

Sparkling Superheroes!

A fun way for children to celebrate God's light in the darkness

Prepare

Invite local primary-aged children for a 'light party' to celebrate Jesus' light. Presented as an alternative Halloween party, parents appreciate a safe alternative to 'trick-or-treating'. Or use as a single session holiday club in October half term.



Timing Plan the event for 31 October or the weekend immediately before Halloween, as the following weekend is usually when Bonfire events occur.

Logistics to consider

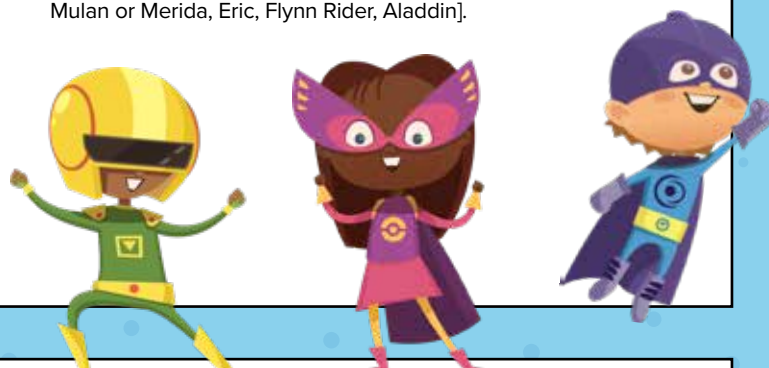
- ☐ Where will you put up posters [WEB](#) of the event, with date, time and who to RSVP to?
- ☐ When will you hand out invitation postcards [WEB](#). Will you ask for volunteers to help distribute these around the local community?
- ☐ Will parents stay or drop children off?
- ☐ How will you engage parents who stay (a cup of tea and someone to speak with them), or, will they be helping run the event?
- ☐ What if older or younger siblings come along who are not primary-aged?
- ☐ What parental permissions are required: e.g. dietary requirements, first aid, photo permissions?
- ☐ Will you prompt families to RSVP (by a given date) so you can prepare the right amount of food and supplies in advance?
- ☐ How many volunteers with a DBS will you need to safely supervise children?
- ☐ Check your safeguarding policies, food hygiene for catering, and do thorough risk assessment.

Welcome Provide lots of fun, sweets and prizes so children really enjoy themselves and families feel welcome in your church space.

Pray for a positive impact in your community, connections with families who may not normally attend church, and so that children will feel loved and safe and can experience the light of Christ in their lives.

Decorate the space Use cardboard cut-outs to evoke a cityscape like Gotham or New York City. Alternatively, use red, yellow and blue balloons, and comic style word art and film posters on the walls.

Costumes Invite children (and adult volunteers) to come in fancy dress as superheroes or powerful prince/sses [like Elsa, Moana, Mulan or Merida, Eric, Flynn Rider, Aladdin].



The party

Welcome the children

Explain there will be numerous activities, followed by food and a short talk. Depending on your space and the number of children, you can run the activities simultaneously or sequentially. It may help to group children by age so you can differentiate the level of challenge.

Icebreaker activity

Would you rather...?

Ask the children to move from one side of the room to the other based on their answers to these questions.

Would you rather...

- Be able to fly or be invisible?
- Be super-fast or super strong?
- Be able to talk to animals or make plants grow?
- Have the power to move earth or control water?

Ask the children, in pairs or threes, to share what super power they would like and why.



Food

Gather the children in your main space and provide a simple meal, like hot dogs (both veggie and meat, check for allergies), served with superhero/princess themed napkins. If someone in your church likes decorating cookies or cupcakes, give them the superhero theme (see [WEB](#) for inspiration). While everyone is seated and eating dessert, present a short talk.



Choose as many of the following activities as your budget, space, time and volunteers permit.

Photo booth

You will need: photo props, order online or make your own, and the means to take and share photos.

- Display props like a blue sheet for a sky and a cardboard cut-out of city skyline. Children can lie down to have their photo taken and appear to be flying) Or provide masks, capes, and comic style explosions or word art. Be aware of photo permissions.



Alternatively: allow parents to capture pictures on their own phones as they arrive, possibly tagging your church on social media.

Pipe cleaner superheroes craft

You will need: pipe cleaners, glue, beads, googly eyes, straws, scissors, template [WEB](#), printed in colour on card.

