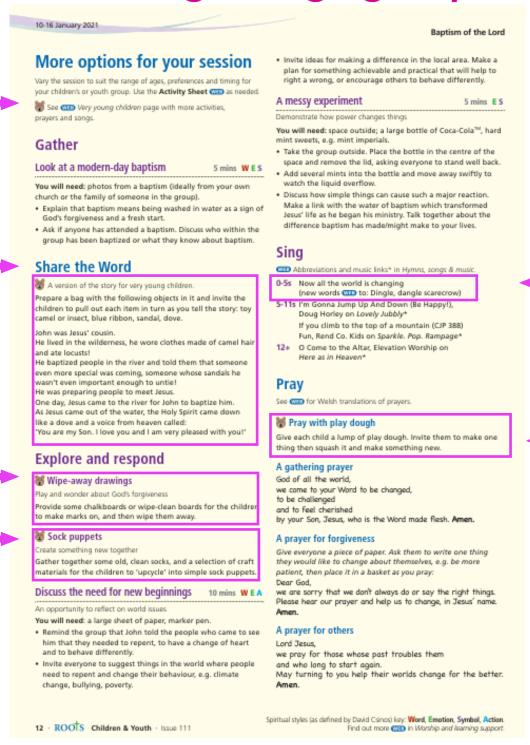




### Using ROOTS in mixed-age range groups



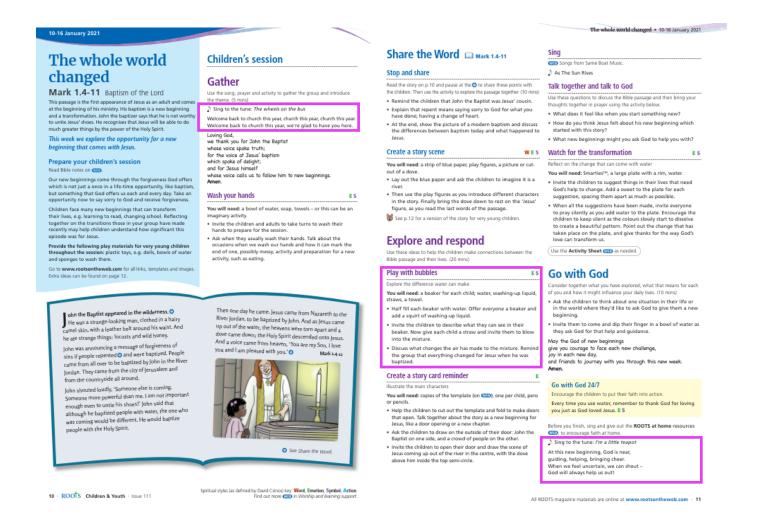
The ROOTS resources for very young children can be found on the third page of the weekly materials. They are all clearly indicated by a teddy head icon. There is a version of the story for very young children; activities to play and create; a prayer activity and specific song suggestions for under 5s.





# Using ROOTS in mixed-age range groups

The children's session is presented on the first two pages of each set of weekly materials. Within the children's sessions we always include two songs with new words written to familiar tunes.



The first of these can be found in the *Gather* section as a way to introduce the session. The second is found within *Go with God* as the group are sent out.

In addition to that, we always highlight activities within the children's material which are suitable or easily adaptable for very young children.





# Using ROOTS in mixed-age range groups

### **Gathering song**

Sing to the tune: The wheels on the bus

Welcome back to church this year, church this year, church this year. Welcome back to church this year, we're glad to have you here.

### Leaving song

Sing to the tune: I'm a little teapot

At this new beginning, God is near, guiding, helping, bringing cheer.
When we feel uncertain, we can shout – God will always help us out!

The gathering and leaving songs are perfect for under 5s and can help to bring them into the session at the beginning and gather everyone back together at the end.

The version of the story for very young children is also really great for children of all ages and is one of the key points when the group might come together, even if children end up doing differentiated activities in between. This way of sharing the Word either uses signs/actions, a story scene, a story bag, symbolic objects or puppets. It uses key storytelling methods which work well for under 5s, e.g. repetition, simple language and are creative and engaging ways to tell the Bible story.

#### **Share the Word**

A version of the story for very young children.

Prepare a bag with the following objects in it and invite the children to pull out each item in turn as you tell the story: toy camel or insect, blue ribbon, sandal, dove.

John was Jesus' cousin.

He lived in the wilderness, he wore clothes made of camel hair and ate locusts!

He baptized people in the river and told them that someone even more special was coming, someone whose sandals he wasn't even important enough to untie!

He was preparing people to meet Jesus.

One day, Jesus came to the river for John to baptize him. As Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down like a dove and a voice from heaven called:

'You are my Son. I love you and I am very pleased with you!'