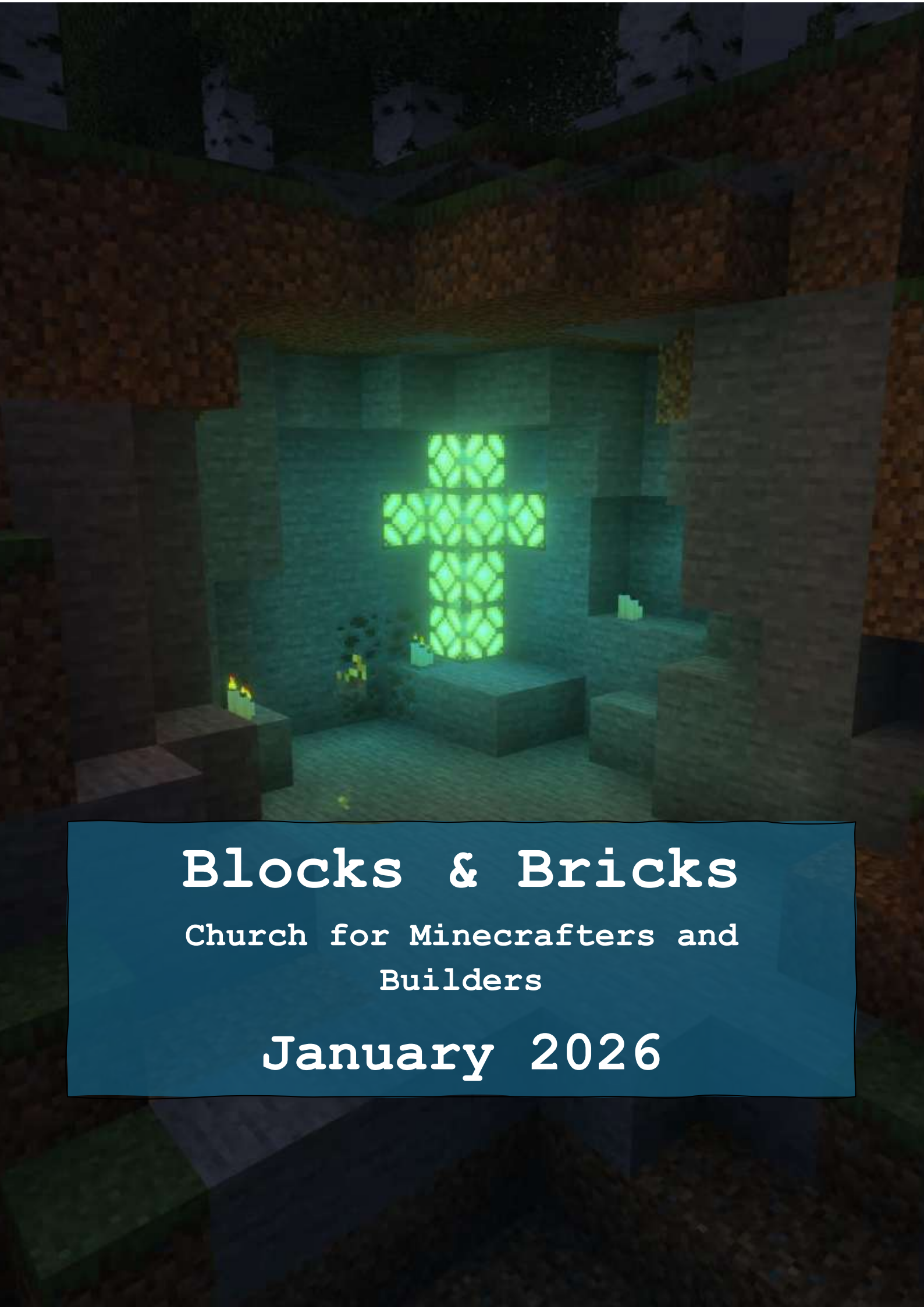


Blocks & Bricks

Church for Minecrafters and Builders

January 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 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 after Christmas)

John 1:(1-9),10-18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGuXA1foALA



BLOCKS SEED: 1731

"The light shines in the darkness"

Discover or create a dark place in Minecraft such as a cave, a mine shaft or an undersea shelter.

How can you bring light into this space? Be imaginative! You could use torches, lanterns, sea lanterns, fireflies, glow stone, glowing plants, fireworks…

What was the space like before you added light? Try to think of at least three words to describe it.

What differences does the light make? Think of at least three more words to describe what it is like now. What might "in the beginning was the word" mean?

BRICKS

Make a tealight holder! E.g. Use an upside-down white paper cup with some red stripes and an electric tealight on top to make a lighthouse.

