

Splash!

Blue Compendium



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Splash!

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Splash! Blue Compendium*! We're so pleased you've chosen this book to help you in your work with children aged 5 to 8.

It is our prayer that the materials contained within these pages will equip and inspire you while engaging and empowering the children you work with.

The material in this book has been compiled from the wealth of *Splash!* content that Scripture Union has produced over the years – and with 52 sessions included, there should be plenty to choose from over the course of a year.

The *Splash! Blue Compendium* is part of the *Light* range, which is designed to enable children, young people and adults to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, to understand the Bible and the Christian faith, and to live for God as light in a dark world.

- ▶ *Light* is about... discovering who God is, what he is like, what he does and how we can get involved in that. The Bible is 'light to live by', so it is the centre of every session for every age group in the *Light* range of resources. Everyone will be able to follow the story of salvation that runs through the Bible, with its focus clearly on Jesus.
- ▶ *Light* recognises that children and young people can know and respond to God and does not expect too little or too much from them.
- ▶ *Light* celebrates every step taken towards and with God, letting the Bible shape our thinking about human nature and relationships with children and young people, and the way in which we minister with and to them.
- ▶ *Light* values exploration and discovery, fun, feelings and creativity and uses these approaches to inspire children, young people and adults to meet God through the Bible.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and we pray that God will bless you and those you work with as you use it,

The Scripture Union Mission Innovation Team



How to use this book...

This book provides 52 sessions of activities, and extra photocopiable resources, designed for your *Splash!* group of children aged 5 to 8. Choose sessions from this *Blue Compendium* in any order to suit you and your group.

You will also find that some sessions have further additional online resources that you can download for free from the Scripture Union website, via the resource centre.

Leading up to Christmas time, you may wish to choose from the Christmas-themed sessions (numbers 43 to 49). Around Easter time, you will find there are Easter-themed sessions (numbers 50 to 52), to choose from. These 'seasonal' sessions are grouped together at the back of this book.

If you would like to work through a number of sessions on a similar theme with your *Splash!* group, look out for the *More on this theme* boxes as you consider your session choice. Here you will find a list of other sessions on a related theme to the session you are looking at.

On page 372, you will find a helpful guide that explains *How to plan your session...*. This section will help you to choose activities from within the sessions, including a selection of *Splash!* activities to suit you and your group, enabling you to achieve the *Learning aim* for the session. Here you will also find a *Basic kit* list of essential items to keep handy for all your *Splash!* group sessions.

Each session in this *Splash! Blue Compendium* is based on a Bible passage. You will find an *Index of Bible passages* on page 374 listed in the order they appear in the Bible.

The most important thing about this book is to enjoy using it to help you and your *Splash!* group engage with the Bible and meet with Jesus, through a mixture of play, creativity, music, quiet reflection, noisy exuberance and friendship!

Christmas
Sessions 43 to 49

Easter
Sessions 50 to 52



Download the zip folder to find answers to frequently asked questions about the *Light Compendiums*, and help to choose your session order.

Session 1

Bad fruit

As they think about the story of Adam and Eve, help our 5 to 8s understand that, because God is just, he punishes people when they do wrong things. But they should also know that God will continue to love us, and has already brought about a plan that opens up a way back to him.

To plan your session... Choose a selection of *Opening*, *Into the Bible* and *Living the life* activities to make your session fun and memorable.

Options to open your session...

Scientific experiment

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to think about separation

You will need: milk, vinegar, transparent container, cups

- 1 Pour some milk into the container and cups. Invite the children to taste it (be aware of allergies and hygiene) and ask: Is it good for us? Do we like to drink it?
- 2 Explain there is nothing wrong with the vinegar, but should it be put with milk? Invite everyone to watch as some is added to the milk. The milk will curdle or separate.
- 3 Say that this experiment is a picture of how bad things sometimes spoil good things and can cause separation. Today they're looking at what separates people from God.

Tasting fruit

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to think about eating fruit we have not tried before

You will need: a selection of fruit, including some unusual ones, a knife (adult use), a plate

- 1 Pass the fruit around for the children to feel and smell. Then peel and cut it into small pieces to share. Invite the children to try any of the fruit they wish (be aware of allergies and hygiene).
- 2 Ask the children which fruits they like. Were there any they did not or would not try? Why not? Challenge them to spot the fruit that shouldn't have been tried in today's story.

