

# Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW009)

**The Big Story of God 9:  
Jesus died and rose  
again**

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## THE BIG STORY OF GOD 9

### JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN

#### Service Aim:

To teach people about what Jesus achieved through His death and resurrection, and to challenge people to think about who Jesus really is.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

#### Biblical Reference(s):

Matthew 11:4-5, 16:15, 26:14-16, 47-67, 27:11-26, 32-54, 57-61, 28:1-10, John 5:18, 10:36

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#### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Game:	“Who am I?”
Link:	We discover who someone is from looking at what they do and say
Bible Story:	Told by Judas, Caiphas, Pilate and the Roman Centurion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus asks us, “Who do you say I am?”</li> </ul>
Song:	<u>Song about Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Bible Reading:	Matthew 27:57-61
Drama:	“He’s alive” – Interview between Mary and a reporter
Talk:	Jesus is who He claimed to be ie the Son of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He achieved his mission on earth by paying for our sins and opening up the door to our Father’s presence.</li> <li>• Who do you say Jesus is?</li> </ul>
Response:	Responsive Creed
Prayers:	With re-lighting candle
Lord’s Prayer	
Summary:	We discover who someone is from looking at their lives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus showed that He is the Son of God through His words and his actions.</li> <li>• He has made it possible for us to become forgiven children of God.</li> <li>• Jesus asks each one of us “Who do you say I am?”</li> </ul>
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is “Jesus died and rose again.” If you are using this service as part of the series: “The Big Story of God”, explain that too.

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*  
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,  
**We welcome you here today.**

**Help us Lord to worship you,  
To listen to your Word,  
And to pray in faith,  
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.  
Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

## Game:

Begin by playing the simple game of “Who am I?” This involves inviting a person (who you have prepared before the service) to come to the front. You then write down the name of a famous person on a post-it note (without your volunteer seeing it) and stick it on their forehead. You tell the congregation that the volunteer is going to have to try and guess who the famous person is on their forehead by asking you questions, to which you can only reply “yes” or “no.”

So that this game works in the way that you want it to, and to bring out the point that we discover who someone is from looking at what they say or do (or both), you might like to use the examples of famous people and questions that you can find in Appendix 2.

After you have played the game for a couple of minutes, you could say the following:

- We discover who someone is by looking at their lives don't we,**
- **by looking at the things that they say and the things that they do.**

<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
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When Jesus walked this earth, He showed us who He was from the things that He said and the things that He did.

- Jesus said all sorts of wonderful things and one of the things He said about Himself was that He was God's Son.
- Not only did Jesus claim to be God's Son, but his healings and miracles in people's lives also pointed to the fact that He was God's Son.

Accepting that Jesus was God's Son was not easy for many people. Even John the Baptist, the prophet whom God had sent ahead of Jesus to prepare the ground for Jesus arriving had doubts when he was thrown into prison.

- Listen to what Jesus said to John's friends who came on John's behalf to ask Him if He really was God's Son:
- *"Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."* (Matthew 11:4-5)
- Look at the things that I am doing and listen to the things that I am saying, said Jesus to John....they will show you that I am The Son of God whom has been sent into the world.

Now there were some people who hated what Jesus was doing and saying. They didn't want to see or couldn't see who Jesus truly was and before long a plot was formed to get rid of Jesus. Listen to what happened.

### **Bible Story:**

The Bible story can be found in Appendix 3 and tells the story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion from the point of view of different people present at the time ie Judas, Caiphas, Pilate and the Centurion. It would work well if people stood up where they were seated in the congregation and spoke out their words (which can be read, and not learnt). When this is finished say something like:

You have heard what Judas, Caiphas the Jewish High Priest, Pilate the Roman Governor and the Roman Centurion believed about who Jesus was.

How would you answer Jesus' question, "Who do **you** say I am?"

