

SESSION SIX

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## *Outline: Vanity Fayre*

### WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM LAST TIME?

*(Have flipchart ready to write down the answers)*

### INTRODUCTION:

Quick recap of story so far

### DRAMA SIX: VANITY FAYRE

### QUESTION: WHAT IS THIS DRAMA TRYING TO TELL US?

### VANITY FAYRE HAS LOTS OF TEMPTATIONS AND DISTRACTIONS:

*(Use flipchart, with headings Temptations and Distractions)*

### CONTINUE THE STORY

### CHRISTIAN ASKS HOPEFUL AN INTERESTING QUESTION

### WHAT IS JOHN BUNYAN EAGER TO CAPTURE HERE?

### QUESTION: DOES THIS REMIND YOU OF ANYTHING/ANYONE?

### THE GUIDEBOOK IS FULL OF HELPFUL INFORMATION

### FOR YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE: BIBLE VERSES

*(distribute them at this point)*

### THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH TO REMEMBER:

**Jesus says, "Don't be troubled, but trust Me."**

**Jesus has prepared the way for us and will be with us on our journey. He has gone before us to prepare a place for us and waits for our arrival.**

### CLOSING PRAYER

### PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

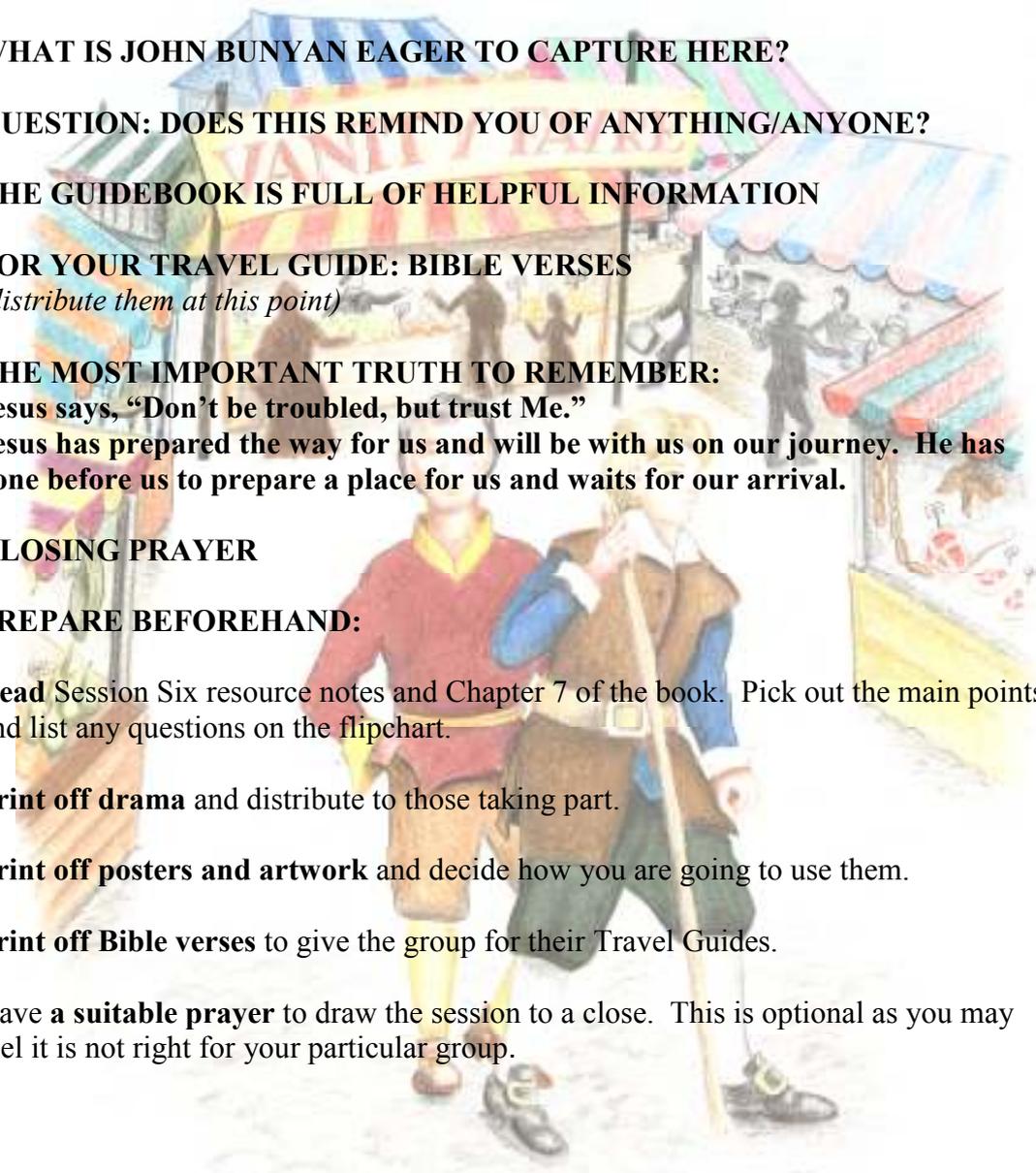
**Read** Session Six resource notes and Chapter 7 of the book. Pick out the main points and list any questions on the flipchart.

