found Jesus in Bethlehem.

Wise Men We worship you, Jesus King of Israel! Here are the many gifts we have brought for you from the East.

Narrator 2 The Wise Men were very wise and knew that King Herod had lied to them. King Herod wanted to find the baby so that he could kill him. So the Wise Men secretly returned to their country by a different road.

King Herod Why have the Wise Men not come back to me? Because of their trickery, I will now kill ALL of the male babies in Israel.

Narrator 2 An angel of God appeared to Joseph, the father of Jesus, in a dream.

Angel Get up, Joseph! Take your wife Mary, your son Jesus and your belongings and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back, because King Herod is about to search for Jesus to kill him.

Joseph Mary, wake up! We must pack up everything now and leave – God has told me in a dream that Jesus' life is in danger. We must escape to Egypt so that he can be safe.

Narrator 2 Joseph, Mary and Jesus left their home during the night and stayed in Egypt until King Herod died. In this way, God protected Jesus from danger.

Discussion Questions

1. When Jesus was born, how was the reaction of the Wise Men different to the reaction of King Herod? Why do you think this is?
2. Why do people react to Jesus in different ways today?
3. What can you learn from this story?

Christmas Story Characters

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Narrator 3
Isaiah
Micah
Jeremiah
Mary
Joseph
Government Official
Backpacker Manager
Bethlehem YHA Manager
Innkeeper
Baby Jesus
Shepherd 1
Shepherd 2
Shepherd 3
Angel 1
Angel 2
Angel 3
Angel 4
King 1
King 2
King 3
Epilogue 1

Vocabulary

Narrator:	tells the story
Prophet:	someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or to say what will happen in the future.
Virgin:	someone who has never had sex
Engaged:	promised to marry
Shepherd:	a person who looks after sheep
census:	a counting of all the people
manger:	a feeding box for animals

English Corner - Christmas Play

- Narrator 1** Welcome to the **Christmas Story** about the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Narrator 2** A long, long time ago before the birth of Jesus (about 600BC), a man named Isaiah, one of God's special messengers, told people that Jesus would come and save them. Isaiah knew that God's Son would be born into the world. Many other prophets, (messengers of God) also told the people of the future King.
- The prophets: (speaking to the crowd)**
- Isaiah** He will come and save you.
Micah He will be born in Bethlehem.
Isaiah He will be born to a virgin.
Jeremiah He will be a descendent of King David.
Isaiah He will be God's son.
- Narrator 3:** Sometime later, about 2000 years ago, there lived a young woman called Mary who was living in the town of Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to Joseph - a carpenter. One day, an angel appeared to Mary. Mary was very surprised and scared.
- Angel 1** Do not be afraid, Mary, God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a Son, and you are to give him the name, Jesus.
- Mary** But how can this happen? I am a virgin.
- Angel 1** The power of God's Holy Spirit will come over you. So the special child will be called the Son of God.
- Mary** I am the Lord's servant - may it happen just as you have said.
- Narrator 1** Meanwhile Joseph, Mary's fiancé, was shocked to find that Mary was pregnant,
- Joseph** That's impossible - how can Mary be pregnant?
I must quietly break off this engagement - I can't marry her now.
- Narrator 2** But that night, God sent an angel to Joseph while he was having a dream.
- Angel 2** Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. Her baby has been formed by the power of God's Holy Spirit. When he is born, name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.
- Narrator 3** Joseph remembered what the prophet Isaiah said a long time ago - .
- Prophet Isaiah (calling out to the crowd)...** The Saviour will be born from a virgin.
- Joseph** Now I understand, this baby is from God! Mary has done nothing wrong.
- Narrator 1** So Joseph did what the angel told him and took Mary home as his wife.
- Narrator 2** When Mary was nearly due to give birth to the baby, Joseph and Mary had to travel by donkey from their town, Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem.
- Government official**
Every man has to register in the town where he was born as the government wants to do a census, to count the people so we can tax everybody.
- Joseph (speaking to Mary).** Mary, we must go to Bethlehem where my family was born, even though you are very pregnant.
- Narrator 3** So Mary and Joseph started their long journey to Bethlehem on a donkey.

Shepherd 3 Let's leave the sheep and our Kim Chi and hurry into town.

Narrator 2 When the Shepherds arrived in town they saw Mary and Joseph and the little baby Jesus in a manger in the stable. Things were so peaceful and so beautiful, so calm and so bright.

Everybody sings - Silent Night* (See Song Sheet)**

Narrator 3 Far away in the countries of the East, some kings, who were very wise men, had been watching the night sky when they saw a bright and beautiful star in the sky in the sky over Bethlehem.

King 1 Look at that star!

King 2 It's amazing, it's so big!

King 3 It's so bright!

King 1 It's so beautiful!

Narrator 1 They knew that this special star had a special meaning,

Narrator 2 They remembered what the prophet had said in the book of Numbers:
When the king is born, you will see a bright star.

King 1 This bright star means a great king has been born.

King 2 This means, the king of all kings, the one who saves us from our sins, has been born.

King 3 We must find him and worship him.

3 X Kings Let's follow the bright and beautiful star

Narrator 3 The wise men were kings in their own lands, so they packed gifts that were very rare and special.

Narrator 1 The wise men left their countries and travelled to Bethlehem to follow the bright star.

Narrator 2 Eventually they came to where the baby Jesus lived.

Everybody sings - The Little Drummer Boy * (See Song Sheet)**

Narrator 3 When the Kings saw Jesus they knelt down and worshipped him.

King 2 We have brought special gifts for the King.

King 3 We may be kings on earth, but he is the king of heaven and earth - the one true king.

Narrator 1 The birth of Jesus was a wonderful event because he is God's great gift to the world.
That is why the shepherds and the wise men were so happy.

Shepherds/Kings We are very happy!!!!

Epilogue 1 When we celebrate the feast of Christmas each year. It is because we are happy that Jesus Christ was born. That special feeling we have at Christmas is because our hearts are full of the gifts He came to give us... LOVE and MERCY and PEACE. They are God's gift to us because he loves us. What amazing things happened in Bethlehem for us 2000 years ago!

Everybody sing – We wish you a Merry Christmas*(See Song Sheet)**

Song Sheet

1. Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the night sky look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. Hark the Herald Angels sing

Hark the herald Angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king!

3. Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

4. The Little Drummer Boy

Come they told him Par-rup-pa-pa-pum
A new born King to see Par-rup- pa- pa- pum
Our finest gifts we bring Par-rup-pa-pa-pum
To lay before the king Par-rup-pa-pa-pum, Par-rup-pa-pa-pum, Par-rup-pa-pa-pum
So to honour him Par-rup-pa-pa-pum
When we come

5. We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year

Resources

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Multiplying Disciples Resources:

Addison, Steve. (20013). *What Jesus Started. Joining the Movement. Changing the World.*

<http://www.movenetwork.org/engage/resources/>

Other Resources Produced by English Corner Teachers:

Ashley Hood (2012). *Communication, Culture and Christ: Chinese Discovery*. This manual contains Teacher and student notes for English classes that explore functional English, Chinese cultural stories and related Bible stories. Email englishcorner@aapt.net for copies.

Ashley Hood (2013). *Communication, Culture and Christ: World Discovery*. This Manual contains Teacher and student notes for English classes that explore functional English, Cultural stories from around the world and related Bible stories. Email: englishcorner@aapt.net for copies.

Kim Hood and Chris Neale (2013). *G'day Saturday Teacher's Manual*. This manual contains a yearly syllabus based around international and local events. Email: englishcorner@aapt.net.au for copies.

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