

# SESSION THREE

# SESSION THREE

## *Outline: The Museum of Wonders and The Hill*

### WHAT DO WE REMEMBER FROM LAST TIME?

#### THE MUSEUM OF WONDERS

*(Feel free to tell more of the story about the Museum of Wonders on page 25-32 in the book if it fits in with your group.)*

#### THE STORY CONTINUES....

#### DRAMA (1): UNHELPFUL PEOPLE

#### DISCUSSION

#### BACK TO THE STORY....

#### DRAMA (2): CHRISTIAN STANDS AT THE CROSS

#### SOME QUESTIONS

#### CONTINUE WITH THE STORY....

**CONCLUSION:** What does the Easter story mean to us?

#### USE AN APPROPRIATE POEM AND/OR SONG:

The Old Rugged Cross, When I survey, etc.

#### FOR YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE:

Bible Verse and words of The Old Rugged Cross

#### PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

**Read Session Three notes and Chapters 3 and 4 of the book about The Museum of Wonders and The Hill.** Pick out the main points. Using a flipchart, prepare and print anything you will need for this session.

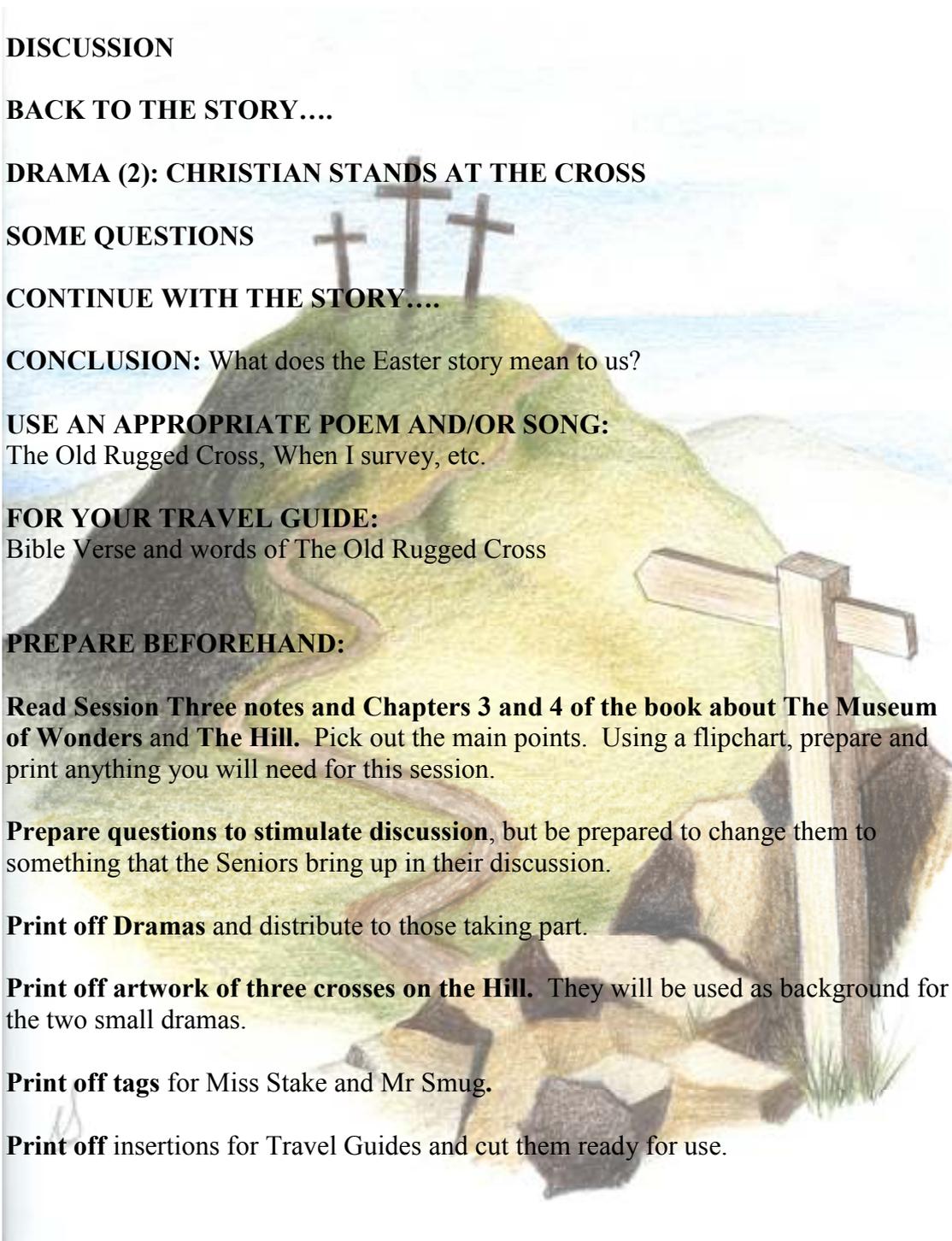
**Prepare questions to stimulate discussion**, but be prepared to change them to something that the Seniors bring up in their discussion.

