

## YouTube video and creative discussion - Imagination of a child

A teacher asks her class to draw an animal from your imagination. One little boy starts by colouring a page completely black and doesn't stop at that. He colours page after page completely black. Nobody understands what is going on. The boy is examined and even admitted to a psychiatric institution. In the meantime he carries on colouring pages black. At some stage someone comes up with the idea of a puzzle. They put all the black pages together and the little boy turns out to have drawn a life-size whale. He was just doing what the teacher had asked him, but his imagination was much bigger!

Watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33Z84jclpFA>

### Why does this video fit in with today's Bible story?

Just like the little boy, Jesus is busy with an assignment that goes much further than anyone can think of at that moment. The priests, law teachers and leaders of the people don't understand a thing. They don't see the bigger picture. They only see a man who cried out and is now dying on a cross. Even Jesus seems to lose the big picture at the darkest moment when he feels that God has abandoned him. But luckily God always sees the big picture...

### Important questions:

It's important to always watch the film yourself beforehand and to ask yourself:

- do I want to show this to the children?
- does this film work in the context and age-range of the children I am working with?

If you choose to show this YouTube video, we suggest you use the following steps:

### Step 1: Use your imagination and draw an animal

#### What do you need:

- sheets of A4 paper
- pencils and/or felt-tip pens



**What do you do:**

Tell: I have a question for you. Who can draw an animal? Use your imagination and make a drawing of an animal.

Do: Let the children draw an animal. When the children are ready, each child can show their drawing and tell the others about it

Tell: Today we are going to watch a film about a class in Japan that gets the same assignment as you: Use your imagination and draw an animal.

**Step 2: Watch the video 'Imagination of a child' with each other.****Step 3: Can you see the big picture?****Preparation:**

Print out the puzzle beforehand and cut out it into individual puzzle pieces or in blocks of four puzzle pieces.

**What do you need:**

- Easter puzzle cut into pieces
- scissors
- felt-tip pens and/or coloured pencils

**What do you do:**

Do: Give each child one or more puzzle pieces or block or four pieces.  
Let them colour the puzzle pieces in and cut the out if necessary.

Ask: What is the big picture of this puzzle?  
Can you tell by the puzzle pieces you have got?  
How do we discover the bigger picture?

Do: Let the children do the puzzle together.

Ask: What do we see on the puzzle?

Tell: We see a man thinking about the cross of Jesus and also thinking about a different picture, a picture of a snake on a stick.

Ask: Does anyone know which Bible story the snake on the stick is about?  
What happened in that story of the serpent on the stick?

Tell: Moses was with the people in the desert. The Israelites had sinned against God and God sent poisonous snakes that bit people and killed them. When Moses went to pray, God told him to make a copper snake and put it on a stick. Everyone who looked at the snake lived.

Ask: What does this have to do with Jesus dying on the cross?

Tell: Actually, these stories are very similar. Explain this.

Ask: What does the story of the snake and Jesus dying on the cross have to do with the little boy who drew a life-size whale?

Tell: The teacher, the parents, the doctors and the nurses didn't get it. They didn't see the big picture. That's a bit like us with the puzzle pieces.

Actually it was exactly the same with the scribes, the leaders of the people and the priests. They accused Jesus of all kinds of things. He had said that he would demolish the temple and build it again in three days, that he was the son of God. Well, let him prove it.

These men had only heard very small parts of Jesus' story and seen very small parts of Jesus' life. They didn't really understand anything and had no idea what was happening.

We are lucky to be able to understand! The scribes saw a very small piece of the puzzle. We are allowed to see this whole puzzle.

Ask: What do we see when we see the whole puzzle of the life of Jesus?

**With lots of gratitude to Jesus Rolon of <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/> for this great picture of the puzzle.**