Carefully cut out shapes from a piece of black card, cover the gaps with different colour tissue paper, and then roll the card into a tube to make a colourful lantern.

What words describe switching on the light?

PRAYER

Words are in our head before they are spoken, and their effects can last long after the sound of them has gone. Jesus was there before the world was made, and we still feel the effects of his words today. He is like a light showing us the way and keeping us safe.

Pray for Jesus' help so that you can be a bit like a light too, showing people what making good choices looks like through what you do and say!

WEEK TWO - THE STORY (Baptism of Jesus)

Matthew 3: 13-17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= VMNO2MAmwA



BLOCKS SEED: 200

Build a waterfall with a cave, or a passage to a different biome, behind it. The waterfall should be a bit like a curtain that you can walk through to get from one area to another.

Can you make something surprising happen when you walk through the waterfall? Maybe fireworks could go off, or a dove (parrot??) could start to dance.

Jesus' baptism is full of surprises too!

What was John the Baptist surprised about?

BRICKS

Make a "water" curtain by looping strips of blue, silver and/or white material (or paper) over a stick or drinking straw.

Create a surprise to occur when a figure passes through the curtain. For example, a dove descending on a wire, or a song beginning to play.

PRAYER

Jesus' baptism is full of surprises. John announces someone coming with power and fire and destruction. Jesus shows humility and love, and God says he is happy with that!

Following God's way is powerful, even if it doesn't always look that way at first. Look for God at work in the world in unexpected places this week, and say thank you for the love he shows us and the world!

WEEK 3 - THE STORY (2nd after Epiphany)

John 1: 29-42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZF6sb4v6j1w



BLOCKS SEED: 4631

Create a menagerie (collection of animals) by taming them and giving them somewhere to live. Give each animal their own special name.

Some may wander off. If they do, go after them and bring them back home. Make sure you are holding some food, so that while you are looking for them, they are keen to find you too!

Did you bring back any different animals when you were looking, or did you look for the ones you had already named?

Jesus and the early disciples are looking for each other. When they see each other, they recognise straight away that they have found what they were looking for.

BRICKS

Create a game with magnets. Make simple figures out of rolls of paper, and tape some fridge magnets to the inside of some of the figures, facing outwards. Put some metal (e.g. nails, screws or washers) inside the other figures.

Push the figures towards each other. Some will be attracted to each other and will stick together, just like Jesus and the disciples!

PRAYER

It is important to remember that when we go to church to learn about Jesus, Jesus is also looking for us. He wants to meet us so that we can know him and God.

Pray that you will recognise Jesus like the disciples did and will take up the opportunities he offers to get to know him!

WEEK 4 - THE STORY (3rd after Epiphany)

Matthew 4: 12-23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grIHIvO0vnY



BLOCKS SEED: 49128

Have a look at the story and photo of the Jesus boat at https://www.seetheholyland.net/jesus-boat/.

Try to make a boat that looks like this one – the kind of boat used when Jesus was alive! The boat was mostly made of cedar and oak. Once you have made the boat, get a fishing rod and see what you can catch!

Once you have caught some fish, you could try becoming "fishers of men" by hooking other players or villagers. Is this what Jesus means with this phrase?

P.S. Just for fun, there is a shipwreck to explore at coordinates (-302,41,-71)

BRICKS

Using the materials you have (e.g. junk modelling or lego) make a boat inspired by the style of boat used in the time of Jesus (see "Blocks).

Make a fishing game by tying a magnet to a string and making some paper fish with a metal paperclip attached. How many fish can you catch?

Why might Simon, Andrew, James and John have given up this secure job to follow Jesus?

