# Fathers’ Day

* Celebrate Fathers
* Virtual sausage sandwich!

SONG: Come people of the risen King

NOTICES

# Prayer p.s.

* Heaven like a prayer call centre?!
* All our Angels are currently busy. Your prayer is important to us. Please hold the line.
* No! We have access directly to God himself
* P.R.A.Y.

Prayer

SONG: I’m gonna jump up and down

# Uncovering the mystery

* Paul speaks about a mystery that has been kept hidden through the ages.
* “I … present to you the word of God in its fullness— **26**the **mystery** that has been kept hidden for ages and generations.” *Colossians 1:25-26*
* Inspired by Dave’s Bible Study series, we’re going to become Bible Detectives
* Going to search for some clues to see if we can uncover the mystery!

# Is it okay for some things to remain secret of hidden until the right time?

* Christmas presents under the tree. I wonder what they’ve got me.
* Last time I spoke, we went on a treasure hunt.
* If you knew what the treasure was before you started, that would be disappointing!
* There is a right time for some mysteries to be revealed.

# Looking for clues

* We’re going to look for some clues to help solve this mystery!
* Magnifying glasses and deer-stalkers optional – as Dave said!
* Before we start, we’re going to sing again.

SONG: I’m gonna clap my hands to say I love you

# The garden of Eden

* “You may eat from any tree in the garden. **17**But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, on that day you will certainly die!” *Genesis 2:16-17*
* One thing that they weren’t allowed to do
* That was the one thing they decided they wanted to do (with a little nudge from a nasty snake)
* Parents and children – does this sound horribly familiar?!
* Would be get-fitters or lose weighters – does this sound horribly familiar too?!

# The curse – Genesis 3:14-15

* The problem – it caused a rift between us and God
* It fatally damaged our friendship with him.
* This is what God said to the snake
* **14**So the Lord God said to the snake,
* “You did this very bad thing,  
      so bad things will happen to you.  
  It will be worse for you  
      than for any other animal.  
  You must crawl on your belly  
      and eat dust all the days of your life.  
  **15**I will make you and the woman enemies to each other.  
      Your children and her children will be enemies.  
  **You will bite her child’s foot,  
      but he will crush your head**.”
* Here is our first clue – the child is singular – a specific child is in mind. The snake will do some damage to this child (“bite”) but in the end the snake will be destroyed by the child.

# Abraham

* Asked by God to leave his home and go on a journey without knowing where to!
* Two parts to Abraham’s clue
* “Abraham believed the Lord, and because of this **faith** the Lord **accepted** him as one who has done what is **right**. *Genesis 15:6*
* Abraham was a man of faith. And although we know that he didn’t always get everything right (like Adam and Eve) we have the first hint that it is possible to get right with God by faith.
* The second part of the clue is that good things are going to come through his family
* “Abraham will become a great and powerful nation, and **all** the **nations** on earth will be **blessed** because of him.” *Genesis 18:18*

# Judah

* We roll forward 3 generations
* After Abraham came Isaac and then Jacob
* Jacob had 12 sons and at the end of his life he gave a blessing for each one.
* “Men from **Judah**’s family will be **kings**. The sign that his family rules will not leave his family before **the real king comes**. Then many people will obey and serve him.” *Genesis 49:10*
* So Judah’s family were going to become kings
* Interesting because Judah was the fourth son, not the first.

# King David

* Fast forward lots of generations!
* Here’s a picture of David playing his “guitar”! (harp)
* David is described as a “A man after God’s heart”
* But David was guilty of adultery, murder, and a whole host of other things!
* And here is our next clue.
* **“**Your family of kings will continue—you can depend on that! For you, **your kingdom will continue forever**! Your throne will stand forever!’” *2 Samuel 7:16*

Isaiah’s vision - King or Servant?

* Isaiah was a prophet – that is he was God’s spokesperson!
* And Isaiah tells us about how God is going to deal with the problem of our separation from God (remember the Garden of Eden).
* He tells us about a future king who will come.
* “God will give us a son who will be responsible for **leading** the people. His name will be “Wonderful Counsellor, **Powerful** God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.” *Isaiah 9:6*
* That’s great! But Isaiah also gives us a totally different picture, of a servant who cam to suffer. This doesn’t sound like a kingat all!
* He was **beaten** so badly that he no longer looked like a man. **15**But it is also true that many nations will be amazed at him. *Isaiah 52:15*
* So there appear to be two clues here about this one that is coming!

# The Family Tree

* Many people these days like to trace their family tree.
* Perhaps you are descended from someone really famous!!!
* So remember our earlier clues about this special king that was to come.
* And remember which family he would be descended from.
* Our next clue is that Jesus was descended from King David (of the line of Judah) both through his father Joseph (Matthew) **and** his mother Mary (Luke).

# The Crucifixion

* Our next clue is the cross. This seems like an odd place to look for a king!
* But remember our 5th clue from Isaiah.
* He was **beaten** so badly that he no longer looked like a man. **15**But it is also true that many nations will be amazed at him. *Isaiah 52:15*

# The Resurrection

* Our final clue is the resurrection. Jesus came back to life again!
* Suddenly the other part of clue 5 from Isaiah becomes possible again!
* “God will give us a son who will be responsible for **leading** the people. His name will be “Wonderful Counsellor, **Powerful** God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.” *Isaiah 9:6*

# The big reveal

* Rylan Clark – “You are what you wear” programme
* On the day of Pentecost, Peter addresses the crowd
* **Acts 2:36-39 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)**
* **36**“So, all the people of Israel should know this for certain: God has made Jesus to be Lord and Messiah. He is the man you nailed to the cross!”
* **37**When the people heard this, they felt very, very sorry. They asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”
* **38**Peter said to them, “Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**This promise is for **you**. It is also for **your children** and for the **people who are far away**. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself.”
* Mystery uncovered. Case closed.

SONG: Rescuer

VIDEO: Messiah – The Bible Project

# How do you respond?

* God has gone to a lot of trouble to provide a rescue plan!
* He didn’t make it up as he went along!
* He did it because He wants us as His friends!
* His mighty power is still at work today
* The mystery has been made known!
* The present is unwrapped!
* The mystery is Jesus – will you let Him be your friend?
* If God has been such extraordinary lengths to offer us a rescue:-
  + He will not reject you if you ask to come to him!
  + The problems you face – he is there to help you with

SONG: Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice