



# Even Before Publishing

Writing for the Word



## Teacher's Notes and Ideas



## Better than a Superhero

By Belinda Francis

Illustrated by Kayleen West

ISBN: 978-1-921632-75-4

Recommended Retail: \$17.95

Recommended Age: preschool and early primary children

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[www.evenbeforepublishing.com/teachingnotes.html](http://www.evenbeforepublishing.com/teachingnotes.html)  
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Light the Dark Pty Ltd, Trading as Wombat Books ABN: 30 137 345 941

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## **Story Summary**

Better than a Superhero introduces children to Jesus, telling them why he is better than any imaginary superhero. Jesus is real and on a special mission to ensure we know how much his father God loves us. But what is most exciting is that the maker of the whole universe can be our best friend if we ask him to be.

## **Key Learning Areas**

Jesus

God

The Bible, in particular the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

## **Values addressed/Themes**

Creation, with God as creator

Jesus' humanity and divinity

God's love for us

Healing

The Parables of Jesus

Jesus' servant heart

God's grace and forgiveness

Prayer

Salvation through acknowledging and accepting Jesus

## **Related text/Resources**

The Holy Bible. See [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Preferred version: New International Version

Biblical references:

Creation – Genesis 1: 1-2:3

Jesus born to a human mother – Luke 1: 26-38

Jesus wants us to know his father – John 14:1-15

Jesus calms the storm – Matthew 8: 23-27

Jesus as healer – Matthew 8: 1-4, Mark 6: 53-56, Luke 5: 17-26

Jesus as teacher – Matthew 5

Jesus with servant heart (washes disciples' feet) – John 13: 5

Jesus loves children – Mark 10: 13-16

Forgiveness – Luke 17: 3-4

Obeys the will of his father – Matthew 26: 39

Prayer – Matthew 21: 22

The Holy Spirit lives in us – John 14: 16-17

## About the Author



Award winning journalist turned children's author Belinda Francis worked in newspapers, magazines and electronic media for ten years in South Africa before she and her family immigrated to Queensland. Shortly after arriving in Australia, her elder son was diagnosed with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and she devoted the next few years to his early intervention, which with God's guidance, has paid off miraculously. Her second son, who was born ten weeks prematurely, is now healthy and strong – evidence of yet another miracle. She and her family recently celebrated the arrival of their third child, a much-prayed for daughter.

While raising her children, Belinda wrote *Better than a Superhero*, her first published book, and threw herself into work in the local church and community. She runs the Sunday school program at her church campus.

Belinda is passionate about raising children in God's kingdom and excited about the ministry opportunities the book will undoubtedly open up. Find out more about Belinda at [www.belindafrancis.com.au](http://www.belindafrancis.com.au)

## About the Illustrator



With a personal world full of children, Kayleen is easily motivated to illustrate for kids.

Now a mother of six, Kayleen's childhood dream was to write and illustrate for children. She began with crayons and never let go of her passion for art and expression.

Kayleen was encouraged to venture into a career as an exhibiting fine artist and later a graphic designer. She studied fine art under a master painter: the late Graham Moore. This gave her the skills to paint any subject through trained observation.

Returning to her original passion, Kayleen now works full time as a freelance, award winning children's author and illustrator. She is an emerging name in publishing, writes articles for magazines, illustrates for editorials and large businesses and has published books in Australia. Find out more about Kayleen at: [www.kayleenwest.com.au](http://www.kayleenwest.com.au)

**Discussion Ideas**

Talk about creation and who we believe made us.

Why do we like superheroes?

The attributes of Jesus: what makes him better than an imaginary superhero?

What does it mean to call Jesus a friend?

Song idea: *I am a friend of God* by Israel Houghton

Song idea: *Superhero* by Planet Shakers

## *Better than a Superhero* Word Search

G	A	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N
N	Z	S	J	D	N	E	I	R	F
I	C	B	V	T	H	D	K	N	Q
K	I	H	J	E	S	U	S	P	A
U	G	W	A	D	U	T	O	B	V
D	B	L	O	S	P	B	N	L	C
K	E	L	R	L	E	C	O	I	F
R	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L	A
G	L	V	Y	M	H	U	S	E	T
O	B	E	Y	T	E	B	G	U	H
D	X	A	F	O	R	G	I	V	E
J	S	Y	C	V	O	K	U	H	R

Words to find:

Jesus

God

Love

Creation

Superhero

Father

God

King

Son

Healer

Teacher

Forgive

Obey

Friend



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# I can be like Jesus



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# *Jesus is my best friend!*



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