

Te Ara mō te Rongopai

The Gateway for the Gospel
Programme outline for
'Ruatara and the new Beginning'
The Chronicles of Paki series #3



He rama tāu kupu ki ōku wae

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What it's all about:

Ruatarara went on a long journey, where he was met by kindness as well as harsh treatment. Along the way he meets Samuel Marsden and invites him to visit Aotearoa, New Zealand. It is Ruatarara who translates the first gospel message on New Zealand soil.

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Nga Kēmu Takaro—Get Moving

'Ruatarā' is a book about perseverance. Ruatarā travelled a long way before he got back home. Use these games to explore what it means to never give up. Here's a couple of games ideas to try out. Each game is designed to run for 10 mins.

Tahi:

Find your way home: You will need one chair per child, in a circle. If you have a large group then divide up into two circles. To begin, the children stand behind their chair, which is their home base. They might like to place a shoe or marker on the chair so they remember that it is theirs. The leader says a range of statements – ie: Has a brother. Has two legs. Has a cat. If the child can answer 'yes' to the statement they move one chair to the left. If someone else is at that chair they stand behind them. If they answer 'no' they stay where they are. Have some statements that all the children can say yes to. The winner is the first one back to his or her chair.

Rua:

Tail tug: Give each child a ribbon or scarf (at least 30cm long). They need to tuck it in the back of their shorts or skirt to make a tail. When you say 'Go' each child tries to grab the end of another child's tail. They may only grab one tail at a time. The child who grabs a tail tucks it in the back of their shorts. When a child loses a tail they can still continue to grab a tail. After 5mins blow the whistle. The winner is the one with the most tails. If your space is small have the children walk instead of run.



Waiata—singing together

Kids love to sing!

Songs are part of our worship to God. The words and the emotions of a song give God praise and honour. Singing together to God is a very important part of a programme.

Wairua Tapu:

Wairua tapu, kuhu mai

Nau mai ki konei

Wairua tapu arahia

Korero mai ano

Translation:

Holy Spirit, welcome. You are welcome here

Guide us Holy Spirit, Speak to us again.

You can listen to it on YouTube, and learn the correct pronunciation and the actions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rN4LNFCthU

You can purchase the song from itunes for \$1.79

Some helpful tips:

- You don't always have to sing the song. This song has a beautiful long introduction. You can invite the children to sit silently and listen to the song, while you show some photos of creation on a PowerPoint or on a short movie clip.



Te Pukapuka—Read together

'Ruatarā' is a beautifully illustrated book. The best way to share this book is with a group small enough so everyone can see the pictures. If you have a large group you will need to get a couple more copies of the book and break up into small groups at this time.

Some tips: read the story and prepare well before hand. Make sure you can pronounce all the Māori words.

Here are some of the key points from the story:

- Ruatarā sails to England to meet the King but he is mistreated and sent off in the *Ann* and ends up in Port Jackson, Australia.
- There he meets Samuel Marsden whose family nurse him back to health.
- Ruatarā learns that his uncle Te Pahi has been killed.
- Ruatarā works on Marsden's farm in Parramatta and learns about new crops.
- Ruatarā catches a ride on the *Frederick* which is a boat heading to New Zealand. Instead the boat sails to Norfolk island and he gets abandoned there.
- Months later he is rescued by the *Ann* and returned to Samuel Marsden's care in Sydney.
- Finally Ruatarā makes it back to Aotearoa. He teaches the people about how to grow and mill wheat.
- Samuel Marsden arrives in Aotearoa in December 1814
- Warriors threaten Marsden but Ruatarā protects him.
- Marsden delivers the first Christian message on Christmas Day 1814. Ruatarā is the one who translates his message.

Korero

After you have read the story, it is good to have some space to talk about what happened and ask questions about it. Break up into smaller groups for this time. Age related groups work well. Assign a leader to each group and encourage each leader to allow the children to talk and ask questions for themselves.

Here are a couple of good key questions to get you started. Choose two or more:

- What surprised or puzzled you in this story?
- Was there something new in this story that you didn't know before?
- Ruatara never gave up. What do you think kept him going?
- What does this story tell us about what God is like?

Tip:

- You might like to print your key questions out on a small piece of card for each of your small group leaders to have to refer to.
- You could put the questions up on a PowerPoint.



Paipera Tapu— the Bible

Luke 2:10 (CEV)

"Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy."

Ruka 2:10

"Kava e matakū: tā te mea he kaikauwhau tenei ahau ki a koutou mo te hari nui, meake puta mai ki te iwi katoa."

This is a great verse from the Bible for your children to remember. It is the very words spoken by Samuel Marsden at the first church service in Aotearoa: Christmas Day, 1814. Here are two ways you can teach the verse. Choose the one that suits your group best.

Tahi:

Verse Chain: Print the words to the verse on separate strips of paper, 1 x 6. Give each child one strip. After repeating the verse several times with the children, ask them to assemble the chain by putting the words of the verse in order. Staple the chain together.

Rua:

Pop Verse: Print out enough copies of the verse for one copy per group of 4 or 5 children. Roll each copy up and put it inside a balloon. Blow up the balloons. Put the children in groups of 4 and give them a balloon each. If you have enough leaders you might like to put one leader with each group, or an older child to help them out. One child per group needs to pop the balloon. Another child can then read out the verse that is inside. Have each group practice saying it and memorising it. Ask if there is a group that would like to say the verse from memory. Then say it all together as a whole group. You might like to have a large version of the verse at the front.



Whai Whakaaro—exploring the story

This programme gives you five station ideas to choose from. You can download instruction cards for each station from our website. Laminate these and have them sitting with each station. This way the children and the leaders know what to do.

