



WHAT MAT!

FOLLOW ME!

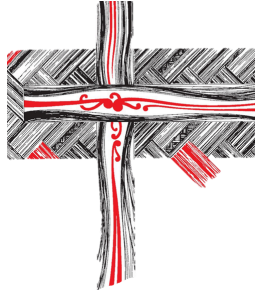


AITH +
WHĀNAU

Waikato
Taranaki
Anglicans



For Lectionary Year A: April 19th till May 17th 2026.



This resource is created for the use of the Diocese of
Waikato and Taranaki.

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For Lectionary Year A: April 19th till May 17th 2026.

WHA MAI FOLLOW ME!

Nau mai haere mai, welcome to this 5 week series on following Jesus. We've already followed Jesus through the wilderness during Lent, all the way to Easter. Over the next 5 weeks we will find out what Jesus did and said after he was resurrected. In the Anglican church, we still actually call this time Easter, or Eastertide. Celebrating Easter for 40 days instead of 4, sign me up!

We do this to think and learn more about Jesus dying and coming back to life, we'll learn it wasn't just a big relief for all his friends, it changed their lives, it changed the world, and it's still changing the world today.

And ultimately it means Jesus is worth following.

Each of the next 5 weeks has a simple takeaway:

- 1) Jesus dying and rising again changed things for his followers back then AND us today.
- 2) Jesus is a Good Shepherd, we can follow him.
- 3) Following Jesus means copying what He does.
- 4) Following Jesus can be hard, but He's sent a helper.
- 5) Many people before us followed Jesus, sharing God's love and the good news of Jesus death and resurrection. We can be part of that exciting adventure too.

Updates! Check out our new Intergen Section in each lesson. It will give you some ideas on how to bring the generation together within your faith community. Research shows, great kids church is one piece of the faith formation puzzle. But the puzzle really hinges on tamariki having great connections of mutual serving with people of other generations in their faith community. So chat to your church leader and give some of these a crack!

Each akomanga/lesson has the lectionary scripture reading, as well as 8 lesson components, each with a corresponding symbol:



Whakaaro
Reflection



Kupu Hou
New Words



Matau
Hook



Kōrero
Story



Karakia
Prayer



Tākaro
Play



Hanga
Create



Whānau
whānui
Intergen

LUKE 24:13-35

On the Road to Emmaus

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast.

18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20

The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Whai Mai! Follow Me!



Whakāro/ Thoughts for leaders

The road to Emmaus might seem like a strange story to start a series on following Jesus. After all, isn't Jesus following his disciples here?

In fact Cleopas and his mate were heading in a strange direction altogether. Emmaus. A random town to us, but to any first century hearer Emmaus= Revolution. It was the site of a violent and successful rebellion lead by Jews against their oppressor of the time. It represented what these disciples had hoped Jesus was going to do to Rome. Instead, Jesus explains the scripture and shows them how his death and resurrection was always the ultimate victorious plan against the powers of darkness.

And what do these disciples do in response? Turn 180 degrees and head immediately back to Jerusalem, where they, along with all the other disciples, will wait for Jesus and his Spirit to lead them into what's next.

Check out [the first episode](#) in the Bible Project series on "Resurrection as a New Way of Life" which unpacks this further.



Kupu Hou/New Words

Whai Mai = Follow me

Ka mea a Ihu "Whai mai" = Jesus said "Follow me"



Whānau Whānui/Intergen

Instead of the gospel reading, use the "God's Big Picture Bible StoryBook" Emmaus story by NT Wright (see resources)

Alternatively, have a group of people from multiple generations act out the story during the gospel reading.



Matau/Hook

Create a lego or duplo path. You'll be using this through out the 5 week series so put it on a base that can be moved. (See the Hanga section below to see where we are going with this.)

Invite tamariki up to place blocks as they answer questions that recap the Lent and Easter story.

We've finished our Lent wilderness journey and celebrated Easter, when Jesus died and came back to life. Over the next 5 weeks we are going to find out why that is such a big deal and why Jesus invites us to follow Him.



Kōrero/Story

Read "On the road to Emmaus" from God's Big Picture Bible Storybook (see resources for a copy)

Ask (Think/Pair/Share):

- If you were one of Jesus' disciples how would you have felt seeing Jesus again? Show me with your face!
- What surprised you about how Jesus chose to show His friends He was alive?
- What did Jesus mean at the end when He said God had new work for them to do?
- I wonder what special power was Jesus talking about?... (Leave them to ponder, no sharing thoughts to the group.)

