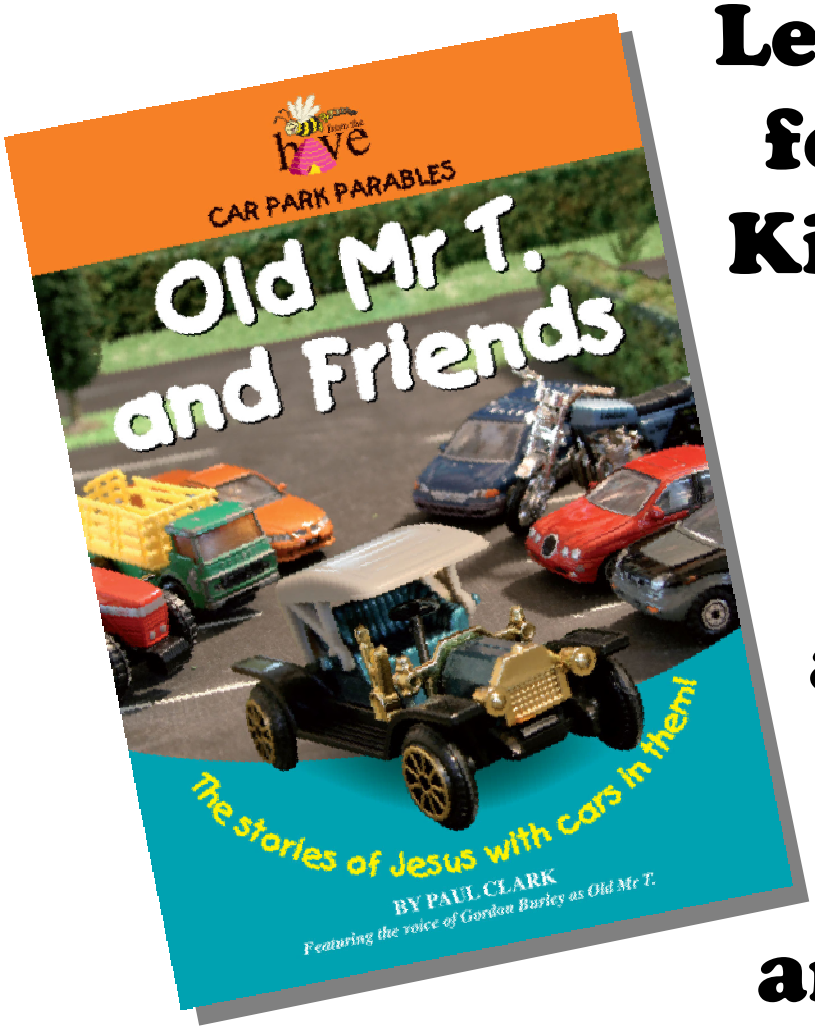
Car Park Parables™



Lesson Plans for Camps, Kids Clubs & Sunday School Lessons to accompany the DVD, 'Old Mr T and Friends'

By Paul Clark

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Welcome!

If you've got this far you have obviously found the Aussie resource 'Old Mr T & Friends' and have appreciated it enough to want to do something more with it. Thank you for your support!

I put this resource together when our local kids club took the theme 'Cars' for four weeks and we used the stories as the basis of our devotions. I have also tried to develop it for use in camps as I hope to use it in that way in the future myself.

You might notice the pictures are different from the DVD. Since the release of the DVD, Wombat Books have published a number of the stories in book form. They engaged talented Brisbane based illustrator Graham Preston to bring the cars to life. Long term we hope to use the illustrations as the basis of the cars characters, so I have used the book illustrations in this publication. It didn't seem to confuse my kids.

The Worksheets are designed to be given out and worked through after you have watched each episode. This allowed us to work in small groups, rather than rely on a big group message.

I have also given you two options for the first study. Often in camps we need some 'getting to know you time.' Since the first story is all about 'getting to know' the characters I thought it lent itself to this task at camp – it might not be so appropriate in a Sunday school.

I also found writing the studies hard. Many of these stories are stories to be heard, explored, lived with. I wrestled with moralising them. I read recently that our task is less about making moral people, and more about making noble people. I think it's a subtle difference but very important.

If the gospel boils down to 'clean you room, do your homework and obey your parents' kids will run a mile from it, but if it is about the grand mysteries of the universe, a God who has come near and loves us, and living the best life possible – I think kids will be hooked. How you teach that to 5 or 8 year old boys is another thing! So, feel free to throw out any of my outlines, and just explore the story!

At Car Park Parables we're trying to build a resource where children can grow up with characters [as they would Thomas the Tank Engine] but where these characters become mentors and companions on life's journey of faith. So, look out for more resource from Car Park Parables coming out all the time.