Use the cut-out elements from the template and craft materials to make some amazing superheroes!

Superhero city

You will need: a large selection of Lego™ bricks and mini figures (superheroes ideally).

- Ask the children to work together to build a city in need of heroes. Will there be a train going off the tracks, a bank robber or buildings falling over? If you have lots of children working through the light party activities, you could rotate the tasks in this one: the first group could build the city, the second could add the problems, and a third group could add the mini figure heroes trying to help.

Super Charades

You will need: list of named superheroes/powerful princesses (template on [WEB](#)), cut apart, folded and placed in a bowl.

- Divide the children into two teams and have them draw a name from the bowl and mime/act it out without words. Each turn should last no more than 30 seconds. Keep score and award prizes to the winning team.

Superhero Bingo

You will need: bingo cards [WEB](#) and markers like pennies.

- Play a few rounds of superhero bingo – start by calling out superhero names, then superpowers, e.g can fly, can freeze things, is very strong, etc.

Super party games

You will need: a potato wrapped in tinfoil, music (playlist on [WEB](#)) that you can easily stop and start.

- Play some classic party games like musical statues, where the children must strike and hold a superhero pose when the music stops; a version of hot potato where they try to pass on the bomb/kryptonite (foil wrapped potato) around the circle while the music plays and not end up with it when the music stops.

Save the World – obstacle race

You will need: stopwatch, space, obstacles, and various teddies.

- Set up an obstacle course around your space, with a precariously posed teddy at the end.

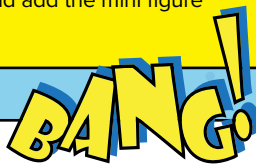
Time the children as they race in turn through the course, under and over things, balancing, slalom, and fancy footwork to rescue the teddy and bring it back to the start line to safety.

- Have the other children cheer competitors on. Reward prizes for the quickest or most dramatic rescues.



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Talk ideas



Use one of the following ideas to capture children's attention and communicate the message that Jesus is the ultimate superhero and our rescuer, and he empowers us to help others.

★ Double identity?

Most superheroes have a secret identity/day job, where no one knows about their superpowers. Why do you think that is?

Jesus came into the world, living a normal human life like you and me. He was fully human: experiencing birth, growing up, eating, learning, playing, working, friendship, but also going through suffering and death. I wonder how you feel about Jesus experiencing life just like you? Jesus could also do things other humans cannot: walk on water, miracles of healing, multiply bread and fish, turn water into wine. I wonder what you think is the most impressive miracle?

★ The impossibly heavy box

Use the magic trick from Mission Magic [WEB](#) to communicate that God gives us strength to accomplish his purposes, or only Jesus could do what needed to be done to save us.

★ I need a hero

Reflect on the latest superhero movie: Who needs rescuing? In a scary world, we long to be rescued, protected and saved. The video [WEB](#) from *The Jesus Story Book Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones describes Jesus as God's rescue plan for the world. But God is a surprising rescuer; one who doesn't beat up baddies, but forgives and dies in our place.

★ Heroes all around us

Reflecting on the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us to help others and bring his light into dark places. Share stories of faith heroes motivated by God's love, who have changed our world for the better (see [WEB](#)). How could the children be motivated by their faith and God's love to make a difference in their world?

★ Jesus vs. the bad guys

Share the picture book *Jesus Vs. the Bad Guys: A Story of Love and Forgiveness* by Jared Neusch and Connor Shram, which explores how Jesus overcomes evil with love and forgiveness, not violence.

★ Superman

If you have a superman costume you could wear it, to compare Jesus with Superman: both left their homelands to come to Earth as babies (Jesus left heaven, Superman left Krypton; share this video with the group: *Superman* and his *Dog* escape *Krypton* (DC League of Super Pets).

Both Jesus and Superman sacrifice themselves to defeat enemies and rescue Earth. Only Jesus can defeat death.

Finish your session with a song and dance like 'Jesus you're my superhero'. See [WEB](#) for a party playlist.

Party bags

Send the children home with a party bag. You might include superhero-themed stickers or sweets, Heroes™ chocolates, a tract (see [WEB](#) for suggestions), an invitation to other events at your church and a bookmark (print some yourself [WEB](#)) which include a reminder of Jesus our hero.

