



DEVELOPED BY DEAF KIDS CONNECT TO BE USED WITH

# JESUS, A DEAF MISSIONS FILM

RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES OF  
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN



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## ● ABOUT THE FILM

The Jesus film brings the story of Jesus to us in American Sign Language (ASL). The language in the film is advanced and artistic, performed by an entirely deaf cast. While the film is accessible to all people of signing skills, it can also be a resource for families of deaf and hard of hearing children of any age. It can be watched in homes—not only for movie nights but also during family devotions or family bible studies.

## ● FILM TO HOME

This curriculum provides guidance to families with deaf and hard of hearing children between the ages of 6–12. Your family will be immersed in sign language and the story of Jesus. It can be an incredible tool for your family to learn and connect to each other and Jesus. This study includes twelve lessons, each on a different scripture scene and age-appropriate activities that support biblical and sign language literacy<sup>1</sup>.

## ● PREPARATION TIPS

### 1) Read the entire document before starting.

Pay attention to materials, key words, and sign language notes. Consider practicing with someone to become comfortable with the lesson.

Become familiar with the [American Sign Language Version \(ASLV\) Bible](#).

### 2) Watch the movie before allowing your child to watch it.

This curriculum is centered around 12 child-friendly film scenes that are not violent, bloody or excessively scary. We respect the family's preferred exposure level; you may choose to watch the entire film with your child.

Feel free to determine which scenes you are comfortable allowing your child to watch. Document timestamps so you are prepared to skip over or find an alternative with ASLV or CBT (Chronological Bible Translation).

Become familiar with the character's English and sign names for ease of discussion.

### 3) Follow your deaf and hard of hearing child's lead.

It is more likely that this is your deaf and hard of hearing child's first time watching a feature-length film that is entirely in sign language. Additionally, attention spans vary by age. Give your child time to adjust to the language of the film (yourself included). It is ok to stop and resume later. Watching the film in short bursts can be helpful too! Children also love repetition—let them watch the same scene several times if they want.

<sup>1</sup> [www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/literacy-asl-literacy-01.htm](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/literacy-asl-literacy-01.htm)

Do not force attention to the screen. A deaf and hard of hearing child's eyes do not have to entirely be on the screen (watching the movie) to benefit from it. As visual learners, they are constantly picking up information around them. To get their attention back to the screen, pause the film to ask them questions (included in each lesson) or make a comment about the visual on the screen.

Do not assume that because you or your deaf and hard of hearing child is not ASL fluent like the film actors, neither of you will understand the language or the story of Jesus. YOU WILL! It takes prayer, repetition and laughter.

#### 4) Adjust as necessary.

Feel free to modify any part of this film study to best fit your deaf and hard of hearing child's needs and your family's. It is important that the child is connected to you, the parent, and the family, as well as to Jesus.

If you need to turn on the subtitles to support understanding of the sign, do it. Consider watching without subtitles first, then subtitles on, then off again.

You could also look at the same video text in [ASLV](#).

## ● THE STRUCTURE

Each lesson uses the same structure to support understanding and internalization of God's Word. Content is divided in sections. Below is an overview of each section.

- **Video Text:** The source video text is the primary source of the lesson. This will be a clip from the Jesus film. QR codes to video clips are provided for quick access.
- **Scripture Reference:** This lists the book, chapter and verses of the video text.
- **View the Word:** This section outlines steps to take when watching the video text and preparing for discussion prompts or activities. Three adaptations are provided for varying sign language proficiency: Beginner, Intermediate, Proficient.
- **Key Signs:** A list of signs are provided. Key signs are from the video text and critical to understanding the video dialogue and Scripture. Each key sign has a definition, an ASL Note and a Context note.
- **Discussion Prompts:** Dialogue is the most beneficial way to learn about God, acquire sign language and include the whole family. We provide different types of questions. Choose what best fits your child.



SESSION #1

# Lazarus

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 11: 1-45

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Resurrection:

- **Definition:** Rising again back to life from the dead.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “resurrection” is the same as “risen” and “resurrected”. To convey the right meaning, sign this phrase: “resurrection live again”.
- **Context:** Jesus is telling Lazarus’ sisters that Lazarus will be resurrected. He also tells them He is the Resurrection. He means that he himself will rise from the dead and will raise us from the dead.

### Life/Alive:

- **Definition:** living or in existence.
- **ASL Note:** They are both signed the same away. Use additional signs to make the context clear.
- **Context:** Jesus tells Lazarus’ sisters that He is the Life. He is trying to tell them that He is the source of all earthly life. Later He tells the sisters that Lazarus is alive, meaning he is living again.

## Believe:

- **Definition:** accept someone or something as true.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “believe” is the same as “belief”. The fact that the sign starts at the head signifies that it begins with knowledge.
- **Context:** Jesus mentions “believe” 4 times in this scene. Believing Him is as important as knowing Him.

## Trust:

- **Definition:** a firm belief in something or someone.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “trust” looks like “confidence”. That handshape and placement is commonly used to signify a firm action, not easily swayed.
- **Context:** In this scene, Lazarus’ sister seems to doubt Jesus. He asks if she trusts Him.

## God’s Will:

- **Definition:** the sovereign plan of God.
- **ASL Note:** The phrase is signed as “God His Plan”. The meaning is conveyed since there is no correct sign for “Will”. Some may sign “God His Want”. This can be acceptable.
- **Context:** Jesus tells Lazarus’ sister that opening Lazarus’ tomb is God’s Will.

