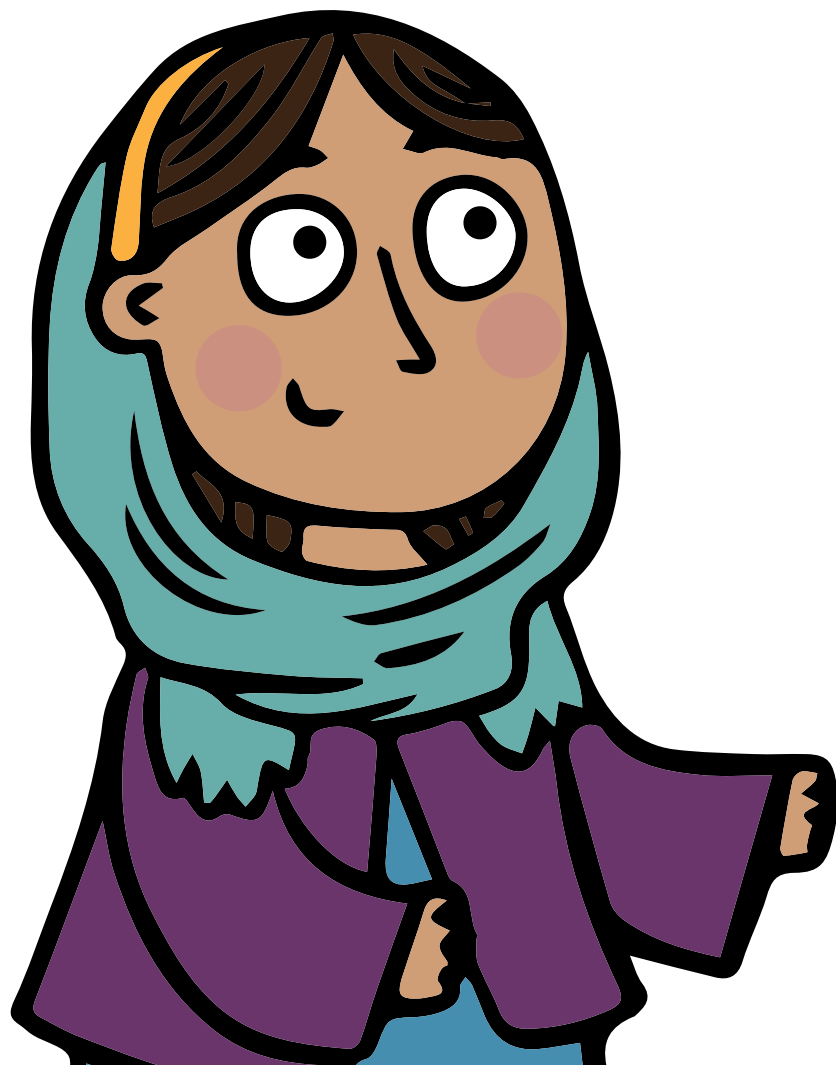




**MRS PILATE'S  
SERVING GIRL**

# **Children's teaching session guide**



# Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl

This children's teaching session has been designed to accompany *Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl* – an Easter resource from Open Doors.

This is the story of what happens when Mrs Pilate's serving girl accompanies her mistress to Jerusalem. Things don't turn out quite as she expects. She keeps hearing about a mysterious Messiah. Who is He? And will she get into trouble for finding out more? This story about love, hope and new life helps children to think about what it means to follow Jesus.

## Aim of the session

To learn about Easter through the eyes of Mrs Pilate's serving girl, and to think about what it can mean to follow Jesus.

## What will I need to run the session?

### YOU WILL NEED TO ORDER:

A copy of *Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl* for each child. You can order these at [opendoorsuk.org/mrspilate](https://opendoorsuk.org/mrspilate)

### YOU WILL ALSO NEED:

- A screen, laptop or tablet for showing the animated film version of the book. You will need to download the video if you don't have access to the internet at your children's group.
- Craft resources – see the activities for more details.

## Stay in touch!

We would love to hear stories and see photos of your groups exploring *Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl*. Please send your photos and feedback to [contact@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:contact@opendoorsuk.org).



