Blocks & Bricks

Church for Minecrafters and Builders

December 2026



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 craf
- 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 PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (2nd in Advent)

Mark 1:1-8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOPKW161my0

BLOCKS SEED: 200

Build a straight road from the village (at 90, 73, 269) to a river. No bends or slopes allowed! Bridges and tunnelling through mountains may be needed to keep the road straight!

Make a home for camels near the village. Feed cactus to the adults to make a baby camel. Place a beehive and harvest some honey.

At the river, make an empty seat, or place an armour stand, to represent the coming Lord Jesus. John didn't know who he would be, just that he would be greater and would bring the Holy Spirit.

Can you ride a camel along your straight road? You might need to build fences to make it safer.

BRICKS

Can you draw a straight line with your eyes closed? How about a circle? Play "pin the tail on the donkey/camel" or spin around and then try to move to a particular point in the room without wobbling. Another idea would be to try a three-legged walk with one player blindfolded.

John doesn't know what is coming but he knows the preparation, to avoid missing the target or wobbling, is to repent of sins.

PRAYER

God does something amazing by sending Jesus into the world to show us how we are loved. We need to sit up and take notice, and like those baptised by John, we need to be prepared to turn our lives around to welcome Jesus.

Pray for everyone hearing about Jesus this Christmas time. Pray for the opportunity to make the "road straight" so they learn more and come to know his love.

WEEK TWO - JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MESSAGE (3rd in Advent)

John 1:6-8, 19-28

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihks1kGrNJk

BLOCKS SEED: 5001

Build an ice boat racing track. You'll need to make sure there are no gaps and no obstacles to crash into. Use the best combination of blue ice and packed ice.

Make sure corners are gentle so it is possible to get round them without too much trouble. You want the course to be challenging, but not so challenging it isn't fun.

How fast can you get around?

Build some large letters that spell out "straighten the road" or "clear the path". Build a figure representing John that you can just see peeping out behind the words. John wants us to know that it isn't him that is important, but his message.

BRICKS

Take a paper tissue box (cube-shape). Turn it over and cut out the base so that it can lift like a lid. This is now the top.

Create a picture/model of John that will fit inside the box. Attach it to a stick that can pass through the slit at the bottom.

Cut out the words "straighten the road" and place them in front of the box, so that when John pops up out of his box he can just be seen behind the message.

PRAYER

John doesn't want to be known as a prophet or to be known for himself at all. His purpose is to point forward to Jesus. His message is what is important – prepare the way!

Pray for everyone, such as Christian preachers, who are called to put themselves last and Christ's message first. Pray for those listening too!

WEEK 3 - JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MESSAGE (3rd in Advent)

John 1:6-8, 19-28

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihks1kGrNJk

BLOCKS SEED: 4001

Build an ice boat racing track. You'll need to make sure there are no gaps and no obstacles to crash into. Use the best combination of blue ice and packed ice.

Make sure corners are gentle so it is possible to get round them without too much trouble. You want the course to be challenging, but not so challenging it isn't fun.

How fast can you get around?

Build some large letters that spell out "straighten the road" or "clear the path". Build a figure representing John that you can just see peeping out behind the words. John wants us to know that it isn't him that is important, but his message.

BRICKS

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PRAYER

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WEEK 4 - CHRISTMAS DAY! (Nativity of the Lord - Proper II)

Luke 2: 1-20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpMX-1WwvqU

BLOCKS SEED: 968

Build the scene with the shepherds on the hillside. There need to be lots of sheep, and maybe a campfire.

When the angel comes, it needs to be a bit scary, or they wouldn't have to say "do not be afraid". Maybe the angel could fly up using elytra wings and fireworks, or maybe you could build an angel in the sky.

Can you hold some wheat so that the sheep all look towards the angel too?

Build the inn where Jesus is at the bottom of the hill. How long would it take a shepherd to run there? Do the sheep follow?

BRICKS

Draw a "where's wally" type picture with lots of babies, but only one of them is in a manger. Challenge someone to spot Jesus.

If you are in a group, hide a baby doll and then hunt for it, giving clues (getting warmer etc.) to help out.

How are the shepherds told they will recognise Jesus? More importantly, who do they recognise him to be?

PRAYER

Jesus' birth is important! The shepherds leave their sheep in the middle of the night and dash to see him, confirming to Mary and Joseph what the angel has told them about who he is. God is with us! Amazing!

Pray for everyone celebrating Christmas today, especially those, like the shepherds, who are working. Pray for peace and joy for all the Earth.

WEEK 5 - JESUS IS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

(1st after Christmas)

Luke 2:22-40

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gvIWzbw

BLOCKS SEED: 125

Can you build something in Minecraft that looks like it has been there for many years, if not centuries?

You could use mossy blocks and plants growing in the walls. Parts of the walls or roof could have broken. Have a look at pictures of some real old buildings from around the world to get inspired!

You could also grow plants all around your build, a little like the castle in the story of sleeping beauty, to show it has been there a long time.

Create figures of people, or of any mob you like, that makes them look old. What would an elderly zombie or villager look like?

BRICKS

Make some paper look old – crumple the paper, submerge it in a shallow tray of black tea or coffee for a couple of minutes, then flatten it and dry it in a oven on a very low heat. Write Simeon's words on the paper: "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace.

With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."

PRAYER

Simeon and Anna are elderly. They have spent many years in prayer waiting for the Messiah. Their quiet prayer and devotion has an important part in God's story. They recognise who Jesus is and predict that his kingdom won't be what people are expecting. They welcome him.

Pray for everyone who serves God, whether through quiet prayer or in other ways. May the elderly and infirm and anyone who is called to pray recognise their contribution to God's story.

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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