## Perish/Die:

- **Definition:** to stop living.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “die” is the same for “perish”. It is also the sign for “death”.
- **Context:** In the event of Lazarus’ death, Jesus tells us that all who believe in Him will not perish.

## Messiah:

- **Definition:** the promised Savior.
- **ASL Note:** Because Jesus has many names, there are also many signs. To help children learn this, you can sign “Jesus Savior” or “Jesus Messiah”.
- **Context:** Lazarus’ sister proclaims she believes Jesus is the Messiah.

## Eternal:

- **Definition:** never ending, forever.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “eternal” is the same as “forever”. Fully outstretch the arm when you finish signing to show the length of days.
- **Context:** Jesus tells Lazarus’s sister that He gives eternal life.







SESSION #2

# Mary Washes Jesus' Feet

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 12: 1-8

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Waste:

- **Definition:** use or spend without care or purpose.
- **ASL Note:** This sign for “waste” is specific to this definition. The sign for “waste” as in trash is different.
- **Context:** Judas signs the word “waste” twice. It is his first reaction to seeing the woman pour the oil on Jesus’ feet.

### Expensive:

- **Definition:** costs a lot of money.
- **ASL Note:** If you sign “expensive” in a bigger size or with facial emphasis, you show how expensive you are talking about.
- **Context:** Judas says that the perfume the woman poured on Jesus’ feet is expensive.

## Poor:

- **Definition:** not having enough money.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “poor” in this film specifically refers to a lack of financial wealth. There is a different sign for “poor” when talking about quality.
- **Context:** Jesus says it is good to help poor people; He also says we will always have poor people with us.

## Motive (Heart Behind):

- **Definition:** reason for doing something.
- **ASL Note:** There is no one sign for “motive”. The sign “heart behind” shows the right concept of motive. Motives are “hidden”.
- **Context:** In this scene, Jesus knew Judas’ motive for saying it is better to sell the perfume.

## Remember:

- **Definition:** to have or hold in mind.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “remember” can be signed with one hand if it is used clearly with facial expressions.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the woman He will remember what she did.

## Wrong:

- **Definition:** not right or not correct.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “Wrong” can be easily misunderstood as “mistake”. Wrong is only signed once. Signing it bigger can create more emphasis on how wrong something is.
- **Context:** Jesus tells Judas that his true motive for selling the perfume was wrong.

## Important:

- **Definition:** something or someone that has great value or high status.
- **ASL Note:** Sign variations such as signing it bigger is a way to emphasize the magnitude of importance. “Important” is also a popular ASL phrase used in place of “at least” for sentences like “At least I did the dishes”.
- **Context:** What the woman did (sacrificing her perfume to wash Jesus’ feet) was important to Jesus.

## Always:

- **Definition:** never ending, forever.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “always” is very similar to “alone” but is signed with more emphasis.
- **Context:** Jesus tells Judas and the others there will always be poor people.



## ● DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### For Information Recall

- Ask your child to identify the characters. You can focus on the characters that are signing but as a challenge, ask your child to identify as many people as possible in the room.
- Ask about the setting. Where is this happening? (Environment, time of the day, etc)
- Ask your child to summarize the story, including the main idea and details.
- Ask what the mood or theme of the scene is.
- What was expensive?
- What was in the jar?
- What did Judas think they should do with the perfume?
- What did Jesus say about the poor?
- Is Jesus going to be with them for long?

### For Comprehension or Inferencing

- What did Jesus say we should do for poor people?
- How does Jesus want us to honor Him?
- Jesus says Judas has the wrong motive. What do you think is the real reason Judas is angry?
- The woman washes Jesus' feet with her hair. Why do you think she did not use a cloth?
- Why was washing Jesus' feet important?

### For Text to Self Connection

- What are some things you could stop wasting in your life?
- Would you enjoy eating dinner on the floor?
- The first word in the scene is "I'm happy you are here. Welcome." Tell me one person you could say that to.
- What is the most expensive thing you own that you could give to Jesus?
- Judas was wrong but Jesus was kind to him. How can you be kind to people who speak wrongly to you?

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*Additional resources on page 51*



SESSION #3

# Jesus Forgives Peter

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 21: 15- 17

## ● KEY SIGNS

### True-business:

- **Definition:** the ASL equivalent for English phrases: “Seriously”, “Literally” or “Real Talk”.
- **ASL Note:** Do not use the signs “True Business” separately. They must be signed together to retain the meaning.
- **Context:** Twice, Jesus asks Peter if Peter really loves Him.

### Deny:

- **Definition:** to disown or refuse to admit.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “deny” is not the same as the other definition of “deny”- to disapprove or reject.
- **Context:** Peter apologizes for denying Jesus.

## Forgive:

- **Definition:** to let go of a wrong thing someone did.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “forgive” is the same for other definitions of “forgive”. Use additional signs to show who is forgiving what.
- **Context:** Peter asks Jesus to forgive him. Jesus tells him that He has already forgiven him.

## VIEW THE WORD

1. Watch the video text.
2. Respond. Ask your child if they have any questions or thoughts to share. This is not a time for comprehension checks. It is a time to let the child share their initial reaction. What are they feeling? Is anything confusing, strange or “unbelievable”?

Watch their facial expressions for feelings that they may not be able to express in sign.

Feel free to give them the signs for different feelings to see which one they catch on.

Try signing: “Do you feel (                    )?” or “Do you think (                    )?”