# 1. WATCH THE VIDEO OR READ THE STORY

Watch or read the story of *Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl*. You can order the free book and watch the video at [opendoorsuk.org/mrspilate](https://opendoorsuk.org/mrspilate)



After sharing the story, read pages 22 and 23 from the back of the *Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl* booklet, which talks about how Christians still get in trouble for following Jesus today, and tells the story of Salhea from Pakistan. If you have been using our *World Watch List Children's Prayer Passport and Activity Map* you might like to use the map included in the pack to show the children where Pakistan is. You can order it at [opendoorsuk.org/children](https://opendoorsuk.org/children).

## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

- Has anyone ever been rude or unkind to you because you are a Christian? What did you do?
- If you were a slave in Roman times your name could be anything your master or mistress wanted. Sometimes they were named after the owner's family. Sometimes they were called after qualities they had. In the Bible there is a slave called Euthychus, which means 'lucky', and one called Onesiphorus, which means 'useful'. What name would you be called?

If you could go back in time and be a part of the Easter story, who would you like to be? What would you want to do?

## 2. ACTIVITY

*If you only have a short amount of time:*

### GAME - MRS PILATE SAYS

**You will need:** Nothing!

#### Instructions:

This is like the classic game 'Simon says', but using 'Mrs Pilate says'. The leader gives instructions, but the children should only carry out the instruction if the leader begins by saying 'Mrs Pilate says'. If the leader gives an instruction without saying 'Mrs Pilate says' first, and a child still does the action, they are out.

You may wish to invite the children who are 'out' to come and help the leader think of the actions that the other children should do, so they can continue to be involved.

*If you have a longer amount of time:*

### RETELL THE EASTER STORY

**You will need:**

- Depending on which option you go for, you may need craft materials, paper and pens, or nothing at all.

## Instructions:

*Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl* is a retelling of the Easter story. Invite the children in your group to create their own retelling of the Easter story.

**There are many ways that you could do this. You know the children in your group best, so think about what would suit them.**

- **If you have a group who are a bit younger**, you could invite them to create puppets of the characters from the story using paper plates as faces. They could draw on the plates or stick on googly eyes, string for hair etc. Stick the paper plates on the end of chopsticks or similar to create puppets. Then have a leader read out the story again, while the children bring the different puppets on and off the 'stage' (which could just be the front of the room).
- **If you have an older group**, you could help them think about how they could tell the Easter story from the point of view of someone else – it could be a disciple, Jesus' mother Mary, a Roman soldier, or someone else. If they are confident writers, you could have them write this character's diary from the days around Easter. Or you may have a group who would be better suited to creating a short scene and acting it out.
- You could also have the **group work together** to create a newspaper,

similar to those found in the booklet, from around the time of Easter. Older children or more confident writers could take the lead on the writing the stories, while others may prefer to focus on drawing the 'photos'.

## 3. CRAFT AND PRAYER

### PAPER CHAIN PEOPLE

**You will need:**

- Sheets of paper
- Scissors
- Colourful pencils and/or pens



**Instructions:**

Lots of people helped the serving girl in the story. Invite the children to think about the different people who help them, such as family members, teachers, doctors etc. Then invite them to think about people who need help at the moment – for example, they may have a friend or relative who is sick and being helped by doctors. You could also remind them about Salhea from Pakistan.

Have each child make a chain of paper people.



If you aren't sure how to do this, watch this video for instructions:

## How to Make a Folding Paper Doll Chain - YouTube

Invite the children to decorate each person in the chain to look like someone they would like to pray for. It could be someone who helps, who they would like to thank God for, or someone who needs help.

Once the paper chain people have been decorated, help the children to write short prayers on the back, thanking God for the people who help them, and asking for help for those who need it. These prayers can be very short – ‘Thank you God for my teacher’, ‘Please help Salhea’ etc.

## 4. TAKE AWAY

If you haven't already, give everyone a copy of the *Mrs Pilate's Serving Girl* storybook to take away with them.

You can order these at

[opendoorsuk.org/mrspilate](https://opendoorsuk.org/mrspilate)

