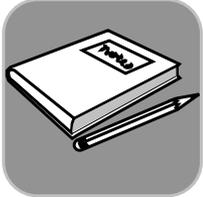


# Week 7

## Jesus Helps a Sick Son

**Preparation:**  
Read John 4:46-54, using the Bible study notes to help you.

**Lesson Aim:**  
To teach that Jesus' miracles are designed to lead people to faith in him.



This is the second recorded sign (miracle) in John's gospel and again it takes place in Cana, the home of Nathanael (John 1:47-51).

- 4:46 This person was probably an official in the court of Herod Antipas, described as King of Galilee. Capernaum was 25 miles from Cana.
- 4:47-48 Jesus reads the character of the man. He seems to show faith, but it is a faith that needs the support of sight, i.e. Jesus going with him, unlike the centurion in Luke 7:1-10.
- 4:49-50 The faith of the man is, however, imperfect; desperate for his child not to die he persists in asking Jesus for healing. Jesus says to him, 'Go, your son will live.' He returns home in obedience to Jesus' words, trusting that his son will be healed. Now he does not require to see anything - he believes.

4:51-53 The healing was immediate and complete. It happened at the very hour Jesus had said that the boy would live. This sign led to belief in Jesus, not only for the man but his entire family.

NB Our faith and the children's can start in a small way, but as we learn more and more and are challenged to exercise it, our faith in the Lord should become stronger and stronger.

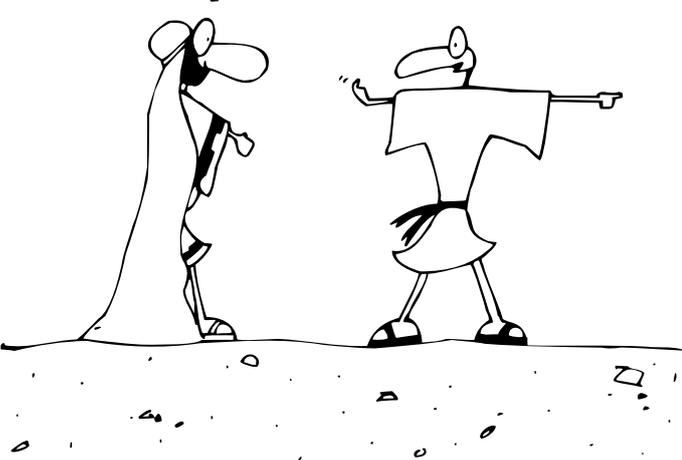
Start with a game to demonstrate trust.



**Game 1** Mark out a route containing obstacles that could be bumped into or tripped over. Ask for a volunteer who trusts a designated leader to lead them safely through the obstacle course. Blindfold the volunteer. The volunteer is led through the obstacle course accompanied by comments from another leader, e.g. 'Be careful!' 'You're going to hit .....', etc.

**Game 2** Ask for a volunteer who trusts 2 designated leaders to keep him/her safe. Blindfold the volunteer and explain he/she is going on an aeroplane ride. Sit the volunteer between the 2 leaders, holding onto them. The volunteer is told to hold on tight. A leader states that the plane is taking off and the 2 leaders pull the volunteer slightly backwards against the chair. A running commentary of a plane ride is given with the 2 leaders moving the volunteer appropriately. At some point the commentator calls out, 'Watch out! You'll hit the ceiling!' and one of the leaders lightly touches the top of the volunteer's head with a book. Then the 'plane' is brought down to land.

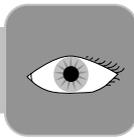
Lead into the story by commenting on the volunteer's trust (or lack of it). How do we know the volunteer trusted the leader(s)? He/she did what they said. In today's true story from the Bible we will learn about a man who said he trusted Jesus. Ask the children to listen carefully so that they can tell you who was the man, what he trusted Jesus to do and how we know he really trusted Jesus. Tell the story.



After the story go over the answers to the questions. Recap on what a miracle is and ask the older children what miracles teach about the person performing them. Revise the memory verse.

