

Blocks & Bricks

Church for Minecrafters and Builders

January 2027

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 LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS (2nd after Christmas)

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

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

BLOCKS SEED: 4014

Build two houses close to each other. Make one dark (not in colour – it can be shocking pink if you like!) but with no, or only small, windows and no source of light inside. Make the second house full of light – have lots of large windows and torches inside, or other sources of light.

When it is night, which house looks more welcoming and safer when you are outside? Would you choose to go in the light or the dark house?

How could you point anyone who was lost to the house with lights? Maybe you could make a light trail through the jungle.

BRICKS

Build two houses out of lego or junk modelling. As with the "block" activity, make one with small or no windows, and make the other with lots of big windows. Put a torch or tealight inside the house with windows.

Shut all the curtains and switch off the lights to make the room dark or move the houses to a dark cupboard. Which one looks the most welcoming?

PRAYER

Jesus is the same as the Word. When God sends the Word into the world as Jesus, the world doesn't recognise him. People choose darkness to light.

Pray for the world to recognise the light of Jesus and to choose him.

WEEK TWO - THE BAPTISM OF JESUS (Baptism of the Lord)

Mark 1:4-11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNbwrHp_7Ys

BLOCKS SEED: 5005

Can you build an underwater trapdoor which triggers a reaction as you swim through it and return to the surface?

You will need to use repeaters and observers to carry the signal, as redstone dust does not work under water.

As you emerge from the water, the trapdoor switch could set off fireworks, play some music, or release some parrots.

When Jesus is baptised God speaks to him: "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you".

Can you write a sign with that message, or write it in a book and put it in a dispenser that will throw the book towards the water?

BRICKS

Draw the scene onto card. Cut slits in the middle of the river and in the sky.

Draw a picture of Jesus on card and cut it out so that it can move through the slit in the river. Draw a speech bubble with God's words on another piece of card. Cut it out so it can pass through the slit in the sky.

Join them together so that when Jesus comes out of the water, the words emerge from the sky.

PRAYER

"You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you". God says this to Jesus, but he says the same to each of us too. Try saying it with your own name first:

"X, you are my own dear child. I am pleased with you."

We are all loved and cherished by God. Take a moment to feel God's love wash over you, then say thank you!

WEEK 3 - JESUS CALLS PHILIP AND NATHANAEL

(2nd after the Epiphany)

John 1:43-51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5icRvNlsjEM

BLOCKS SEED: 4631

Build a lift (elevator) using any method you choose that can lift mobs from the ground up into the clouds and then back down again.

For example, you might use minecarts to deliver mobs to a water chute. Placing Soul Sand at the bottom will transport them up, while a Magma block will bring them back down. Build the water elevator with glass blocks so that you can see the mobs moving up and down.

You could also build a ladder going up into the clouds. You will need to build a fence to ensure it is directly in the path of mobs so they climb up it. Place water around the bottom to break their fall when they fall off!

BRICKS

Create a flick book that shows a stick figure climbing and descending a ladder.

In the corner of a notebook, draw a stick figure at the bottom of a ladder. On the next page, draw them one step up, making sure you draw the ladder in exactly the same position on the page. Continue until the figure has been up and down. When you flick through the corner of the notebook, it will look like the figure is moving.

PRAYER

When Jesus meets Philip and Nathanael, he makes it clear that he isn't just someone from Nazareth, he is the place where heaven and earth meet, where God himself is present. That is the ladder with the angels going up and down.

We are sometimes blinded to people's true nature by their background or appearance. Nathanael wasn't. He recognised Jesus. Pray that we might also know when God is calling us.

WEEK 4 - JESUS CALLS FOUR FISHERMEN (3rd after the Epiphany)

Mark 1: 14-20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X03I8CkMZXU

BLOCKS SEED: 8374

Challenge yourself to build a large fish. It can be any type of fish you like, and you can build it under the water or as a fish statue on the land. However you choose to do it, make it as detailed as possible. You could even do more than one fish, and build a boat and a net to catch it them!

Before you start your build, pick a number between 1 and 10 and set an alarm or buzzer to go off after that amount of time in minutes. When the alarm goes off, imagine you have to leave your build, save and quit and put all screens away. How does that make you feel? What would make you choose to do that?

BRICKS

Create a fish collage picture using shiny material or paper. Make the fish and colourful as you can. You could add the fishermen and their boats and nets as well (fruit net packaging is good for this!)

As with the blocks activity, set an alarm that will interrupt your task. Reflect on how this makes you feel, and what might make you choose to give it all up.

PRAYER

The fishermen are giving up more than a task. They are giving up income, security and family, and yet they choose Jesus. Jesus is calling people to leave the old ways for a completely new start with him.

Pray for the grace to choose love, even when what you really want is to stick to what you were already doing!

WEEK 5 - A MAN WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT (4th after Epiphany)

Mark 1: 21-28

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAqWqjSwe6c

BLOCKS SEED: 1738801

Create a world with the difficulty set to normal so that hostile mobs appear. You can do this in creative or survival mode. If playing in survival you might want to collect materials in creative mode first before switching.

Build the synagogue where Jesus is teaching. See https://www.bibleodyssey.org/articles/first-century-synagogues/ for some information on what it might have been like - a kind of town hall.

Do the hostile mobs get in the way of your building project? If it is your world, you can always turn on cheats and switch to daytime to chase them away.

BRICKS

Use Lego or junk modelling to build a synagogue like the one Jesus would have been in - a kind of multi-purpose town hall.

What kind of distractions get in the way while you are building? Make a list! Maybe things don't go right first time, or you start chatting, or need the loo!

What sort of things might stop you coming to church, or praying?

PRAYER

Jesus uses his authority to rescue people from evil forces that were keeping them from God. Anything that creates a barrier to God is bad. Jesus overcomes all barriers and defeats evil.

Pray for everyone who is feeling distant from God for any reason. May they come to know the hope and love that Jesus brings.

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!

© Emma and Elizabeth Huber 2026
Licence:Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International