

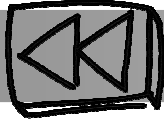
Upfront Bible 4

Jesus is a friend who shows us what life is about

John 13:1-38, 18:1-11

Prepare your team to lead from within the audience a 'Mexican wave'. Cheer whenever person A or B gestures towards their side of the audience.

- A: We are going to start getting ready to read a story from the Bible.
- B: If it's from the Bible, it'll be a ripper.
- A: Yes - but first we need to get ready. So – two main groups of people ...
- B: *(running from one side to the other with huge gestures)* Slytherins and Gryffindors, the Bananas and the Teddies, Montagues and Capulets...
- A: What are you talking about? No, no, no!!! The two groups are Jesus' disciples and the Guards.
- B: No Slytherins then?
- A: No. We will divide the audience in half, all of the boys and girls and the mums and dads and grownups too.
- The right hand side will be the disciple side and the left hand side will be the guards.
- B: *(running from one side to the other with huge gestures)* The right side and the wrong side, the good and the bad, the winners and the losers ...
- A: No! That's not what it's about! These aren't teams that are against each other.
- B: It's not a competition?
- A: No! That's not what it's about!
- B: Us against Them? Them against Us? The epic struggle to see *(over emphasised and over the top)* WHO IS THE GREATEST!!!!
- A: No! That's not what life is all about anyway.
- B: Isn't it?
- A: No!
- B: How do you know? I'm pretty sure I've seen it everywhere – the good guys vs. the bad guys...
- A: Well, here's how I know what life's about – and how I know it's not about winning, and being the greatest and beating the other guys. Jesus shows us what life is really about.
- B: Cool, Jesus, hey? I bet he's on the winning team. What team is he on? Guards or Disciples?



Upfront Bible 4

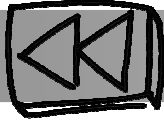
- A: Neither. He's not into sides. He shows us that a truly great life is about serving others. Thinking about other people. Giving someone else a shot.
- B: Are you going to tell us this story or not? I'm not convinced, so I'm going to keep score.
- A: Whatever - let's go. But remember, life is really all about others.

"When Jesus had finished praying..."

- B: Wait – what kind of praying? Who was he praying for?
- A: He was praying for the disciples...
- B: *(gestures to the 'disciple side' for cheering)* One point for the disciples.
- A: Well, I told you – Jesus is always thinking about, praying for, acting to serve others.

¹¹¹When Jesus had finished praying, he and his disciples crossed the Kidron Valley and went into a garden. ²Jesus had often met there with his disciples, and Judas knew where the place was.

- B: Time out. Just checking – who is Judas – what team does he play for?
- A: Judas is one of Jesus' disciples
- B: Ok, Score! Another one for the disciples.
- A: But ³⁻⁵**Judas had promised to betray Jesus.**
- B: Uh-oh, awkward – that would be a foul.
- A: ⁵**Judas had promised to betray Jesus. So he went to the garden with some Roman soldiers and temple police, who had been sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees.**
- B: *(leading the cheer from the guards)*
- A: They carried torches, lanterns, and weapons.
- B: Alright! Weapons – now you're talking. Guards, we are going to whip those disciples' b...
- A: *(cutting in)* Hold on – not so fast – I'm telling you, Jesus shows us what life is really all about – and it's not about whipping anyone's b...b...back to the Bible. *(Continues reading)*
- Jesus already knew everything that was going to happen, but he asked, "Who are you looking for?"**
- They answered, "We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth!" Jesus told them, "I am Jesus!"**
- B: Alright! Let's hear it for the guards – they were looking for Jesus and they found him – another point.



Upfront Bible 4

A: but again, not so fast ...

⁶At once they all backed away and fell to the ground.

B: Oh no! Not good, guards! They're all down for the count.

A: **⁷Jesus again asked, "Who are you looking for?"**

"We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth," they answered.

⁸This time Jesus replied, "I have already told you that I am Jesus. If I am the one you are looking for, let these others, the disciples go."

B: Go disciples! *(leads cheering)*

A: **⁹Then everything will happen, just as I said, 'I did not lose anyone you gave me.'**

B: Yeah – no losing!!! A point to both sides. *(Leads everyone in cheering.)*

A: **¹⁰Simon Peter had brought along a sword. He now pulled it out and struck at the servant of the high priest. The servant's name was Malchus, and Peter cut off his right ear.**

B: So, Simon Peter, he's a disciple, yeah? And he just got some real sword action taking out that guy's ear. Go Peter, what a winner!