Yoghurt pot people (see instructions on page 34). Make a bed from a piece of material. The

Visual aids



children need to see that Jesus and the father were at a distance from the son when he was healed, so have Jesus and the father at one end of the table or room and the son on a bed at the other end.

### 3-5s

Photocopy pages 45 and 46 for each child. Prior to the lesson cut out the son and the square from page 45

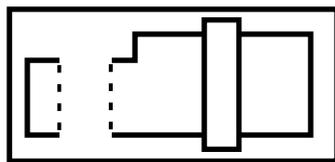
Activities



and cut around 3 sides of the window flap on page 46, leaving the dotted line intact. The children colour the picture, the bed and the son. Attach the son to the bed using a split pin paper fastener at X. Glue the bed square behind page 46 so that the bed is visible through the window. The children can lift the flap to see the son sick in bed, then turn him upright when he is made well.

### 5-7s

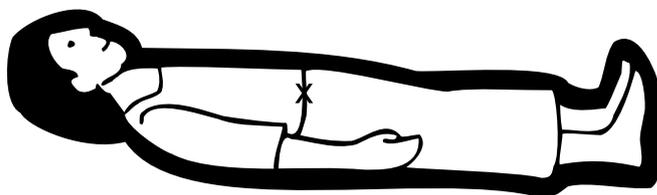
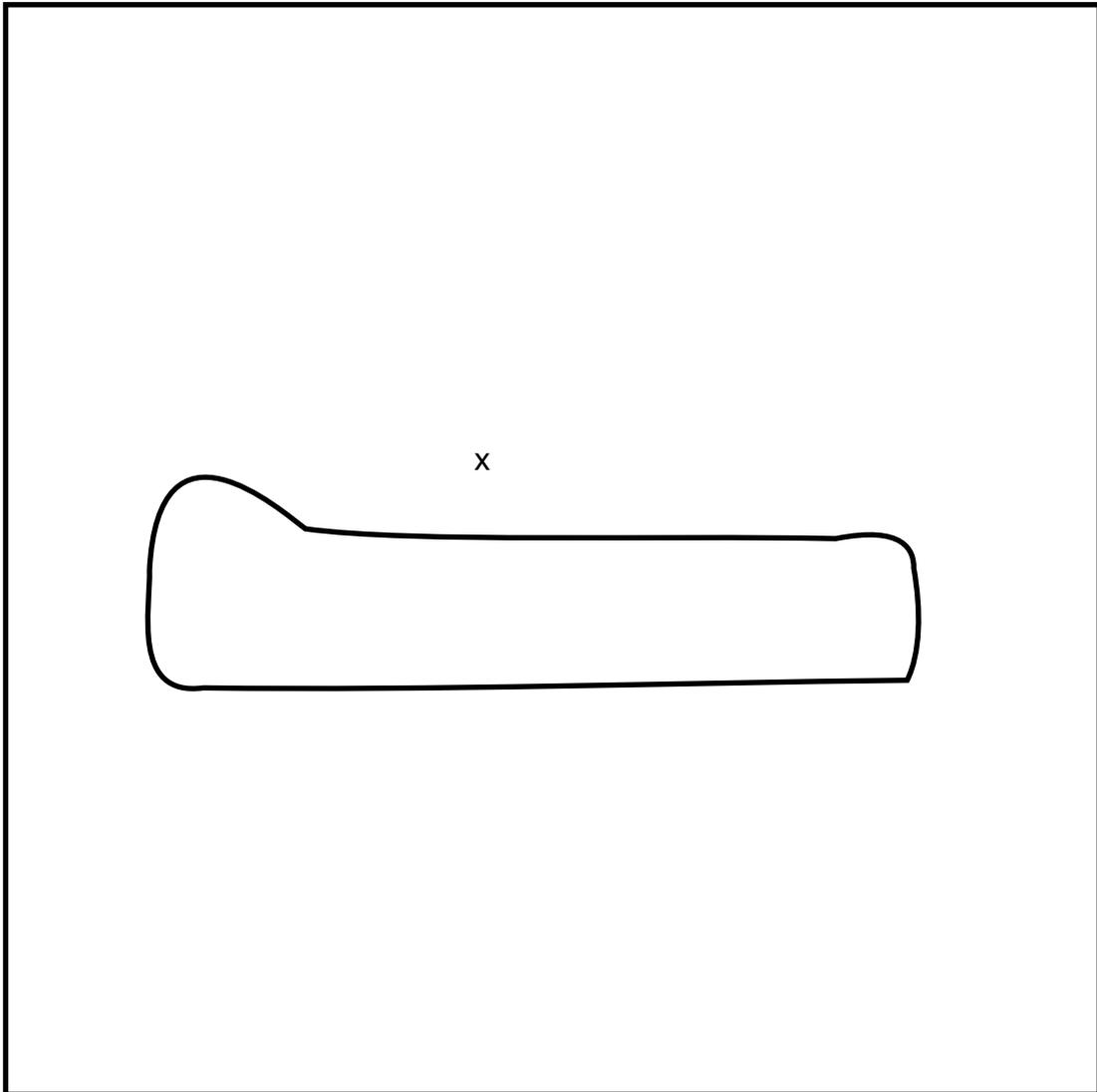
Photocopy pages 47 and 48 for each child. Prior to the lesson cut out the hatched areas on page 48 and cut off the retaining strip and the figures strip from page 47. Cut along the dotted lines on page 48. From the back of the picture feed the figure strip through the two slits on the house. Place the retaining strip over the figure strip and sellotape to the back of the picture so that the figures on the strip will be visible in the house (see diagram).