Say: Over the next 5 weeks we will be learning about what it means to "follow" Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus' followers are sometimes called disciples and sometimes called friends.

Ask:

- What does it mean to follow someone or something?
- In Bible stories, what sorts of things do Jesus' followers do?

Teacher's Tip

Think/Pair/Share

When asking a question, get tamariki to think in their heads first, popping a finger on their nose when they are done.

Then share with one person next to them, before finally having an opportunity to share to the wider group.

These patai (questions) are a guide. Skip whatever doesn't work for your rōpū (group) to keep the session at 10 minutes MAXIMUM.

WHAT MA! FOLLOW ME!



Tākaro/Play

Follow the leader

Resources: Balloons (1 per child)

Check out this video to show you how to complete this relay challenge, where tamariki must stick close to their leader to make it as a whole team to the end. Choose your leader wisely, someone who will go slowly to wait for littlies.



Karakia/Prayer

“Jesus, it’s amazingly awesome news that you died for us and not only that, You rose from the dead! As we learn about you alive again adventures on Earth help us to learn what it means to follow you. Thank You that You love us, You are a good friend, and you are worth following. Amine.



Hanga/Create

Meeples or Mini Figs:

Tamariki to create a figurine of themselves out of Lego or plasticine.

Explain that these meeples will follow Jesus (on the lego path you created earlier) over the next 5 weeks as we learn about what came after Jesus death and resurrection and learn about how we can follow Jesus today.

Whoever finishes first can design a Jesus mini fig!

If you have younger tamariki you might like to have them draw a picture of themselves. Then laminate their portraits and glue them onto a block/brick later on. Plasticine and lego will be tricky for little fingers. See resources for a template of a lego figurine they can colour in as themselves.

JOHN 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”



Whakāro/ Thoughts for leaders

Listen to [this sermon](#) from Nadia Bolz Weber (start at 23:20)

“This week I realised that not one single shepherd-shaped wolf that I have followed, has ever actually fulfilled my wants and desires, they have only ever increased them. They have only ever lead me waters with a high salt content, only ever led me to waters that create thirst and never ever quench it. They leave me feeling insecure and insufficient. Imposter shepherds demand loyalty. They pit sheep against each other. They set impossible standards and make us think we want to meet them.

And the voice of a wolf in shepherd’s clothing (even the ones that come from inside our own heads) always has an accusing tone to them.

– Nadia Bolz Weber

Take time to consider the shepherd shaped wolves in your life. What untruths have you believed this week? What does the good Shepherd say instead?



Kupu Hou/New Words

Hipi = sheep

Hepara = Shepherd

Ko Ihu te hepara pai. = Jesus is the good shepherd.



Whānau whānui/ Intergen

Have intergenerational groups of four to five paint a picture illustrating the gospel reading on a large framed canvas (available at most hobby stores in bulk packs). Insist that everyone in the group must contribute to the painting. Then, display the paintings in a prominent place in your church and invite the larger congregation to view the art.



Matau/Hook

Resources: sheep tokens (woolworths bricks has some great ones, send out a PSA!) If you can't get your hands on lego/woolworths sheep, print out sheep pics, or use cotton balls.

Hide the sheep around the room and have tamariki be the "shepherds" finding the sheep. Place them on your lego brick path (see matau and hanga from last week) and have tamariki move their minifigs, and Jesus, forward on the path to a "sheep pasture" where you've put the sheep they found.

Extra for experts, make a shepherd's crook for the Jesus minifig.



Kōrero/Story

Read "The Good Shepherd" P188 in God's Big Picture Bible Storybook. (See resources for a copy)

Ask:

- Why did Jesus call himself a Shepherd?
- How can we know Jesus' voice like sheep know their shepherds?
- Why do sheep follow their shepherd?
- Why should we follow Jesus like sheep follow shepherds?

Teaching Tip:

Proximal praise

If a child is disrupting the kōrero, praise someone next to them for showing the behaviour you'd like to see copied. Stickers, stamps or other treats always help too.



Tākaro/Play

Haere Mai Hipi!

Hide and seek with the shepherd. "Shepherd" hides and then calls the rest of the tamariki (sheep) can the sheep find the shepherd by listening to their voice?

Practice saying "Haere mai hipi!" with the tamariki before the game starts and encourage them to give this a go when it's their turn to be shepherd.

