



SAMPLE
HOLIDAY CLUB
Programme
for 5- to 11-year olds



SERVICE 1

Never TOO HOPELESS

TO BE PART OF GOD'S BIG EXPEDITION

Explorers' **background****For children with no church background**

Children and adults will have come to church for a number of different reasons. Adults may have come to bring their child but have no interest themselves in faith matters. Alternatively, they might be exploring the idea of faith in God, and registering their child for **POLAR EXPLORERS** may be part of that journey. Both children and adults will have mixed ideas and experiences of what church looks and feels like and what Christianity is all about. Each person needs to be welcomed and helped to feel a part of the service. Bear in mind that lots of what is familiar to a regular church attendee will be completely alien to those who have never been before – and even to those who have been to other churches but not yours. Try and be as accessible as you possibly can.

For church children

Encourage church children to be on the lookout, not only for their friends who wouldn't usually come along, but also for other children and their families who they haven't yet met. Encourage your regular families to invite new families to come and sit with them. You may wish to ask some of the church children and families to take part in the service to help them feel a shared ownership of the holiday club.

For children with other faiths

Muslim children *may* have been told that Judas rather than Jesus died on the cross or that Jesus had just passed out and recovered in the tomb. Reiterate that professional Roman soldiers would not have been wrong about him being dead. Emphasise that the soldiers spared Jesus in the side. He really was dead and really did rise. Hindu and Tibetan Buddhist children *may* believe that Jesus' soul migrated to another body – although reincarnation usually involves being reborn as a baby (Hinduism) or the soul coming into an infant or small child (TB). Ensure they know this was Jesus in the same body, but initially, perhaps because they did not expect to see him, Jesus' followers did not recognise him.

Jewish children *might* ask what Jesus explained from their Scriptures (see: Genesis 3:15; Genesis 22:9; Jesus is the substitute sacrifice: Isaiah 53; Daniel 7:12–14).

For children with additional needs

Identify a champion who sees children with additional needs, not as a difficulty to be dealt with, but a privilege to be part of. The 'Never too' theme of **POLAR EXPLORERS** will resonate with children who need extra assistance. Those who seem weaker are indispensable to God's big expedition. The additional needs champion should welcome children with specific needs or who appear overly anxious about entering church. Their families will also be anxious and are best able to say what is needed for successful inclusion. Identify a 'safe' part of church where it is not too noisy or crowded – a place where children can go for a 'timeout' when they need to get away.

SERVICE 1 preparation

Key passages

Luke 24:13–34; Matthew 28:18–20

Key storylines

- Jesus has been crucified and resurrected.
- He appears to his followers – specifically in the episode on the road to Emmaus.
- Jesus commissions his followers to be disciples who make disciples.

Key aims

- To outline the events of Jesus' death and resurrection, and his great commission to his followers.
- To launch the holiday club so that church members know how to pray for it in the coming week(s).
- To welcome any children and their associated adults coming to the club who are not usually part of the worshipping community.

WHAT-YOU-NEED CHECKLIST:

- A large cross or the facility to project one
- Four Bibles and readers
- A large candle, matches, tea lights
- Cards with these words on: Suffering, Endurance, Character, Hope, Holy Spirit, Love; and these symbols: an arrow, an equals sign, a plus sign (you can download these from the **POLAR EXPLORERS** website)

SUGGESTED SONGS

Songs should be ones that give a strong gospel message. Be aware that visitors may not know songs and may not want to sing words that they don't understand or believe. Ideally, try to have a mix between the old and the new.

- 'God made you and me', *Light for Everyone* CD
- 'So amazing God', *Light for Everyone* CD
- 'Who was the man?', *Light for Everyone* CD
- 'Anyone can come to God', *Reach Up!* CD
- 'God's love is big', *Great Big God 3* CD
- 'There is a Redeemer', *Songs of Fellowship* 544
- 'Thine be the glory', *Songs of Fellowship* 551
- 'Searching for your truth', the **POLAR EXPLORERS** theme song

SAMPLE

SERVICE 1 programme

Welcome

Welcome everyone to the launch of **POLAR EXPLORERS**. Talk a little about the holiday club so that everyone is aware of what's happening and when. The theme of the club will be introduced in this service. Start with a song that recognises that God welcomes everyone to come and worship as part of his family.

You may also like to introduce the drama *The Ice Adventure* that will be running throughout the club, and invite the drama team to perform the short sketch available for today (see script on pages 77 and 78).