### **Song:**

A song about Jesus as per Appendix 1

### **Bible Reading:**

The Bible reading is Matthew 27:57-61 and can be read by a child, young person or adult from a modern version of the Bible. As soon as the reading is finished, the drama begins without any introduction for maximum dramatic impact!

### **Drama:**

The drama is called "He's alive" and can be found in Appendix 4. It is an interview between Mary and a reporter. When Mary rushes in at the beginning she needs to be very excited and shouting at the top of her voice.

## Talk:

You need the visual aid of a large cross for this talk. It would also be helpful to have a number of palm crosses<sup>2</sup> or small wooden crosses<sup>3</sup> to hand out to people to take away with them.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified on a cross, buried in a tomb and was raised to life on the third day. He is now with His Father in heaven.

- So what does that mean?

It means that Jesus is who He claimed to be, in other words the **Son of God**.

- Jesus wasn't just a good teacher like Judas believed he was.
- He wasn't a blasphemer or a liar as Caiphas the chief priest believed.
- He wasn't just a good man as Pilate believed, but
- Jesus is the Son of God as the Roman Centurion realised standing at the foot of Jesus' cross.

As Son of God, Jesus **achieved His mission** on earth, which was to enable you and I to become sons and daughters of God. Let me show you how He did that with a **CROSS**. (*Move large cross forward and hand out crosses*)

- 1) Look at the crossbeam.....where Jesus' arms were stretched out wide in love
  - Jesus chose to pay the price for your sins and my sins. Our sins separate us from God both now and for all eternity and we can't change that on our own.
  - Jesus, the sinless Son of God, out of His incredible love for us, paid for your sins and paid for my sins...how costly that was for him.....what amazing love.
- 2) Now look at the upright on the cross.....it is pointing upwards. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, he opened up the door for us into our Heavenly Father's presence.....the place where we can become children of God and part of His family.
  - Now that sin has been dealt with, there is nothing that can separate us from our Father's love.

As we saw earlier with Judas, Caiphas and Pilate, people will always act out of what they believe deep down. I wonder what you believe deep down about Jesus.

- Imagine that Jesus just walked into the room and is speaking to each one of us in turn. His question to each one of us is this: "Who do **you** say I am?"
- Take a moment of quiet to think about how you would answer Him as we look at our crosses. **PAUSE**

## Response:

Respond with a responsive Affirmation of faith. You might like to say the following:

Having thought about how you would respond to Jesus, we would like to give you an opportunity now to speak out what you believe.<sup>4</sup> Please feel free to answer or stay silent.

<sup>2</sup> You can purchase Palm crosses from Eden at: [www.eden.co.uk](http://www.eden.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> You can purchase wooden crosses from craft shapes at: [www.craftshapes.co.uk](http://www.craftshapes.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> This Affirmation of Faith has been taken from the C of E website at: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/commonworship/>

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
**This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in one God,**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

### Prayers:

You will need a relighting candle<sup>5</sup> for the prayers. You could use the following:

*As we light this candle we thank you Lord Jesus that you are here. (Light re-lighting candle)*

Thank you that you came into this dark world to set us free from our sin and make it possible for us to become children of God.

Thank you that even though you were crucified for our sins, the grave could not keep you there. *(Blow out re-lighting candle and allow it to relight again)*

We praise you that you are Risen and alive today. Come and reign over each one of our lives. Amen.

### Lord's Prayer:

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

### Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

*We discover who someone is by looking at their lives.*

- Jesus showed that He is the Son of God through His words and his actions.
- He has made it possible for us to become forgiven children of God.
- Jesus asks each one of us "Who do you say I am?"

### Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

<sup>5</sup> You can buy relighting candles from Amazon at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
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**Blessing:**

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**[Notices:** If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

### i) Opening songs. Ideas include:

- Big family of God (Becky Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Jesus is greater than the greatest heroes (Gillian E. Hutchinson © 1992 Sea Dream Music)
- Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)
- Praise is rising (Brenton Brown, Paul Baloche © 2005, 2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- Praise my soul the king of heaven (Henry Francis Lyte, John Goss)
- Water you turned into wine (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2010 SHOUT! Music Publishing)

### ii) A song about Jesus. Ideas include:

- God is love (Becky Drake, Nick J Drake, © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- How deep the Father's love for us (Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- In Christ alone (Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- My hope is built on nothing less (Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury, © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- My Jesus, my Saviour (Darlene Zschech © 1993 Wondrous Worship)
- Name above all names (Neil Bennetts © 2000 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- There is a Redeemer (Melody Green © 1982 Birdwing Music)
- When I survey (Isaac Watts, Tim Hughes © 2007 Thankyou Music)

### iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- Before the throne of God above (Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship)
- Counting on your name (Ben Cantelon, Nick Herbert, Tim Hughes © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- I believe in Jesus (Marc Nelson © 1987 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Our God is alive (Becky Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- The greatest day in history (Ben Cantelon, Tim Hughes © 2006 Thankyou Music )
- Thine be the glory (Edmond Louis Budry, Richard Birch Hoyle)
- Who O Lord could save themselves? (Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2008 SHOUT! Music Publishing)



## Appendix 2 - Ideas for questions for the “Who am I?” game

**Famous person is: William Shakespeare.**

You could ask the following questions:

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1) Am I a man?                             | (Answer: Yes) |
| 2) Am I alive today?                       | (Answer: No)  |
| 3) Am I famous today?                      | (Answer: Yes) |
| 4) Am I famous for the things I have said? | (Answer: Yes) |
| 5) Am I a writer?                          | (Answer: Yes) |
| 6) Did I write books?                      | (Answer: No)  |
| 7) Did I write plays?                      | (Answer: Yes) |
| 8) Am I William Shakespeare?               | (Answer: Yes) |

**Famous person is: Jessica Ennis**

You could ask the following questions:

- |                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Am I a man?                        | (Answer: No)  |
| 2) Am I alive today?                  | (Answer: Yes) |
| 3) Am I famous for winning something? | (Answer: Yes) |
| 4) Am I a singer?                     | (Answer: No)  |
| 5) Am I a sportswoman?                | (Answer: Yes) |
| 6) Have I won an Olympic medal?       | (Answer: Yes) |
| 7) Do I compete in Athletics?         | (Answer: Yes) |
| 8) Am I Jessica Ennis?                | (Answer: Yes) |

## Appendix 3 – The Story of Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion and burial

**Cast:** Judas, Caiphas, Pilate, Centurion, Joseph of Arimathea (who can all read their words from the script)

.....  
**Judas** (stands up and speaks)

My name is Judas. I was one of Jesus’ twelve closest followers, going with him from town to town, listening to the things Jesus said and watching what He did. At first I thought He was the One we had been waiting for to come and overthrow the Romans. But then, when Jesus started talking about dying, I realised he couldn’t be the One....he couldn’t be the Messiah, come to set his people free. So I went to the Chief Priests and agreed to lead them to Jesus for thirty silver coins. I believed Jesus was a Rabbi, but no way was He the Son of God. (Sits down)

**Caiphas** (stands up and speaks)

My name is Caiphas. I was the Jewish High Priest at the time of Jesus. After He had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was brought before me. Many people then accused him of doing and saying all sorts of things, but Jesus didn’t reply. So I said to him: *“I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”*

I couldn’t believe it when Jesus answered by saying, *“Yes, it is as you say.”* What blasphemy.....what lies.....who did he think He was? God’s Son indeed? I believed that Jesus was a blasphemous troublemaker and that he had to die for his sins. (Sits down)

