



#imagine



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

**Teen Bible study
journal**

CREDO

WE ARE THE IMAGINE GENERATION

**WE BELIEVE IN TOMORROW,
BECAUSE JESUS RENEWS**

**WE DREAM OF PEACE,
BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE**

**WE COMMIT TO CHANGE,
BECAUSE THE SPIRIT MOVES**

**WE ARE THE CHURCH OF TODAY,
THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW**

WE ARE THE IMAGINE GENERATION.

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#IMAGINE PARTNERSHIP

One of the best ways to support the #imagine movement is to become a partner and donate through a small monthly debit order. As little as R10 a month can make a big difference.

Contact partners@imaginemovement.co.za to become a monthly donor and to receive a newsletter.

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WHAT IS #imagine?

#Imagine is a nationwide movement where young people come together to dream, believe and do! Every year there are four festivals (in four venues) on the same weekend where we learn more about Jesus, praise His name and get to know other young people from different communities all around South Africa.

The #imagine movement challenges teenagers with a massive vision: Every problem in our country is a unique opportunity for someone who can dream about change, believe in God's vision and is prepared to do what is needed. Real change will take hard work and passion and you have the capacity, energy and zeal to make it happen through the guidance of the Holy Spirit! You can choose to live surprisingly different!

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."
>>EPHESIANS 3:20-21

"Aan Hom wat deur sy krag wat in ons werk, magtig is om oneindig meer te doen as wat ons bid of dink, aan Hom kom die eer toe, in die kerk, deur ons verbondenheid met Christus Jesus, deur al die geslagte heen tot in alle ewigheid. Amen."
>> EFESIËRS 3:20-21

"Kepha yena onamandla okwenza okukhulu kakhulu kunakho konke esikucelayo nesikuqondayo ngokwamandla asebenza kithi"
>> KWABASE-EFESU 3:20

"Unkulunkulu angenza noma yini oyaziyongaphezulu kakhulu kunakho konke ukucabanga kwakho, nokudlinza kwakho kanye nokucela kwakho ngisho ekucabangeni kwakho konke."
>> KWABASE-EFESU 3:20

#IMAGINE CHALLENGE:

Faith Story and Pledges

Part of being an #imagineer, is to share your #faith story.

JUST LIKE TIMOTHY:

#MY STORY:

My story has ups and downs, but this is how I see Jesus in it....?

#OUR STORY:

I am not alone, but like Timothy, I have people who support me and help me grow like....? And I know I need to support ...?... and help them grow.

#NEW STORY:

God has also called me to set an example and make a difference by doing....?

#IMAGINE STORY:

I am part of the #imagine generation and commit to growing my faith by...?

TAKE UP THE #IMAGINE CHALLENGE:

Tick at least one way you want to **DREAM** with God and others about His Kingdom by:

☐

Doing Bible Study

☐

Prayer with and for others

☐

Being or getting a mentor

☐

Starting a Bible study group

Tick at least one way to **BELIEVE** and share your faith by:

☐

Using social media

☐

Being creative

☐

Activating other for a specific cause

☐

Sharing your faith story

Tick at least one way to **DO** something that will make a difference by:

☐

Serving at your local church

☐

Hosting an #imagine eat-together

☐

Organising a local outreach

☐

Building bridges with others

☐

Organising a #re-imagine event

☐

Being part of kid's ministry

☐

Going on a mission trip

☐

Becoming a #imagine partner

JOURNEY WITH THE STORY: HOW TO USE THE BIBLE STUDIES

Everyone has their own unique life story, faith story and struggle story. The challenge is to meet God, who is IN your story. God does not see you as a product of your history or circumstances. God sees you differently, you have an #Image-in Christ, a NEW story written by Jesus.

HOW TO USE THIS BIBLE STUDY BOOKLET

The Bible studies, prayer ideas and challenges can be done on your own or with a group, like a Bible study group at school or youth group. Why don't you take up the #challenge and find a group of new friends to journey through this booklet!

This Bible Study booklet consists of 3 Bible Study series to help you journey through your life story, faith story and struggle story.

1. Your story of Healing
2. Your story of Making a Difference
3. Your story of Relationship

May you meet Jesus IN your story and get to know the Jesus who knows you, loves you, accepts you and calls you by name, as you read and discuss the different stories in each Bible study.