Some guidelines for using stations:

- Have your leaders move around the room to make sure kids know what they are doing. They may like to sit with a group and read to them or talk with them. This is about learning together.
- Explain the stations clearly before sending the kids off to explore them. Have an instruction card at each station so the kids and leaders know what to do.
- You may like to send your kids around the stations in small groups with an assigned leader the first time you use stations in your programme. As they get used to the idea, allow them to explore freely.
- Tell the kids that if there are 5 kids at a station go and choose another one and come back to it when less children are there.
- Remind them that the noise level needs to be respectful to everyone.



Station #1

Getting into the Bible:

Some kids love nothing better than a good book. Sit down next to them and explore together some of the stories in the Bible, or read together 'Ruatarā and the New Beginning.'

At this station set out:

- Several copies of 'Ruatarā'.
- Several Bibles. We suggest a child friendly version i.e. CEV, a Jesus Storybook Bible and/or a Lion's Bible for Children. A Māori Bible is a great idea too. Contact Scripture Union or the Bible Society to find out about ordering these.
- A few child-friendly Bible reference books. Here are a couple of good ones you can purchase from Scripture Union:

'Bible Detective' by Peter Martin

'Daily Life at the time of Jesus' by Miriam Feinberg Vamosh

'The Bible from beginning to end' by Derek Williams



Station #2

Map it:

It's good for children to know not just what happened, but where it happened.

Ruatara travelled all around the world on an extraordinary journey. Display a world map or globe at this station. Give the children a long length of wool and blue tack so they can trace the long journey Ruatara took. Talk together about how he must have felt as he was sent all over the place and mistreated. Ruatara never gave up. You can then remove the wool journey so that the next group of children can start afresh.

Here's a list of the places mentioned in 'Ruatara':

- New Zealand
- England
- Port Jackson, Australia
- Parramatta, Australia
- Norfolk Island
- Matauri Bay, New Zealand



Station #3

Hands on:

Children and adults love to get their hands on materials and make stuff! Let them have fun with one of these two activities. There is an instruction card for each you can download from our website.

Tahi:

Felt bags: You will need a piece of felt for each child, cut into a rectangle 22cm by 30cm. Fold the felt in half, but leave a 2 cm wide extra bit at the top (this will become the flap). Punch holes along the sides. Take a long piece of cord, tie a knot in one end and thread a large bead onto it (the bead stops the thread pulling through the holes). Thread the cord through the needle and start sewing the holes, starting from the holes closest to the folded edge. When you get to the top, leave a length of cord along the top to create the strap and thread the needle down the other side. Thread a second bead onto the cord and tie a knot. You can add a Velcro dot on the front and the top of the flap if you want to be able to close the bag up.



Rua:

Old Map Envelopes: Give each child a rectangle cut from an old New Zealand map. People who have moved over to GPS on their devices will have old map books they no longer use. Pull out the pages and trim the edges. Fold over one of the short ends of the rectangle to create the envelope's flap. Now fold the page in half. Use glue sticks or double-sided tape to glue along the long edges of the rectangle, avoiding the flap. Fold the rest of the rectangle in half and glue the sides of the envelope in place. Give each child a blank address label to add to the front of their envelope so they can use it to send a card or note to someone.



Station #4

Timeline of events:

Set up your time line around the walls of your room. If you have been using the whole series of The Chronicles of Paki books, leave the previous labels on the timeline so the children can see how the stories all relate to each other.

Write out the key dates below on post-it notes or pieces of paper with blue tack. If you have older children, they can look up the key dates in the 'Ruatarā' book and write their own labels. Stick these labels to the timeline in the right place.

Here are some key dates from the story to add:

1805 – Ruatarā leaves his home and heads off on a whaling boat.

1805 – Ruatarā meets Samuel Marsden in Port Jackson, Australia.

1812 – Ruatarā arrives home.

1814 – Ruatarā goes to Port Jackson and brings Samuel Marsden back to Aotearoa with him.

1814 – Christmas Day, Samuel Marsden gives the first Bible message in Aotearoa.

1700

1750



Station #5

Karakia:

Things got really difficult for Ruatara. Things can be really difficult for us too. God wants us to talk to him about the difficult things. Allow the children space to think about the things that are difficult in their lives and to talk to God about them.

Holding something in our hands while we pray can help children and adults to focus. This prayer idea uses stones to help children pray about the things they find difficult.

God wants us to talk about the difficult things in our lives.

Set up a pile of stones in the middle of a table. Have some permanent markers next to them.

Give the children these instructions:

- Take a stone and write your name on it with the permanent marker.
- Think for a moment about the things you find difficult. It might be something at home or school or with your friends.
- Hold the stone in your hand and tell God about your difficult thing. God cares.
- Put your stone in the middle of the table to create a pile. If you want to, you can take your stone home with you.



Pronunciation Guide

Here's a very simple guide to pronouncing the Māori vowel sounds in this programme and the Chronicles of Paki series.

a	sounds like the 'a' in car
e	bed
i	me
o	or
u	moo
ng	sing
wh	f
au	oh
ai	aisle

'r' has a slight roll to it.

Glossary of Terms

Kete	A flax basket
Kia Ora	Welcome, a general greeting
Whanau	Family
Tahi	One
Rua	Two
Waiata	Song
Korero	Conversation, talk, chat
Karakia	Prayer

Here's a good starting place, some common words or phrases that you can use in your programme.

Kia ora	A general greeting
Morena tamariki ma	Good morning children
Ka pai	That is good
Haere mai	Come here
E tu	Stand up
E noho	Sit down
Whakarongo mai	Listen to me



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