

Introduction:

Pirates spent weeks on end on the high seas on their pirate ships and there was usually a lot of work to do. Sometimes there were times when there was not much to do, no ships laden with goods to loot so the pirates played many different games.

A good pirate made a fortune on treasure and many times they buried the treasure on a deserted island. They made treasure maps to make sure they would be able to find their treasure.

Activity 1 Musical Islands

Aim:

To have fun.

Equipment:

- CD player
- Good children's music (Duggie Dug Dug – great Christian children's music)
- Island shapes cut from cardboard to fit one child each (Enough for the number of children)

Preparation:

Lay out the island shapes - you can stick them on the floor with blu-tack if the floor is slippery.

Instructions:

- This game for pirates follows the pattern of musical chairs only with cut out islands for the children to stand on.
- Arrange the islands around the room/space.
- Turn on the music and get the children to dance around the room – not touching the islands.
- When you stop the music every child must stand on an island.
- After each turn remove an island and then children are out if there is no island for them to stand on - until there is one child left – the winner.



10 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Talk to the children prior to the game about being careful not to run into each other or into walls.



15 minutes



6+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Keep an eye on teams as they go around searching and specify that they may not run during this task.



20 minutes



6+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.

Activity 2 Pirate Treasure Hunt

Aim:

To get the children to find treasure and answer the clue.

Equipment:

- Chocolate coins
- Clues

Preparation:

Hide the money around the space. Depending how many children you have – divide them into teams and number the money according to how many teams you have.

Instructions:

- Divide children into teams.
- Hide chocolate coins before they arrive.
- Stick numbers onto each coin e.g if you have 15 children divide them into teams of three and have five coins number 1, 5 coins numbered 2 etc.
- Give each team a number and they can only collect the coins with their number on.
- They are not allowed to move any other coins – if they do they will have a coin taken from them.
- When they find all five they must report to a designated leader and answer a clue.
- The clue will lead them to a box of treasure. Hide this somewhere that will not be too easy to find. Stretch them as this will add to the challenge.

Tips/Advice:

Don't make it too easy. If they struggle to find the coins give warmer, colder clues.

Activity 3 Captain Hook's Hook

Aim:

To make Captain Hook's hand.

Equipment:

- Tin foil
- Paper or plastic cups

Preparation:

Clear a space ready for the craft.

Instructions:

- The children can make this in a short space of time and it is handy to have tin foil already torn out to the size you are giving them so that they do not take too much foil.
- Make a hook shape by crumpling the foil into a long shape and then twisting it into a hook shape.
- Next get the cup and make a hole (or pre-make the holes) and place the hook into the cup.
- You can wrap the cup in foil as well. You may need to tap the hook into the cup.
- This can then be placed inside the child's sleeve as a hook.

Activity 4 The Storm

Aim:

Looking at God's protection.

Equipment:

- Bible
- Questions

Instructions:

This story is told by "Blue Eye" the Patient Pirate. He is a very well travelled pirate currently back from a long stretch at sea. He has captured many ships and found much treasure.

Good day to you mateys. Aaarrh!! My name is Blue eye and I am a pirate captain. I have a beautiful ship and she is called the Sea Witch. I have a strong pirate crew of men who I can trust and who have been beside me through many battles and many adventures. But one thing I must say is that my crew weren't always like this.

Can I tell you a story my mateys? We were sailing across the seven seas in the Sea Witch when a terrible storm came up on us out of nowhere. The men were terrified and the Sea Witch was thrown about on the sea. We thought that we would come to trouble and the ship was sent off course for days and finally we came into harbour in a cove that was sheltered from the storm. We sat it out until the storm passed but then we went ashore for supplies.

The next night whilst we sat around the fire on the island I remembered a similar story that happened to the disciples when they were with Jesus on a boat.

One day Jesus and His disciples were in a boat when a storm came up from nowhere. The disciples were fishermen so they knew how to take care of a boat in stormy weather. But this storm was so big that they were afraid and the waves crashed into the boat.

Do you know what Jesus was doing? He was asleep. The disciples shook Jesus awake and asked Him to help them. Jesus woke up, stood up and told the storm to be calm and do you know what happened? The storm was calmed.

Just like that through His words.

The disciples talked among themselves. "Who is this Man?" they asked each other. "Even the winds and the waves obey Him. He must be the Son of God."