3. Check for understanding.
  - a. Beginner: Ask your child to act out the scene. The child may use some signs or the ASL alphabet. You can also ask them to draw or use visual aids.
  - b. Intermediate: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in sign language. They may act out some things, spell out some words, or even ask to replay the video so they can point out what they caught.
  - c. Proficient: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in ASL. What they express should closely mirror what they saw.

If it seems unclear, re-watch the video text and consider using ASLV to reinforce understanding. When showing a Scripture reference, check if the child understands the Scripture reference is the same story as the video text.

4. Discuss the video text.

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SESSION #4

# The Bleeding Woman

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 12: 1-8

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Touch:

- **Definition:** to lay a part of your hand or the whole hand on something.
- **ASL Note:** This sign for “touch” is the same sign for all of its meaning. When signing in repetition, it shows frequency of touch. Use facial expressions to show the type of touch.
- **Context:** Jesus asks the crowd who touched Him.

### Feel:

- **Definition:** to experience an emotion, sensation, or touch.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “feel” looks the same as “feeling”. Use additional signs to show the difference.
- **Context:** Peter says there is a large crowd and asks Jesus how He felt the touch.

## Blood:

- **Definition:** a body fluid that is usually red.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “blood” is the same for “bleeding”. Use facial expressions and pace to show the difference.
- **Context:** The woman tells Jesus she bled for 12 years.

## Doctors:

- **Definition:** someone who is skilled in medicine and can treat disease.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “doctor” is the only sign for the word. Each medical term such as “nurses” or “psychiatrist” has their own sign.
- **Context:** The woman tells Jesus that she has been to many doctors.

## Heal:

- **Definition:** to remove or get rid of any injury or disease.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “heal” can look like “brave”. Be careful to sign “heal” outwardly on a parallel angle.
- **Context:** The woman says Jesus is the only One who healed her.

## Know:

- **Definition:** to have information or be aware.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “know” has variations. In the film, it meant “knew that”.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the woman he knew she has suffered.

## Suffer:

- **Definition:** to feel or experience something bad such as pain.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “suffer” must be signed the exact way it is signed in the film to show the right meaning. Facial expressions can change but the hand movement cannot. If it is signed differently, the meaning will change.
- **Context:** The woman tells Jesus she has suffered for a long time.

## Faith:

- **Definition:** believing something that cannot be seen.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “faith” looks the same as “trust”. Use facial expressions and other signs to show the difference.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the woman she is healed because of her faith.



## ● DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### For Information Recall

- Ask your child to identify the characters. You can focus on the characters that are signing but as a challenge, ask your child to identify as many people as possible in the room.
- Ask about the setting. Where is this happening? (Environment, time of the day, etc)
- Ask your child to summarize the story, including the main idea and details.
- Ask what the mood or theme of the scene is.
- Who was the woman looking \_\_\_\_\_ when she looked out the window?
- Who did the woman ask for help before she met Jesus?
- How long did the woman bleed?
- How did the woman feel after she touched Jesus's clothes?
- Did Jesus do anything physical to heal her?
- What did Jesus say healed the woman?

### For Comprehension or Inferencing

- Why did the woman only touch the bottom of Jesus' shawl?
- How was the woman feeling when she walked through the crowd?
- How serious do you think the woman's pain was?
- How did the woman know that Jesus can heal her?
- Describe the difference in the woman before meeting Jesus and after?
- How did Jesus know someone touched Him when He was surrounded by such a large crowd?

### For Text to Self Connection

- Is Jesus the true healer?
- Do you believe that Jesus can heal you?
- Would you be brave enough to go through a crowd to touch Jesus?
- What are some things you believe that you cannot see?
- What else do you think Jesus can heal?
- What do you think the woman's life was like after being healed?

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*Additional resources on page 51*



SESSION #5

# The Samaritan Woman at the Well

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 12:1-8

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Hope/Waiting:

- **Definition:** A “looking forward” to something promised but has not happened.
- **ASL Note:** The concept of hope is signed in three phrases: “look forward”, “hope” and “waiting”.
- **Context:** The Jewish and Samaritan people had been waiting for the Messiah (Jesus) for many generations.

### Samaritan:

- **Definition:** A group of Jewish people who moved to Samaria. Considered Separate from the Jews and Gentiles.
- **ASL Note:** There is no sign for this word. This is spelled out in the videotext.
- **Context:** While Samaritans were from Israel and in part Jews, the Jews saw this group as a separate and lowly people because Samaritans did not follow Jewish laws and traditions.

## Jew:

- **Definition:** a group of people born from Abraham's lineage. They lived in Israel and were considered God's Chosen People.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for Jews is not the same as the sign for Israelites. The sign for Jews refers to Israelites who follow and keep Old Testament customs.
- **Context:** Even though the Old Testament tells us that Jewish people are God's Chosen People, remember that this is before Christ. When Christ came, all people who believed and accepted Jesus as Savior are His Chosen people.

## Worship:

- **Definition:** to give God honor, praise and obedience because of who He is.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for worship is often used as a reference to the musical form of worship (singing or signing songs). It is not the only way to use the sign. It can be used in any statement that means to give God honor.
- **Context:** Jewish people believed that the only way to worship God was at the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was telling the woman at the well that because of Him, believers can worship God anywhere, anytime.

## Living Water:

- **Definition:** a life full of forgiveness, grace and love from God; it always satisfies.
- **ASL Note:** The phrase is signed in two words: "life" and "water". The sign for "life" is the same for "living" but is signed at a different pace.
- **Context:** Jesus told the woman that He is the "Living Water" to let her know that He is the Messiah and the only one who will always love her.

