

# My Friend Jesus

My Friend Jesus has been written for the younger years students in a rhyming format. It has been published in three sections. Each separate section has a prayer on the last page (this is actually a good way to start each lesson) followed by ten activity pages to support the story.

The three sections are as follows:

- Section 1 - Intended for Prep/K Level - This story is an introduction to what MJR is all about using some of the MJR 'lingo' such as Greet, Treat and Speak (GTS) and W.E.S.T. It concentrates on what we know about Jesus and how he acted with people when he was alive. What can WE do to be more like Jesus?
  - Section 2 - Intended for Grade 1 - This story utilises some of the MJR terms/sayings to help get the message across to the students that they can do even MORE to be more like Jesus.
  - Section 3 - Intended for Grade 2 - This story looks at the 'Spirit of Jesus' - where do the children see Jesus in our modern world? Of course, they see him in nature and in God's creation but do they see him in the way other people behave? More importantly, do OTHERS see Jesus in THEM? What can they do to show that the 'Spirit of Jesus' lives in them?
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- There is a journal section at the back of the last story (Section 3). If your students are competent writers (Grade 1/ Grade 2) you may like to begin or end each MJR lesson with getting them to write a sentence as a five-minute reflection time (eg Give them a topic such as: Where have you seen MJR in action at school or at home? / Have you seen the spirit of Jesus in anyone this week? / What sort of things have you done this week to show that the spirit of Jesus lives in you?)
  - NOTE: The (Prep/K/Grade 1) students might like to draw their answers to your journaling questions in this section.
  - The book ends with two sheets of stickers. There are spaces on the activity pages throughout the book for the children to place their stickers on completion of each page.
  - If your school is very new to MJR, feel free to use the stories from My Friend Jesus to introduce MJR to ALL year levels before going on to more in-depth lessons. If you wish, you can teach Grade 1 both Section 1/2 of the workbook and Grade 2 Section 1/2/3 to get them up to date with the lessons so that they will just have to follow their MJR lessons according to their year level during the following year.
  - Again, I remind you to take MJR at your own pace and teach it the way you want to teach it. There is no right or wrong way of doing it. The information that I have given you is a suggestion only.

# **Hints for Teaching MJR**

Don't try and do everything at once.

**Take it slow - do not allow MJR to become a burden to an already busy curriculum.**

There is nothing wrong with learning about MJR along WITH your students. Learn as you go.

**Creating an MJR culture within your school won't happen overnight - but it will happen.**

The published books are a great resource for teachers and they are a very user-friendly work book for students.

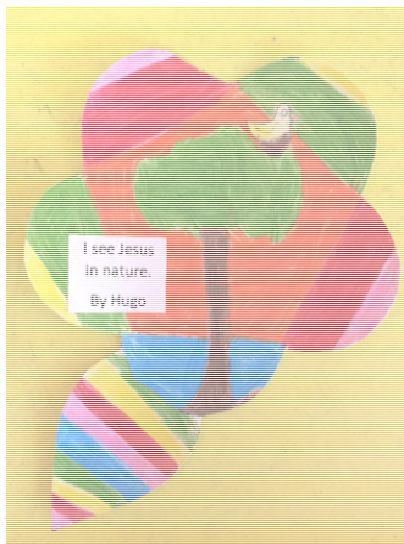
They are very easy to follow.

Student work books become a treasured memento of their MJR lessons at school when complete.

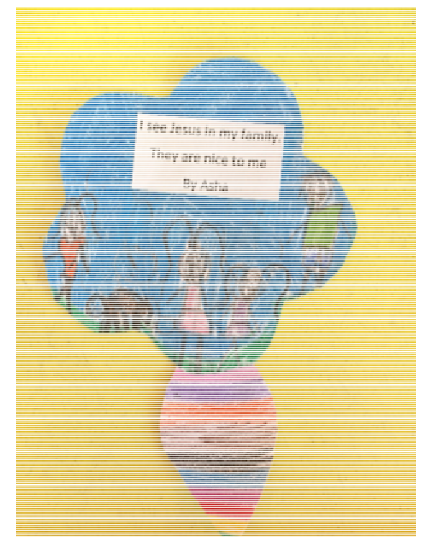
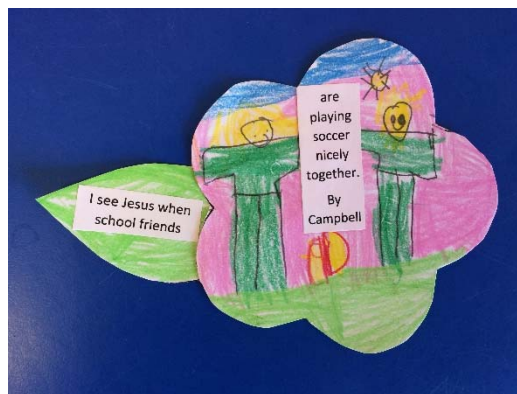
**Above all, enjoy teaching MJR and enjoy the positivity that your school will reap from using it!**

I like to incorporate a craft activity with some of my MJR lessons to create class or school displays. Displays are a great way to educate others (students, staff and parents) about MJR. T