Set the scene

Have a large cross (or project a picture of a large cross) somewhere obvious. Ask if anyone can tell you why the cross is the symbol of the Christian faith. Can anyone give a really concise explanation of the good news of the Christian faith?

Depending on how well they do, you might want to pull out the points that:

- God created us (humanity) to be in a relationship with him.
- We decided we'd prefer to do our own thing than follow God's ways, which were designed to keep us safe.
- And so, we became separated from God.
- God sent Jesus to identify with us fully as a man, so that he could pay the price for all the things we had done that had separated us from God.
- Jesus was crucified on the cross.
- Three days later Jesus rose from the dead to prove that we are no longer separated from God if we trust in him, and we will live with him for ever and ever.
- This is the good news!

Bible reading

Create a dramatised reading of Luke 24:13–35, using the Contemporary English Version or another child-friendly translation. You will need four people: a narrator, Jesus, Cleopas and the other disciple. It is very obvious where each character reads in the text.

Talk

At the beginning of the talk, bring a large, lit candle to a central position. Speak from very close to it.

These disciples were devastated: they had followed Jesus, believing he was someone very special sent to rescue God's people, but they felt as if all their hopes had been dashed. Jesus was dead and none of the things he'd promised had happened. They must have wondered what on earth they were going to do next. So they felt utterly hopeless.

Blow out the candle.

And then there's another guy walking beside them: he seems to be completely clueless about what has just happened. Yet as they talk together, something begins to stir inside of them.

Take out a box of matches and be trying to strike one as you speak, but make sure it doesn't light until you get to the crucial point!

The Bible says that they felt their hearts were warmed – hope started to stir in them. As they hear the man explaining God's Word to them, they begin to experience the sensation that perhaps all is not lost. Perhaps there is a way forward! And then that tiny ember explodes into flame. The man breaks bread at the start of a meal and suddenly the disciples realise who it is – Jesus!

Finally, light the match and relight the candle.

Paul, one of Jesus' followers a little bit further on in the story, has something to say about hope:

'We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love' Romans 5:3–5.

At this point in the talk, you will need your word and symbol cards.

We all know that there are times in life when we suffer, and these two disciples were in that time right then.

Ask for a volunteer to come and hold the Suffering card.

They were suffering one of life's lows, they were having to endure what felt very painful indeed.

Give the first volunteer an arrow card for their other (left) hand and ask a second volunteer to come and hold the Endurance card to the left of the first person.

Their characters were not enjoying the stretch on them that was taking place.

Give your second volunteer an arrow for their left hand and ask a third volunteer to come and hold the Character card to the left of the second person.

But into that suffering and endurance and opportunity for character growth comes Jesus who gives them their hope back.

Ask the person who played Jesus in the Bible reading to come and hold the = and the Hope cards.

A friend of Jesus is never really alone. Jesus has beaten death and anyone who asks him to forgive them can have a new, fresh start.

But this Paul doesn't stop there. He tells us what happens next in the story: God gives the Holy Spirit and his people's hearts are filled with love – not just love for God but love for the world around them and a desire for that world to know God's love, too.

Ask for a couple of final volunteers to come and hold the Holy Spirit, + and Love cards.

Invite your narrator back and ask them to read Matthew 28:18–20.

The disciples took this really seriously! During the club we're going to be finding out about God's big expedition: how Jesus' friends went out to help people of many, many nations to start being friends of Jesus too. We're going to be looking at some of the expeditions they went on and see how what they did has made a massive difference to millions of people's lives throughout the years. And Jesus' friends are still part of God's big expedition!

We're going to be using a phrase this week that tells us that, no matter what people say, we are never too *anything* to be Jesus' friend and part of God's big expedition. Today, let's remember that we are never too hopeless to be part of God's big expedition.

Response

Give people a few minutes to reflect on the things that they feel hopeless about. Have a basket of tea lights beside your candle and invite them to come and light a tea light from your candle. Depending where they are on their faith journey, they could simply be saying that they will think a bit more about this Jesus or they could be inviting Jesus to help them feel his hope within them, either again or for the first time. Make sure it is easy for people to opt out of this activity if it is not something they are comfortable with.

If it works in your context, it would be ideal to have people on hand to pray with anyone who feels like they would like to invite Jesus to be their friend for the very first time.