## Spirit:

- **Definition:** a form of God that lives within believers; also known as the Holy Spirit.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for "Spirit" is the same as "ghost". We strongly recommend using the sign phrase "Holy Spirit" to help differentiate the meaning.
- **Context:** Jesus is telling the woman and us that in Spirit, we can worship him anywhere and anytime.

## Truth:

- **Definition:** the true source of life and salvation.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for "truth" is the same for all meanings-biblical or not. We recommend spelling "T-R-U-T-H" out when teaching that Jesus is the truth.
- **Context:** When Jesus says "worship Him in Spirit and Truth", he tells us that the only way to worship or have a relationship with God is through Jesus. Jesus is the truth.

## Eternal Life:

- **Definition:** life that never ends.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “eternal life” looks like “Forever life”. Some children may take this at face value as if it means their earthly life will last forever. Use context to teach or remind children that “eternal life” is life after Earth or life after our physical life ends.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the woman that He gives eternal life.

## Thirst:

- **Definition:** feeling like they need to drink something.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “thirst” is the same for the word “thirsty”. Facial expressions, speed of sign or additional phrases help clarify which word is being used.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the woman that He is the Living Water; the only one who satisfies the heart and soul. It is not about physical thirst but spiritual or emotional thirst. Anyone who believes in him will never feel they need something.

## ● VIEW THE WORD

1. Watch the video text.
2. Respond. Ask your child if they have any questions or thoughts to share. This is not a time for comprehension checks. It is a time to let the child share their initial reaction. What are they feeling? Is anything confusing, strange or “unbelievable”?

Watch their facial expressions for feelings that they may not be able to express in sign.

Feel free to give them the signs for different feelings to see which one they catch on.

Try signing: “Do you feel (                    )?” or “Do you think (                    )?”

3. Check for understanding.
  - a. Beginner: Ask your child to act out the scene. The child may use some signs or the ASL alphabet. You can also ask them to draw or use visual aids.
  - b. Intermediate: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in sign language. They may act out some things, spell out some words, or even ask to replay the video so they can point out what they caught.
  - c. Proficient: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in ASL. What they express should closely mirror what they saw.

If it seems unclear, re-watch the video text and consider using ASLV to reinforce understanding. When showing a Scripture reference, check if the child understands the Scripture reference is the same story as the video text.

4. Discuss the video text.

## ● DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### For Information Recall

- Ask your child to name the characters.
- Ask about the setting. Where is this happening? (Environment, time of the day, etc)
- Ask your child to summarize the story, including the main idea and details.
- Ask what the mood or theme of the scene is.
- Ask what the disciples complained about.

### For Comprehension or Inferencing

- Did the woman's feelings change?
- How did the woman feel after talking with Jesus?
- Why did the woman act the way she did towards Jesus?
- Who was really judging whom?
- Did the woman believe Jesus' message right away?
- How did Jesus prove He was really God?
- Where do you think the woman was going after talking with Jesus?

### For Text to Self Connection

- Can you imagine an ordinary day being changed like this? What would that be like?
- What if someone amazing showed up, and picked you to be their friend?
- What if you felt yucky inside, and someone wanted you anyway?
- Do you feel that Jesus is your Living Water?

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*Additional resources on page 51*



SESSION #6

# Catching Fish

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 5: 4-11

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Work:

- **Definition:** the use of one's strength or ability to get something done or to achieve a result.
- **ASL Note:** The video shows Peter signing "work" repeatedly to show they have continuously worked. To show different degrees of "work", modify facial expressions, speed or repetition of the sign to match.
- **Context:** Peter was telling Jesus that the disciples have worked all night.

### All Night:

- **Definition:** something that lasts throughout most or all of the night.
- **ASL Note:** The phrase "all night" is one sign using both arms. Modify speed and facial expressions to show the mood/tone of the night.
- **Context:** Peter was telling Jesus that the disciples have worked all night.

## Command:

- **Definition:** an order from someone in authority.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “command” in this film is the equivalent to “You commanded me.” Modify placement, speed and facial expressions to show who is giving the command and who is receiving it, as well as the firmness of the command.
- **Context:** Jesus tells Peter to sail the boat back out into the lake. Peter objects then signs the English equivalent of “Because You commanded us, we will do it.”

## Leave:

- **Definition:** to go away from someone or someplace.
- **ASL Note:** This is one variation of the sign for “leave”. The way it is signed in the film is equivalent to this statement “Leave me”. Modify placement, speed and facial expressions to show the direction of the action and the seriousness.
- **Context:** Peter tells Jesus to leave from his presence. He is feeling ashamed and humbled.

## Worthless:

- **Definition:** something or someone that has no value, worth or goodness.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “worthless” is the standard sign but can be placed on different people or objects to show what the subject is. The sign can be exaggerated by signing bigger or using stronger negative facial expressions to emphasize how worthless something is.
- **Context:** Peter tells Jesus that he is a worthless sinner. He offers this as an explanation for telling Jesus to leave.

## Sinner:

- **Definition:** a person who does things that is against God, a person who sins.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “die” is the same for “perish”. It is also the sign for “death”.
- **Context:** Peter tells Jesus that he is a worthless sinner. He offers this as an explanation for telling Jesus to leave.

## ● Come:

- **Definition:** move towards something, someone or a specific location.
- **ASL Note:** “Come” can be signed with one or two hands but it must be clear where you are telling the person “to come to”. Change the direction to indicate where you want someone to move towards.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the two disciples in the boat to “come and follow me”. He signs “Come” with two hands - one hand to each disciple.