Aim

To understand that when we do wrong, we separate ourselves from God

Bible passage

Genesis 2,3

Ready to use activity

Prayer shout

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to celebrate being friends with God

- 1 Ask the children what makes a good friend.
- 2 Thank him together that he is our friend. Write 'God is my friend. He...' on a sheet of paper. Ask for suggestions to complete the sentence such as 'cares for me', 'loves me'.
- 3 Say 'God is my friend. He...' and encourage the children to take turns to call out the ideas on the list. Finish together by saying: 'Thank you, God.'
- 4 Explain that today they will learn about some people who stopped being friends with God.

Tip for Leaders: If you are short of planning time, choose to include one of the boxed *Ready to use* activity options for part of your session.

Into the Bible - options to explore the Bible passage...

Ready to use
activity

Bible story with *Splash!*

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to understand that when we do wrong, we separate ourselves from God

You will need: copies of the *Splash!* sheet from page 12; a cross, paper cut into fruit shapes, quiet music (last three optional)

1 Bible Timeline

Ask the children if they know which stories come at the beginning of the Bible. Invite them to use the *Bible Timeline* for clues. Say that today's story is from Genesis.

2 *Splash!*

Give a copy of the *Splash!* sheet from page 12 to each child. Look at picture 1 together. Adam and Eve were friends with God who made a beautiful garden for them to live in.

Read Genesis 2:8,9a from a child-friendly Bible. Ask what God might have put in the garden to make it beautiful. Invite the children to draw trees and flowers in the blank space in the first picture. Say that God gave Adam and Eve special rules about living in the garden.

Read Genesis 2:16,17. Ask the children to look at picture 2. Say that, in the middle of the garden, there was a tree called the tree of knowledge. One day, the snake, which was sneakier than any other creature, came to Eve and said: 'Did God tell you not to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden?' Eve explained that they could have fruit from any tree except from the tree of knowledge. If they ate from that tree, God said they would die.

Read Genesis 3:4,5 and then get the children to tell you what the snake said. Ask them to draw the snake in picture 2.

Next go to picture 3. Say: Eve looked at the fruit and thought about what the snake had told her. 'It looks very tasty,' thought Eve, 'and I would like to be wise like God.' Read Genesis 3:6 while the children draw a fruit in picture 3.

3 Stop and think

Ask the children to think about the third picture. What did the snake persuade Eve to do? Was she obeying God or disobeying him? What do they think happened to the friendship between God and Adam and Eve after that?

4 Consequences

Look at picture 4. Say: Adam and Eve realised what they had done – the very thing God had asked them not to do. They felt ashamed and suddenly realised they were naked so they made clothes from leaves. Then, when God came into the garden, they ran away and hid. But you can't hide from God.

God said, 'Where are you?'

Adam said, 'I ran away because I was naked and frightened when I heard you come.'

'Why?' said God. 'Have you eaten from the forbidden tree?'

Read Adam and Eve's reply from Genesis 3:12,13. They had to leave that beautiful place and work hard to grow their own food. Allow time for the children to fill in Adam and Eve's faces.

5 Think and pray

We can all enjoy being friends with God but, unfortunately, we sometimes do wrong things. Happily, right from the very start God planned a way for us to be friends with him for ever.

Draw or display a cross. Remind the group that when Jesus died on the cross he took away our wrongdoings. Invite everyone to choose a piece of fruit-shaped paper or to draw a large piece of fruit. Ask them to write or draw inside the fruit something they want to say to God, such as 'sorry for doing wrong' or 'thank you for wanting to be my friend'. Play quiet music, if you wish, as the children draw and write, then put their papers by the cross.

You will find another
Into the Bible option
on the next page...

Into the Bible - options (continued)...

Bible story with music and mime

Activity time: 15–20 minutes
Aim: to understand that when we do wrong, we separate ourselves from God
You will need: pictures from pages 13 and 14, gentle and scary music (optional)

1 Prepare

In advance, enlarge the pictures from pages 13 and 14.

2 Imagine

Ask the children to mime being in a beautiful garden: watching birds and butterflies, smelling flowers, pointing things out, picking fruit from a tree. Then practise the following: being happy, thoughtful, ashamed, afraid, blaming someone else. Encourage them to use these actions as you tell the story.

3 Watch and join in

Read the story as below, encouraging everyone to join in the refrain: ‘... in the beautiful garden God gave to Adam and Eve.’ Show the pictures from pages 13 and 14 as you read the story. If you are using music, start by playing gentle background music and change it to scary music where indicated.

These are the flowers: roses and tulips and daisies... *(Refrain:)*
... in the beautiful garden God gave to Adam and Eve.