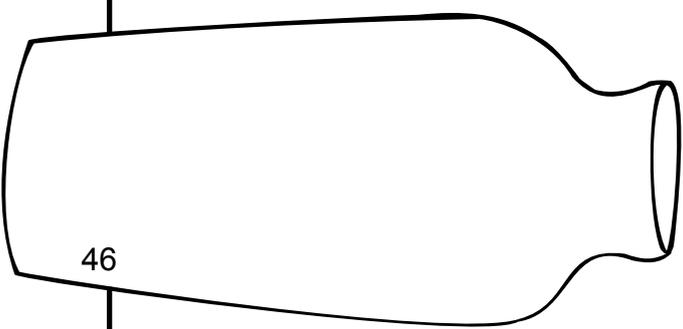
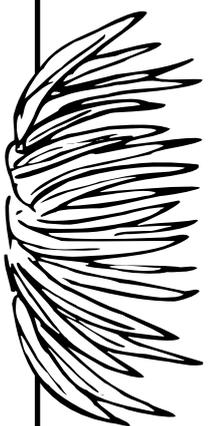
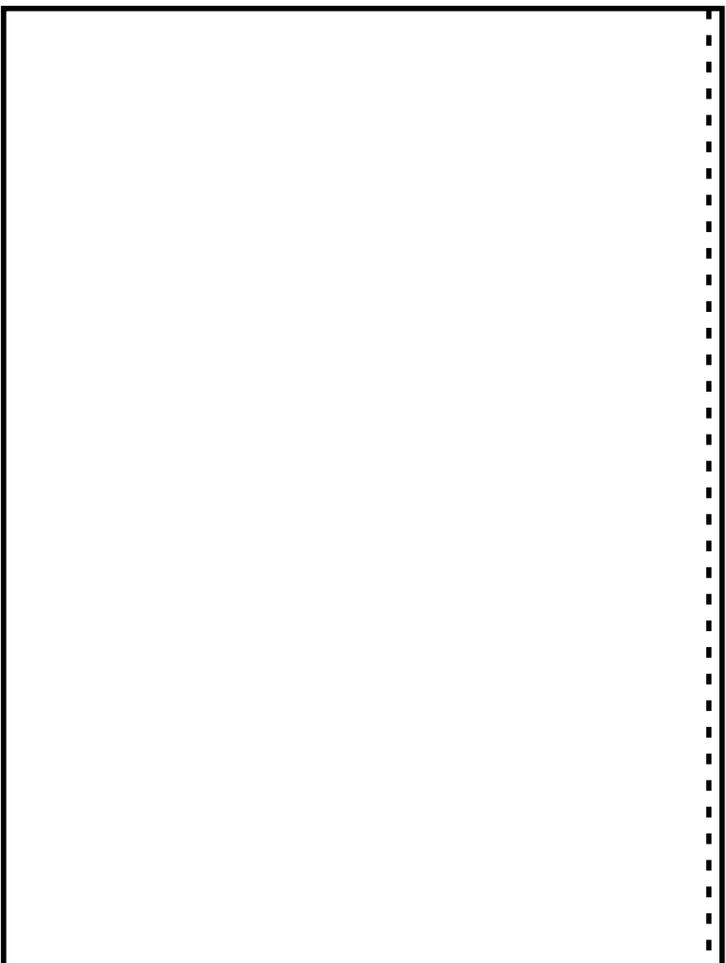
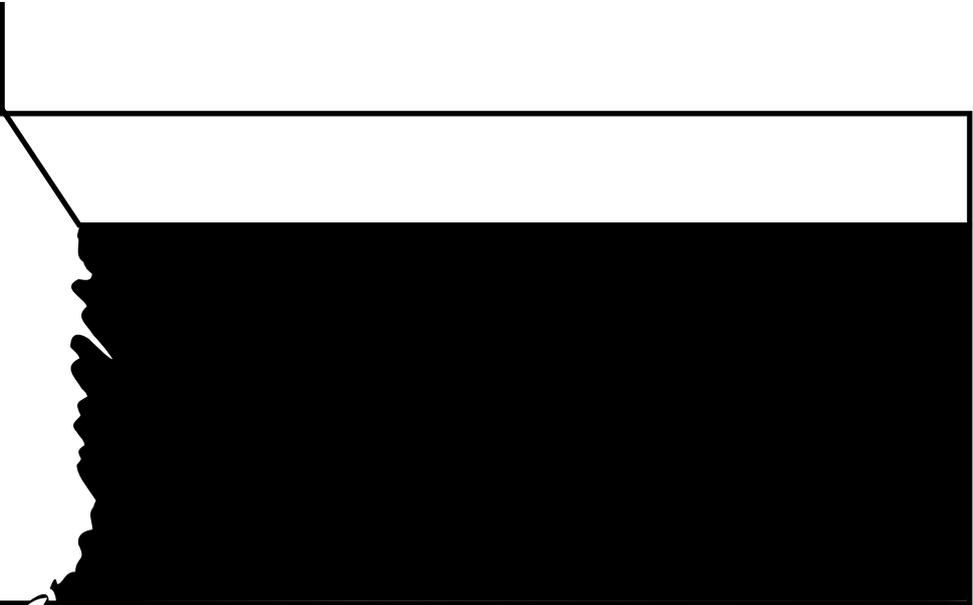
The children colour the picture and the figures on the strip. Slot the figure strip in place on the back of the picture with the boy visible lying on his bed. Point out what the father is saying. Pull the strip until the words of Jesus appear in the other speech bubble. Point out what has happened to the boy. Remind the children that the boy got better at the very time that Jesus said, 'Your son will live!' (v.53).