## Follow:

- **Definition:** to go or come after someone or something that is ahead of you.
- **ASL Note:** The way that Jesus signs “follow” is the standard sign. Change the direction to indicate who or what you want the person to follow.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the two disciples in the boat to “come and follow me”.

## VIEW THE WORD

1. Watch the video text.
2. Respond. Ask your child if they have any questions or thoughts to share. This is not a time for comprehension checks. It is a time to let the child share their initial reaction. What are they feeling? Is anything confusing, strange or “unbelievable”?

Watch their facial expressions for feelings that they may not be able to express in sign.

Feel free to give them the signs for different feelings to see which one they catch on.

Try signing: “Do you feel (                    )?” or “Do you think (                    )?”

3. Check for understanding.
  - a. Beginner: Ask your child to act out the scene. The child may use some signs or the ASL alphabet. You can also ask them to draw or use visual aids.
  - b. Intermediate: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in sign language. They may act out some things, spell out some words, or even ask to replay the video so they can point out what they caught.
  - c. Proficient: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in ASL. What they express should closely mirror what they saw.

If it seems unclear, re-watch the video text and consider using ASLV to reinforce understanding. When showing a Scripture reference, check if the child understands the Scripture reference is the same story as the video text.

4. Discuss the video text.





SESSION #7

# Jesus Walks On Water

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 14: 22-33

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Wind:

- **Definition:** a movement of the air.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “wind” in the film is one of several variations. In the film, “wind” is signed specifically to show that the wind is moving towards them. Change the direction of the sign to show where the wind is moving.
- **Context:** A disciple stands up to warn the others of the strong winds that are coming.

### Waves:

- **Definition:** a moving line or curve that may swell up in the sea.
- **ASL Note:** The way it is signed in the film indicates large waves. The sign “wave” can be modified in size or frequency to reflect the tempo of waves.
- **Context:** A disciple stands up to warn the others of the large waves that are coming.

## Ghost:

- **Definition:** a shadowy or vague figure that may look similar to a person.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “ghost” looks similar to “spirit”. When used alone, it has a secular meaning of ghost or spirit. Add facial expressions to differentiate between different types of ghosts.
- **Context:** Another disciple sees Jesus standing on the water in the middle of the storm. He points to Jesus and signs “ghost” to say that Jesus is a ghost.

## Afraid:

- **Definition:** feeling of fear or anxiety.
- **ASL Note:** There is only one sign for “afraid”. To show the degree of fear, modify speed, frequency of motion and facial expression.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the disciples, “Do not be afraid”.

## Yeshua (Jesus):

- **Definition:** The Son of God who is also the One who saves.
- **ASL Note:** Yeshua is the Jewish word for “salvation”. Because of its meaning, Yeshua is signed in the same style as “Savior”.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the disciples, “Do not be afraid. I am Yeshua.”

## Why:

- **Definition:** the cause, reason or purpose of something.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “why” is standard. To add emphasis or a different tone to the word, modify signing size, repeat or add facial expressions.
- **Context:** Jesus asks Peter why Peter doubted. He asks twice.

## Doubt:

- **Definition:** to not believe fully.
- **ASL Note:** There are several sign variations of the word “doubt”. The sign used in the film is known nationally. To add emphasis or a different tone to the word, modify speed, repeat or add facial expressions.
- **Context:** Jesus asks Peter why Peter doubted.

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SESSION #8

# Lord's Supper

## ● VIDEO TEXT

## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 22: 7 - 23

## ● KEY SIGNS



### Body:

- **Definition:** the physical structure of a person or animal.
- **ASL Note:** In the film, Jesus signs "body" with one hand because he is holding the bread. It is best to sign with both hands. The motion and direction is the same. The sign for body in this film is standard and can be used across any context or subject. However, it only refers to a person's fleshy form. It would not be the right sign for phrases such as "body of water".
- **Context:** Jesus declared the bread as His body, sacrificed for us.

### Sacrifice:

- **Definition:** an offer of something or something to God.
- **ASL Note:** This is the only sign for sacrifice. It is the same sign used for "surrender". Use context to distinguish between the two meanings.
- **Context:** Jesus declared the bread as His body, sacrificed for us.

## Remember:

- **Definition:** to hold something that you know in your mind.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for remember is standard. Use facial expressions and size modifications to show the underlying mood.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the disciples to remember Him when they eat bread.

## Blood:

- **Definition:** red body fluid that is made up of cells and other body substances.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for blood in the film is standard in any context or subject. Use facial expressions or size modifications to show the underlying meaning or attached emotion to blood.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the disciples, "The wine is His Blood".

## Sin:

- **Definition:** doing or thinking things that are against God.
- **ASL Note:** There is one sign for "sin". However, you can modify the sign to show the seriousness or hideousness of the act by adding facial expressions.
- **Context:** Jesus says that His blood is for the forgiveness of sins.

## Forgiven:

- **Definition:** to pardon or cancel a debt or to stop feeling anger against someone.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for "forgive" throughout the scene (and the film) is the same. It looks the same as the sign for "excuse", "pardon" or "dismiss". Use context to indicate the sign means "forgive"
- **Context:** Jesus says that His blood is for the forgiveness of sins.







SESSION #9

# Rich Man Meets Jesus

## ● VIDEO TEXT

## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 18: 18- 23

## ● KEY SIGNS



### Impossible:

- **Definition:** something that cannot be done or cannot exist.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for impossible in this film is the standard sign. It can be modified to match the mood and tone of the signer by adjusting size and facial expressions.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the disciples that it is impossible for men to save (himself or someone else) and enter Heaven but with God it is possible.