Here are the birds and insects which fly and creep in the tall strong trees which shade the flowers... *(Refrain)*

Here are Adam and Eve who live and play beneath the tall strong trees which shade the flowers... *(Refrain)*

Here is the tree of which God had said: ‘Don’t eat its fruit’ when he spoke to Adam and Eve who lived and played beneath the tall strong trees which shade the flowers... *(Refrain)*

Here is the snake, the sneakiest snake, who came to Eve and said: ‘Do eat this fruit; it will be good’... *(Refrain)*

And the snake was pleased when Eve agreed and gave some fruit to her husband... *(Refrain)*

(If you are using music, change to scary music now.)

Here are Adam and Eve, running to hide beneath the tall strong trees which shade the flowers... *(Refrain)*

Here are Adam and Eve, all scared when God found them, running to hide beneath the tall strong trees which shade the flowers... *(Refrain)*

Here are Adam and Eve, blaming each other, saying, ‘It’s your fault,’ and blaming the snake, when God asked, ‘Did you eat of the forbidden tree?’... *(Refrain)*

Here are Adam and Eve, feeling very sad because their friendship with God was spoiled... *(Refrain)*

Here are Adam and Eve, saying goodbye to the birds and animals beneath the tall strong trees which shade the flowers... *(Refrain)*

Here are Adam and Eve, leaving the beautiful garden.

4 Talk and think

Invite the children to sit down with you, then ask them what they think was the happiest part of the story. Why were Adam and Eve happy at the beginning? What happened to make them sad? What about us? How do we feel when we do wrong things? Explain that when we do wrong, it spoils our friendship with God. Say that this story happened at the beginning of time, and right from that moment God had a plan to make it possible for people to be friends with him again. Say that Jesus made it possible for them to be God’s friends.

5 Pray

Play the gentle music again and encourage the children to talk to God on their own about the story. They may want to say ‘sorry’ for the wrong things they have done or ‘thank you’ that they can be God’s friends.

A PowerPoint for this activity is available in the zip folder.

More on this theme

If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:

- Session 2** Our choice, Genesis 4:1–16
- Session 3** Flood warning, Genesis 6:1 – 8:19
- Session 4** Rainbow promise, Genesis 8:20 – 9:17

Living the life - options to help live God's way...

Splash! game

Activity time: 10–20 minutes

Aim: to remind us that our sins separate us from God

You will need: copies of the *Splash!* sheet from page 15, counters, dice or spinners

- 1 Look together at *Splash!* sheet from page 15. Say that this game of Snakes and Ladders reminds us how our sins separate us from God, but that, through Jesus, there is a way back.
- 2 Ask some of the members of the group to read out the 'sins' written on the apples. Encourage everyone to think quietly about how these things can separate us from God.
- 3 Now look at the crosses. Say that because Jesus died on the cross we can be forgiven and our friendship with God can be put right.
- 4 Play the game in twos or threes. Encourage the children to take the game home and play it again.

In the garden

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to remind us that our sins separate us from God

- 1 Give everyone a sheet of A4 card or paper. Show them how to place it landscape and fold the sides to the middle, to create an A5 card with flaps that open. You may like to fold these in advance.
- 2 Invite the children to draw gates on the outside folds, and then open the gates and draw a beautiful garden on the central section inside. Remind the children of the story as they make their garden. Ask what happened to Adam and Eve. (*They disobeyed God and had to leave the garden.*)
- 3 On the left next to their garden, invite them to write: 'Wrong things separate us from God.' On the right, invite them to add: 'Jesus helps us to be friends with God.'
- 4 Encourage the children to close their gates and write 'Jesus' across them, and then open them again and draw themselves in the garden.

Diagrams for this activity are available in the zip folder.

Ready to use
activity

Active prayer

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to remember that sin separates us from God, but Jesus made a way back

- 1 Write the word 'God' on a sheet of paper and place it on the floor. Ask everyone to stand as close to it as possible.
- 2 Say that our wrongdoings separate us from God. Invite the children to write or draw as many of those things as they can on individual sheets of paper. Ask them to place these around the word 'God', and not step on them. Your group will gradually be moving away from the word 'God'.
- 3 Look at all the wrong things that have separated everyone from God. Encourage the children to spend a minute quietly saying sorry to God.
- 4 Remind them that Jesus died so we can be forgiven. Ask them to screw up their papers to show that Jesus has forgiven them and invites them to be friends with God again.

Extra ideas for the session, and beyond...