### 7-9s

Continue with the activity book. Photocopy page 49 on paper and page 50 on card for each child. The decoded question is, 'Do we need to see a miracle before we can believe in Jesus?' Use this to discuss the importance of true faith in Jesus, i.e. faith that is not propped up with signs and wonders (v.48). Attach page 49 to the back of the book.



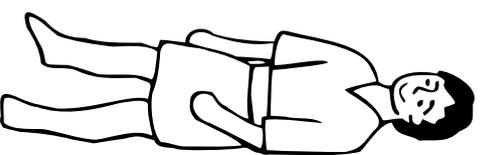
Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 4:15



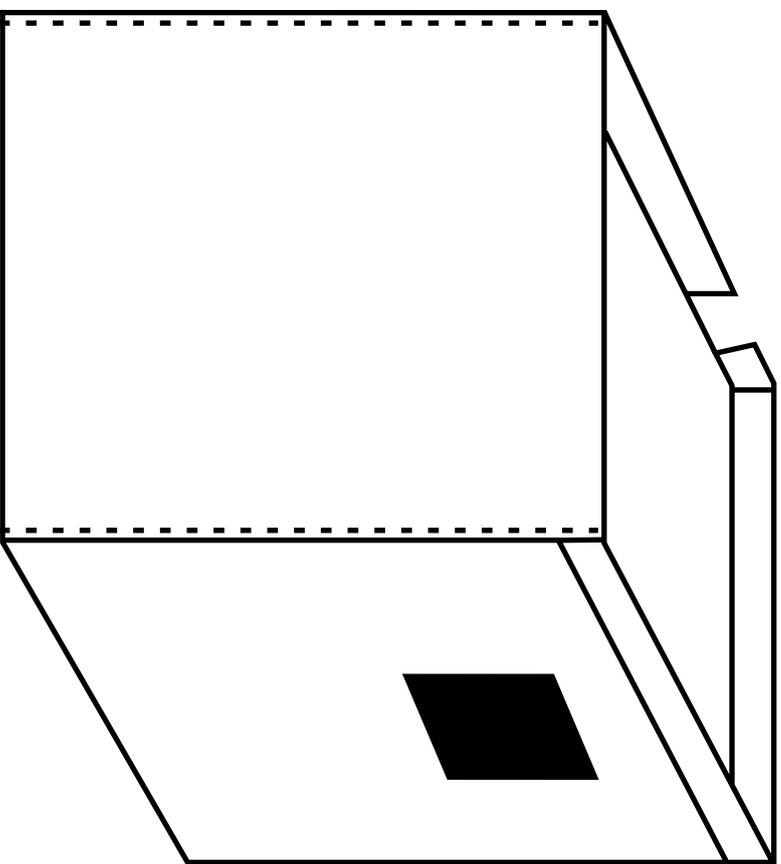
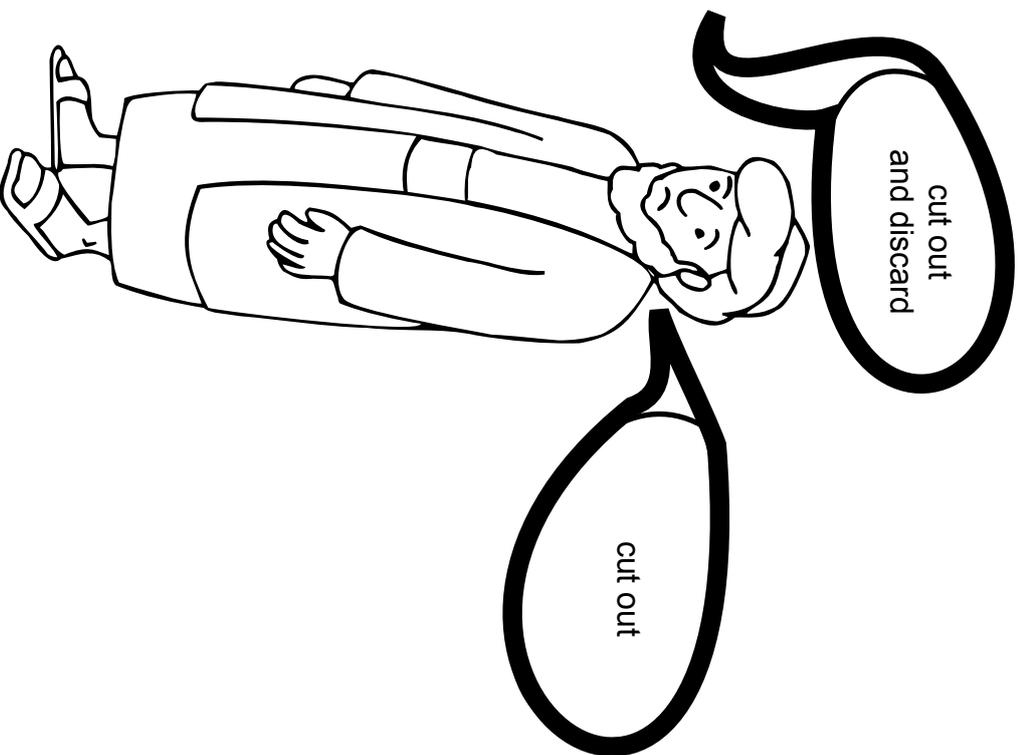
retaining strip