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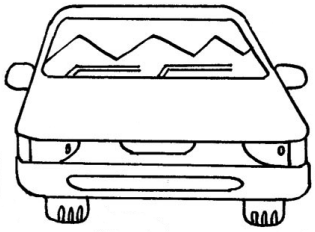
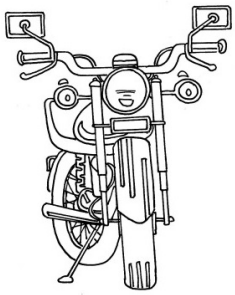
Lesson 1 : Old Mr T

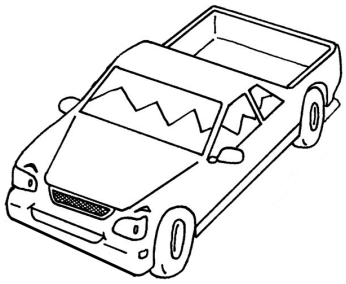
Q1. Which car are you most like?



Frieda the Family Car
Friendly, loves family, children, safe, dependable, quiet.



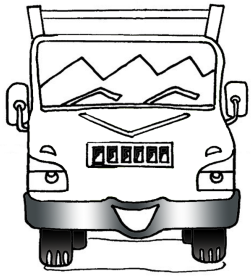
Muscles[1] the Motorcycle
Inquisitive, thinking asks questions, intuition.



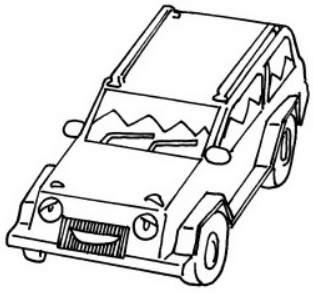
Hot Headed Harry
Fast, impulsive, likes to tease, red-blooded, real man!

Luxurious Lucy
Polite, posh, proper. Always does what is right.

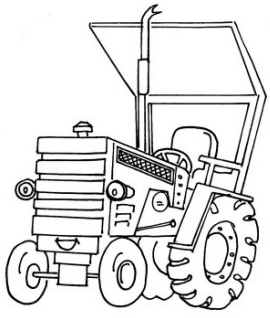
Old Mr T
Old, wise, thoughtful, patient, humble, cautious.



Trevor Truck
Class clown, hard working, simple, caring, happy!



Impossible Issi
Rebellious, rambunctious, sceptical, courageous.



Tony Tractor
Caring, insightful, thoughtful, gentle, bold, slow.

Q2. Which car would you like to be more like?

[1] Muscles is called Harley in the first DVD, but changed to Muscles in the Books.

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Q3. Have you ever been to worship in a church? How did you find the experience?

Boring! Weird Interesting OK Enjoyable Awesome

Q4. Who do you think the 'God-man' that Old Mr T talked about is?

Q5. Old Mr T talked about a car park which started small, but which slowly grew and became a busy, bustling centre where lots of cars wanted to be. This is based on some verses from the Bible, Luke 13:18-21.

> *Then Jesus said, "How can I picture God's kingdom for you? What kind of story can I use? It's like a tiny mustard seed that a man plants in his front yard. It grows into a huge mustard tree with thick branches, and birds build nests in it."*
> *He tried again. "How can I picture God's kingdom? It's like the tiny yeast that a woman works into a big batch of dough for three loaves of bread—she waits and waits and slowly the dough rises."*

Jesus is talking about what it's like to be in his team, and how it makes a difference in your life. So, if you make Jesus part of your life how does it make a difference, really quickly?

Q6. Why would you want to make Jesus [the God-man] part of your life? Think about it.

Q7. Why would going to church, or kids club or some other group where you learn about Jesus be important if you want to be part of Jesus' team?

For me, when I was growing up I found that church could sometimes be boring. But when I started to really listen to all the stories that Jesus told, and decided to be on Jesus' team suddenly church was a whole lot better – and those stories started to change me, ever so slowly, from the inside out – to make me all the things God wanted me to be. I pray that you might want to make Jesus part of your life, and that you will really come alive as you listen to and try to live out Jesus' stories about life – Paul Clark.

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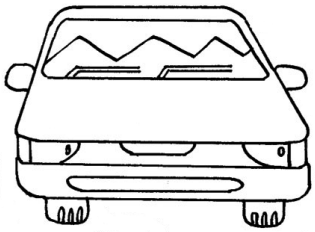
Lesson 1 : Old Mr T [For Camps]

Q1. Tell everyone your name in 'Car Park' style. If your name is Fred, are you *Fast Freddie* or *Fearless Fred*? If your name is Sarah are you *Smart Sarah* or *Sporty Sarah*?

Q2. Out of the Car Park Parable cars, which car are you most like?



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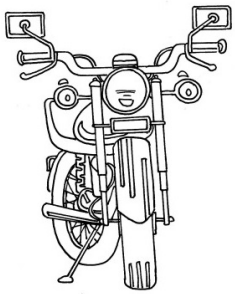
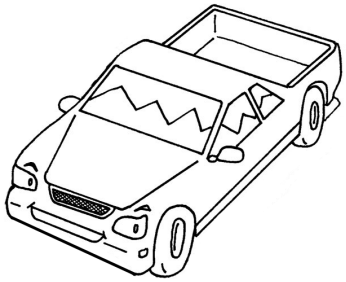


Muscles[2] the Motorcycle
Inquisitive, thinking asks questions, intuition.