Think about storms. We have all seen storms coming and there is lots of rain and sometimes thunder.

When we read the Bible, we can learn things that can help us in our lives. The Bible helps us to learn more about God and how He wants us to live. As we are reading the Bible, God may help us to see how he wants us to live. In this story from Matthew 8:23-27 we can learn to trust Jesus and ask Him for help when we are in trouble.

Just like Jesus' disciples came to Him when they were scared, we can pray and ask Him for help for our needs.

Conclusion:

That is a pretty scary story isn't it for the pirate crew but also for the disciples - but we probably won't be in that situation will we - we are not likely to be on a pirate's ship. But there may be times when we feel we are in trouble and we need to turn to God in those times and ask for his help.



15 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.

**Application:**

Have you ever been afraid? How do you feel inside when you are afraid? When you are afraid, what can you do? Do you think it is a good idea to pray and ask God to help you?

Let's pray together:

Thank You, God, for always being with us.
When I am afraid, I will trust in You.
Thank you for always hearing our prayers
and for sending your son Jesus to be our saviour.
In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

Tips/Advice:

Try to tell the story as if you were around the fire. You could turn off the lights and light a candle.
Put on a pirate voice and try to create atmosphere.

Introduction:

Talk to the children about what sorts of animals would be found on a safari. Talk about lions, tigers, giraffes and other exotic animals using these engaging and fun activities. This will help the children to think about the different animals they would find on safari. You could then play an opening game of animal charades. Get a child to stand up in front of the group and act out a safari animal. The group try to guess what animal is being mimed. The child who gets it right then has a turn to perform an animal charade.

Activity 1 Crocodile Bookmark

Aim:

To make a bookmark.

Equipment:

- Green craft foam
- Black pen
- Wiggly eyes
- Glue
- Scissors

Instructions:

To make the crocodile bookmark:

- Cut out a rectangle 3cm by 12cm from green foam.
- Cut out another rectangle about 3cm by 5cm, shaping this one into the crocodile's face.
- Put a strip of glue at the top of the first rectangle and stick on the face.
- Glue on two wiggly eyes.
- Use a black pen to draw on the face markings.



20 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors and glue.

Activity 2 Elephant Peanut Race

Aim:

To push a peanut with your nose.

Preparation:

Mark a start and finish line (not too far apart 8-10 feet) using tape.

Equipment:

- Tape
- Bag of peanuts (shells on) or you could use a ball of scrunched up foil.

Instructions:

- Push the peanut with your nose between the lines.
- If using teams, the members are arranged on either side of the line and once over the finish line the next member of the team pushes it back the other way.



10 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Peanut allergies.



15-20 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 3 Jungle Safari

Aim:

To make binoculars to search for animals hidden in the 'jungle'.

Equipment:

- Toilet roll or kitchen roll tubes
- Paint
- String
- Stapler
- Plastic or stuffed animals.
- Some house plants or other jungle themed props.

Preparation:

- Prepare the craft table
- Hide the animals around the jungle for the children to find.

Instructions:

- First step is to make the toilet paper tube binoculars
- Give each child two empty toilet paper tubes.
- Give them some craft supplies and paint and ask them to decorate their binoculars.
- When they have finished decorating their binoculars put the tubes side by side and staple them together.
- Then staple some string to either side so that they can be hung around their neck and lifted up to eye height.
- The children will then use the binoculars to find animals in the jungle safari.
- Give the children bags to collect any animals they find hidden in the "jungle."
- If you are using inexpensive plastic animals, let the children take home any animals they find.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

You can search as a group and have fun pointing out the hidden creatures.

Activity 4 Animals Of The Bible Quiz

Aim:

To test the children's knowledge of animals in the bible.

Equipment:

- Animals Of The Bible Quiz template
- Pens/pencils
- Paper

Instructions:

- Divide the children into even groups if possible and hand out pens and paper.
- Get them to think of a name for their team.
- When going through the answers to the quiz you could expand on some of the questions reminding them of the main facts of the story.
- If possible find some pictures which you could show to represent some of the stories mentioned through the questions in the quiz.



15-20 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

The answers to the questions are as follows:

- 1) Snake
- 2) True
- 3) Sheep
- 4) Lions
- 5) True
- 6) Donkey
- 7) Pigs
- 8) Rooster
- 9) Calf
- 10) Fish

Tips/Advice:

You could have a prize for the winning team.