Go, your son  
will live!

Come before  
my child dies.



A father came to Jesus to ask him to heal his son. Pull the slider to see what Jesus did.



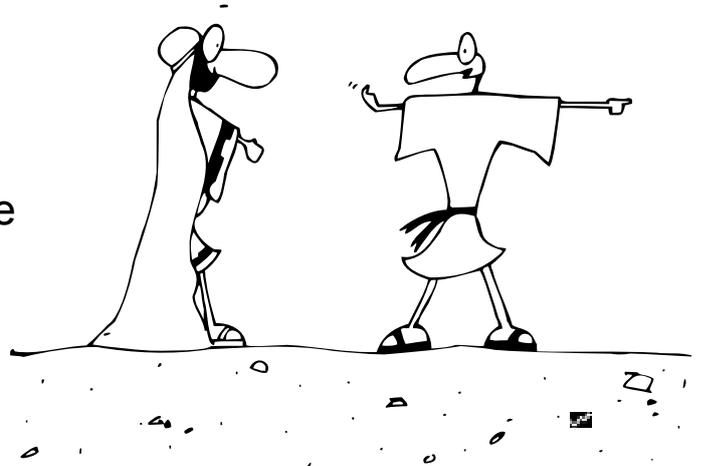
Jesus is the Son of God.  
1 John 4:15

# Jesus Helps ...

a sick son. John 4:46-54

What was the problem?

- the son was mildly ill
- the son was about to die
- the son was dead



What did Jesus do about it?

- he told the father to have faith in him
- he went to the father's house
- he said, 'your son will live'

How did the man show he believed Jesus?

- he did what Jesus said
- he promised to be a follower of Jesus
- he bowed down and worshipped Jesus