### How:

- **Definition:** in what way.
- **ASL Note:** The hand movements of the sign “how” in the film is correct. However, it is spaced apart and signed with facial expressions to show the depth of his question. You can modify the sign by adjusting frequency, sign and facial expressions.
- **Context:** The rich man asks Jesus how he can have eternal life.

## Obey:

- **Definition:** to follow or to do what is commanded.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “obey” in this film shows the direction of obedience, which is from earth to Heaven/God. You can modify sign placement and direction to show who obeys who.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the rich man to obey and follow the commandments.

## Commandments:

- **Definition:** an order or orders from someone in authority.
- **ASL Note:** The word “Commandment” in this scene refers to the 10 Commandments. That is why it is signed in two parts: “command” and “list” looks like a list. This sign should not be modified when using or thinking of “Ten Commandments”.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the rich man to obey and follow the commandments.

## Missing:

- **Definition:** something or someone not here or included.
- **Note:** There are at least three sign variations of the word “missing”. However, this specific sign refers to something or someone that is not present as in absent.
- **Context:** The rich man tells Jesus that all his life he has followed the Ten Commandments but one thing is missing.

## Heaven:

- **Definition:** the place where God lives.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “heaven” in this film or in biblical context refers only to the residence of God. If you want to talk about the heavens as in the skies, use the sign for sky.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the disciples that it is hard for a rich man to enter Heaven.

## Future:

- **Definition:** a period time that happens after “now; at a later time.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “future” is standard. You can indicate how far in the future by moving the open handed sign further away from your body and adjusting your facial expression.
- **Context:** Peter asks Jesus what the disciples’ future is as they have already given up everything and followed Him.



## ● DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### For Information Recall

- Ask your child to name the characters.
- Ask about the setting. Where is this happening? (Environment, time of the day, etc)
- Ask your child to summarize the story, including the main idea and details.
- Ask what the mood or theme of the scene is.
- What/who did the rich man have with him?
- Exactly what did Jesus ask the rich man to do?
- What was Peter worried about?
- What animal did Jesus say can go through a needle?
- List the 10 Commandments.

### For Comprehension or Inferencing

- Why did the rich man bow down to Jesus?
- Why do you think the rich man knew something was missing?
- Jesus lists the 10 Commandments but also gave other commands like “sell your things and give to the poor” and “Come and follow me”. Which command do you think is the most important for entering Heaven?
- Jesus repeats “Sacrifice everything and follow Me”. Why do you think he does this?
- Why do you think Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to go to heaven?

### For Text to Self Connection

- What would be the hardest thing for you to sacrifice for Jesus?
- Money is important in this earthly life. How do we make sure it doesn't prevent us from fully following Jesus?
- Are you holding something back from Jesus?
- How are you following Jesus lately? Give some examples.

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*Additional resources on page 51*



SESSION #10

# The Empty Tomb

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 24: 1 - 16

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Don't Know:

- **Definition:** not knowing.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “don't know” is standard across any context or subject. Add tone by modifying the size of the sign or the facial expression.
- **Context:** Mary Magdalene is signing that she does not know where Jesus' body is.

### Where:

- **Definition:** the location of someone or something.
- **ASL Note:** This is one of two signs for “where”. This sign is also used for “what”. Use facial expressions to show you are asking a question and if appropriate, sign “question”.
- **Context:** Mary Magdalene is signing that she does not know where Jesus' body is.

## Must:

- **Definition:** required or have to.
- **ASL Note:** There are two sign variations for “must”. This one is most commonly used when referring to “must” as a verb. Adjust the degree of requirement by adding facial expressions or modifying the speed or size of the sign.
- **Context:** Peter says he must go and see the empty tomb.

## See:

- **Definition:** to notice something with the eyes.
- **ASL Note:** Peter signs “see” twice in the film. While the hand formation and movement he uses is correct, the repetition is to emphasize how urgently he wanted to see. You can do the same with the sign “see”.
- **Context:** Peter says he must go and see the empty tomb.

## Serious:

- **Definition:** not joking or being funny.
- **ASL Note:** The sign is standard across context and subjects. Show the degree of severity by signing more sharply and adding facial expressions.
- **Context:** Peter asks Mary if she is serious.

## True:

- **Definition:** is right, factual or real.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “true” in the film is standard for the concept. Modify to show the tone with facial expressions or additional signs.
- **Context:** A disciple approaches Mary Magdalene to ask if it’s true.



## ● DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### For Information Recall

- Ask your child to name the characters.
- Ask about the setting. Where is this happening?  
(Environment, time of the day, etc)
- Ask your child to summarize the story, including the main idea and details.
- Ask what the mood or theme of the scene is.
- When did this happen?
- What is this event called?
- Who is the first person to announce that Jesus' body is missing?
- Who is the first person to run out to see the empty tomb?

### For Comprehension or Inferencing

- Where do you think Jesus went?
- Mary Magdalene looked as if she had different feelings.  
What kind of feelings do you think she was feeling?
- Why do you think Peter is the first one to run out to see Jesus?
- What are the disciples confused about?
- Do you think the disciples should have been surprised?

### For Text to Self Connection

- Describe how you might feel if you found someone you loved gone suddenly?
- Do you truly believe in the Resurrection- that you also will rise from the dead?
- Are there some promises or commands from Jesus that you did not remember? (The disciples forgot that Jesus already told them He would rise again hence their confusion).
- Can you imagine being face to face with Jesus? What would that be like?