Prayer

Pray for everyone who's going to be a part of your **Polar Explorers** club, that they would let Jesus give them hope and they would know that he invites them to be his friend and part of his big expedition.

Ask anyone involved in running the club to stand up. Pray for them, that God would give them endurance, character and hope as they take part in the club.

SAMPLE

EXPEDITION 1

Never too many mistakes

TO BE PART OF GOD'S BIG EXPEDITION



EXPEDITION 1 **should be included for all clubs.**

If you are going to miss out Expedition 3, you could include the gospel in today's Expedition (and/or during Expedition 2). For today, place the gospel message in Key data, leaving space at the end of the programme for children to respond. You could say:

'Peter made lots of mistakes, but Jesus forgave him and Peter went on to tell thousands of people about Jesus: God wants to be our friend, but we are always messing things up. These things that we do wrong – the Bible calls them 'sin' – stop us being friends with God. So Jesus came to earth. He did nothing wrong, but he took the punishment in our place. He was killed on a cross but God brought him back to life. Because of what Jesus did, we can be forgiven for all the things we have done wrong, and be friends with God.'

Explorers' **background****No church background**

Children from outside a church community may have a picture of Christians being people who try to do things right and tell people off who they think are getting things wrong. Peter's story illustrates that people who really mess things up can still be friends with God. Some children may feel that they are not able to live up to the requirements of being a follower of Jesus, but this story should challenge them.

Church children

Some church children may have the opinion that they would never deny Jesus like Peter did; others may struggle with the feeling that they are not as good a Christian as the others around them. What's so vital to stress is that nothing we do can prevent God from loving us. Some older children may be starting to feel that church is boring and not for them; we need to help them to understand just how exciting it is to be part of God's big expedition.

Other faiths

Jewish children may pick up on quotes from their Scriptures. Point out that Jesus and his closest followers were Jews, whose experiences gave them insight into Scripture. The quotes demonstrated how they saw God at work in and through Jesus and the Spirit.

Arab and Asian children may ask why Asians and Arabians were in the crowd – tell them that God loves the whole earth, every tribe, tongue and nation, and wants all people to come to him, not just one group. Christianity is not European.

In Judaism, one can only forgive sins against oneself. In Islam, forgiveness is encouraged, but proportional revenge can be taken. Buddhists and Hindus practise forgiveness for the sake of their spiritual life and in Jainism, forgiveness is a core value.

The Trinity is complicated for everyone – see *Top Tips on Explaining the Trinity* for ideas, in case anyone asks!

Additional needs

Brief small group leaders and identified one-to-one helpers, explaining confidentially the specific needs of the child and strategies that will support inclusion. Create a safe space in your venue – denote it with a small carpet (IKEA circle carpets are ideal), beanbags etc. Provide a resource pack which includes picture symbols showing event activities, small plastic figures to act as 'fiddle friends' and ear defenders for use by a hypersensitive child. Give plenty of warning before changes of activity. Sudden change can provoke anxiety, resulting in 'fight or flight' behaviours. Use the safe space for a child that needs five minutes time out to feel OK again, especially as today we are learning about messing up and being restored.

EXPEDITION 1 preparation

Key character and passages

Peter – Matthew 16:18; John 18:1–27; Acts 2

Key storylines

- Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends and followers but he made an awful lot of mistakes. When Jesus had been arrested, before he was crucified, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus.
- When the Holy Spirit came, Peter preached an amazing message to all the people, many came to know Jesus and the early church was formed.
- We need to have the right equipment/clothing for the expedition we are going on.

Key aims

- To welcome the children and set the tone for the club.
- To help the children understand that, however much we have messed up in the past, God can restore us and use us in ways we never dreamed of.
- To help the children begin to explore that we are never too anything for God to use us.
- To help the children begin to understand the concept of a Kingdom Footprint: how what we do with God leaves positive marks on the world around us.

Husky time

Spiritual preparation

Read John 18:25–27 and John 21:7,15–17.

Talk about how Peter must have felt when he realised he'd denied Jesus – just as he had sworn he wouldn't. Ask the leaders these questions:

- What emotions might Peter have experienced in meeting Jesus after the resurrection?
- Is Jesus' reinstatement of him surprising or not?

- How do you think Peter got from denying Jesus to standing up, preaching and leading thousands of people to know Jesus in Acts 2?
- Where are you in this story? Are you with Peter denying Jesus? With Peter in front of the crowds on Pentecost? Or somewhere in between?