SERIES 01

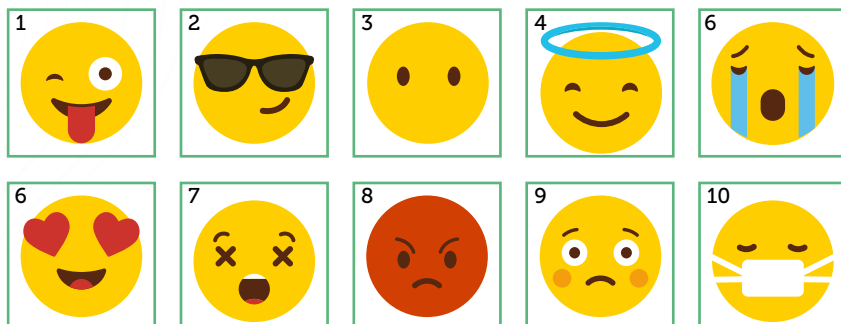
YOUR STORY OF HEALING

Our emotions play a big role in our everyday life. It can influence everything, from the way we feel to the way we dress and act towards others.

Sometimes our emotions can have a crippling effect, but on the other hand, they can also have a positive effect and empower us.

In this Bible Study Series, we will explore different characters in the Bible and how they dealt with emotional struggles to find healing, hope and courage to live out their new story.

USE THE EMOJIS BELOW TO TELL YOUR LIFE STORY. NUMBER THEM FROM 1 TO 10 IN ORDER TO TELL YOUR STORY.



UNWORTHY TO FREE



ONESIMUS - PHILEMON 1:10-12

1. MY STORY

Who am I? I'm just a slave. Some people use my name, Onesimus, but it doesn't mean much. Slaves' names don't have real value, just as slaves aren't worth anything. I'm just somebody's property. I'm just somebody who has had a hard life. I tried to escape and ended up in prison, but then something amazing happened there. I thought I was going to die there, but instead I received new life. I met Paul, a follower of Jesus, and he told me about how much God loves me, and how he could use me, even though I'm a slave. That day, everything changed for me.

2. PHILEMON 1:10-12

¹⁰I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him – who is my very heart – back to you.

- What do you think it is like to be a slave?
- What makes you feel like you aren't worth anything?

3. NEW STORY

- Can Jesus set you free from something that makes you feel worthless? Is there someone who can help you?

4. OUR STORY

- Where do you think God can use you to build bridges with others who may also feel worthless?
- Find someone who feels down or bad, and post something uplifting or encouraging on their social media.

5. PRAYER

Pray the following, finishing the prayer with your own words: *"Lord, thank you that I am no longer a slave, and that I am free from ..."*

REJECTION TO ACCEPTANCE



JOSEPH JESUS' FATHER – MATTHEW 1:18-20

1. MY STORY

We were all looking forward to the wedding. Our families were happy. Mary and I were very happy. And then... Mary became pregnant! Pregnant! How is this possible? We aren't married yet! What should I do? I had dreams and plans, and I have a good reputation that I don't want to ruin. I don't know what to do. I thought I could marry her. The only solution is to break off our engagement and let each other go.

2. MATTHEW 1:18-20

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

- What does it mean that Joseph was a man who obeyed the law?
- How do you think you would feel, if you also had heard that your fiancé had become pregnant without your involvement?

3. NEW STORY

- What does it mean to you that Jesus came to earth as a human baby?

4. OUR STORY

- Sometimes, we want to do things in life, but God's plan is different to what we hoped or expected. Go and think a bit about what God is perhaps doing in your life that is different to what you hope or plan.

5. PRAYER

"Lord, help us to look past our own ideas, to be able to see what You want to do. Help us to trust you, even if things aren't going to work out as we planned."

SELFISH TO LOYAL



RUTH AND NAOMI - RUTH 1:14-18

1. MY STORY

I have gone through some tough times with Naomi, my mother-in-law. First, my sister-in-law Orpah and I both lost our husbands, Naomi's sons, and then Orpah decided to leave and return to her own people. I couldn't. Although Naomi was from a different nation, and had a different god, there was just something about her, and I couldn't leave her.

2. RUTH 1:14-18

¹⁴At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵'Look,' said Naomi, 'your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.' ¹⁶But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.' ¹⁸When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

- What, do you think, made Ruth stay with Naomi? Why couldn't she leave her?
- Is there someone in your life that you feel the same way about, in the same way Ruth felt about Naomi?

3. NEW STORY

- Do you think it matters to Jesus where we come from?
- List a few examples out of the Bible where Jesus went to people, ate with them or accepted them, while others thought that He shouldn't have been around them.

4. OUR STORY

- Can you think of a few people that feel excluded or moved aside because they are "different" from others? Why do we so often exclude people, and how can we include them again?

