

Blocks & Bricks

Church for Minecrafters and Builders

December 2025

GUIDE FOR LEADERS

- "Blocks" activities are for Minecrafters. "Bricks" are alternative activities for Lego, junk modelling etc. – a Plan B in case of a technology fail, or for children who prefers crafts
- Use at home or in church during worship.
- Minecrafters can stay in church while quietly creating in Minecraft or go out in a separate group.
- Minecrafters ("Blocks") and builders ("Bricks") share what they have been working on at the end of the service.
- Technical guidelines at the end of this booklet give hints for getting started.
- Scan QR code for an online version of this booklet with clickable links.

GUIDE FOR MINECRAFTERS AND BUILDERS

- Read, listen to or watch the story first. Use headphones if watching in church!
- Minecrafters:
    - create a world using the suggested Bedrock seed. Use Creative Mode and Peaceful, unless it says otherwise.
    - If sharing a world with others, be kind! No griefing!!
- Builders: Choose a craft (e.g. Lego, junk modelling, playdough)
- Read the suggested activities and get inspired!
- If in church, pay attention to what is going on around you:
    - Singing? Bop about!
    - Praying? Pray too!
- After the service, share your thoughts with everyone you can!

WEEK ONE - THE STORY (2nd in Advent)

Matthew 3: 1-12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=py2zZMiQYjA
(first two minutes)



BLOCKS SEED:

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- Create a beehive and a farm with flowers so you can harvest the honey like John the Baptist. Can you make a baby bee?
- Move away from the village and build two bridges (or other means of crossing over the river). One bridge should take you to the other side and a fresh new beginning. The other one should pass over the other side but then loop straight back to where you started.
- Create some spiders (no snakes in standard Minecraft!) and see if you can chase them over the looping back bridge by scaring them with armadillos!

BRICKS

Use yellow and black tissue paper to make a bee collage.

Use some blue cloth (spread out an old pair of jeans!) to make a river. Can you make a crossing with Lego or junk modelling? Once you are on the other side, make a sign with a choice of two directions – to carry to a new life, or to go back as if nothing had changed.

PRAYER

Going through the motions of Baptism isn't enough. The Pharisees are scared. They want to look like they are crossing the river, without going anywhere! John the Baptist said that to get ready for God, we need to leave sin behind and make a new start.

It can be really hard to break a bad habit or stop a bad behaviour and choose the right path. Ask God for the courage to make real change as we get ready for him coming.

WEEK TWO - THE STORY (3rd in Advent)

Matthew 11: 2-11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA1tto99-xw
(first 2:16 minutes only)



BLOCKS SEED:

1738801

Build the prison that John the Baptist is in.

Create a skin that looks like John the Baptist might have looked (e.g. rags, long beard).

Take a screenshot of John the Baptist in prison. Does he look like the greatest person ever born?

Now create a skin for Jesus. How can you make him look like a Messiah?? Maybe it isn't the skin, but what he is doing that shows he is special? Can you make a scene where he is doing some of the amazing things in the story? The poor hearing the good news might be the easiest!

BRICKS

Build a prison with Lego or junk modelling. Create a John the Baptist figure. You could use some brown felt and wool wrapped around a cardboard roll.

Hang a sign pointing to the prisoner – "the greatest person that has ever lived (Matthew 11:11)"

Create a Jesus figure. How can you tell he is the Messiah?

PRAYER

John announced that God's kingdom was coming, brought by Jesus, but he didn't expect it to look like prison and Jesus wandering from town to town!

Sometimes God's plan doesn't look the way we expect or hope. Pray for God's help to keep following his way, even when we feel puzzled about where he is leading!

WEEK 3 - THE STORY (4th in Advent)

Matthew 1: 18-25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmgW-LloLsc



BLOCKS SEED: 5005

Create a scene where the angel visits Joseph, who is in bed. The angel says "don't be afraid". Does your angel look scary?

The baby will be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us". God is with us in the world – this is quite amazing news!

Explore the Minecraft world and put up a sign wherever you can see something of God, explaining why. For example, you could create an animal family, or feed some animals, or you could climb a high mountain, explore a cave, mine for something rare and beautiful, or visit somewhere with lots of sea creatures.