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

**Print off posters and artwork** and decide how you are going to use them.

**Print off Bible verses** to give the group for their Travel Guides.

Have a **suitable prayer** to draw the session to a close. This is optional as you may feel it is not right for your particular group.



## *Session Six: Vanity Fayre*

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

*(Have flipchart ready to write answers on)*

#### **Who did Apollyon represent?**

*All kinds of evil*

#### **We have been provided with armour to protect us**

*We need to recognise that the Christian life is a battle and we are soldiers who stand against evil and injustice. Our Father God has provided armour for us and we should not go into battle unprepared. Jesus has already won the victory.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

We have been travelling with Christian on his way to the City of Gold. The Pilgrim's Progress tells of his faith journey. This is the journey of life, something we have been part of with which we can identify with.

- You remember the story started off with Christian leaving home with a burden of heart, soul and mind, depicted as a Knapsack which he is carrying on his back. He sets out to find his way to the Celestial City.
- His journey is peppered with challenges, but it seems in all situations there are people to help and more importantly people who point the way to his destination. His Bible is his guide; the Scroll he carries is his passport into heaven. He is finally able to leave his burden (his Knapsack) at the foot of the cross.
- He is equipped with spiritual armour during his journey as well as an array of experiences that strengthen his faith – not least two hungry lions and his encounter with the fiercest of dragon type creatures, called Apollyon.
- He seems to go from one disaster to another and just when he has managed to get free, another challenge comes to him in a different form. What could be left to meet and what could be left to learn?
- Quite a bit – as you'll see today! Life never stops presenting us with challenges and new experiences, but on our journey through life we have a companion, Jesus Christ, who is stronger than all of these frightening situations.

As we step into Christian's world again today, we join him and Faithful as they journey through Vanity Fayre.

*(Drama)*

# SESSION SIX

## **DRAMA: VANITY FAYRE**

**Cast: Christian, Faithful, Hopeful, Tempter 1, Tempter 2, Tempter 3, Narrator**

*Props: Use 'Welcome to Vanity Fayre' sign (to be found at the end of this session's notes), use a table and some bunting to create a market stall*

**Tempter 1:**

Come this way...delicious food for sale!

**Tempter 2:**

Look no further...all the best bargains you could want!

*(Christian and Faithful move past the table and bunting, looking bemused, their attention drawn to all the shouting)*

**Tempter 2:**

Hello my lovelies! Buy some trinkets....cheap at the price.

**Tempter 1:**

This way....this way....for the best clothes in town. All sizes....something for every occasion.

**Tempter 2:**

China....hardware for sale.

**Tempter 1:**

Delicious sweets....mouth watering goodies.

