

# KIDZONE

## SPY REPORTS ON JESUS 1

**Be a spy!** Find out

everything you can. Spies notice and listen to everything. They ask questions other people don't even begin to think about. Without being noticed themselves (spies hate that), they try to find the real truth about the people they are investigating.

There are many spy stories in the Bible. The Pharisees and religious leaders hated Jesus. So they sent their spies to try to catch him out. The Pharisees told them to report back everything. But sometimes these spies were surprised by what Jesus said and did. "Are the Pharisees really right to hate Jesus?" they wondered.

Each month this year we'll have spy stories about Jesus and spy training games. Be a spy! Find out all you can about Jesus this year.

### WHO IS THIS MAN?

"Go and investigate Jesus," the Pharisees ordered their spies. "Arrest him and bring him back here."



It was meant to be a week of joy and feasting, but everyone was scared of the Pharisees. Jesus was becoming too popular and they were jealous. He had broken their laws by healing a lame man on the holy Sabbath day. So they wanted to kill him.

From all over the country people had come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Shelters.

As the spies mixed among the crowds, they overheard people talking about Jesus. They whispered because they were too scared to speak out.

"He's a good man. He only does good things," a woman muttered.

"No. He broke the law. He's leading people in the wrong way," a man hissed back at her.

The woman remembered the Messiah, the great Deliverer God had promised to send.

"When the Messiah comes, will he do more miracles than Jesus? He must be the Messiah," she said in a hushed voice.

"Where is Jesus?" everyone was asking.

Jesus was there but, at first, he hid himself. He wanted to keep his presence secret. But then, halfway through the Festival, he stood up in the Temple and started to teach the people. The spies were there to watch and listen.

The people were amazed.

"How does he know so much?" they asked. "He hasn't any special training like a priest."

"My teaching comes from God," Jesus said. "Anyone who really wants to find the truth will know that what I say is true. The Pharisees say they keep God's law. Yet there's a law that says: 'You must not murder,' and they want to kill me. In fact they're breaking God's law."

"Why don't the Pharisees stop him teaching?" the people wondered. "Do they secretly know that he really is the Messiah?"



Each day of the Festival there was a special water-pouring ceremony. It was a way of thanking God for sending the rain to grow the crops.

On the last day, Jesus stood up and made an important announcement: "Come to me if you are thirsty for God. If you believe in me, I will give you the true water of life."

"This man must be the Messiah," many of the people said, when they heard this.

The spies went back to the Pharisees and reported all that they had heard.

"Why didn't you arrest him as we ordered?" the Pharisees yelled angrily.

"We couldn't! No one ever spoke like this man," they said. Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, spoke up for Jesus.

"According to our law you can't condemn Jesus until he's given a fair trial," he said.

This made the other Pharisees mad.

"Don't you know that the Messiah won't come from a tiny, country town in an out-of-the-way place like Nazareth?" they shouted.

The spies realised that their next assignment would be to investigate Nicodemus. Whose side was he really on?

**[to be continued]**

Look up this Spies' Report and read it for yourself from the Bible. It's filed under John 7:10-52.



PSST!

SPECIAL SECRET ANNOUNCEMENT

Next month, March 2011, will be the last Kid Zone in hard copy.

Starting in April 2011 "Spy Reports on Jesus" will be leaked onto the internet! Download it from [www.brethren.org.nz](http://www.brethren.org.nz) with a link to Treasury.

## A TOP SECRET SPY NOTEBOOK

Make yourself a Top Secret Spy Notebook. You could use your computer or you could cut 6 blank sheets of A4 paper in half, fold them in half again and staple them together.

Each month there will be a summary of the story to be decoded and copied into your Notebook. There will also be a Bible Verse to decode, copy and learn.



## MATCH THE QUOTES

Here are quotes of what people said about Jesus, but they have got mixed up. Be a spy. Draw lines to join the two halves that go together. One is done for you.

When the Messiah comes, will he perform more

This man is really

He is a

Nobody has ever talked the

No, he

He is

good man (7:12)

is misleading the people (7:12)

miracles than this man? (7:31)

the Prophet (7:40)

the Messiah (7:41)

way this man does (7:46)

## TOP SECRET SUMMARY:

The P \_\_\_\_\_s sent out their s \_\_\_\_\_s to investigate J \_\_\_\_\_s. Everyone was talking about J \_\_\_\_\_s. The P \_\_\_\_\_s were angry because the s \_\_\_\_\_s came back without J \_\_\_\_\_s. "Why?" the P \_\_\_\_\_s shouted. "No one ever talked the way J \_\_\_\_\_s does", the s \_\_\_\_\_s told the P \_\_\_\_\_s.

To check, look up the references in John's Gospel in a Good News Bible.

## SPY TRAINING: SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Here are two pictures of crowds waiting for Jesus to come. Be a spy. Find 10 differences between the two pictures.



## TOP SECRET VERSE

Yeht erew lla  
dezama ta eht  
yaw suseJ thguat,  
esuaceb eh ekops  
htiw ytirohtua.

Luke 4:32  
Good News Bible.

## A PRAYER

Dear God, this year please help me to find out all I can about Jesus and how to follow him. Amen.