5. PRAYER

Ask the Lord to help you to have enough courage to reach out to others, and to remind them that we all are actually the same.

PRAYER SONG

Read the words of this song. Underline all the words or phrases that speaks to you. How does these words or phrases make you feel?

FRIEND OF GOD - UMHLOBO WAM

*Umhlobo wam
Umhlobo wam
Umhlobo wam
Umhlobo wam*

*Who am I that You are thinking of me,
That You hear me when i call?
Is it true that You are thinking of me?
How You love me, it's amazing!*

*I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God, He calls me friend!*

*God almighty, Lord of glory,
You have called me friend*

DESPAIR TO HOPE



ELIJAH - 1 KINGS 17:7-16

1. MY STORY

My name is Elijah. I am reckoned to be one of the greatest prophets in Israel. As a prophet I was a messenger of God who interpreted the word and will of God to the people of Israel. I was a prophet during the reign of King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel who served and worshipped Baal. She even tried to kill me, especially after I humiliated and killed her Baal prophets on Mount Carmel. Oh, what a sight when Baal was exposed as being a dead god and the God of Israel proofed to be the only almighty and living God! I saw a lot of things which made a big impact on me. I once met this widow from Zarephath. She didn't have much, but her faith in God was so strong that she helped me with the little that she had.

2. 1 KINGS 17:14-16

¹⁴For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land." ¹⁵She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

- How did the widow show her trust in the Lord?
- What signs of hope does this story show?

3. NEW STORY

- Can you share a time when God took care of you and your family in a difficult situation?

4. OUR STORY

- Invite a few friends over to bake bread. While you are baking the bread, share stories of hope with each other. Write a thank you note to someone in your community who brings hope, like the police station, and deliver it with your freshly baked bread.

5. PRAYER

Pray the following, finishing the prayer with your own words: "Lord, help me to see Your hope in difficult situations like..."

FEAR TO COURAGE



ANANIAS – ACTS 9

1. MY STORY

I've believed in God my whole life, and when Jesus came around, I accepted Him as my Messiah and Lord too. I was trying to keep my head down in Damascus, hoping that people like Saul wouldn't try to find me or the other believers who lived there, but God had other plans. When God sent me to actually go and meet Saul, who had come to Damascus to persecute me and other believers, and to pray for his sight to return, I thought that my name's meaning should be changed from "favoured by the Lord" to something more like "I must be crazy to do what the Lord says".

2. ACTS 9:10–13,15,17–18

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. ¹¹The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.' ¹³'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.' [...] ¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.' [...]

- How, do you think, did Ananias feel when he heard the call to go and help Saul, who was trying to imprison him?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to show courage?

3. NEW STORY

- Are there times when you feel your calling is overshadowed by your fear?

4. OUR STORY

- Think of someone in your town/school who seems to be your enemy. Try and make them your friend instead.

5. PRAYER

Finish this prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me how have the courage to make [Your enemy's name] my friend. Teach me how stand up and follow You, even if I am scared."

SHAME TO JOY



DAVID - PSALM 51

1. MY STORY

I made some big mistakes. I wanted something that wasn't mine, I rejected what was already mine, and I ignored the will of the Lord. I know that I must be punished for my sins, but I also know that God is a forgiving and loving God. Maybe he will forgive me if I confess my sins, so that I will have a chance to turn my life around.

2. PSALM 51:1-4, 6-8, 17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

⁶Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. ⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

- How does God treat sinners, if we read the words of this Psalm?
- Why, if we sin against God, do you think, do we need to go to God Himself to ask forgiveness?

3. NEW STORY

- What does Jesus' death and resurrection mean to you?

4. OUR STORY

- If Jesus frees us from our sins, how can we also free others who we think sinned against us?

5. PRAYER

Open the entire Psalm 51 in your Bible or on your phone. Then, read the entire Psalm as a prayer, and bring any other sins to Jesus' feet.

PRAYER SONG

Read through this song. What different emotions comes to you when you see the lyrics. Draw emojis of the different emotions you read about. Next to those emojis, draw an emoji about how those lyrics make you feel.

TREMBLE FIERCE

*Before I call
Before I ever cry
You answer me
From where the thunder hides
I can't outrun
This heart I'm tethered to
When every step
I collide with You*

*Like a tidal wave
Crashing over me
Rushing in to meet me here
Your love is fierce
Like a hurricane
That I can't escape
Tearing through the atmosphere
Your love is fierce*

*Jesus, Jesus,
You make the darkness tremble,
Jesus, Jesus,
You silence fear.
Jesus, Jesus,
You make the darkness tremble,
Jesus, Jesus.*

*You chase me down
You seek me out
How can I be lost when You have called me found?*



YOUR STORY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We often think the only way we can make a difference is by doing something big which will have a huge impact. But the story of the Bible tells us something different – the story of the Bible urges us not the focus on the big acts, but to give and use what we have.

