



Whizz! Bang! Wow!

Exploring God through science and technology

Roots are delighted to have teamed up with **God and the Big Bang** – a Christian organisation that helps children to discover and discuss the compatibility of science and faith – to create this engaging holiday resource for children aged 5-10. We provide five fascinating STEM sessions:

- Session 1** Can science help us to believe in God?
- Session 2** Can science answer all our questions?
- Session 3** Can faith be based on evidence?
- Session 4** Does science make it hard to believe in God?
- Session 5** Does science solve all our problems?

All the resources can be downloaded at: rootsforchurches.com/whizz

Through fun science-based activities, children are encouraged to discover more about faith and science. As well as experiments, discussions, crafts and quizzes, each session features a Bible passage to explore together and tells the story of a significant scientist that helps us to unpack the session theme.

This is a flexible and adaptable resource, so have fun and enjoy helping children to discover more about God's amazing world!

Plan your sessions

- The five flexible sessions can be run as a holiday club, or during your usual Sunday slots. Designed so you can adapt them according to your group and setting, each session contains enough content for around one hour 45 minutes, but you can increase or decrease the activity lengths, swap the order of activities round, or run a carousel of activities to suit you.
- Feeling a little daunted about teaching science? We provide scripted sections that can be read out. And see Michael Harvey's article 'Lessons in Chemistry' on page 3 of this issue. Ask volunteers who have STEM backgrounds to help run the sessions.
- You might like to begin and end each session with a song, e.g. 'God of Science (Our Great God)' by Rend Co. Kids and Rend Collective on *SPARKLE. POP. RAMPAGE*. <https://open.spotify.com/track/6bkcf6Ycp1oq7vIN8JgFxe?si=c6bab128e04bad> There are new songs to familiar tunes for each session, as well as closing prayers. It will be helpful to find backing tracks and have the appropriate set-up to show the videos and PowerPoints provided.
- Have paper and pens to hand for the crafts and experiments, and any necessary cleaning or baking equipment. A small number of templates are available to print out within this document.
- For each of the five sessions we have provided an illustrated Bible story presentation, which you can download and either project or share printouts with the children. And the same applies to the illustrated profiles of five significant scientist profiles, which are also available to share. See rootsforchurches.com/whizz.
- With the discussion questions and quizzes, judge what level to pitch the questions at, as appropriate to your group. We've signposted some of the activities as being more suitable for younger or older children, though most can be adapted, or read out to early readers.
- If you're running this as an event or holiday club, don't forget to check in with your safeguarding officer, complete risk assessments, and recruit appropriate volunteers. Consider how you would like your registration process to go – whether you'd like to charge for this event and what, if any, refreshments you'll be providing.

An overview of the holiday club resources

Download the main resource, templates, Bible story presentations and scientist profiles at: rootsforchurches.com/whizz

Session 1 Can science help us to believe in God?	Session 2 Can science answer all our questions?	Session 3 Can faith be based on evidence?
 <p>Science helps us discover more about the world God has created.</p> <p>Science topics: The Solar System and the 'Goldilocks zone'.</p> <p>Bible story: God answers Job Job 38:1-7,34-41</p> <p>Scientist: Georges Lemaitre and the Big Bang.</p>	 <p>Science leaves us with unsolved mysteries and unanswered questions.</p> <p>Science topics: Exploding apples, boats, and telescopes.</p> <p>Bible story: Jesus walks on water John 6:15-21</p> <p>Scientist: Isaac Newton and gravity.</p>	 <p>Scientific method: eyes, brain, feet, repeat.</p> <p>Science topics: The Scientific Method, exploring fossils and exploding volcanos.</p> <p>Bible story: Gideon tests God Judges 6:36-40</p> <p>Scientist: Mary Anning and palaeontology.</p>

Structure of each session

GATHER | 15+ MINS

An activity to introduce the question and get everyone engaged and talking.

SHARE THE WORD | 15 MINS

Exploring the Bible story and how it relates to the theme question.

EXPLORE AND RESPOND | 20-60 MINS

Two or three activities/experiments/games/discussions to explore the theme question, could include crafts or songs. Optional to run these as stations or all together as a group.

MEET A SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIST | 10 MINS

Exploring the profiled scientist and how their journey helps us with the theme question.

REFLECT AND WRAP UP | 15 MINS

The opportunity to reflect, ask questions, and say a prayer.