**Print off Dramas** and distribute to those taking part.

**Print off artwork of three crosses on the Hill.** They will be used as background for the two small dramas.

**Print off tags** for Miss Stake and Mr Smug.

**Print off insertions for Travel Guides** and cut them ready for use.



## *Session Three: The Museum of Wonders and The Hill*

### **WHAT DO WE REMEMBER FROM LAST TIME?**

*(Don't be afraid to retell the story as some of the Seniors may have missed a session and others may find it hard to remember everything)*

We're following the life journey of Christian, the main character in John Bunyan's book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. This book was written to help us identify the journey of life that we are all on and the choices we make to go our own way or find out God's way for us. It shows the implications of these choices and helps us understand God's provision for each one of us on our own individual journey of life.

It starts with a dream...Christian begins on his journey from the City of Destruction (earth) to try and find the way to the City of Gold, the Celestial City (heaven).

He starts off with a burden on his back and, although full of good intentions to find the way, soon gets distracted by people and events that often land him in trouble. But he also meets helpful people who give good advice leading him back to the Straight and Narrow Way.

He begins his journey with an instruction book that tells him what to do and where to go.

We have journeyed with him as he left his home and family and as he got stuck in the bog. We have seen him rescued by Faithful, only to take some wrong advice from Alec Smart and end up lost. The Preacher comes to his aid a second time. He tells him (the most important truth we had to remember from last time) **not to give up** but to keep going straight until he reaches the wicket gate.

### **And it is here we take up today's story....**

You remember we left Christian feeling very sorry and humbled, but so very grateful to have a second chance and ready to continue his journey. So as the daylight fades around him, he follows the distant light that brings him to the wicket gate.

### **THE MUSEUM OF WONDERS**

*(I quickly told the story of the Museum of Wonders but concentrated more on the next chapter - The Hill which I thought was more significant to this age group. If you feel The Museum of Wonders merits a whole session, then don't be afraid to add it in and follow the style of the other sessions.*

*There is certainly enough material and it may be quite suitable for your particular group.*

*I have tried to make each session as flexible as possible so that you can change, add or take away anything that is not suitable for your group.)*

**THE STORY CONTINUES....**

Over the gate were written these words: ‘Knock and it shall be opened’.

Christian knocks and the gate opens immediately.

He can hardly believe anything could be so easy.

He sees a face and then a hand shoots round the door and grabs him inside. No sooner does the door close, than he hears a thud - an arrow has struck the gate just where Christian was standing. The gatekeeper tells him that the enemy close by tries to pick off pilgrims as they stand at the door.

Christian is then sent to the Museum of Wonders where he will get hospitality for the night.

During his visit at the Museum he is shown working models to remind him of some of the qualities that will help him on his journey – patience, courage, perseverance.

He leaves the Museum, armed with his Guidebook and Scroll and still carrying his Knapsack, and continues his journey....and it is in this part of the journey, a most significant thing happens to him.