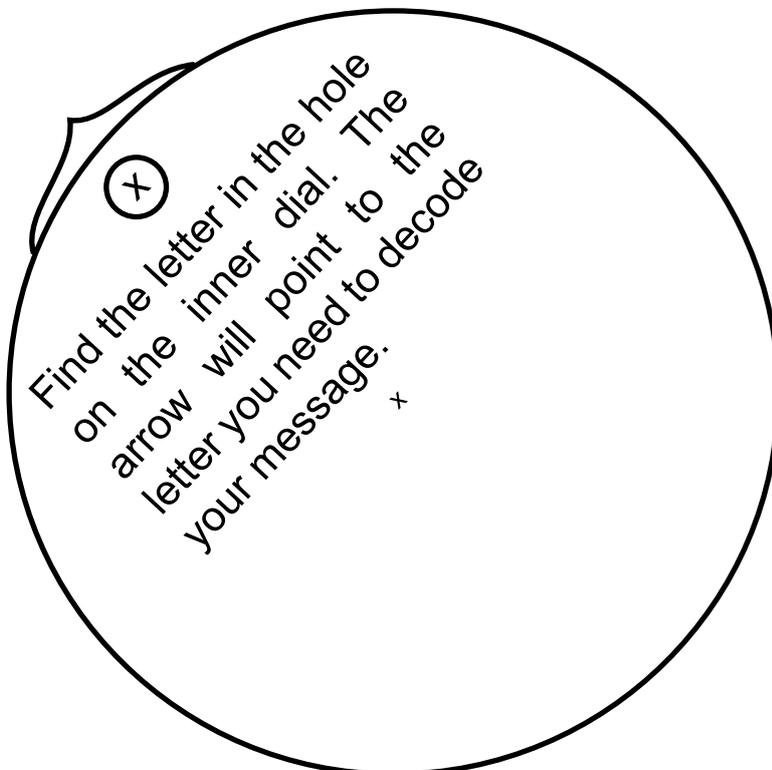
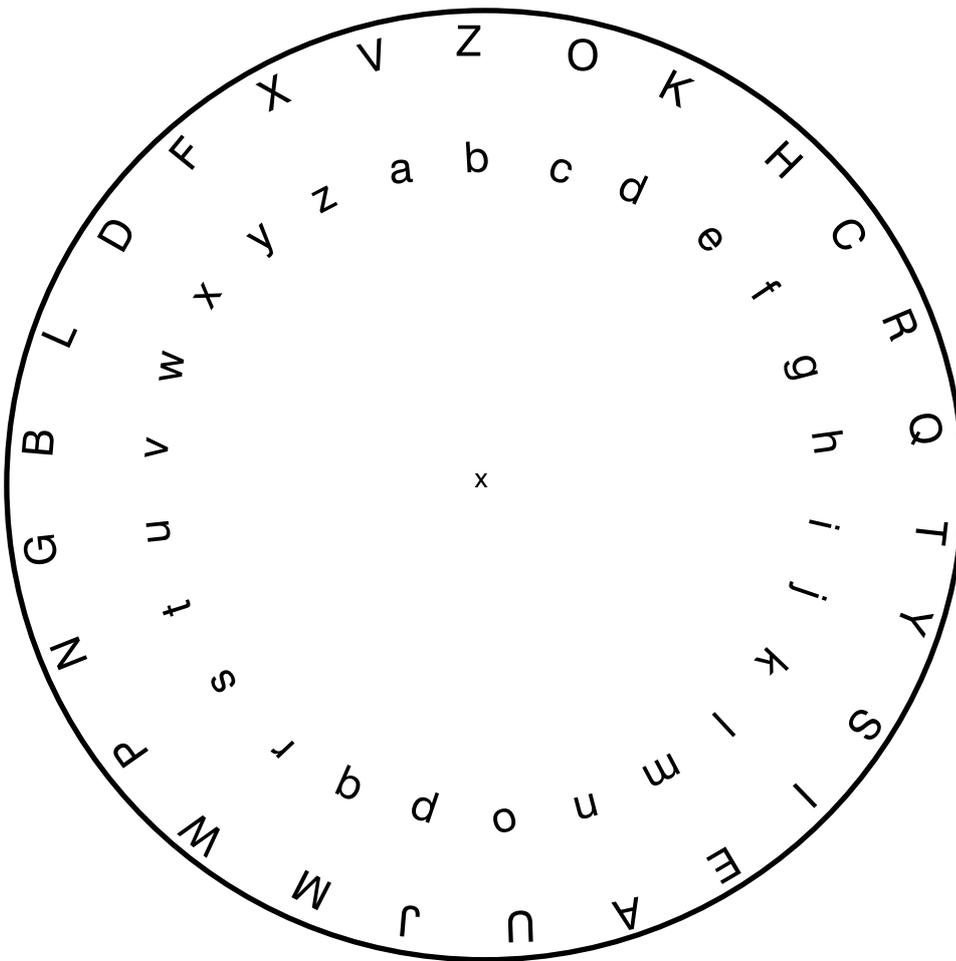
What was the result?

- the father believed
- the whole family believed
- the disciples believed

Make your decoder and use it to discover the last question.

-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --  
x c r m t m m x i c k m m n q l g n f w m  
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- ?  
v m y c g m r m f n t v m w l m a m l t p m k o k

# Secret Decoder



Cut out both discs. Punch a hole at (X) Attach the small disc on top of the big disc using a split pin paper fastener through the centres. Make sure that the 2 discs can rotate independently.