In this Bible Study Series, we will explore different characters in the Bible and how they used what they had to give.

IN THE FIRST COLUMN, MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE PLACES AND SPACES IN YOUR COMMUNITY WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IN THE SECOND COLUMN, MAKE A LIST OF THINGS (TALENTS, PHYSICALS OBJECTS, SKILLS ETC.) YOU CAN USE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. CAN YOU LINK ANY OF THE PLACES AND SPACES WITH YOUR LIST OF THINGS?

#GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

HOSPITALITY



PRISCILLA AND AQUILA – ACTS 18:1-3

1. MY STORY

We are Priscilla and Aquila. We live in the city of Corinth now, after we had to leave Rome where we preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We make tents to earn money and put food on the table, but our true passion is to tell people about Jesus Christ and anyone who wants to know more about Him is welcome in our home.

2. ACTS 18: 1-3

¹After this, Paul left Athens and went on to Corinth. ²There he met a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, for the Emperor Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³and stayed and worked with them, because he earned his living by making tents, just as they did.

(You can read more about Priscilla and Aquila in Acts 18: 24-26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19 and 2 Timothy 4:19)

- What do you see/hear in verse 3 about hospitality – to open your home, pantry, table and heart for others?
- Think about a story or an experience from your own life where the Lord challenged you to be hospitable – how did it make you feel?

3. NEW STORY

- Jesus often ate with people – think about Zacchaeus. Jesus also often challenged people to eat with others – especially people who were different/weird. Why do you think Jesus used eating/meal times to challenge people?

4. OUR STORY

- What will you do if you meet a stranger who needs food and a place to stay, like Paul in this story?
- Try to find a time during this week to eat with someone you don't know all that well or someone who is different than you are.

5. PRAYER

Pray the following, finishing the prayer with your own words: *"Lord, help me to be like a Priscilla or Aquila by..."*

EMPOWERING



ANDREW - JOHN 6:1-12

1. MY STORY

Since the day I met Jesus he challenged me to do things I never would have done and to go to people I would never have gone to before. I'm Andrew and I am one of Jesus' first disciples. That day when I cast my nets and started following Jesus, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. But Jesus said: "Follow me!" and that's exactly what I did. Sometimes it seemed impossible to follow Jesus, like the day when he wanted to feed more than 5000 people, but there wasn't any food to give. All we could find was a young boy with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, but still, Jesus proved that he is greater and mightier than what we could ever think. All we have to do is to answer his call.

2. JOHN 6:1-12

⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

- What do you think Andrew thought Jesus was going to do with the loaves and the fish?
- Think of a time when you invited someone to make a contribution by sharing their unique gifts.

3. NEW STORY

- Which of your gifts can Jesus multiply and use to help others?
- Are there times when you think that what you, or maybe others, have to offer, isn't good enough? How does this story help you to think differently about it?

4. OUR STORY

- Plan a post-#imagine event and invite different people with different gifts. It can be something big like a re#imagine praise and worship, or as small as a coffee-group who thinks and dreams together about God's plan for your town, and then does something about it.

5. PRAYER

"Lord, thank you that you make each of us part of your family, and thank you for giving us gifts that we can use, just as we are, to help others."

#IMAGINE EVENTS

Organise a re#imagine event by using the skills, opportunities and gifts you have, to make a difference. Use the following questions to brainstorm.

- WHO? (Get a group of friends together)
- WHAT CAN WE GIVE? (What are your shared skills and opportunities)
- TYPE OF EVENT? (e.g. praise and worship night, youth week, a camp, or eat-together opportunities)
- WHY? (Share ideas about bridge-building)
- APPROVED? (Chat with a teacher or church leader)
- CONNECTED? (Invite people from school / church / community)
- PRAY ABOUT IT?
- BUDGET?
- TICKET COSTS?
- CONTENT? (encounter stations, #imagine music, games and videos, 2019 experience content or this booklet can be used)
- PROGRAMME?
- DATE? * TIME? * VENUE?
- LOGISTICS? (Organize food / band /speaker etc.)
- MARKETING? INVITED PEOPLE?
- PHOTOS AND VIDEOS TAKEN?
- FUN?
- FEEDBACK GIVEN?
- SHARE ONLINE?