Say that there are times when we have all failed to do what we know God wants us to do, and felt that we would never be useful for anything again – and certainly not good enough to serve God. There may be people in your team who are feeling like this. Spend a moment in quiet to help people reflect on Peter's transformation and what that might mean for us.

- Children aren't exempt from these experiences and feelings, and there may well be children coming today who feel (even at their young age) that they are good for nothing. Spend a few minutes allowing each person to listen for God's words of affirmation and love over them. Then pray for the children coming today – that they would know that they can never make too many mistakes to be accepted by God.

Practical preparation

Talk through the programme, making sure that everyone understands the activities and has the resources to deliver them if necessary. Check that younger team members don't feel too daunted by what's ahead and that they know where they can go to ask for help. Make sure everyone knows they can ask questions!

Set up all the different areas in the club, making sure you are ready for when the first children arrive. As this is the first morning, you will need to have your registration procedures well understood by all of the team so that children and parents feel secure as you welcome them. If you have arranged extra helpers for today, make sure they are clear about what they are doing.

WHAT-YOU-NEED CHECKLIST

- Registration:** registration forms, badges, labels, pens, expedition team lists, extra helpers
- Expedition team leaders:** big sheet of card or paper, marker pens (for team name), Bibles, **TRAVEL LOGS** or **EXPEDITION LOGS**, a book of baby names (for 8 to 11s groups), a big rucksack and scarf and gloves (for 5 to 8s groups), a large blank footprint
- Basic training:** two full sets of clothes
- Data report:** a whiteboard for ongoing list of things needed for an expedition, a digital camera and the means to print photos during session
- Technology:** PA system, projection system for PowerPoints, song words etc, **POLAR EXPLORERS** DVD
- Music:** Poles Apart band or backing tracks
- Drama:** costumes and props
- Activities:** equipment for games and construction
- Sir Random and Bare Feet:** running order, *Learn and remember* verse, a box of shoes (including a pair of running shoes)
- Adventure tales:** DVD (or the story script and headlines stuck onto three newspapers, three leaders)
- Key data:** whiteboard for ongoing list of key data
- Radio transmission:** a bin
- Uploaded data stream box:** for jokes, messages, footprint pictures
- Refuelling station:** drinks and snacks
- Photographer:** digital camera

EXPEDITION 1 programme

Do you copy?

10 minutes

As this is the first day, it will be ideal if you can have extra helpers to register children and introduce them to their Husky (expedition team leader). It is important that the small-group leaders are available for their group members and not engaged in registration activities.

Each expedition team will have their own area, [team name] HQ, which they can decorate as they choose. Ideas for decoration can be found on page 13.

In this first group time, the groups should come up with a team name together. Provide a large sheet of card or heavy paper and art materials for the children to make a poster displaying the team name. Put the poster up in the team HQ. The group might also like to come up with explorer nicknames for themselves – or you could do this as the week progresses.

Base camp

45 minutes all together

Situation report

Once all the children are settled, Sir Random Finds and Bare Feet introduce themselves and welcome the children to the club.

Share any club rules or important information. It may be worth having three key rules, such as:

- What to do in the event of the fire alarm sounding
- Toilets – where are they and whether you need to ask before you go
- No interrupting others if they are talking in a discussion setting.

Sir Random Finds tells the children that they are **POLAR EXPLORERS** on an expedition team. During the club they are going to be finding out about God's big expedition; how Jesus' friends go out to help other people to start being friends of Jesus too.

Each day this week (or however often you are running the club) they are going on a mini-expedition together to find out about one of those friends and discover just how exciting it is to be a friend of Jesus and be part of God's big expedition.

Basic training

Have two sets of explorers' clothes in piles at the front. This might include thermals, saloppes, walking trousers, ski jackets, waterproof jackets, boots, gloves, hats, sunglasses, but make sure you have the same articles in each pile. Ask two Huskies to come up and race to put the clothes on. Use a stopwatch to record the winning time, and the time for the other Husky. Write the names and the times on strips of paper and stick them in the correct position on a leader board.

Data report

Sir Random Finds and Bare Feet introduce the children to their base camp set up, showing them their various boards of data and information. Bare Feet is trying to explain to Sir Random that she's here to study the carbon footprint – the way that what we do as humans affects the earth. Sir Random keeps getting mixed up with the terminology – things like cabin footprint, cardboard footprint, carbon blueprint etc.