**Pilate** (stands up and speaks)

My name is Pilate. I was the Roman governor at the time of Jesus. After He had been seen by the High Court of the Jews, Jesus was brought before me because the Jewish court wanted him executed and they couldn’t authorise that. I questioned him and couldn’t find anything wrong with the man. I had a custom at the time of the Jewish Passover of releasing a prisoner chosen by the crowd and I offered to release Jesus or Barabbas, a murderer. The crowd shouted for Barabbas’ release and when I asked them what I should do with Jesus they shouted, *“Crucify him.”* I didn’t want a riot on my hands so I washed my hands of the whole affair and sent Jesus to be flogged and then crucified. I believed that Jesus was a good man who didn’t deserve to die. (Sits down)

**Centurion** (stands up and speaks)

My name is Justus. I was the Roman Centurion who made sure that the crucifixion of Jesus went ahead without any hitches. We crucified Jesus at a place called Golgotha. We offered him wine mixed with gall to drink, which would have helped the pain, but Jesus refused it. So many people walked past Jesus and made fun of him, but unlike the criminals either side of him I heard no insults come out of his mouth. Instead I heard these amazing words: *“Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”* Then something very strange happened....darkness came over the land, which was really eerie. After about three hours of darkness, I heard a loud cry from Jesus’ cross as he breathed his last, and then the earth shook and the rocks split. I was absolutely terrified and found myself saying, *“Surely he was the Son of God!”* (Sits down)

## Appendix 4 – Drama – “He’s alive”

**Cast:** Mary Magdalene (dressed in a long dress, shawl and head-dress), Reporter  
**Props:** Reporter’s clipboard (which could contain the script)

.....  
*(Enter Mary from back of church. She runs up to the front of church shouting loudly and very excitedly:)*

Mary: He’s alive, he’s alive. He has risen. He is not dead anymore. I have seen him with my own eyes. He’s alive.

*(Enter Reporter who joins Mary at the front of church)*

Reporter: Excuse me I’m a reporter from the Jerusalem Chronicle. You sound very excited. Can you tell me what’s happened?

Mary: Jesus has risen. He was dead and in the tomb, but now He is alive.

Reporter: Are you sure?

Mary: Absolutely. I have just seen Him and talked with Him. He’s alive.

Reporter: Mmmmm. It sounds rather unlikely that a dead body would come back to life. Perhaps he didn’t really die and he recovered in the cool of the tomb.

Mary: Are you mad? Have you never seen a crucifixion? One thing the Romans are really good at is making sure that someone is properly dead. I saw them thrust a spear in his side and the blood and water pouring out. I’m telling you, Jesus was dead, but now he is alive.

Reporter: Maybe but there could be another explanation. Perhaps his followers stole His body and hid it somewhere and you are just seeing an angelic vision.

Mary: You have got to be joking. Jesus’ followers were terrified men. They all ran away before Jesus was crucified. Not one of them would have had the guts to have stolen Jesus’ body....they are all in hiding.

Reporter: OK, OK, I get it about the men.....but is it possible that you have just seen an angelic vision?

Mary: Yes I have seen an angelic vision....

Reporter: There we are then.....I knew there was a proper explanation for all of this.

Mary: No you don’t understand. When Mary and I got to the tomb this morning, we found the stone rolled away and an angel sitting on top of it. He told us not to be afraid and that Jesus had risen. After we had seen the angel we met Jesus.

Reporter: Ri...ight.....so tell me, what did you eat last night?

Mary: Listen you don't need to believe me.....but I know that Jesus was dead after he had spent over six hours on the cross. I saw his body placed in the tomb and a stone rolled across the entrance. I have seen the stone rolled away, an angel and Jesus and I know without any doubt that Jesus is alive.

Reporter: Well, thank you for sharing this rather unusual news with us.

Mary: That's OK....I can't wait to tell all of Jesus' followers.

*(Mary exits and as she does she shouts)*

Jesus is alive, He has risen, Hallelujah!

Reporter: I need to go and write up this story....I wonder what it all means. Who is this man Jesus who died and then rose again?

*(Exit reporter)*