Waiatatia!

Check out [this song](#) which sings John 10:27
"My Sheep listen to my voice,
I know them and they follow me."



Flock Fun

Resources: White Balloons

Sticks (can be clean fly swats, bamboo, rolled up newspaper).

Tamariki are shepherds and must “herd” the sheep balloons into a “pen” (either rope off a section of the room, or put out hula hoops for an extra challenge)



Karakia/Prayer

“Jesus, thank you that we can trust You to look after us because you are good. Help us to follow you.

Amine

Give tamariki the opportunity to respond by thanking Jesus for something they like about Him.



Hanga/Create

Resources: Paper plates with “I follow my shepherd” written on

Marshmallows

Donut holes (or large marshmallows)

Pretzels

See instructions [here](#) on how to assemble these tasty sheep.

JOHN 14:1-14

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.” 5

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after

I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10

Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you

I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works

themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these,

because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.



Whakāro/Thoughts for Leaders

Check out [this podcast](#) which explains exactly what Jesus is “The Way” too.

In fact this was such a key phrase for early Jesus followers, they referred to themselves as followers of “the Way”, rather than Christians.



Kupu Hou/New Words

“Ko ahau te huarahi”

“I am the way”

He waiata: “[Te Ara](#)” by Equippers Worship

Beautiful simple worship song kids pick up easily!

Lyrics:

Te ara tika / The right path

Te ara pono / The path of truth

Te ara kiki / The narrow path

Ki a koe / To You



Whānau whānui/Intergen

Give everyone a question to discuss during morning tea, with people from another generation.

Hand out spot prizes during morning tea for groups with the most generations talking together.



Matau/Hook

Resources: Lego path

Mini figs

Toothpick with a small arrow
“road sign” on it that says “The Way”

Tamariki to move Jesus and their mini figs along to next “stage” of the path, next to the road sign “The Way” (5 stops total, including the end.)

Ask:

What might this sign be for?

If you saw a sign like this where do you think it might lead you?

Teacher's Tip

For younger tamariki, role playing the “Following Jesus” journey with the lego pieces/ path is a great way to consolidate learning. Don't be precious with the lego scene, allow it to be played with at other times.



Kōrero/Story

Ask: What is your name? What does your name mean?

Do you know what Jesus or Yeshua's name means? It means “Rescuer”.

Who can remember how Jesus' parents came up with his name?

(An angel told them to name him Yeshua or “Rescuer”)

When you think of rescuers, who do you think of?

Jesus was given the name Rescuer for a good reason. He had come to earth to be the ultimate rescuer.

Ask: What did the people need rescuing from in Jesus day?

What are some things we might need rescuing from now?

In today's Bible reading Jesus says “I am the way” or “the road”

Ask: What might Jesus the rescuer mean by this?

For Jewish people, when Jesus described himself as “the Way” they would have thought back to another time they needed a rescuer, and that rescuer made a way or road that they could follow, out of their trouble.

Read “A Path to Freedom” from book of Belonging (p 74/75 or see resources for a copy)
Emphasise the phrase “the way” when it comes up (4x)

Today's kōrero deepens during Hanga/Create time. See below.



Karakia/Prayer

“Jesus, our rescuer. Thank you for making a way out of the sticky messes our hearts get in. Help us to follow you with all of our hearts in the Way you have made for us.
Amine.”



Hanga/Create

Slime (to remind kids of the sticky mess that Jesus offers us a way out of.)
[See recipe here for things you'll need.](#)

While making today:

Say: The Israelites had been stuck in Egypt, they were slaves having to do horrible jobs, whatever Pharaoh wanted them to do. It felt like being caught in slime. They needed a rescuer to make a way out for them to follow. Through Moses, God made a way to freedom for them.

When Jesus the Rescuer said he was The Way, what was He saying he was the way out of? What is he The Way towards?



Tākaro/Play

Follow the leader

Choose a leader for the tamariki to imitate and follow.
Have the leader move in creative ways for others to copy, while they follow them around the room in a line.

Prompts to help with ideas:

Move like an animal

Move like a feeling (excited, grumpy, courageous)

Finish by saying:

“Following someone, is not just walking behind them and going where they go, it also means copying them and doing what they do.

Following Jesus means being like Jesus, kind, standing up for what's right, etc.
What are some other ways that we can follow or copy Jesus with what we do?