Sit in the garden outside or by a tree while you tell the Genesis 3 story. As you tell the story, use prompt cards with sound effects such as 'tweet, tweet', 'hisssss' and 'munch, munch'. (Make sure you have permission and adequate supervision to take the children outdoors.)

Create a garden using trays, compost and seeds which grow easily, such as cress or marigolds.

Splash!

light

The Lord God put the man Adam in a beautiful garden and asked him to take care of it.

1

Draw trees and flowers in the garden.

This is one of the very first stories in the Bible.

Tell the story and add your drawings to the pictures.

2 God told Adam and Eve not to touch the special tree. The snake tempted Eve to eat the fruit.

3 Eve tasted the fruit and gave some to Adam.

Draw the snake.

Draw the fruit.

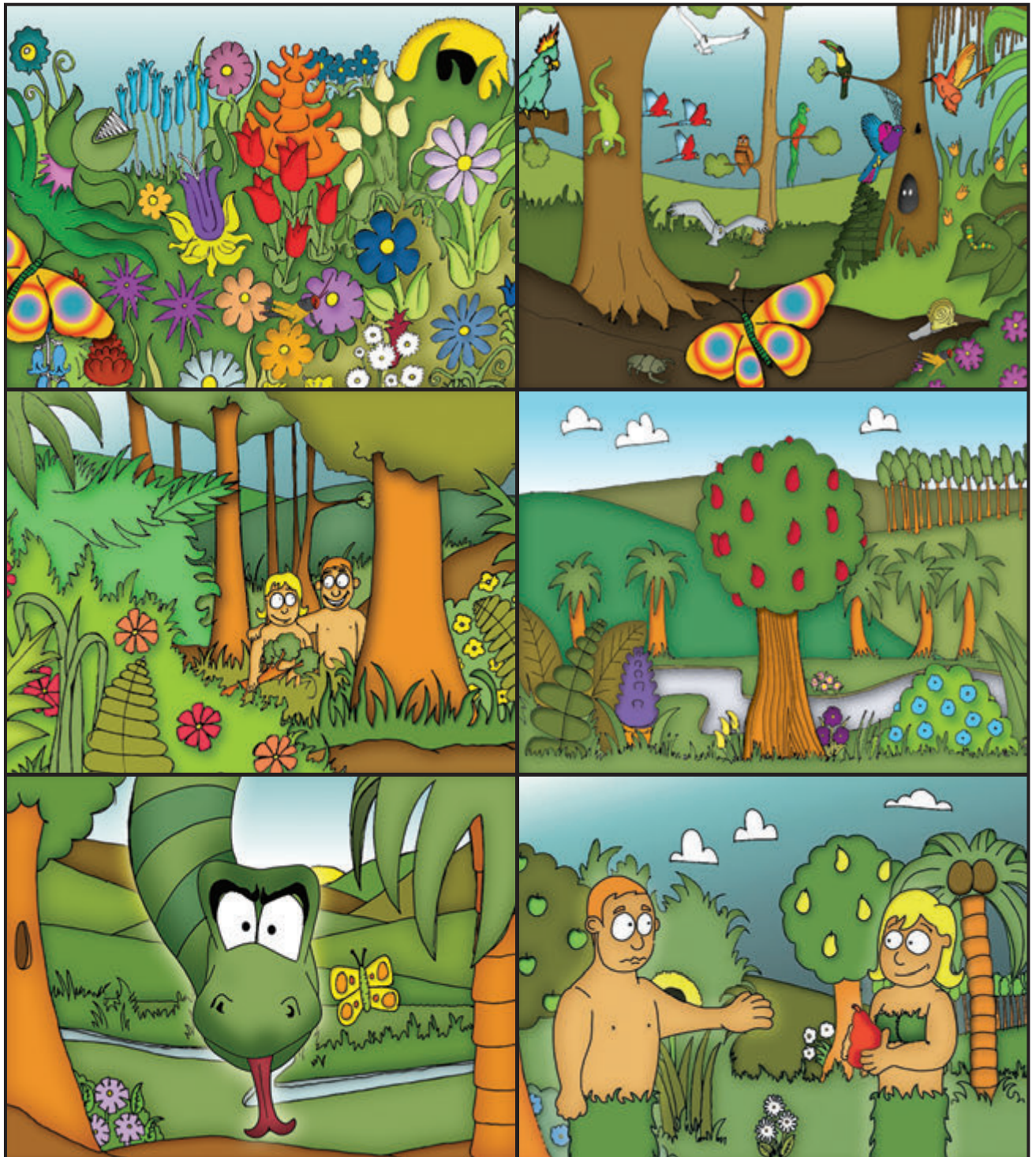
4 Adam and Eve knew they had done wrong and tried to hide from God.