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*Additional resources on page 51*



SESSION #11

# The Paralyzed Man

## ● VIDEO TEXT



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 5: 18-25

## ● KEY SIGNS

### Sins:

- **Definition:** doing or thinking things that are against God.
- **ASL Note:** There is one sign for “sin”. However, you can modify the sign to show the seriousness or hideousness of the act by adding facial expressions.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the paralytic man that his sins have been forgiven. He also asks the Pharisees: “Which is easier: forgive his sins or tell a man to get up and walk?”

### Forgiven:

- **Definition:** to pardon or cancel a debt or to stop feeling anger against someone.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “forgive” throughout the scene (and the film) is the same. It looks the same as the sign for “excuse”, “pardon” or “dismiss”. Use context to indicate the sign means “forgive”.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the paralytic man that his sins have been forgiven. The Pharisee also signs “Only God can forgive”.

## Blasphemy:

- **Definition:** saying something or doing something that insults or dishonors God.
- **ASL Note:** The film uses the sign “curse” for the word “speaking blasphemy”. In ASL, the sign shows the correct concept of how one would blaspheme and the wrongness of it. However, it is not the sign for the other meaning of “curse” (swear words).
- **Context:** The Pharisee says that Jesus is speaking blasphemy.

## Insult:

- **Definition:** to say something rude and disrespectful about a person or a thing.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “insult” can be modified to show who is insulting who. In the film, the Pharisee signs “insult” upward to the sky because God is “up there”. Change the direction of the sign to match the direction of the insult.
- **Context:** The Pharisee says that Jesus is speaking blasphemy and insults God.

## Heart:

- **Definition:** the center or the core of a person; also the organ that pumps blood to our bodies.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “heart” is used to indicate the physical and spiritual aspect of the heart. Usually, this sign is not modified. Another sign would be added to show the condition of the heart.
- **Context:** Jesus tells the Pharisees that there is discord in their hearts.

## Easier:

- **Definition:** something that is not hard or challenging.
- **ASL Note:** There is only one sign for “easier”. Add facial expressions to show the degree of ease when used in context.
- **Context:** He asks the Pharisees: “Which is easier: forgive his sins or tell a man to get up and walk?”

## Authority:

- **Definition:** an individual, group of individuals or a body of government that has the power to make things happen or has control.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “authority” is the same for all meanings—biblical or not.
- **Context:** Jesus declares that he will show evidence that he has the authority to forgive sins.

## Earth:

- **Definition:** the world, it is the planet human lives on.
- **ASL Note:** The sign for “Earth” in the film refers to the formal name of the planet. There are no sign alternatives or modifications. If you want to sign “earth” as in dirt/ground, it is best to spell it.
- **Context:** Jesus declares that he will show evidence that he has the authority on Earth.

## ● VIEW THE WORD

1. Watch the video text.
2. Respond. Ask your child if they have any questions or thoughts to share. This is not a time for comprehension checks. It is a time to let the child share their initial reaction. What are they feeling? Is anything confusing, strange or “unbelievable”?

Watch their facial expressions for feelings that they may not be able to express in sign.

Feel free to give them the signs for different feelings to see which one they catch on.

Try signing: “Do you feel (                    )?” or “Do you think (                    )?”

3. Check for understanding.
  - a. Beginner: Ask your child to act out the scene. The child may use some signs or the ASL alphabet. You can also ask them to draw or use visual aids.
  - b. Intermediate: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in sign language. They may act out some things, spell out some words, or even ask to replay the video so they can point out what they caught.
  - c. Proficient: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in ASL. What they express should closely mirror what they saw.

If it seems unclear, re-watch the video text and consider using ASLV to reinforce understanding. When showing a Scripture reference, check if the child understands the Scripture reference is the same story as the video text.

4. Discuss the video text.

## ● DISCUSSION PROMPTS

### For Information Recall

- Ask your child to name the characters.
- Ask about the setting. Where is this happening? (Environment, time of the day, etc)
- Ask your child to summarize the story, including the main idea and details.
- Ask what the mood or theme of the scene is.
- There was a man who was watching the scene from afar. What is his name? What does he do for work?
- What does Jesus tell him?
- Why are the Pharisees upset with Jesus?
- Jesus says he has \_\_\_\_\_ on Earth. What does he have?

### For Comprehension or Inferencing

- Do you think the tax collector was happy at his job?
- Why did the paralyzed man and his friends go through the roof?
- Jesus signed “hearts were grumbling”. Whose hearts was he talking about?
- What was important about forgiving the man’s sins first before telling him to walk?
- Who gave Jesus authority on Earth?

### For Text to Self Connection

- Since Jesus has authority on Earth, does that mean Jesus has authority over you? What about God? What about the Holy Spirit?
- Name some authority figures in your life. Explain how you can and do honor them.
- Jesus told Matthew to follow me. Matthew quickly left his job and followed him. Why do you think Matthew was so fast to follow Jesus?
- Since Jesus knew that the Pharisee’s hearts were in discord, do you think Jesus knows your heart? Why or why not?

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*Additional resources on page 51*



SESSION #12

# Crucifixion

## ● VIDEO TEXT

**Special Note:** *The full scene is graphic. It is up to you to show only the clip in this lesson plan or to allow them to watch the full crucifixion scene. As the parent, you know your child's tolerance for blood and pain best. This lesson can be discussed without showing the entire scene. We offer a one minute clip. Jesus is on the cross and bloodied but no other graphic activity is happening.*



## ● SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 23

## ● KEY SIGNS

Due to the graphic nature of the crucifixion scene, this lesson only focuses on Jesus's mother and Jesus's "last message" to us. There are no signs exchanged in this scene except one - "I Love You".