INFLUENCER



ESTHER 7:1-4

1. MY STORY

Who would have guessed that a girl like me, Esther, a poor Jewish girl who was taken away to Assyria and Persia, would become queen over the entire empire? I definitely didn't, but it happened, and suddenly I was in a position of wealth, power, and influence! I did not know what to do, but when I heard that my husband and king's advisor, Haman, wanted to kill all the Jews, I could not keep quiet! Finally, I knew why the Lord had put me here!

2. ESTHER 7:1-4

'So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, ²and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, 'Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.' ³Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have found favour with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life – this is my petition. And spare my people – this is my request. ⁴For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.'

- Why, do you think, did Esther need to ask the king himself to spare the Jews?
- What, do you think, would have happened if the king had decided to say no?

3. NEW STORY

- How can Jesus use you in your own situation?
- Why did He put where you are now?

4. OUR STORY

- Take a look around you, in your community. Where can you use your position or influence? Use that position to start a children's group, or support one, or even organise an #imagine Kidz event one vacation or holiday at your church.

5. PRAYER

Thank the Lord for placing you where you are. Pray that you will listen to His voice more and more, to be used where you are.

FRIENDSHIP



DAVID AND NATHAN 2 SAMUEL 12:12-13

1. MY STORY

My name is Nathan, which means “gift”. David is our superstar king, but he still has his faults. I used the gift that God had given me to try and be a gift to king David. My gift is to see when things aren’t going the way they should, and then to do something about it. One of the mistakes that David made was to look at a married woman, Bathsheba, while she was bathing and that led to him desiring her. David got Bathsheba pregnant, but was worried what her husband, who was away fighting in a war, would do. So, he ensured that her husband died in that war, and then he married her himself. My gift was to be David’s friend, and go and tell him that what he did was wrong.

2. 2 SAMUEL 12:12-13

¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’

¹³Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan replied, ‘The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.’

Read the entire story in 2 Samuel 11-12 to fully understand the whole story.

- Imagine you are Nathan. How would you feel if you had to talk to David about what he had done wrong?
- Is there a situation you can think of, where the Lord called you to go and talk to a friend about something?

3. NEW STORY

- Do you think that Jesus talked to His friends, like Nathan had to talk to David?
- Can you think of a few situations in the Bible where it happened?

4. OUR STORY

- Make a list of your friends. How do they build up your life, and how can you build up theirs?

5. PRAYER

Ask the Lord to help you have the courage to go to our friends, in an uplifting way, and to walk a path of healing with them, especially when they might feel far from God, or do things that they feel isn’t fitting for a child of God.

#IMAGINE KIDZ

Decide to host an #imaginekidz 3 day event for primary school children in the school holidays or to be a leader at one, by using the skills and tools you got at the #imagine Kidz Workshop or by sending an email to info@imaginekidz.com.

Start by building relationships with the kids of your congregation or community group. Get to know each other better by doing this ice breaker.

THE CANDY ICE BREAKER

Make groups, grab some candy and for each colour of candy tell us:

- YELLOW – Your favourite Bible story.
- ORANGE – Things you do well.
- RED – Something about yesterday.
- BROWN – Something you can't live without.
- GREEN – Favourite movie, book or food.
- BLUE – Something you learned last week
- PURPLE – If you had all the money in the world, what would you buy first?
- PINK – Your favourite hobby.

TIME



THE GOOD SAMARITAN LUKE 10:25-37

1. MY STORY

I am a Samaritan, and like all other Samaritans, I grew up loving the Lord. We are all descended from Jews who married people from other nations, which is forbidden in Jewish law. And so, all the Jews hate us, see us as lesser people, and treat us like enemies. One day, while I was travelling, I came across a Jew who was lying next to the side of the road. I was scared that he might hate me if I helped him, but I decided to do it anyway, and so I cancelled all my other plans.

2. LUKE 10:30-33

³⁰Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

(Please read the entire passage: Luke 10:25-37)

- Why, do you think, did a Samaritan, who was an enemy of the Jews, help this poor Jewish man, while his fellow Jews avoided him?
- Do you think that you would be able to help someone like the Samaritan did, cancelling or moving your plans for them?

3. NEW STORY

- Is "Church" or "Christianity" something which is limited to a certain time of the day or week? Or, is our relationship with Jesus something that actually controls our daily lives and actions?

4. OUR STORY

- Draw your weekly programme on some paper or a whiteboard. Now, plan your weekly schedule in order to make specific time when you do nothing other than serve others, outreaches, or helping the Church.

