Mark 8:31-38

Whose plan is it anyway?

Jesus knew that he had to prepare his friends for what was to come. One day, he drew his disciples close and began to talk to them. He told them that he, the Son of Man, would have to suffer and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes. He would be killed and, after three days, he would rise again. He said all this quite openly. Peter was very upset. He took Jesus away from the others and began to argue with him.

But Jesus shouted at Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan!' ✪ Then he turned and looked at his disciples and said, 'You're thinking about human things. This is about heavenly things.' He knew it was hard to hear, but they needed to know.

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, Jesus said, 'If anyone wants to become one of my followers, let them forget about themselves, take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ✪ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, but pay for it with their soul? ✪ Don't be ashamed of me, and I won't be ashamed of you.'

See session outline on p.52

Stop & share

Read the story and pause at the ✪ to share these points with the children.

- ✪ Peter is not Satan (the devil – someone who opposes), but Peter's words remind Jesus of Satan's temptation in the wilderness, to take his kingdom without trusting God, or hardship/sacrifice.
- ✪ Jesus says that those who give their lives on earth to God will be rewarded with eternal life.
- ✪ Jesus is saying that eternal life with God is more valuable than all the riches in the world.

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