Bare Feet is very excited about the whole idea and declares that she thinks she'll go out and get started right now – she heads for the door, but she isn't wearing any outdoor clothes and her feet are bare. Sir Random stops her and tells her she can't go out like that. He asks the children for ideas of what she should wear for her expedition. Sir Random explains that it's very important to have the right clothing and equipment before you embark on an expedition. He could share some mind-boggling statistics about the doom and destruction that faces you if you are unprepared!

Bare Feet dresses herself up in the clothes used in *Basic training*. Sir Random Finds starts a *Data checklist* for Bare Feet to remember what she

needs to help her on an expedition – he should write on it 'The right clothes and equipment'. He could also take a photo of Bare Feet dressed up and ready to go. This can be printed during the club and be put up for *Expedition debrief*. Bare Feet heads out into the wild.

Dancing on ice

Introduce the band, Poles Apart, and invite them to lead the children in the **POLAR EXPLORERS** theme song. Sing it a couple of times so that the explorers begin to get the hang of it, rather than singing other songs at this point.

Message from base

Sir Random tells one of his stories:

Did I ever tell you about the time when I was going to Siberia on a trip? Well it's extremely cold in Siberia and as I was the youngest member of the team, it was down to me to bring the thermal socks for everyone. I really thought I had packed them, but when we got there, I discovered that they weren't in my bag. What a disaster! Everyone was absolutely furious. They had to cut the sleeves off their extra jumpers to use for socks! I was only just starting out and I didn't think they would ever let me go on a trip again... What an enormous mistake to make. In fact, that reminds me of a story about someone in the Bible...

Adventure tales

Introduce the **POLAR EXPLORERS** DVD. In today's episode we meet Gemma and Blizz – the reluctant husky dog. Blizz is worried that he will never be good enough to be part of the sled team because he makes too many mistakes. Gemma tells him the story of Peter, and reassures him that he will always be given another chance.

If you have a talented storyteller on your team, you may wish also to tell the children the story. Either use the fully scripted retold Bible story for Expedition 1 on the **POLAR EXPLORERS** website or the storyteller could tell the story based on Matthew 16:18,

John 18:1–27 and Acts 2, using their own words if possible. They can use the section headings and interactive ideas from the script as memory joggers and to vary the story presentation each time.

If you are telling the story as well as using the DVD, tell the story first, then show the DVD so the children already have the outline of the events before seeing the episode.

Key data

Sir Random Finds then helps the children think about today's story using the key phrase 'Never too many mistakes to be part of God's big expedition'. He reminds the children that being part of God's big expedition is about being a friend of Jesus and going out to help other people to start being friends of Jesus too.

Peter was one of Jesus' best friends, but he messed up. When Jesus was in trouble, Peter said that he didn't know him, because he was scared. Peter must have thought it was the end – the end of his friendship, the end of Jesus, the end of what he believed in. But Jesus came back to life! And Jesus forgave Peter.

God used Peter to tell everyone about Jesus, and what he had done so that we could be friends with God. God has always wanted everyone to be good and loving and to do the right thing. But often we are not loving and do not do the right thing. Every one of us (except Jesus) has made mistakes that upset God – maybe been a cheat, told lies or been selfish, even though sometimes no one knows except us. Someone has to be punished for these wrong things.

Jesus took the punishment for all the things we have done wrong. If we are sorry for the wrong things we have done, we can never make too many mistakes that Jesus won't forgive us.

Add 'Never too many mistakes to be part of God's big expedition'

to your *Key data board* so that the children can remember it throughout the rest of the club.

Hear from the Husky

Bare Feet asks a leader to come up and share a story about how they made a mistake and pretended that they weren't a friend of Jesus, but God forgave them. The story could possibly include how they were able to go on and do something they didn't think they'd be able to because of the mistake.

Bare Feet can say she was glad that Sir Random stopped her from going out with no shoes on earlier – that would have been a big mistake to make! She can talk about the amazing footprints she made with her snowboots on. She can comment that when we go and do things for God we make special footprints on the world around us because we show other people what God is like. We are going to call these Kingdom Footprints. Lots of people's lives were changed because Peter left Kingdom Footprints – he did what God asked him to and told people about Jesus.

Learn and remember

The *Learn and remember* verse helps children to remember that God wants us to tell the world about Jesus and leave Kingdom Footprints.