*(Drama)*

## **DRAMA: UNHELPFUL PEOPLE**

**Cast: Christian, Miss Stake, Mr Smug and Narrator**

*(Enter Christian with Knapsack, Guidebook and Scroll)*

**Narrator:** Christian is standing looking at his Guidebook

*(Enter Mr Smug and Miss Stake both wearing large labels with their names on)*

**Miss Stake:**

Oh hello, you look as if you've been on a bit of a journey? This is Mr Smug by the way....

**Christian:**

Hello! Did you come in by the gate?

**Mr Smug:**

Don't be silly....we came the quick and easy way. No use making things difficult for yourself is there?

**Christian:**

But you do have your Scrolls, don't you?

**Mr Smug:**

We're in, aren't we? If we are in, we are in. The great thing is to be in. It doesn't matter how you get there. Anyway we're off....see you.

**Narrator:**

Christian didn't get a word in – they didn't seem the least bit interested in him, just in themselves – and he noticed they weren't carrying a Knapsack, a Scroll or a Guidebook.

But they seemed so sure of themselves....as they quickly disappeared out of sight.

Christian followed until he reached a steep hill. He could hear Miss Stake and Mr Smug in the distance quarrelling about which way to go. By the time he arrived at the spot, they had gone, one to the left and one to the right.

Christian noticed **a signpost** that they had obviously missed. He remembered the good advice he had been given and carefully followed the signpost's directions. He was determined to stay on the correct path this time, to stay on the Straight and Narrow Way.

As he got further up the hill he got a better view of the surrounding countryside and could see how the primrose path to the west petered out into sandy yellow flats. The path Miss Stake had taken disappeared into thick, eerie woods.

He continued to climb until he met a sight that would change the course of his life forever!

*(End of drama)*



**DISCUSSION:**

Before we continue with the story, pause for a moment and think about the two characters Christian has just met.

**MISS STAKE and MR SMUG:**

*(Use flipchart and write both names down and add comments underneath)*

**Does anything strike you about them?****Their confidence**

*(They were confident in their own abilities, confidently mistaken)*

**Their certainty**

*(They believed they knew best – they didn't need a Guidebook or a Scroll)*

**Their unwillingness to follow Christian**

*(They were only interested in themselves)*

**Their blindness**

*(They couldn't see where they were going or where they could possibly go wrong)*

**They were very certain they could take whatever path they wanted and it would all turn out the same in the end**

**Have you met any people like that?****What might the consequences be?**

*(If you go your own way - you will not reach your destination)*

**BACK TO THE STORY....**

So Christian sees the hill ahead and notices there are three different pathways he can choose. When he gets nearer, he is able to read the signpost which tells him which way to go. It is very steep and as he climbs to the top of the hill he can see that the other two pathways lead nowhere.

He finds something at the top of the hill that puts Miss Stake and Mr Smug completely out of his mind.

**This is the Good Friday of the Easter message**

**Jesus Christ's death on the cross**

**What does Christian see, and what does it mean for us?**

# SESSION THREE

## **DRAMA (2): CHRISTIAN STANDS AT THE CROSS**

**Cast:** **Christian** (*standing before the picture of the three crosses*), **Narrator**

**Christian:**

When I first looked I thought I saw three trees, but then I saw they were man-made crosses – three of them – rusty nails sticking out of them and blood stains on the wood. I shivered at the thought.

Then I saw a notice on the middle cross – ‘King of the Jews’.... then the words seemed to change as the sun played tricks on the wood. ‘Light of the World’....‘The Truth and The Way’.... ‘The Door’....I seemed to see them all.

But these crosses were so ugly. What a way to die....so brutal....so painful....so awful!

**Narrator:**

Christian’s throat turned dry at the thought of it; he found it difficult to breathe.

What if he had been there that day? What if he had seen it, that murderous cruelty, that unrightable wrong, that ghastly injustice committed under a hot afternoon sun?

The thought was too much to hold in his head – it brought him to his knees.