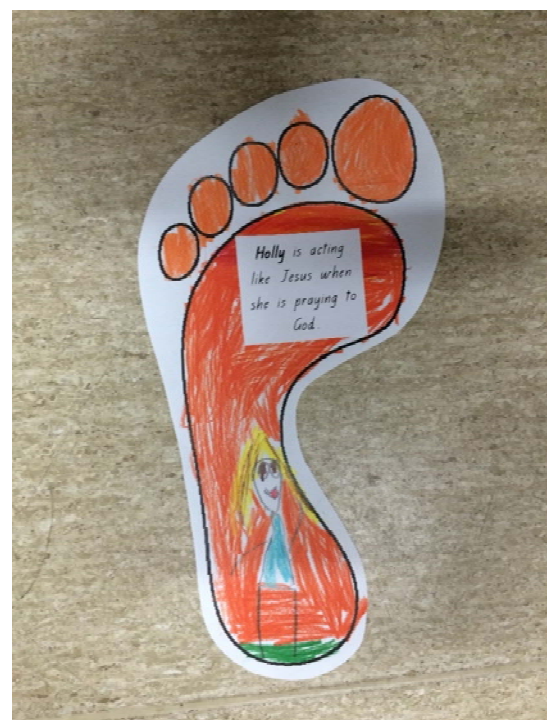
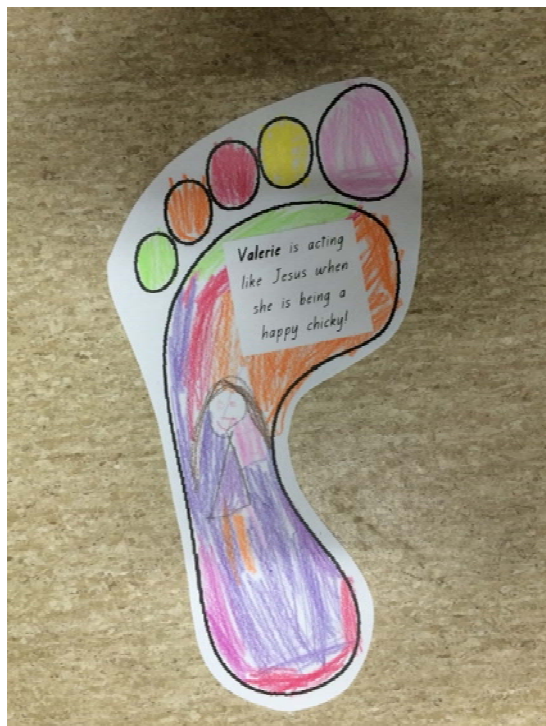
These can be very simple like examples shown below:



Flowers used in a class display to show SOJ (Spirit of Jesus).



Feet - used for a class display that showed how the children recognised their behaviours to be like Jesus'.





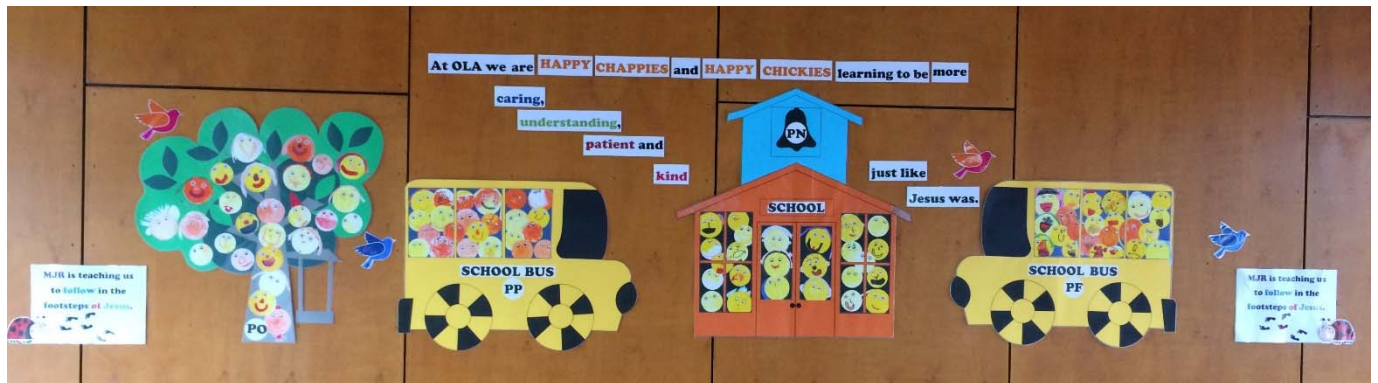
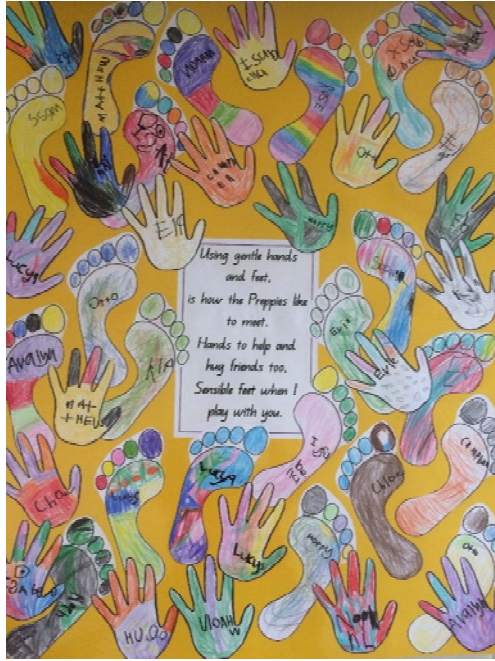
Worksheets - these can be displayed in the classroom and then glued into an RE/MJR scrap book for children to keep.



Draw a picture below to show the way that Jesus treated other people.  
Draw your picture to show that he was **kind, understanding and caring**. You might like to draw yourself in the picture with Jesus.



Or they can be a little more 'fancy' for whole school displays like examples shown below:



**NB** These are just a few examples of what you can do **if you wish to** – please work at your own pace and level – **please do not feel pressured in any way** to be creating works like this. It is entirely up to you and your school as to how you go about teaching MJR.

***The most important thing when teaching MJR is to teach it in a way that you and your students will ENJOY!!***