5. PRAYER

Pray that the Lord will open our eyes so that we can plan our time in a way that Church or our faith is no longer put aside for homework or sport, but rather becomes more important than anything else.

#IMAGINE ENCOUNTER STATIONS

Create your own Encounter Stations for your church or school

1. LIKE

Pray about your EMOTIONS and share your feelings like sad, guilty, angry, happy, scared with God, by drawing an emoji in the sand.

2. CHECK IN

The PLACES we have been at, can influence us greatly. Look at pictures of the different places. Place a stone in front of any picture that is meaningful to you. Thank God for this place and share your feelings with Him.

3. TAG

Think about your RELATIONSHIPS with people that need prayer. Write words on human cut outs of relationship issues that need prayer in your life: words like broken, conflict, silence, hurt, shame, distrust, disappoint, and unforgiving.

4. FOLLOW

Follow the labyrinth whilst thinking of your faith story and then kneel at a cross to pray.

5. TWEET

Tweet your QUESTIONS (doubt and faith questions) by writing on blackboards.

6. #NO FILTER

Look at yourself in the mirrors with different questions on them. Questions like: "What choice do you regret?" or "What are you dependent on?". Pray as you look at the questions moving from mirror to mirror.

7. POST

Pray about EXPERIENCES that have influenced you by choosing a picture and sticking it on wall.

8. SELFIE

Use the clay to portray your pain, hurt, sin, shame, self-image while praying for YOURSELF

PRAYER



PETER AND JOHN – ACTS 3:1-10

1. MY STORY

Look! I can walk! You all know me, and you know that I have never been able to use my legs. Then one day I sat in my usual place at one of the temple's entrances, and these two men came by. I didn't know them, but then they told me to walk. I would have rather had the money! But, when they called the name of that Jesus, I felt something in my legs for the first time, and I got up and I could walk!

2. ACTS 3:1-2, 5-6

¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.'

- Why didn't Peter give the man money? What did he give instead of money?
- What would you have done if you were in Peter's situation?

3. NEW STORY

- Think about poverty and need around you. What do you have to give? What can you do?

4. OUR STORY

- Let your church youth group get together and think about what you are good at. Then, take a look at your community, and think about how you can use what you're good at to make a real difference. Post your project on social media and challenge neighbouring youth groups to come up with their own project.

5. PRAYER

Pray the following prayer every day for a week: *"Lord, open my eyes to see need, my heart to love everyone, and my hands to really help."*



YOUR STORY OF RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships form part of the core existence of humans. We need relationships to grow as a person. But relationships aren't always easy. Sometimes it pushes us out of our comfort zones and sometimes it asks us to do difficult things. One thing is sure though, we need relationship – especially meaningful relationships across all borders.

In this Bible Study Series, we will explore different characters in the Bible and what they did to build Relationships with others.

IN EACH BLOCK, WRITE DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.

RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH FORGIVENESS

JOSEPH - GENESIS 50:15-21

1. MY STORY

It wasn't easy, being sold into slavery. First my eleven other brothers threw me in a pit, and next thing I know, I'm halfway to Egypt! Imagine their surprise, years and years later, when they came to Egypt to find food, and instead they found me, ruling the entire kingdom! At first, I didn't know what to do. I could have easily imprisoned or punished them, but they are family, and I knew that I needed to forgive them and repair our relationship.

2. GENESIS 50:15-17, 19A, 21A

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, 'What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?' ¹⁶So they sent word to Joseph, saying, 'Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷"This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly." Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.' When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, ²¹"So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.'

- Why did Joseph forgive his brothers instead of punishing them?
- Is it difficult for you to forgive people who have hurt you? Why, or why not?

3. NEW STORY

- Why, do you think, did Jesus teach his disciples to pray: "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us..."?

4. OUR STORY

- Think of the people around you. Who do you know that you have a bad relationship with? Who do you not get along with? Try to befriend that person, get to know them, and mend that relationship.

5. PRAYER

Pray this sentence from the Lord's prayer, inserting the name of someone you need to forgive: *"Forgive my sins, for I also forgive [their name] who sins, just like I do."* Pray it for every person you need to forgive.

RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH WITNESS

JOHN THE BAPTIST – LUKE 3

1. MY STORY

I always knew that I was special, from the day that my parents told me how I was born, as well as who my family is. My cousin, Jesus, looks just like me – just a normal person – but I know that He is special. That is why I had to go and preach in the desert – I needed to tell everyone, even foreigners and Romans, about the sort of life that He would bring.