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Session 5: Does science solve all our problems?
Kizzmekia Corbett and the Covid-19 vaccine.

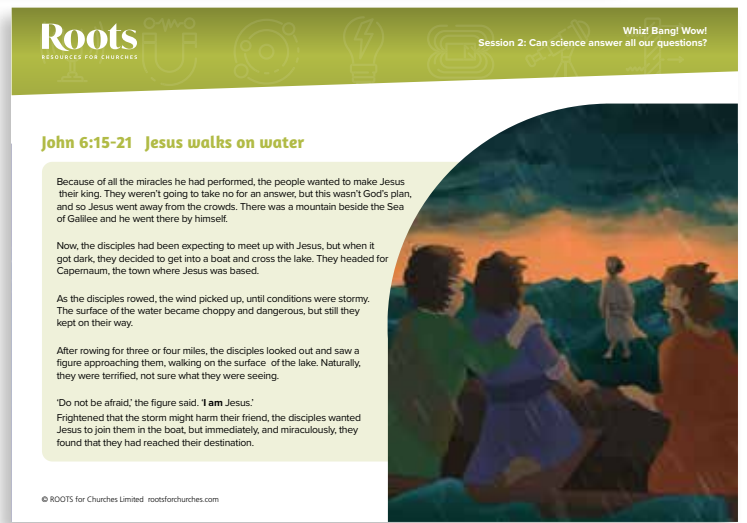
Kizzmekia Corbett
Born in the United States of America in 1986.

Kizzy is an African American biologist. Her chemistry teacher said that Kizzy was the brightest child she had taught in 30 years. At university, Kizzy started to study viruses and other pathogens. She discovered how they make us ill and how to develop remedies and vaccines.

Early in her career, Kizzy worked with sick children in Sri Lanka and then later, in 2014, she conducted many very complicated experiments to understand proteins in Corona viruses. Kizzy was one of the main inventors of a very important Covid-19 vaccine. She has also helped many people to learn to trust the vaccine and goes out into deprived areas to inspire young people.

Kizzy is a Christian and is passionate about giving back to the world, using her faith and intelligence.

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Session 2: Can science answer all our questions?

John 6:15-21 Jesus walks on water

Because of all the miracles he had performed, the people wanted to make Jesus their king. They weren't going to take no for an answer, but this wasn't God's plan, and so Jesus went away from the crowds. There was a mountain beside the Sea of Galilee and he went there by himself.

Now, the disciples had been expecting to meet up with Jesus, but when it got dark, they decided to get into a boat and cross the lake. They headed for Capernaum, the town where Jesus was based.

As the disciples rowed, the wind picked up, until conditions were stormy. The surface of the water became choppy and dangerous, but still they kept on their way.

After rowing for three or four miles, the disciples looked out and saw a figure approaching them, walking on the surface of the lake. Naturally, they were terrified, not sure what they were seeing.

'Do not be afraid,' the figure said, 'I am Jesus.'

Frightened that the storm might harm their friend, the disciples wanted Jesus to join them in the boat, but immediately, and miraculously, they found that they had reached their destination.

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Roots would like to thank the following people for their assistance with writing these resources:

Petra Crofton, God and the Big Bang Science Faith Communicator and author of *Science Geek Christy*; Sarah Moring, God and the Big Bang Science Faith Communicator, and Michael Harvey, Executive Director of God and the Big Bang.

For each of the five sessions, there is an illustrated Bible story presentation and a scientist profile. Download these and the main resources, including templates, a poster and postcard invitations at rootsforchurches.com/whizz.



Whizz! Bang! Wow! Holiday Club

Exploring God through science and technology

Venue: _____
Dates: _____
Time: _____
To register: _____

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Session 4
Does science make it hard to believe in God?



Science draws us closer to God and is an opportunity for awe and wonder.



Science topics:
Our senses, cells and DNA.

Bible story:
Wonder at God's creation
Psalm 19



Scientist:
Francis Collins and the Human Genome project.

Session 5
Does science solve all our problems?



Science offers us solutions that we can choose to use by demonstrating compassion, love, kindness.



Science topics:
Viruses and vaccines.

Bible story:
The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37



Scientist:
Kizzmekia Corbett and the Covid-19 vaccine.

Lessons in chemistry
Making connections with schools by exploring faith and science

This issue's article on page 3 is written by God and the Big Bang's Executive Director Michael Harvey.