

**Sunday 29 March 2020**  
**For very young children**

Play and wonder about Jesus being with us all the time.

**Play materials:** simple jigsaw puzzles.

**Gathering prayers**

Young children love repetition.

God loves me  
From the top of my head  
(*Touch head*)  
to the tips of my toes;  
(*Touch toes*)  
from the lobes of my ears  
(*Touch ear lobes*)  
to the end of my nose;  
(*Touch nose*)  
from my back, to my front  
(*Turn round*)  
to my wiggly fingers,  
(*stretch out arms and wiggle fingers*)  
God loves me!  
(*jump up and down*)

**Storytelling**

Lay out a cloth and place objects/pictures (in italics) on it as you tell the story.  
Jesus' friend Lazarus was ill (*toy stethoscope*) but Jesus did not go to visit him straight away.

Eventually, when he realised that Lazarus had died, Jesus decided to go to Lazarus' home. (*house*)

Lazarus' sisters Martha and Mary came to meet Jesus. (*play figures*)

They said, 'If only you had been here, you could have saved Lazarus.' (*cross*)

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me you will live. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' said Martha, 'I believe you are the Son of God.'

Jesus wept with Mary. (*tear drop*) Then he asked, 'Where is his tomb?' (*large stone*)

Outside the tomb, Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!' and Lazarus walked straight out of the tomb, alive again. (*white cloth*)

**Play**

Invite a child to curl up in a small space. Then shout, 'Come out!' and encourage them to come out as quickly as they can.

**Create**

Print off one template below per child. Cut out one teardrop, one smiley face (both on page one of template) and one *Jesus is always with us* circle (page two of template) for each child. Invite the children to decorate their teardrop and smiley-face shapes and then stick one of each to each side of their *Jesus is always with us* circle.

**Praise**

Play some reflective music.

**Suggestions**

Lord I need you

I am not alone

Your presence is heaven

**Pray**

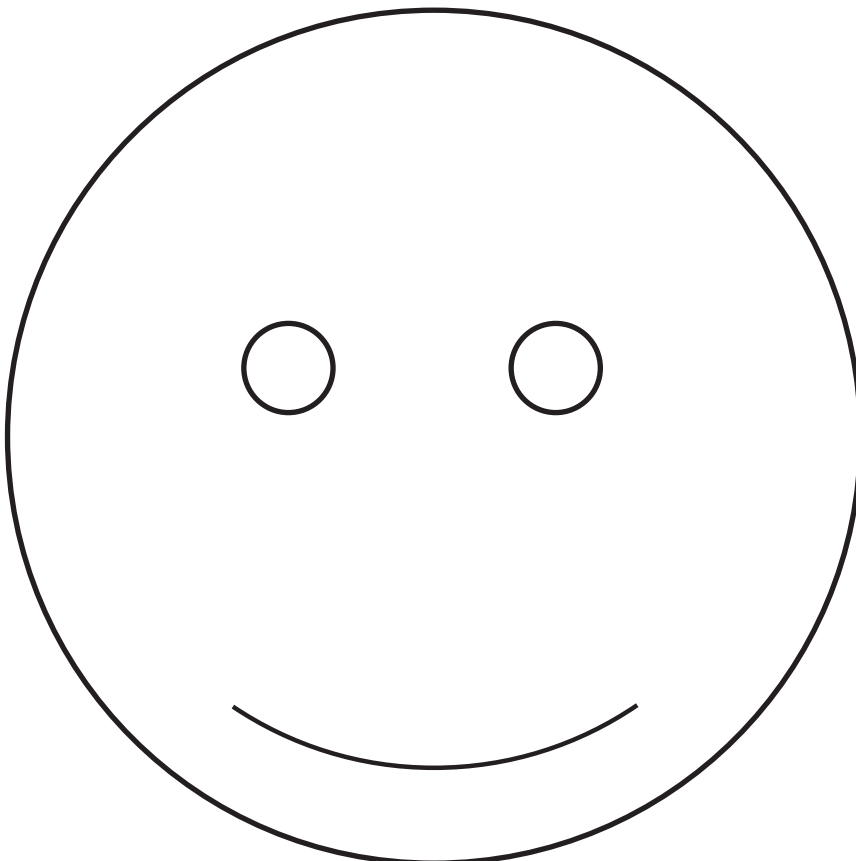
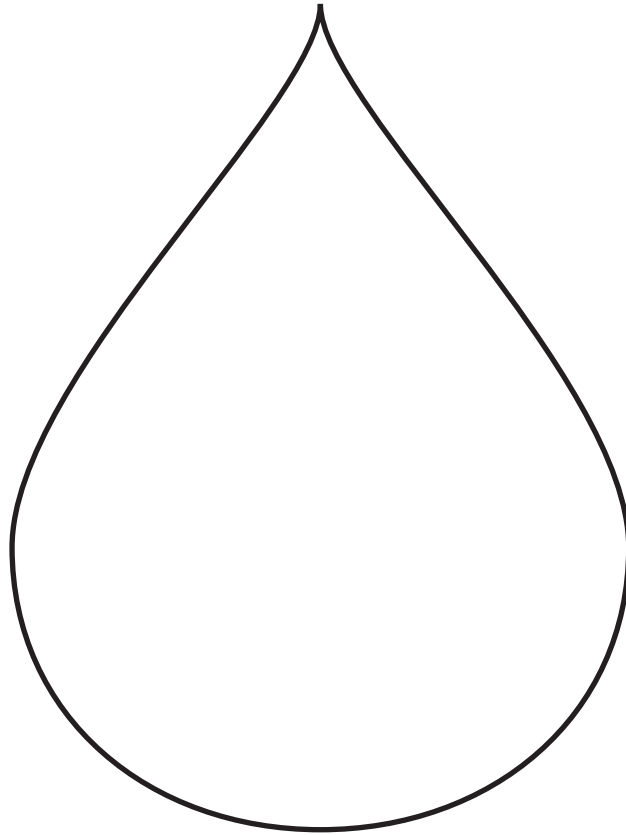
As a family, slowly put a simple jigsaw back together, as you pray:

When we feel far away from you, Jesus,

help us to know you are with us

and you will bring us back again.

**Amen.**



Jesus is always with us