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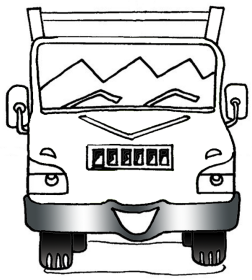

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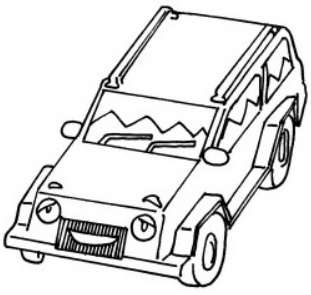
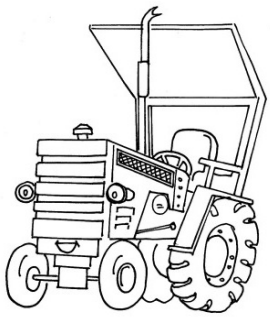


Impossible Issi
Rebellious, rambunctious, sceptical, courageous.



Tony Tractor
Caring, insightful, thoughtful, gentle, bold, slow.

[2] Muscles is called Harley in the first DVD, but changed to Muscles in the Books.

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Q3. What type of transportation are you most like? [Include planes, trains and boats!] Explain why to the group?

Q4. Which of the Car Park Parable cars would you like to be more like? Explain why.

In today's story the Cars from Westbrooke began a journey – without even leaving the car park. They began to hear the stories of Jesus. The stories of Jesus change things – they help us to grow and become all we could be. Today's story is based on these verses from the Bible, Luke 13:18-19.

> *Then Jesus said, "How can I picture God's kingdom for you? What kind of story can I use? It's like a tiny mustard seed that a man plants in his front yard. It grows into a huge mustard tree with thick branches, and birds build nests in it."*

As you enter into the stories of Jesus they too can help you grow and become all God wants you to be. I pray that your time with these cars will begin that journey for you!

Pray for one another.

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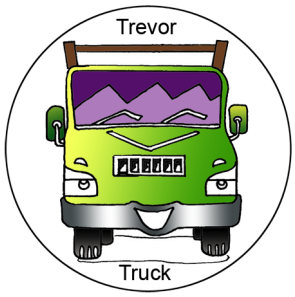
Lesson 2 : The Prodigal Pick-up [ute]

Q1. What was each car's problem in the story?



Trevor Truck's Problem?

Luxurious Lucy's Problem?

Q2. How did Old Mr T's story help each car overcome their problem?

How did it help Trevor?

How did it help Lucy?

What was the Ute's turning point?

What was the other car's turning point?

Did you notice that for both cars it was the Owner's love that brought them back into the 'family'?

Q3. In your life, do you feel more like Trevor Truck or Luxurious Lucy?

Q4. What do you think God would say to you?

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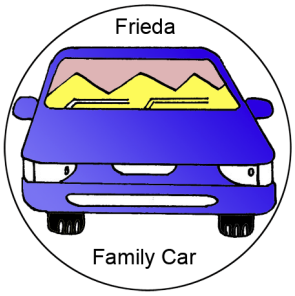
Lesson 3 : The Good Ford



Q1. Who do you find hard to like or love? Why?

Q2. In the story, how do you think the Holden felt when the first two cars just drove past without helping? How do you think he felt when the Ford helped?

Q3. In the story, Jesus said the way to live forever is to love God with everything, and to love your neighbour like you love yourself.

Who did Harry realise was his neighbour?

Q4. What did Harry do about it?

Q5. How can you show love to those you don't like?

To think about – We can never perfectly love God and *all* our neighbours! No matter how hard we try we will always fail. Does this mean we shouldn't try to love our neighbours? Does this mean we can't live forever?

Fortunately God has done it for us! God loves those who reject and tease and ignore him, including us. God came to us in Jesus and loved us enough to die on the cross. He has loved God and neighbour perfectly and he gives to those who follow him his reward of eternal life. That's good news!

We can go on loving God and loving neighbour – not to be good enough to go to heaven – but out of gratefulness that God has already accepted us! We now choose to live his way as best we can, receiving his forgiveness and love whenever we fail.

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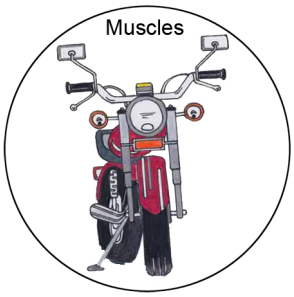
Lesson 4: The Missing Motorcycle



Q1. Did you know that God wants us all to be part of his family?

Q2. How easy would it be to fall away from God, to move away from his family?

Q3. In the story Old Mr T told about the 100 cars, one car went missing. What did the owner do about that?

Q4. What does this show the owner feels about each of his cars?

Q5. If God is the owner, and we are the cars, what does God think about you?

Q6. So, if you ever went away from God [or you are away from God now] would God want you back?

Q7. This story tells us God is searching for us, just like the cars searched for the Missing Motorcycle. Jesus came to earth to search for us, to rescue us. Have you been found by Jesus?

If not, what can you going to do about it?