A: **¹¹Jesus told Peter, "Put your sword away. I must drink from the cup that the Father has given me."**

B: What! Outrageous – put the sword away? Peter is willing to fight for him. *(Mimes large dramatic sword sweeps)*

A: No points for Peter in this. I've been telling you all along – Jesus shows us what life is all about. And it's not about winning, beating the other guys, or even taking sides in the first place! Listen – If we just rewind back a bit in the story, to earlier in the evening we can see what Jesus is on about.

B: Ok – rewinding back to the pre-match talk from the coach?

A: Something like that. Take a seat. *(B sits down)*

(A 'Jesus' character enters with a towel and a large bowl and mimes as A continues)

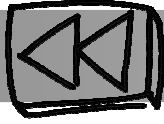
³Jesus knew that he had come from God and would go back to God. He also knew that the Father had given him complete power. ⁴So during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing.

¹²After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet and had put his outer garment back on, he sat down again. Then he said: Do you understand what I have done? ¹³You call me your teacher and Lord, and you should, because that is who I am. ¹⁴And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet, you should do the same for each other. ¹⁵I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you.



Upfront Bible 4

- B: that's not how I thought that was going to go. I thought it would be –
(with a whistle and a clipboard; using a forceful coaches voice) – Let's go out there and let's give it an RHG, a red hot go. It's not the dog in the fight, it's the fight in the dog. Let's show some G& D, let's show some guts and determination!
(Resuming normal voice) So how does it end?
- A: Jesus washes his disciple's feet, doing what a slave would normally do –
- B: Actually, that's pretty gutsy for a leader to do
- A: Then they go out and Jesus is arrested, and he goes quietly while all his friends run away.
(Jesus' character stands behind B with both arms out in a cruciform shape - hold)
- B: So I don't get it – in the end who wins? The Guards or the Disciples? *(Hold arms out like a cross while indicating guards on one side and disciples on the other: holds this position, until replaced by A in the next line.)*
- A: Jesus is arrested by the guards, and his disciples all run away *(hold arms out like a cross while indicating guards on one side and disciples on the other: holds this position.)*
He is sentenced illegally and unfairly and killed on a cross.
- B: *(sadly)* So the bad guys win? And the good guys are so gutless, they might as well be bad guys.
- A: Well, everyone, even good guys have their bad days, no one is perfect. But the bad guys don't win.
- B: *(Cheers)* Yay! The bad guys don't win!
- A: – but they don't lose either!
- B: *(Cheers)* Yay! The bad guys don't ... hang on. How is that possible? They win or lose. Come on!
- A: Some of us know the end of this story. Jesus is killed, he is buried and then he is alive again.
- B: So Jesus wins! *(Begins to do a victory dance)*
- A: No - well - yes. But remember how he washed his friend's feet? He said his life is all about serving others. Jesus' death and life again was not about him, but about us. He did it for others.
- B: Whoahhhh! That's awesome, but I don't really know why....?



Upfront Bible 4

A: It's because there are bigger fights going on than just Guards vs. Disciples.

What wins –

Justice and fairness vs. powerful people owning most of the stuff

Getting your way by hurting others vs. working together

Feeling hopeless about what is happening vs. trusting God for the future

Getting sucked into selfishness vs. giving others a go

Thinking everyone is against you vs. loving everyone, because God loves you

And in these fights, Jesus – alive again, beating death says “Love wins! Justice wins! Hope Wins! Community wins! Love wins!”

B: Love wins. it's like we all win, not just some of us, not just one side. That's pretty good news. But I kind of thought Jesus had something to do with God.

A: It has everything to do with God. Because there's one other big fight that Jesus puts an end to.

B: A fight between God and ... me?

A: Yep. The big fight.

God says: I love you absolutely more than you can ever imagine, and I am never going to stop.

vs.

Those who say: No, there's no way God could love us; there's too much wrong in the world, too many bad people, so much sadness; God is definitely against us. And God's going to punish us for all the wrong there is.

Jesus' death says – God does love us, and even the worst, the saddest, the wrongest, most tragic and violent things don't stop God's love. God keeps coming back, God keeps loving us. And all the punishment there ever needs to be has already been taken by Jesus. So God is not interested in that anymore. God wants us to be his friends, and live a life like Jesus, for others. This is what life is all about.

B: So at the end of the story...

A: ...when Jesus comes alive again, the guards see Jesus - and run away! And the disciples see Jesus - and they get it! They realise what life is all about – being loved by God and serving others – and they start living that way...