*(Christian kneels down in front of the three crosses. Have the Knapsack ready to fall off when the Narrator says ‘it just fell off’)*

**Narrator:**

Then, all of a sudden, with a noise like a horse shedding its saddle, the load on Christian’s back fell off. It just fell off, and rolled down the far side of the hill.

*(End of drama)*



**SOME QUESTIONS:**

When Christian comes to the cross he is humbled and brought to his knees. Why do you think he feels that way?

When you think of Jesus dying on the cross for you and for me, how does it make you feel?

**CONTINUE WITH THE STORY....**

Christian runs after his Knapsack as if it was full of his dearest belongings. Just for the moment, he has forgotten just how much he wanted to be rid of it.

Just a thought – do we sometimes hold onto our worries and troubles so that they almost become our dearest belongings?

He follows his tumbling Knapsack into the mouth of a cave – a kind of burial cave with its rock door rolled aside. There is nothing inside except a few strips of cloth.

**Does this remind you of another story?**

*(The story of Easter Sunday - the empty tomb, the risen Christ)*

**Get someone to read Luke 24:1-6****CONCLUSION:****What does the Easter Story mean for us?**

Jesus died on the cross to take away all the wrong things we have ever done so that we can all be forgiven.

**John 3:16** (NIV)

**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**

The reality of the resurrection means we can all be forgiven and have a new life in Jesus. Because Jesus rose from the dead He has conquered death once and for all, so if we put our trust in Him and ask Him to be our Saviour, we will never die, but live with Him for ever.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH TO REMEMBER** and to take from this session is that the God we know in Jesus Christ says to each one of us:

**You matter**

**You are dearly loved**

**You are important**

**Read a suitable poem and/or have someone sing (or get the group to sing):**

The Old Rugged Cross, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, There is a Green Hill Far Away or something of your choice.

# SESSION THREE

## **CONTINUE TELLING THE STORY:**

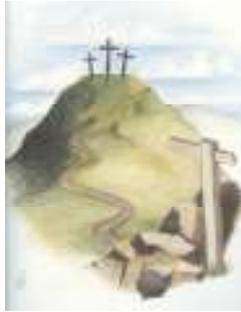
We leave Christian asleep in a little arbour, a delightful spot with a bench, a fruit tree and a little drinking fountain specially provided to refresh pilgrims on their journey.

He is free at last from his Knapsack and more relaxed than he'd been for some time.

He will continue his journey soon but I can promise you there are many more challenges and difficulties ahead....but just for the moment let's leave him to enjoy some quiet rest.

### SESSION 3: THE HILL

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NIV)*



On a hill far away  
stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame:  
And I love that old cross  
where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*Chorus: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

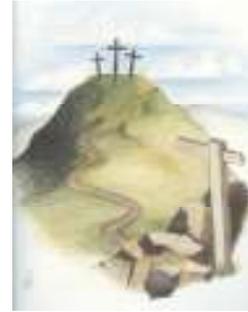
O, that old rugged cross,  
so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction to me;  
For the dear Lamb of God  
left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross,  
stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross  
Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

*George Bennard, 1873-1958*

### SESSION 3: THE HILL

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NIV)*



On a hill far away  
stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame:  
And I love that old cross  
where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*Chorus: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

O, that old rugged cross,  
so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction to me;  
For the dear Lamb of God  
left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross,  
stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross  
Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

*George Bennard, 1873-1958*

*You could print this as a bookmark as well as an insertion for the Travel Guide.*



**SOME OTHER BIBLE VERSES (NIV) YOU MAY LIKE TO USE  
DURING THIS SESSION:**

**King of the Jews (Luke 23:35-38)**

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.”

There was a written notice above Him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

**Light of the World (John 8:12)**

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**The Truth and the Way (John 14:5-6)**

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where You are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

**The Gate (John 10:9)**

“I am the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”

# SESSION THREE

**SESSION THREE: TAGS FOR MISS STAKE AND MR SMUG**

*You can photocopy these labels larger if you wish. Punch a hole and attach some string for tying on Miss Stake and Mr Smug.*

