

Small group leader's notes

Dive 1

Dive Schools

As this is the first time the Divers in each school will have met each other, make sure that all Dive Instructors and Dive Assistants make a special effort to welcome each Diver by name and make them feel at home. They can show the children the school drybag – a place where they can store coats, jumpers or anything else they have brought that they want to keep safe.

As the Divers arrive at their School, encourage them to put on some dive equipment (such as snorkels and face masks) and take their pictures (provided that parents or carers have given photo permission). Print these out and use them to decorate your Dive School. Make sure you include all Dive Instructors and Dive Assistants too! Be sure to clean or sanitise equipment after each child has posed for their photo.

Once everyone has arrived, tell the children the name of your Dive School and encourage them to come up with a shout or chant together that bigs up your School! It doesn't have to be complicated or long – something short and simple that the children can shout. A call and response structure might work well.

Depth gauge

Give each child a copy of *Dive Tables* (younger children) or *Dive Logbook* (older children).

Dive Tables

On page 5, solve the maze to discover the two objects that Flotsam and Jetsam found during 'Taking the plunge'. Read Matthew 1:18–24 and wonder together about how Joseph might have felt. On page 7, fill in the words that the angel said to Joseph. Ask the Divers what they think this tells them about Jesus.

Read the story of Jesus' baptism on page 8 and ask the Divers to draw themselves in the picture (on the far right on page 9). If they had been there, what would they have thought? They can write or draw that in the bubble.



Finish by chatting about anything that the children want to ask or comment on, with regard to this Dive's Bible stories and what they have discovered.

Dive Logbook

Check out the sunlight zone creature compilation on page 5. Which are the Divers' favourites? Go on to page 6, and challenge the Divers to describe themselves. Then, read Matthew 1:18–24 and ask how Matthew the writer described Jesus. Then do the activity with four different colours of felt-tip pen.

On page 8, read the story of Jesus' baptism and be ready to answer any questions the children have. Then invite them to draw themselves and write what they think on page 9. Give them enough time to do this – they'll need a bit of space to consider their response.

Finally, say that you've discovered how Matthew described Jesus; ask the Divers how they would describe Jesus. They can write or draw this in on page 10. If you have time, fill in the dive report on page 11. Otherwise, do this at the end of the Dive or encourage the children to do it at home.

Dive 2

Dive Schools

Welcome the children by name and make sure any new children are happy and know where the toilets are. Have the name of your Dive School written out with the letters in outline on a large sheet of paper. As the children arrive, encourage them to decorate the letters and draw pictures around them.

Remind the group of the shout or chant you came up with for your Dive School.

Once everyone is there, play some name games. For example, each Diver must say their own name and a sea creature they like, such as, 'My name is Alex and I like angelfish' or 'I'm Barbara and I like barnacles'. You could turn it into a memory game, with each player remembering what the previous Divers said, before adding their own name and creature.



Depth gauge

Give each child a copy of *Dive Tables* (younger children) or *Dive Logbook* (older children).

Dive Tables

Challenge the children to reveal Flotsam and Jetsam's two objects by colouring in the dotted sections on page 10. Chat about what makes the Divers happy/sad/angry/excited by using the questions on page 11. Then read Matthew 9:1-8 and invite the children to fill in the faces of the different characters in the story.

Go through page 14 with the Divers, talking about sin and why Jesus forgave the man's sins. Ask the children whether they think this is important. Why?

Finish by chatting about anything the children want to ask or comment on about this Dive's Bible stories and what they have discovered.

Dive Logbook

Encourage the children to check out the twilight zone creature compilation on page 12. Which are the Divers' favourites? Discover more about starfish on page 13 – if you have access to the internet, you could look up more pictures of different starfish (always supervise internet access, and follow your organisation's safeguarding policy).

On pages 14 and 15, read Matthew 9:1-8 and encourage the Divers to draw what they think the scene looks like. What expressions are all the characters going to have? Compare the different pictures and chat about why the children chose to draw certain things. If they had been there, what would they have thought?

Use the description on page 16 to chat about what sin is and why Jesus forgave the man's sins before he healed him. Then give children some time to think quietly about their response – there is some guidance for them on page 17. If you have time, invite the children to fill in the Dive report on page 18. Otherwise, do this at the end of the Dive or encourage the children to do it at home.

Dive 3

Dive Schools

Welcome the children by name and make sure any new children are happy and know where the toilets are. Lay out a large sheet of paper and draw on it the different zones of the ocean you have visited during Deep Sea Divers: sunlight, twilight, (midnight, abyssal – the zones from the Additional Dives) and trenches (which is today's zone, the deepest one). As the children arrive, encourage them to draw on some of the creatures that the Zoologist has introduced them to. If they can't remember, or if you have missed out one or two of the Dives, then provide tablets or phones so that they can look some sea creatures up online (always follow your organisation's safeguarding policy when using the internet with children).

As you work, talk about the Bible stories you have explored and what the children have discovered about Jesus. Finally, remind the group of the shout or chant you came up with for your Dive School.

Depth gauge

Give each child a copy of *Dive Tables* (younger children) or *Dive Logbook* (older children).