**Tempter 2:**

Gold, silver....buy now....never been such good value.

**Tempter 1:**

Persian carpets, Irish linen....look no further.

**Tempter 2:**

Wives for sale....lovely elegant wives. Trade in the old for a new one. Great bargain!

**Tempter 1:**

Portraits painted ....have a statue made of yourself.  
Come on.... be famous!

**Tempter 2:**

Land for sale.... acres of it ....mountains and lakes, oceans and rivers.... come on, sir – you look a likely candidate.

**Tempter 1:**

How about a knighthood....can do you now....come on....be important! Take life easy....have a slave do all your work. Slaves for sale.

**Tempter 2:**

Choose your job....hey, you.... (*addressed to Christian*) what would you like to be?  
Not too expensive....name it and I'll get it for you....

**Narrator:**

There was noise everywhere! People selling, people shouting, people pushing and people making bargains....temptations and distractions at every turn.

Christian and Faithful tried to keep their eyes down and move as quickly as possible through the fayre, but the crowd pressed in and the shouting and demands became louder and more aggressive.

Suddenly the mood changes....the challenge to their seeming resistance becomes more frenzied....

**Tempter 3:** (*in an angry voice*)

Hey, you two....turning up your noses at our goods....who do you think you are? Too posh for us are you....too clever maybe? Huh.... take a look at yourselves! You're a scruffy pair of individuals! Come on....buy! Buy....why don't you? Buy and make your lives better.

**Narrator:**

Faithful glances at Christian. The Preacher had warned them they would meet trouble and danger. In fact he'd said one of them would die. Faithful responded to the taunts of the mob.

**Faithful:**

I'll buy a basket of truth if you have it?

*(End of drama)*

## **QUESTION: WHAT IS THIS DRAMA TRYING TO TELL US?**

*(Prepare flipchart with headings in bold beforehand and leave space underneath each heading to add comments)*

### **VANITY FAYRE HAS LOTS OF TEMPTATIONS AND DISTRACTIONS:**

#### **Can you name some of them?**

*(Allow time for Seniors to draw their own conclusions, but be prepared to help them remember or put them into words. Suggestions in italics)*

*Cheap bargains; Luxuries; Wives for sale; Statue of yourself; Land for sale; A Knighthood; Slaves to work for you to make your life easier; Temptations for Personal Gains; Ridicule; Anger; Mental and Physical Abuse.*

#### **Temptations and Distractions – from what?**

*To stop us on our journey*

*(Leave time for sharing and questions and use the flipchart to mark up anything relevant that is said)*

#### **Leader: Let's leave this list for the moment**

### **CONTINUE THE STORY:**

*(Using the main points below, briefly tell the story)*

Faithful and Christian didn't want to buy anything that Vanity Fayre had to offer. When pressed, Faithful asked to buy truth and some of the stallholders rush to see if they had some truth on their stalls.

Others think Faithful is making fun of them so they get angry. Before Christian and Faithful know what is happening to them, they are manhandled into a cage, taunted and pushed through the streets with the crowd jeering and laughing at their plight.

Accusations fly in all directions. In fact, there is such utter confusion that the crowd begin to shout accusations at each other.

A site manager appears and demands silence and an explanation. The crowd refocus on Faithful and Christian and concoct all sorts of false accusations against them, accusing them, amongst other things, of disturbing the peace.

A trial is arranged for the next day.

There is one lone voice in the crowd... a young woman called Hopeful who speaks up for the two Pilgrims, but her evidence is laughed at.

The trial is held and Faithful is singled out because he has spoken out and asked for truth. He is sentenced to death and, shortly afterwards, stoned by the mob.

Meanwhile, because someone has forgotten to lock the cage, Christian is able to escape and flee from Vanity Fayre.

He finds himself on the edge of some rough, open ground and Faithful's poor, tormented body is lying there in front of him, sprawled in the mud, like a rag doll lost and forgotten. His murderers have all moved away.

