

Upfront Bible 1

Jesus is a friend who turns up when you need him

John 20.19-31

During this dialogue a third person sketches a large mural on a backdrop. An easy way to achieve this is to make a freestanding panel, roughly 3mx4m from a flattened out fridge carton or plasma screen box. Cover the box in white paper, making sure it is attached securely. While the sketcher is working, the screen should be held steady by a team of volunteers. Pencil the design onto the screen beforehand to make inking it in faster. Depending on how confident and fast your sketcher is, it may also be advantageous to ink in a few random, enigmatic parts of the sketch ahead of time.

The aim is for the audience to get a sense of Jesus' life, and for the characters in dialogue to be able to physically run along the time line.

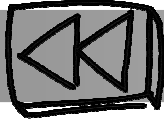


- A: Hey, Do you want to hear a story about Jesus?
- B: Yeah, why not. That'd be cool.
- A: So this is from the book of John. Chapter 1. In the beginning the...
- B: *(Interrupting)* Hang on, just a minute, go back a bit...who was John?
- A: Well, Jesus had a really close friend called John, and although the book doesn't say outright that's who wrote it – there are certainly some clues that John was the source for a lot of the information, because it keeps mentioning him.
- B: Ok, great. John, mates with Jesus, probably knows what he's talking about.



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- A: Right, where were we? Oh, yeah! Chapter 1. Actually, maybe, that's just a bit of an intro...how about we pick something with some action.
- B: Sounds good – in fact – something surprising, I love surprises!
- A: Ok, let's see. Chapter 4 Jesus talks to a woman, that was a bit surprising; chapter 9 heals a blind man; Chapter 11 raises the dead, also quite surprising; Chapter 13 acts like a slave; chapter 18 arrested; 19 killed.
- B: That's quite a life – and that's all in there?
- A: Absolutely – but here's the story I reckon you'll love. Chapter 20.
- ¹⁹The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening**
- B: Wait, wait, wait – the disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders? Why? Weren't they Jewish or something?
- A: No they were all Jewish, from the same country... so just going back a bit, but the Jewish leaders had just organized to have Jesus killed, and so his disciples were afraid that they'd be next.
- B: Got it. **¹⁹The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,**
- A: **...and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked**
- B: (*interrupting*) What do you mean by the same Sunday? Same as what?
- A: Ok, let's rewind back a few days. Jesus had been killed on Friday, buried that night, then Saturday was a day when nobody worked, but on Sunday, some of his friends, some women went to the tomb to embalm his body, and discovered that the body was gone.
- B: Right. Sunday morning – missing body. Sunday evening - afraid and locked themselves in a room.
- A: Correct. **The disciples locked themselves in a room. Suddenly Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them ²⁰and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.**
- B: (putting up their hand) Hands and side?
- A: Yep. Ah...(*thinking*)..ah – rewinding back to Friday -- Jesus is killed, he's crucified – on a cross, and part of the injuries are his hands, and his side – which was speared – so back to Sunday night, Jesus showed them his hands and side – to prove it was really him.
- B: Oh, for real? Not a ghost or something?



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- A: **When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. ²⁴Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. ²⁵So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"**
- But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"**
- B: You know, that's fair enough. He just wants the same deal as everyone else.
- A: Yes, it is. So,
- ²⁶A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked**
- B: Ah the locked door, just like before!
- A: **and stood in the middle of the group.**
- B: Hang on, I think he did that before as well – yep! **Stood in the middle.**
- A: **He stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples**
- B: And (*getting more and more excited by the matching*)– that's just like before as well!
- A: Yes! **He greeted his disciples ²⁷and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"**
- B: Wow! Thomas get's the same proof plus extra! He gets to touch Jesus. Jesus really showed up for him.
- A: Yep, Jesus is the kind of friend who turns up when you need him. So
- ²⁸Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"**
- ²⁹Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"**
- B: Hey ! hey! – Jesus is talking about...hang on...rewind, rewind....no, wait, fast forward, fast forward, fast forward ...to - us! **The people who have faith in me without seeing.** Jesus is talking about us!
- A: He is. **³⁰Jesus worked many other miracles for his disciples, and not all of them are written in this book.**
- B: **Many other miracles...**(running back) So in his life, back here, there were even more miracles?
- A: Yes.
- B: Ok, so here, here, here....amazing!
- A: **³¹But these are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you have faith in him, you will have true life.**