Teaching Tip

Rotate leaders often (a tap on the shoulder sends the leader to the back of the line) to give everyone a turn.
Demonstrate first yourself!

JOHN 14:15-21

15 "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."



Whakāro/ Thoughts for leaders

Check out [this video](#) from the Bible Project

The focus of today's session with the tamariki is for them to understand how they can follow Jesus, considering they can't see him or touch him.

It's an abstract concept that we have been laying the groundwork for over the last 3 weeks.

The idea is that following someone isn't just wandering around after them but means emulating what they do, being like them.

Also, for Jesus and the Jews, to follow someone creating a Way or road, signified leaving behind slavery and old ways that trapped them, into new abundant life.

For us and tamariki today, we can't do this without Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit.



Kupu Hou/New Words

"A ka noho ano i roto i a koutou."

"He will live in you."

Roto = within/inside

Use these kupu as a settling exercise with the tamariki.

Hā ki roto = breathe in

Hā ki waho = breathe out



Whānau Whānui/Intergen

Invite children or teenagers who are learning to play instruments to be special guest musicians in a worship service or feature a duet with two people from different generations.

8. Choose a song all generations know and enjoy, then ask a younger person and an older person to share what this song means to them. (Ask ahead of time.)



Matau/Hook

Resources: Lego path, minifigs etc.

A small “gift” something that looks like a present to put on the lego path.

Recap where you have been before moving forward

Week one: Jesus meets his friends on the road and tells them why he had to die and be raised. We learned Jesus is a good friend and his resurrection means he’s worth following!

Week 2: Jesus is a good shepherd, we can trust him to take us to safe places and look after us.

Week 3: Jesus our Rescuer, he is The Way. He’s made a road for us to follow Him on out of sticky yucky mess into good full life. Following Jesus means copying what he does.

Week 4: What can you see in the road today? What might the gift represent? Move Jesus and the minifigs forward to stand by the gift.



Tākaro/Play

Pass the parcel

Resources: A box big enough to fit a pinwheel in.

A pinwheel

Wrapping paper

Lollies and “clues” for each layer.

Say: After spending a few weeks with his friends and followers Jesus started to tell them that he was going away again soon. How do you think they felt about this? How would his followers follow him if he wasn’t there anymore? Jesus knew that following him, once he was gone wouldn’t be easy. SO he told them not to worry, that he would send them a present. Something, or someone who would help. Let’s find out more about this special gift.

“Clues” for the layers of the gift, to read aloud between rounds:

“A helper” “Someone to be with you forever” “Other people can’t see them”

“They will live inside you” “It will be like me, Jesus living in you”

The gift of the Holy Spirit wasn’t just for Jesus’ followers back then, the Holy Spirit is a gift to help us today too! This pinwheel reminds us that the Holy Spirit is like the wind, strong and powerful, gentle and soft, even although we can’t see Him, we can feel Him, and see what He does in the world.



Kōrero/Story

Read the first page of “God sends help” from the Jesus Storybook Bible (p326 or see resources)

Ask:

How might it have felt to be waiting for Jesus to send his gift, the Holy Spirit?

How do you follow a Spirit?

(Prompt tamariki to think about following as copying, or being led by, as we’ve been learning over the last few weeks)

Have you ever felt like the Holy Spirit was leading you?

Or Jesus was leading you?



Karakia/Prayer

“Jesus, thank you that we don’t have to figure out how to follow you all by ourselves. Thanks that your Holy Spirit shows us how to be your followers. Help us to hear your Holy Spirit and be like you.
Āmine.”



Hanga/Create

Spirit Balloons

Resources: Balloons

Permanent markers

Stickers

String to tie them to their wrists.

Tamariki to decorate their balloons.

Either they or you write on them “I am filled with God’s Spirit, my helper.

See “Kupu hou” and “Whakāro” sections for a breathing exercise and the connection between breath and Spirit.

Extra: Use helium for added fun.

ACTS 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit." 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."



Whakāro/ Thoughts for leaders

In our wrap up today we bring it home with a local story of what following Jesus looks like. Although we are 200ish years on from Wiremu Te Tauri's life and ministry in Aotearoa, the hope is that hearing about the heritage of following Jesus within our own whenua, will help ground our tamariki to appreciate how the good news has come to them and how they can be involved in the exciting God-given mission of passing it on for the next generations.

To learn more about Wiremu Te Tauri's life contact the crew at St Pauls Memorial Church in Pūtiki, Whānganui, or read [here](#), (p 307 of F.A.T.S.)