Dive Tables

Help the children to do the dot-to-dot puzzle on page 15 to find Flotsam and Jetsam's objects. Chat together about what those objects symbolise in today's story. There is a lot of Bible text today, so Matthew 26,27 has been rewritten and can be read on pages 16 and 17. You can read it all together or invite the children to do so on their own or in pairs. There are a few questions to think about on the way

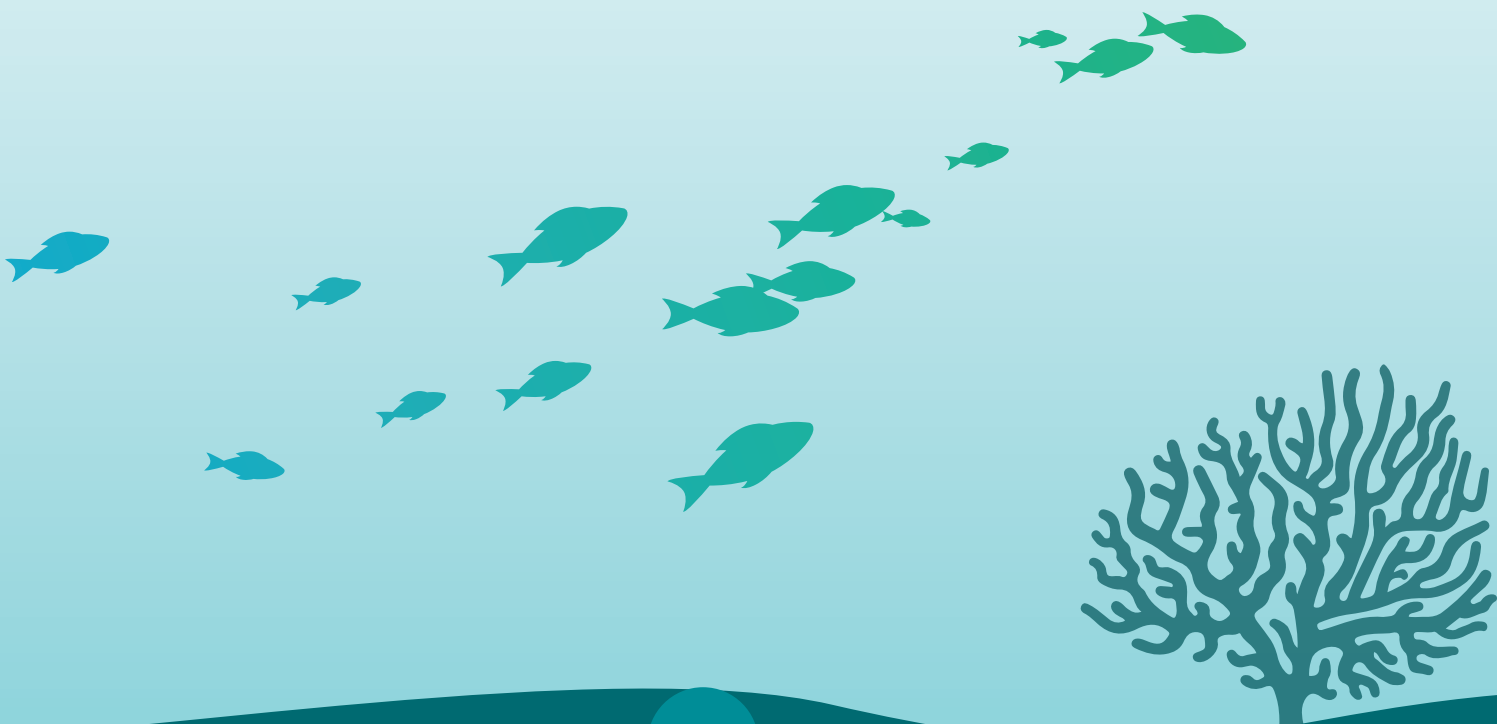
through the story – if children are working alone, make sure they stop and think about their answers to those questions.

Go on to read Matthew 28:1–10, the story of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. They were scared and joyful at the same time. Ask the children to use page 19 to think about why the two Marys were joyful. Do they feel joyful about the fact that Jesus is alive? Why? Why not?

Dive Logbook

Together, check out the trenches creature compilation on page 19. Which are the Divers' favourites? There is a lot of Bible text in today's Dive, so split the group in half. Ask one half to read Matthew 26:47–50 (page 20) and the other Matthew 26:57–67 (page 21), and then challenge each group to create a human tableau of the action in their passage. Do the same with pages 22 and 23. Then chat about what the Divers have discovered. Use page 24 to help the children to see how it looked like everything had ended for Jesus, but his death wasn't the end of his story.

Invite the children to look back at page 10 and see how they described Jesus at the start of **Deep Sea Divers**. Have they changed their minds? Encourage them to write anything new on page 25. If you have time, ask the children to fill in the Dive report on page 26. Otherwise, do this at the end of the Dive or encourage the children to do it at home.