He is frightened when he feels someone's hand on his shoulder, but it turns out to be Hopeful who asks to come with him on his journey as a new companion.

As he is feeling very sad and lonely and a bit afraid, he is very glad to have Hopeful join him. He asks her if Faithful said anything before he died.

Hopeful tells him that Faithful had said that Jesus Christ Himself walked through Vanity Fayre and He didn't buy anything.

There is a thunder of hooves and a chariot, driven by a man in white, hurtles through the narrow streets towards where Faithful is lying. Christian and Hopeful watch as the man takes Faithful's hand.

They see the sunlight pass directly through Faithful's clothes and body and watch as he steps aboard the chariot. It is as if he had never died. When he is standing in the chariot, the horses spring into a gallop once again and climb steeply into the morning sky.

Christian realises Faithful is going ahead of him to the Celestial City.

**CHRISTIAN ASKS HOPEFUL AN INTERESTING QUESTION:**

*Get someone to read from the bottom of Page 76 of the book*

*"Did you see that?" said Christian, in a breathless whisper - to the end of Page 77*

**WHAT IS JOHN BUNYAN EAGER TO CAPTURE HERE?**

*(Use heading and list the events below on a flipchart)*

**What Faithful and Christian faced as they went through Vanity Fayre:**

- They were tempted
- They faced anger and abuse
- They had a mock trial
- Faithful was put to death
- Death did not hold Faithful
- He went ahead of Christian to the City of Gold

**QUESTION: DOES THIS REMIND YOU OF ANYTHING OR ANYONE?**

*(Some possible answers)*

- *Jesus was faced with temptations : stones to bread – satisfy your physical needs; jump off this building – perform a magic trick and win the acclaim of the people; be a ruler of kingdoms – have power and authority here on earth*
- *Jesus faced ridicule, anger, abuse*
- *He was arrested under false pretences*
- *He was tried, a mockery of a trial and put to death on a cross*

- *He conquered death and reappeared on earth before ascending to His Father God*
- *He went ahead to prepare a place for us*
- *He left His Holy Spirit with us, to help and comfort us and to be our friend and guide*
- *He gave us promises in His word (the Guidebook) to sustain us on life's journey*
- *He revealed His Father's heart:*
  - *a heart of love and justice*
  - *a heart of care for the poor and the needy*
  - *a heart to be a friend to the lonely and outcasts of society*
  - *a heart longing for wholeness for His people*
  - *a heart wanting men and women to be reconciled to their Heavenly Father*

**Our Lord Jesus Christ journeyed on this earth, just like the Pilgrims, to show us the way to heaven. He wanted us to know what God was really like. Through His death on the cross He provided the way for each of us to be reconciled to our heavenly Father.**

**THE GUIDEBOOK (BIBLE) IS FULL OF HELPFUL INFORMATION and instructs us on our journey. It is always truthful.**

- In it you will find some things that are hard to understand
- You will find some positive things to help you
- We all know that life has its difficulties – we have met them in our own lives - and we've certainly met them as we have travelled with Christian in the story
- The Guidebook (Bible) tells us that Christ has faced all of these difficulties and problems (*remind them of the list on the board*) and that He is with us in all our difficulties
- It tells us that Jesus has gone ahead, just as Faithful did, to prepare a place for us and He is waiting for us

#### **TRAVEL GUIDE: BIBLE VERSES**

*(Give each person a card with verses. This card can be put in the Travel Guide at the end of the session)*

#### **John 14:1-3** NIV

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, and I will come back and take you to be with Me."