Get out your box of shoes, which should include a pair of running shoes (the box needs to be shut with a hole cut in the top). Ask for a volunteer to come and pull one shoe out at a time until they find a running shoe. Keep reiterating the phrase 'shoes that are able to speed you on' – get the children involved in saying it as each shoe comes out – for example: 'Is this a shoe that is able to speed you on?'

Once both running shoes have been pulled out, display the whole verse on the screen and get everyone to read it out together.

'Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the good news of peace with God'

Ephesians 6:15 (Living Bible).

There's also a song, 'Speedy shoes', on the **POLAR EXPLORERS** website and DVD to help the children to learn the verse.

Expedition time

45 minutes

Refuelling station

Make sure the children are comfortable in their expedition teams as the Huskies help them with refreshments. Give children the opportunity to use the toilet. Younger children can take a long time over snack, so you may choose to begin your discussion as they are eating and drinking.

Bible exploration

With older children (8 to 11s)

Talk to the children about their names, and whether or not they know what their names mean. Have a baby names book on hand (or a smart phone and internet access) to find out any that the children don't know. There is space on page 8 in the **EXPEDITION LOG** for children to write down the meaning of their name.

Read Matthew 16:13–18 on page 9 of the **EXPEDITION LOGS**. Ask the children who the Son of Man is? (Jesus) Explain that everyone knew that there was someone really special coming, sent by God, called the Messiah. Jesus was that special person.

What does Peter's new name mean? Jesus wanted Peter to know what his job was going to be – he was going to be a leader of the church later on! What do you think he thought of that? Look back at what the children's names mean. Ask the children if they think their name meaning describes them, for example, Sophie means 'wisdom', so if you have a Sophie in your group ask her if she thinks she is wise.

Ask the children to remind you what Peter did wrong in today's story. (*He said he didn't know Jesus.*) How much Peter have felt when he realised what he'd done? Invite the children to draw two faces on page 10 – one of Peter when Jesus said he would be leader of the church and one when Peter said he didn't know Jesus.

Reiterate that Jesus forgave Peter and God used him to tell lots of people about what Jesus had done. Ask the children how they think Peter felt as he talked to the crowd.

EXPEDITION 1

5 DAYS

4 DAYS

3 DAYS

If you have time, read the verses from Acts 2 on page 11 of the booklet. Encourage the children to do the puzzle on page 12.

With younger children (5 to 8s)

Read John 18:1–5, 10–13, 15–18, 25–27. Invite the children to close their eyes and imagine the reading is a film playing in their imaginations. Ask the children how they think Peter felt when he had said three times that he didn't know Jesus.

On page 6 of the **TRAVEL LOG**, there are some sentences about the story. Some are right and some are wrong. Encourage the children to mark the sentences with a tick or a cross.

Ask the children to use the sentences to retell the story to each other. Think about the story you heard today. Did Jesus give Peter a special job to do after he went back to heaven? Yes he did. Peter was a leader of this group of people who followed Jesus. Now we would call those people the church. Peter spoke to lots of people and told them about Jesus, and lots of them believed in Jesus and became his friend because of what Peter said.

Read the story from Acts 2 on page 7. Then complete the dot-to-dot puzzle together on page 8, revealing what Peter did next. Describe what Peter said to the crowd, then ask the children to draw in lots of people listening to Peter. What kinds of expressions might these people have on their faces?

Ask the children if they can remember the first thing that's important for going on an expedition (the right clothes and equipment). Show the children the scarf and gloves you have, and put those in your expedition rucksack.

With all ages

- How do you think Peter felt after he said he didn't know Jesus?
- What about when Jesus came back to life?
- And when he stood in front of the crowd at Pentecost, telling them about Jesus?

- Have you ever done things that have made other people sad and upset?
- If you're already friends with Jesus, do you sometimes feel the wrong things you do, like telling lies and being selfish, stop you from following him?

Talk about what sort of difference Peter made to the world – his Kingdom Footprint. If we listen to Jesus, we can leave good marks on the world and other people and make a difference in Jesus' Kingdom. What sort of footprint did Peter leave? Come up with a phrase and write it on a large footprint shape. This can also be recorded on page 9 of the **TRAVEL LOG** and page 14 of the **EXPEDITION LOG**.

Radio transmission

Remind the group that Jesus still had an important job for Peter even though he made a big mistake. Ask the children to take a minute to think about some of the ways that they have messed up or made mistakes, maybe things that have upset someone else or something they know has upset God. Invite them to draw or write them down on a sheet of paper (explain that no one is going to see it). Say that God promises always to take these things away when we ask him to forgive us. We can still be a friend of Jesus and part of God's big expedition. Invite the children to destroy their sheets of paper – ripping or scrunching – and throw them in the bin.