PRAYER

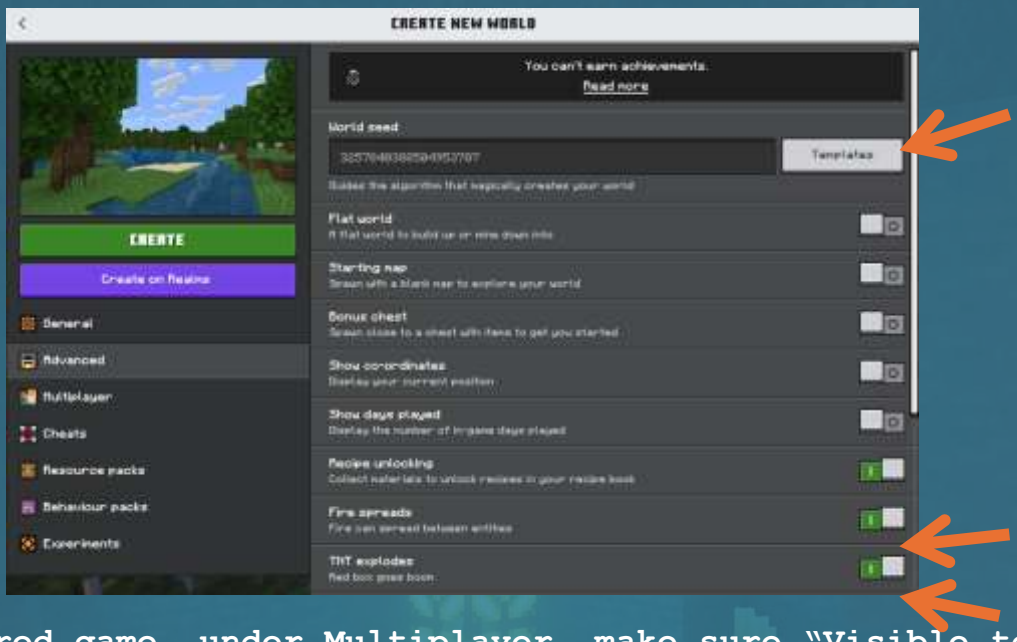
Simon, Andrew, James and John didn't really know what they were getting themselves into when they followed Jesus. It can be scary to start something new when we don't know how it will work out.

Pray for anyone making a new start, maybe at a new school or trying out a new club for the first time. May they know that Jesus is with them!

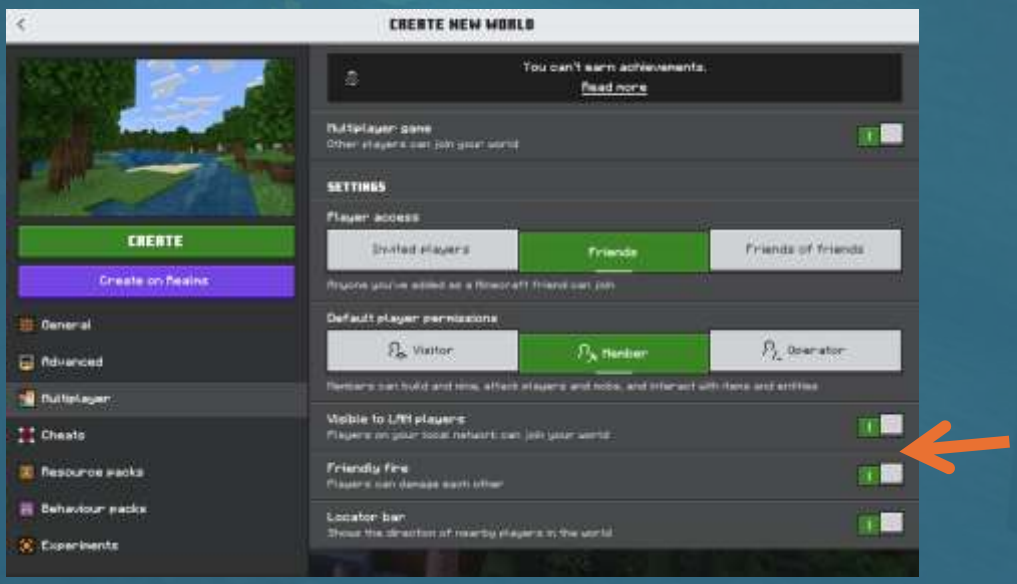
How to create a world with a seed

First, on the "General" tab set the world to Creative and Peaceful (unless instructions say otherwise).

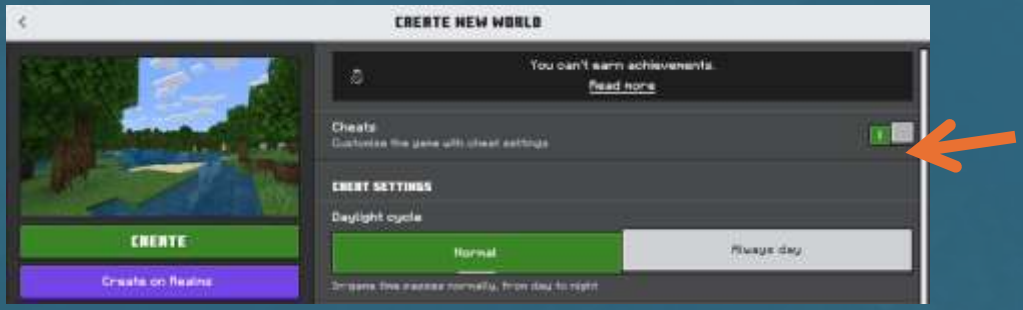
On the "Advanced" tab, enter the seed. It might also be a good idea to switch off "TNT explodes" and "Fire spreads":



For a shared game, under Multiplayer, make sure "Visible to LAN players" is switched on:



Finally, under "Cheats", switch the top option to on:



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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