*Jesus Christ has left a companion for us, much like Christian had Hopeful.*

#### **John 14:26** NIV

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

**John 16:13** NIV

But when the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH TO REMEMBER:**

**Jesus says, “Don’t be troubled but trust Me.”**

**Jesus has prepared the way for us and will be with us on our journey.**

**He has gone before us to prepare a place for us and waits for our arrival.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**SESSION 6: VANITY FAYRE**

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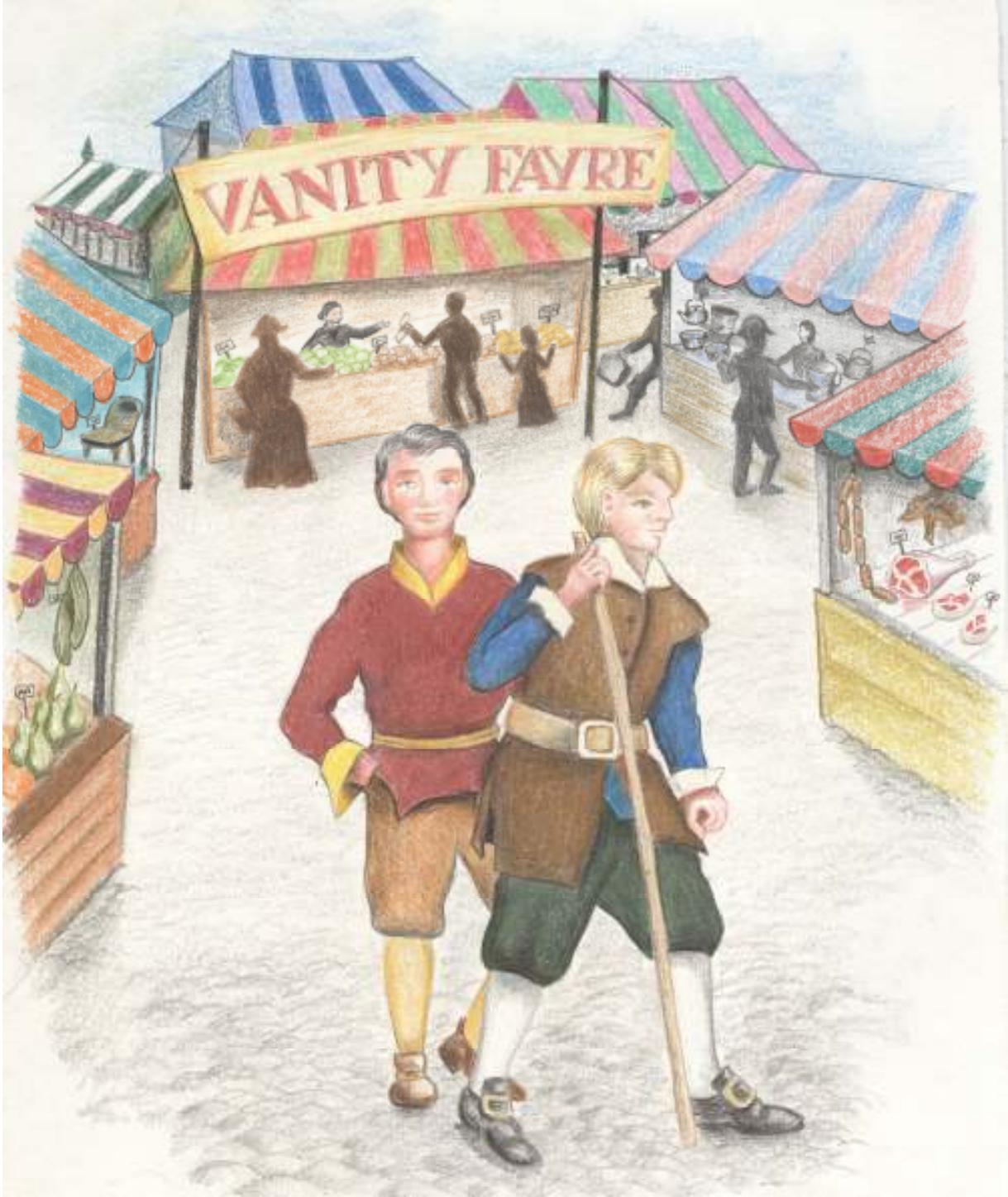
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# **Welcome to Vanity Fayre**