Additional Dive A

Dive Schools

Welcome the children by name and make sure any new children are happy and know where the toilets are. As the children arrive, provide them with laptops, smartphones or tablets and encourage them to find photos of interesting sea creatures on the internet. (You will need to make sure any internet access is supervised and that you are following your organisation's safeguarding policy.) While this is happening, the Dive Instructors and Dive Assistants should remind the group of the shout or chant created for their Dive School.

Once everyone is there, provide the Divers with some clean 'junk' (such as cardboard boxes, foil, eggboxes, yogurt pots) and sticky tape, and challenge them to work together to make a junk model of one of the creatures they have found. They could also merge a few creatures together to come up with a totally new animal! This creation can be the mascot for their Dive School. (If they don't finish during this first Dive School time, you can remind the children that they can carry on with it later in the session.)

Depth gauge

Give each child a copy of *Dive Tables* (younger children) or *Dive Logbook* (older children).

Dive Tables

On page 20, challenge the children to spot Flotsam and Jetsam's objects in the picture. Chat about what they symbolised in the story. Encourage the children to look at the pictures on pages 21 and 22 that tell the start and end of the story. Ask them what pictures they would draw for the middle of the story. Encourage them to draw these in the empty boxes on pages 21 and 22. Following this, invite them to compare their pictures with others in the Dive School, then read the parable, encouraging the children to follow along using the pictures.

Use the wondering questions on page 23 to talk with the children more about the story, what it might mean and what this tells them about Jesus and his kingdom. Depending on where the children are in their faith journey, talk to them more about the kingdom of heaven. Matthew talks about it as Jesus' reign in the hearts and lives of his believers. It's a place where our relationship with God has been restored by Jesus. Explain that Jesus is often talked about as a king, and then encourage the children to

wonder about what a world where Jesus is the king might look like.

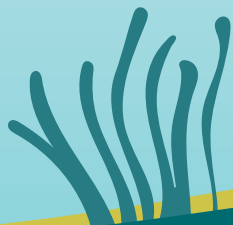
Finish by chatting about anything the children want to ask or comment on, with regard to this Dive's Bible story and what they have discovered.

Dive Logbook

Encourage the children to check out the midnight zone creature compilation on page 27 and then ask the Divers which are their favourites. Explore together some of the most valuable things found at sea on page 28. Chat with the children about what they would do if they found some treasure. Continue the conversation about value by asking the children what is valuable to them (page 29).

Read the children Matthew 13:45,46 on page 30 and then use the wondering questions on page 31 to open up the parable. If the children want to write or draw anything in the spaces, invite them to do so.

Finally, ask the children what they think the kingdom of heaven would be like. Ask them 'If Jesus is in charge, how will that affect things?' Encourage the children to use page 32 to put down some of their thoughts. Matthew talks about it as Jesus' reign in the hearts and lives of his believers. It's a place where our relationship with God has been restored by Jesus. Explain that Jesus is often talked about as a king. Encourage the children to wonder about what a world where Jesus is the king might look like. If there is time, the children can fill in the Dive's report on page 33. Otherwise, this can be done at the end of the Dive or you can encourage the children to complete it at home.



Additional Dive B

Dive Schools

Welcome the children by name and make sure any new children are happy and know where the toilets are. Set out a large sheet of paper and provide some felt-tip pens. As children arrive, encourage them to write phrases and draw pictures that sum up their time at **Deep Sea Divers** so far.

When everyone has arrived, play a game together where you walk around your space in a different style, such as tired, happy, itchy. As they do this, encourage the children to imagine they are on a boat, on a hot sandy beach or paddling on the seashore. After a few goes, ask the children to suggest some styles of their own. Who can do the silliest walk?

Finally, remind the group of the shout or chant you came up with for your Dive School.

Depth gauge

Give each child a copy of *Dive Tables* (younger children) or *Dive Logbook* (older children).

Dive Tables

Invite the children to complete the spot the difference puzzle of the story on page 24. Challenge them to find Flotsam and Jetsam's objects in the pictures. Tell the Divers that you are going to read out today's story (Matthew 14:22-33 or page 25) and that they should close their eyes and imagine what is going on. Encourage them to draw in what they imagine happened next in the space provided on page 26.

Read out the very important verse (Matthew 14:33).

Comment that Jesus' friends realised that Jesus was a special saviour sent from God to mend their relationship with him. Who do the children think Jesus is? Encourage them to write or draw on page 27, using some of the words on the page to help, if they like. At this point, you could share who Jesus is in your life, if this is appropriate for where your group is on their spiritual journey.

Dive Logbook

Encourage the children to check out the abyssal zone creature compilation on page 34. Which are the Divers' favourites? Direct them to page 35 where they can discover more about the lizard that can run on the surface of the water. If you have access to the internet, then look up a video of the basilisk lizard.

Then, read Matthew 14:22-33 from pages 36 and 37, stopping at the different points in the story and encouraging the children to add expressions on the blank faces. Chat about why the children chose to draw their expressions.

Challenge the children to crack the code to reveal the really important verse on page 39, and then ask the children who they would have said Jesus is if they had been in the boat with Jesus' other friends. If you have time, invite the children to fill in the Dive report on page 40. Otherwise, do this at the end of the Dive or encourage the children to do it at home.

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