Construction

Choose a construction activity from pages 70 to 73. There are two types of construction: **Polar Explorer** constructions that follow the theme of the club and can be done on any day, and Bible constructions that link with each Expedition's Bible teaching. Today's Bible construction is 'Flame headbands' on page 72. For more craft ideas, see *Ultimate Craft* (SU 978 1 84427 364 5).

Games

Help the explorers shape up by choosing suitable games from page 74 to 76. For more games ideas, see *Ultimate Games* (SU 978 1 84427 365 2).

Expedition debrief

25 minutes

Reporting back

In their exploration time, each team will have discovered what the Kingdom Footprint was for today's character. They will have written this on a large footprint. Sir Random Finds can invite a representative from each team up to share what their discovery of the Kingdom Footprint has been. He can transfer the information onto a footprint of his own and begin a trail of large footprints across the stage area. The children's footprints can be put up in their team HQs.

Uploaded data stream

The *Uploaded data stream* is the place for children to contribute their jokes, questions and comments to be used in this part of the programme. Today, you can introduce this and encourage the children also to add in their pictures of footprints of imaginary beasts – yetis, dinosaurs, that kind of thing. On this first morning, you might like to have a few contributions from leaders.

Dancing on ice

The band, Poles Apart, lead the children in a couple of lively songs.

Drama: *The Ice Adventure*

Introduce the comedy-drama, *The Ice Adventure*. If you didn't use the drama in the service, or if you feel that many of the children did not see the service episode, have that episode now.

In today's episode, the team discover that Helen Skelter has made lots of mistakes on previous expeditions. The Chief points out that everyone has their part to play in the expedition, no matter how many mistakes they've made in the past.

Radio scan

Explain that you are going to pray to God now. Say that we sometimes close our eyes when we pray so that we can concentrate and not get distracted by those around us. Say that even if a child doesn't want to concentrate on praying, it's nice to remain still and quiet to respect those that do. Explain that the children can say 'Amen' at the end if they agree with your prayer.

It would be good to pause and pray for people who feel that they have made too many mistakes to be involved with Jesus, who have done too many wrong and unloving things. Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine someone who has made mistakes. They can imagine them as a paper doll all scrunched up. Now ask them to imagine Jesus coming along and smoothing out the crumples. Say that this is like being forgiven by Jesus. Jesus will forgive anyone if they say they are sorry for the wrong things, and he'll be their friend.

Into the unknown

Ask the children to name as many different types of shoes as they can. Award points to the group that comes up with the most different types.

Alternatively, if you don't have too many children, get them to take off their shoes and put them into a big pile. The first person to find their shoes and put them on is the winner.

You might want to challenge the teams to see if they can already remember the *Learn and remember* verse!

Data upload

Remind the children of today's *Key data*: 'Never too many mistakes to be part of God's expedition'. Summarise the key points of the story and remind the children that, if we say we are sorry, Jesus will forgive the wrong things we have done. Ask the children to remind you what the first thing was that we need for an expedition.

Sir Random Finds reminds everyone about the collection procedure and says he is looking forward to seeing everyone next time when we'll go on another mini-expedition and find out about another of Jesus' friends. He then sends the children back to their teams HQs.

Over and out

10 minutes

Encourage the children to see who has the biggest feet. See if they can line themselves up with the biggest feet at one end and the smallest at the other.

Make sure that all the children have what they need to take home, including anything they made in the construction section. Ask the children what one thing they are going to share about **POLAR EXPLORERS** when they get home. If you have time, the children can be starting to fill in the Explorer Fact File in their **TRAVEL LOG** or **EXPEDITION LOG**.

Make sure you are available to talk to any children who want to respond to what they have heard today.

Husky situation report

30 minutes

Once the children have gone, try to have a debrief as soon as possible: What went well? What didn't work quite as it should have? Are there any individual issues that the team need to be aware of? Ask the expedition leaders to share briefly how their team has settled in. Pray together and remember to encourage and affirm each team member in their role.

If possible, share a meal together, although this may only be possible on the final day. If your next session is the following day, make sure that any set-up or preparation is done before you release the team! Otherwise, remind everyone when and where you will next meet.

SAMPLE

EXPEDITION 1