Draw their faces, as Adam and Eve hide.

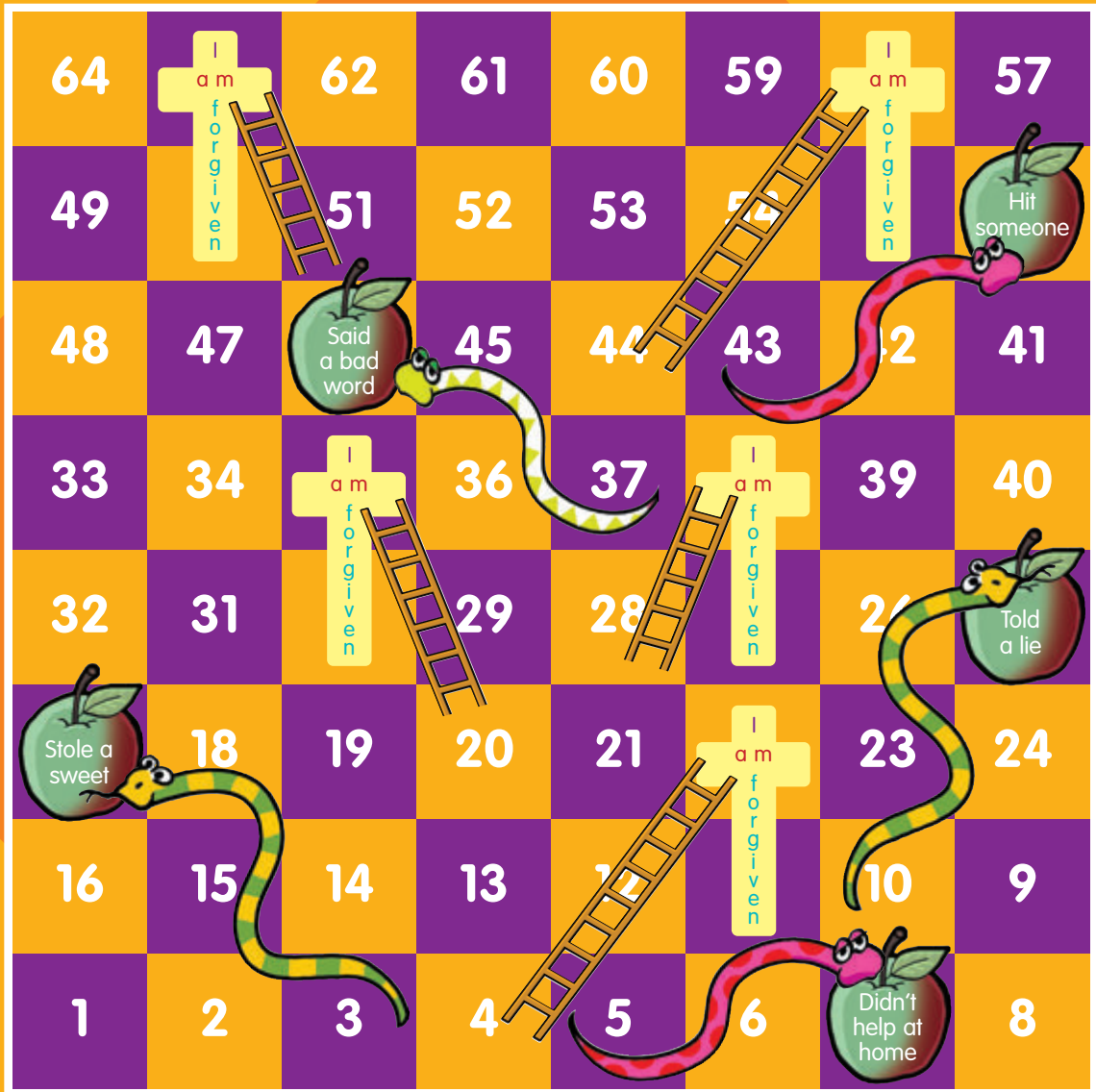
Dear God, I am sorry for the wrong things I sometimes do.

Thank you that I can be forgiven because Jesus died on the cross.

Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden.







If you do not have a dice and counters, you can cut out and use this spinner and these shapes for counters. Glue the spinner to some thin card first and then push a pencil or used matchstick through the centre.

Play this game of Snakes and Ladders.

It will remind you that when we do wrong things, we are separated from God, but we can be forgiven because Jesus died on the cross.