BRICKS

Create an angel with the materials available to you. See this Pinterest link for some ideas: https://pin.it/2B9U1IHgf. Does your angel look scary? (Angel decorations don't usually – why??)

Draw, look for images, or create a model of where you can discern God in the world. This could be a place, such as the ocean, or an action, such as care for others in hospital.

PRAYER

This passage tells us in lots of ways that this baby is very special! He is part of God's plan and will save God's people.

Pray for help spotting where God is active in the world around you, even in unexpected places.

CHRISTMAS - THE STORY (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

Luke 2: 1-20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxuObnjeUP4



BLOCKS SEED: 1738801

Do an internet search for a map of key locations (Nazareth, Bethlehem, Herodium, where Herod's palace was).

In the Minecraft world, decide where to build the different places so they are roughly in the right direction from each other. Remember the wise men come from the East!

Choose a scene from the story to build - Herod's palace; a campfire and some shepherds and sheep on a hillside; the shed where Jesus is born with all the animals; the wise men following a star.

If you are on a shared world with others, act out your own Nativity play in your world. You could even record it and put it on YouTube!

BRICKS

Have a look at a map of where the Christmas story took place (see "Blocks").

Plot the locations roughly on a large sheet of paper. It doesn't have to be to scale, but just so everything is roughly in the right direction.

Build or draw something for each location. If you are working with others, divide the locations up so you create an interactive map!

PRAYER

We often give gifts at Christmas. God sent his own son as a gift to us, so we would know we are loved and know God's way.

Say thank you to God for this amazing gift! Could you take a screenshot or photo of the scene you have built and turn it into a gift for someone you know?

WEEK 4 - THE STORY (First Sunday after Christmas Day)

Matthew 2: 13-23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbKmCUoh6-I



BLOCKS SEED: 9066

Jesus is an unlikely threat to Herod – a tiny cute baby – yet Herod feel very threatened!

Can you make an unlikely threat in Minecraft? Something that looks completely safe, but will turn into a trap or something scary. What is it about Jesus that Herod is so scared of?

Jesus coming back from Egypt in this story reminds us of God saving his people from Egypt, when Moses led them to safety. Jesus is not a threat at all, he is a rescuer!

Can you make a trapdoor that actually leads to something unexpectedly amazing!

BRICKS

Have a game of Jenga or pick-up sticks, where a seemingly innocent move can bring everything crashing down. What is it about the baby Jesus that Herod finds so scary?

Make a treasure box that looks simple on the outside, but when you open it up, has something special inside. This could be a picture you have drawn or something you have made. It just has to be unexpected!

PRAYER

The baby Jesus has some very difficult times in this story, but a rescuer has to be with the people who need rescuing the most, or he wouldn't be very good at his job!

Say a big thank you to God that Jesus is with the people who need it most. Think about any stories you have heard in the news, or people that you know who might need God, and tell God about them.

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

You will need:

- Minecraft installed on a phone, tablet or laptop.
- No internet connection. These activities have been designed to work offline.

Sharing worlds (optional - internet required):

- Up to six devices can join the same Minecraft world
  - World must be visible on the LAN (local area network). Minecrafters will know how to do this!
  - Nintendo Switch devices will only be able to see each other, unless they have an extra subscription, so may need their own group.
  - Needs supervision (as may be disputes if work is damaged, or something hurtful is put in the chat).
  - Consider disabling the chat.
  - Very young children and beginners should avoid shared worlds in case of accidental damage.
- For more than six devices, you can either split the Minecrafters into multiple groups, with a shared world for each group, or you can run a Minecraft Server. Contact minecraft@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk for more information on Minecraft servers.
- Neither option publishes anything to the wider internet. They are only visible to devices on the same network.

Sharing builds:

- It is important to view, discuss and share the Minecrafters' work after the service.
  - Look at the builds on the Minecrafters' devices and ask them what they have built and why.
  - Encourage them to take screenshots of their work.
  - Send screenshots to minecraft@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk to go on our gallery.
  - Even better - display them on a projector screen in your own church after the service for everyone to see!

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