Kupu Hou/New Words

Piki = climb or ascend.

Kapua = clouds

Tangohia = take away



Whānau Whānui/Intergen

If you have families in your church with multiple generations present (e.g., grandmother, mother, and daughter), invite them to share about how faith was shared between each generation. Although the youngest of the family might not have much to share, she will benefit from hearing how important faith was to her mother and grandmother. Ask questions about what the grandmother may have learned from successive generations.

Organise an Ascension Picnic: (to watch the rockets) and invite everybody to either make or launch a rocket.



Matau/Hook

Resources: Lego Path, mini figs, a lego or plasticine hill.

Recap the last 4 weeks and ask tamariki if they know what is going to happen next. (there have been clues!)

Ask what they think the hill is.

Move Jesus and the minifigs to the top of the hill.



Kōrero/Story

Resources: The Book of Belonging p254-257 “A Dream come True” (see resources.)

Explain that today is the last week of exploring what it was like for Jesus followers after he came back to life from death.

We’ve followed Jesus over the last 5 weeks, just like his disciples did after he appeared to them again.

Today’s story will quickly recap what Jesus got up to for those 40 days after he rose from the dead and then tell us about the crazy thing that happened next.

Read the story.

Ask: How were Jesus’ followers going to be part of the new big exciting thing God was doing?

Points to draw out:

- They would tell everyone the great news that Jesus the rescuer had come.
- They would live with the Holy Spirit inside them helping them show everyone what God’s love looked like.
- We are invited by Jesus to join in too!

What does it look like to be a Jesus follower today?

Today we will learn a little bit about one man who lived in Aotearoa and did exactly what we are talking about, telling everyone God’s great news and showing people what God’s love looks like.



Kōrero/Story continued....

Resources: Map of Aotearoa.

5 Lego people

Two lego weapons (sword, spear etc)

A bible (a small Paipera Tapu if you can)

The Kōrero of Wiremu Te Tauri

(Lay out the map and hold up one of the lego people.)

Say: Wiremu Te Tauri lived in Aotearoa almost 200 years ago.

Ask: I wonder, what was Aotearoa like back then?

Say: Wiremu loved God and followed Jesus, who lead him all over te Ika a Maui, the North Island.

(Move the lego figure around from Whanganui to Taupo and back to Whanganui.)

Ask: I wonder how long it takes to walk from Whanganui to Taupo?

Say: Every year in the Anglican church we remember Wiremu on the 17th of May because of the way he followed Jesus and showed God's love in Aotearoa.

Wiremu knew people all over Aotearoa needed to hear te rongopai, the Good news of Jesus, so he travelled, telling people about God's love and showing them too with his actions.

He helped to bring peace between people who were fighting, (hold up two lego figures holding weapons, take weapons out of lego figures hand and lay it down on map) and he comforted people when really sad things happened.

Ask: I wonder if people felt God's love when Wiremu did these things?

(Place two lego figures in Hawera (south Taranaki), and move the Wiremu figure up to Hawera from Whanganui.)

Say: One day some friends were travelling and needed clothes, Wiremu gave them his best clothes.

Ask: I wonder how Te Manihera and Kereopa felt, when Wiremu gave them his clothes?



Kōrero/Story continued....

Say: Wiremu's friends were killed on their trip, (lay figures down) but instead of encouraging more fighting to make things even, Wiremu encouraged everyone to make peace. He showed God's love by forgiving the people who had killed his friends and encouraging others to forgive too.

Wiremu knew that following Jesus wouldn't always be easy, but that God would make this wonderful message of te rongopai, the Good news of Jesus, spread across Aotearoa. We can know about God and this good news because of people like Wiremu who bravely followed Jesus in Aotearoa before us.



Karakia/Prayer

"Jesus, thank you for brave people like Wiremu te Tauri, who followed you, showing your love and telling your good news in Aotearoa. Thank you for your special gift, the Holy Spirit, that shows us how to follow you, just like Wiremu did.
Āmine."



Hanga/Create & Takaro/Play

Resources: Rocket kit.

Tamariki to decorate their ascending Jesus before turning the picture into a rocket.

Warning: These are hard to reuse and a bit fiddly to create because the size makes a difference. You can reuse the red cork top to fit into each child's Jesus rocket.

Make it a competition to see who can make their rocket ascend the highest. Count down to "launch" by getting everyone to chat 3....2....1....ka piki!