It is important to note that the film was created in entirety by deaf professionals who saw Jesus as they saw themselves-deaf. Scientifically and physically, a deaf Jesus would not be able to sign. They would have limited motion in their fingers. Similarly, a hearing person on the cross would be in such excruciating pain that more likely they would not be able to speak as much. The choice to use the sign "I Love You" signifies many things.

His last thoughts as written, "Forgive them" or "I commend my spirit" are from love and for love. And Jesus' last thought was of us and how much he loved us.

1. With all Jesus's strength, He reminds us He loves us.
2. With all Jesus's grace, He shows that forgiveness comes with love.
3. With all Jesus's mercy, He proclaims love instead of condemnation.
4. With all Jesus' love, He submits to our Father's salvation plan for us.

How can there be any other sign- other than the Savior on the cross declaring "I LOVE YOU"?

## ● VIEW THE WORD

1. Watch the video text.
2. Respond. Ask your child if they have any questions or thoughts to share. This is not a time for comprehension checks. It is a time to let the child share their initial reaction. What are they feeling? Is anything confusing, strange or "unbelievable"?

Watch their facial expressions for feelings that they may not be able to express in sign.

Feel free to give them the signs for different feelings to see which one they catch on.

Try signing: "Do you feel ( )?" or "Do you think ( )?"

3. Check for understanding.
  - a. Beginner: Ask your child to act out the scene. The child may use some signs or the ASL alphabet. You can also ask them to draw or use visual aids.
  - b. Intermediate: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in sign language. They may act out some things, spell out some words, or even ask to replay the video so they can point out what they caught.
  - c. Proficient: Ask your child to retell what he/she saw in ASL. What they express should closely mirror what they saw.

If it seems unclear, re-watch the video text and consider using ASLV to reinforce understanding. When showing a Scripture reference, check if the child understands the Scripture reference is the same story as the video text.

4. Discuss the video text.





## Additional Resources

### ● OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Families can choose to supplement the lesson with activities. All activities require use of visual cues. This will support communication in sign language between each other! All activities can also be used with any scene from the film. The intention is for your family to continue to grow in Scripture and sign language skills. Your child will let you know if the activity helps or not by their participation level or by their re-telling of the passage.

- **Memory Verses**

If you are using this scripture passage as a memory verse, we recommend repeating Steps 1-3 in the “View the Word” section.

We also recommend reviewing Key Signs as key signs are used repeatedly throughout the Jesus film and in bible studies. Consider vocabulary activities.

- **Bible Charades**

Write the key signs on strips of paper and put them in a bowl. Take turns picking a paper strip and acting it out. The trick is to NOT use the key sign in the acting. The first person to guess the key sign is next. The correct way to guess the key sign is to sign the word or spell it out.

- **Scripture Relay**

Have all family members stand in a circle facing each other. Choose one person to go first. This person must act out the first few seconds of the scene. The person on the right must act out the next few seconds and so on and on until the whole scene is re-enacted. When the scene is finished, have everyone change places and go again. Challenge: Time yourselves or using elimination when someone takes too long to sign their part.

- **Scripture Pictionary**

Divide into two or three teams. Set up either a large white paper or an iPad with a drawing app that is showing on a large TV. Write the key signs on strips of paper and put them in a bowl. The person who drew the paper strip has to draw the exact scene in which that key sign was used. The other people on that person's team have to give the correct answer by stating what was happening in that particular moment.

- **Flash Cards**

To practice remembering the English text and the matching sign, write down the English text of each key word on individual index cards. Use these cards with family members to practice spelling AND signing the key words. Challenge: Use the flash cards all day to show at random moments!

- **Picture Cards**

There are many free online picture cards of Scripture; they are commonly called "Match Games". Instead of matching the cards, you can also:

- Ask the child to put the cards in order and summarize the story.
- Show one card at a time and describe the picture to your child or have your child describe the picture to you.
- Show one card at a time and ask the child to sign exactly what is happening or being said at that point of time. For example, if a card shows a picture of Jesus with fish in his hands, the child would say that Jesus was praying for the meal.

## ● PARENT TO PARENT SUPPORT

Deaf Kids Connect offers parents to parent support via Zoom. Our parent mentors are also parents of a deaf and hard of hearing child(ren). They have walked in the same shoes and share the same desire to connect their child to Jesus. Sign up to meet with another parent of a deaf and hard of hearing child to learn more about using the Jesus film at home. Zoom meetings are one hour; it is a time to ask questions, practice the lessons, or prayer.

Sign Up to meet with a parent mentor. →



Sign Up to become a parent mentor. →



## ● ABOUT DEAF KIDS CONNECT

Deaf Kids Connect is a family-oriented ministry advocating for families with deaf and hard of hearing children. Our three principles are:

- Immersion in sign language and God's Word.
- Include into the home, community, and the Church
- Integrate Deaf and Hearing values, as well as God's

Our Vision is to connect all Deaf and Hard of Hearing children with the love of Jesus.

Our Mission is to equip Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families for a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

We believe in applying these values in everyday life, such as at home, school, and church. We walk alongside families in the joys and challenges of raising a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child in an audio-centric world. Some tools and support we offer are training, workshops, ASL/English videos, and parent to parent support. On [DeafKidsConnect.com](https://DeafKidsConnect.com), we offer a resource page with activities for your family to engage in together and learn more about Jesus.