2. LUKE 3:2–3, 11–14

²During the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁰‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’ ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’ ¹³‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them. ¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’

- Why, do you think, did people who weren’t good faithful Jews, also went to John to be baptised?
- What would John have said to you, if you were there that day?

3. NEW STORY

- What type of people did Jesus go to and spend time with?

4. OUR STORY

- Find someone on social media, who follow you or who you follow, in another country or culture. Build a relationship with them, find out what you have in common, and celebrate your differences.

5. PRAYER

Pray that the Lord will send you to people who are different to you, just as He sent John.

#ACTIVATE OTHERS

#imagine challenge us not only to dream and believe, but also to DO. Use these ideas to connect with others, to build bridges and inspire people to make a difference in your community.

Start by building relationships with the kids of your congregation or community group. Get to know each other better by doing this ice breaker.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Launch an awareness campaign using twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp etc.
- Take and make an Instagram post about a verse of the day.
- Make a Facebook post with info on the social topic.

MUSIC

- Write a song to sing at your Youth Group or Kids Ministry
- Create slam poetry, record it and make it go viral.

ORGANISE AN OUTREACH

- Brainstorm ideas for outreach actions
- Go on a mission trip
- Visit your local old age home.
- Do the #trashbag challenge

SERVE AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

- Start a Bible study group
- Do a prayer march
- Organise a youth week at school / church
- Host a re-imagine event
- Start a fundraising drive for a specific cause
- Serve as a youth leader
- Start a welcoming team for Sunday Services

RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON- BELIEVING LEADERS

DANIEL – DANIEL 5

1. MY STORY

It was bad enough for me when my country, Israel, was taken over by the Babylonians, but when I saw how the new king made fun of us by letting everyone in his palace eat out of our gold and silver plates and bowls, it was too much for me. These people are not even Believers, and I wanted to get angry, until I remembered that God loves everyone, and that I must also love them just like God does.

2. DANIEL 5:1–2, 5, 13, 17

¹King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. ²While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. ⁵Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. ¹³So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, 'Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?' ¹⁷Then Daniel answered the king, 'You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.'

- Why, do you think, did Daniel help the king, even though this king had made fun of Jerusalem and Israel?
- Who is the Lord sending us to?

3. NEW STORY

- How can we act or behave towards leaders who are not Believers?

4. OUR STORY

- Invite people from a different faith to sit with you during break time at school. Ask them about their faith without being judgemental and share your faith story.

5. PRAYER

Pray that the Lord will give us the wisdom and insight that Daniel had, to treat our non-believing leaders with love and compassion.

RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH LEADERSHIP

JOSHUA - JOSHUA 1:1-9

1. MY STORY

My name is Joshua and the Lord gave me the wisdom to become Moses' successor. I had to lead God's people into a new land. I loved God with all my heart, and I would have done anything to obey Him despite of the fact that I was a very scared man.

2. JOSHUA 1:1-9

²My servant Moses is dead. Now you must lead Israel across the Jordan River into the land I'm giving to all of you. ⁶Long ago I promised the ancestors of Israel that I would give this land to their descendants. So be strong and brave! Be careful to do everything my servant Moses taught you. Never stop reading The Book of the Law he gave you. Day and night you must think about what it says. If you obey it completely, you and Israel will be able to take this land. I've commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the LORD your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go.

- Joshua receives the important command to lead God's people to the promised land – how do you think Joshua felt, and what does God tell him in these verses?
- What does the scripture say to you about crossing borders towards others?

3. NEW STORY

- One of Jesus' names is IMMANUEL – it means: GOD WITH US! How does this help you to think about the whereabouts of Jesus when you have to cross borders and step out of your comfort zone at school, home and even in your community?

4. OUR STORY

- Draw your town on a piece of paper. Where does all the different borders lie representing people of different race, age, class, religion etc. Which borders are difficult to cross and why?

5. PRAYER

May God bless you with enough stupidity to believe that you can change the world, so that you can do things that other people believe are impossible.

#MENTORSHIP

Mentorship plays a key role in the Bible. We see mentors in all forms and shapes from Moses and Naomi to Elizabeth, Paul, Barnabas and Jesus our biggest mentor. Some of the key aspects which distinguish mentoring from other relationships such as friendship, coaching or being a teacher are: influence, commitment, being an example, and caring for others which cross all different borders and bridges.

INFLUENCE

- Draw a timeline of your life's phases e.g. pre-primary, primary and high school. Fill in where people have influenced your life spiritually by writing their name in that phase. While you write their name, think about how they specifically influenced you.

COMMITMENT

Mentorship is about commitment. This means not only to be committed to a mentee, but also to be committed to grow in your own relationship with God.

- Go outside and have a look at a branch of a tree or a plant. For every leaf on that branch, try to name a way in which you can grow in your relationship with God.

BEING AN EXAMPLE

A mentor is someone others look up to. Not because they are perfect, but because they follow Jesus. As a mentor, you have to walk the walk and talk the talk by being an example in faith (what I believe and serve God), life (how I live according to God's will, habits, and behaviour) and love (how I care and love).

- Think about who sets a good example for you then write the different characteristics of a good mentor on small cards. Stick them on your mirror as a reminder to walk the walk and talk the talk.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Being a mentor means that you must care about others and build a real, meaningful relationship with them. It is about walking together and doing life together.

- Draw circles of the different areas of your life e.g. school, work, friends, family, church, sports, interests, daily routines, etc. Write in every circle the people who cross your path in that area (people whom you have or can spend time with). Is there anyone you feel called to mentor?

RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH TESTIFYING

PETER AND CORNELIUS – ACTS 10

1. MY STORY

“Peter, you cannot say that something is impure if God has made it clean” – These words have been tumbling in my mind for a while now. Moses’ law states that I must keep away from impure things. Therefore, it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a non-Jew. But in this dream God has taught me a different way – His love has no boundaries and isn’t reserved for a select few. No, it is for every single living person. Jesus changed all the rules on the cross. His love cannot be stopped. It is more powerful than anything trying to contain it. Love for my neighbour trumps rules every single time.

2. ACTS 10

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

(Read the whole chapter)

- What is the meaning of the sheet with animals in it? What implication does this sheet with animals in have on Cornelius and other non-Jews?
- What does this passage teach me about my relationship with people from other cultures?

3. NEW STORY

- Jesus tells us that we should love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Name a few practical examples of how this love will look like towards others.

4. OUR STORY

- Go to someone today that is from a different cultural background and find out how they celebrate important dates in their culture – birthdays, births, family gatherings, etc.

5. PRAYER

“Dear Lord, thank you that you made each person unique and that there is diversity in our rainbow nation. Thank you that we can celebrate diversity and uniqueness. Help me to respect other people and cultures that are different than me. Amen”

RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH MENTORSHIP

ELI - 1 SAMUEL 3:1-9

1. MY STORY

I'm Eli, a high priest of Israel. It is my responsibility to work as a mediator between God and the people. You could almost say that I'm God's representative for His people and being God's representative means that I should live as a holy and godly example. It is tough sometimes to be an example for others, especially when they aren't really interested in following it. I learned that the hard way when my sons not only acted against my will, but against God's as well. I was so embarrassed, especially because I did not guide them well enough. But God is good. He is a God of second chances and my second chance came in the form of Samuel. Samuel's mother, Hannah, brought him to the temple when he was very little, and it was my responsibility to teach him about God and how to serve Him.

2. 1 SAMUEL 3:1-9

⁸A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

- Why do you think Samuel thought that it was Eli calling him, and not God?
- Who has helped you to hear God's voice?

3. NEW STORY

- How do you see Jesus in your everyday life – how does Jesus make his voice heard in your life?

4. OUR STORY

- Go be a mentor for someone: a coach at school or at church. Or find a mentor for yourself. Ask God to send the right person over your path that will help you on your faith journey. Use the Mentorship part in this booklet to help you.

5. PRAYER

"Lord, thank you for reaching out to us in so many ways. Thank you for speaking through me, but also through other people."

TAKE THE P.I.G.GY CHALLENGE

P.I.G. = POST #IMAGINE GATHERING!

1. Think of someone who already follows Jesus, that you trust and who could encourage you like Paul did with Timothy, (e.g. a family member, a grandma in your community a teacher, or a teen).
2. Ask if you can visit him/her.
3. Share about your #imagine weekend experience.
4. Ask them these 4 questions and listen for wisdom:
 - Can you think of a difficult time that you went through? What / who helped you through that time?
 - How do you stay strong in your faith?
 - How do you grow and get to know Jesus better?
 - What advice would you like to give me that you wished someone had given you?
5. Pray together / ask them to pray for you.
6. Decide if you want to do a Bible study from the #imagine book together.
7. Decide if you want to meet again.
8. Post a photo of the 2 of you with the picture of the piggy at the back of the #imagine book. #imagine2019, #piggychallenge

NOTE: Read more about mentorship in this booklet or visit www.imaginemovement.co.za

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P.I.G.G.Y CHALLENGE