Activity 5 Jungle Safari Raft

Aim:

To get the children to make rafts in small groups.

Equipment:

- Sticks
- String
- Leaves
- Scissors

Preparation:

If possible get the children to go outside to fetch the sticks and the leaves. If this is not possible get them prior to the session.

Instructions:

- Get the children to collect plenty of small branches from a tree
- Cut them so that there are two larger pieces for the bottom (approx 8 inches),
- You will then need 12 smaller pieces for the top (approx 7 inches)
- Lastly you need one thin stick for the mast (approx 7 inches).
- Garden secateurs will help to cut the lengths.
- Attach the two longer bottom sticks to two of the top sticks with string to make a square.
- Then attach the other ten sticks with string tying and twisting the string to make the sticks tight together.
- Stick the thin mast stick through a gap and attach a leaf or a piece of material to it.
- If you are able to have a small paddling pool the children could test out their rafts and see if they are water worthy.



25 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



If there is water in a paddling pool - keep constant adult supervision.

Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors.



Devotion Links:

You could talk about how God created all the animals and how he feeds them and provides everything they need.

Trips/Visits:

Organise a trip for the children to a Safari Park or Zoo so that the children get an opportunity to see animals in real life and find out more about the way they live, what they eat, etc.

Many Safari Parks and Zoos will produce educational packs which you could use during your visit.

Aim:

To teach us that God always gives us another chance.

Introduction:

The story of Jonah is one of the most popular stories in the Bible particularly with young children. In it God asks Jonah to go to a great city called Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria the enemies of the Israelites, to announce God's judgement against them for the wrong things that they have done (Jonah 1:2). God wants them to turn away from the wrong that they do and live a different life following him. Instead of doing this Jonah turns in the opposite direction (Jonah 1:3), and from Joppa buys a ticket for the next boat to Spain (Tarshish). We later find out that he does this because he knows that God is "merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love" (Jonah 4:2), but instead of rejoicing in this fact he resents it. If he is to go to announce God's Judgement on the people of Nineveh he wants God to go through with what he says he will do, and not make him look stupid.

On the way to Spain, God sends a storm and the crew feel their lives are in danger. Whilst the crew cry out to their gods for help Jonah stays fast asleep. Puzzled by this they implore Jonah to pray to his God. The crew then draw lots to determine who has offended the gods and caused the storm. This identifies Jonah as the culprit, and the crew are terrified as they realise Jonah is running away from his God. Jonah tells them to throw him into the sea to make the storm stop. Reluctantly they do so. In the sea, Jonah is swallowed by a great fish where he remains for three days and three nights. Inside the fish Jonah prays to God, and the fish spits him out onto the beach. Jonah then receives his instructions again and this time obeys God. Jonah walks through the city of Nineveh for three days, and declares "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people of Nineveh believed these words, and they all went without food and put on sackcloth to demonstrate their repentance. In response the king takes off his robes, put on sackcloth, and sat down in ashes. He then commanded all his people to pray earnestly to God, to give up the wrong things they did, all in the hope that God might change his mind and not destroy Nineveh.

Consequently, God then changes his mind and does not carry out the destruction he threatened. This upsets Jonah even though he knows it is in God's character (Jonah 4:2). Jonah believed that their enemies were beyond God's grace and forgiveness. He was upset with God because his pride had been damaged; God had not done what Jonah said he would do. Instead God asserts his love for the people of Nineveh that he created and his right to give them another chance. God is shown as a God of love and mercy, who would rather forgive the enemies of his people rather than punish and destroy them.

We often focus on the fact that Jonah disobeyed God. However, it's interesting to note the main thrust of the passage (which is also a common theme in the rest of the Bible) is that God loves all people and always give them another chance (Matthew 18:22). This applies equally to Jonah & the people of Nineveh; to God's chosen people and their enemies. The resentment shown by Jonah to God mirrors the reaction of the older son in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). He resents the fact that his father has forgiven the transgressions of his younger brother. In both stories the characters look to limit what God's allowed to do. Instead God turns the situation on its head and exercises his right to forgive his creation.

Programme Overview:

Mind: Deep Sea Activities (5-10 mins)

Spirit: Stormy Weather (10-15 mins)

Creativity: Whale of a Time (15-30 mins)

Body: Fishing Reel-ay (10 mins)

Spirit: Inside the Fish (10 mins)

Mind: Go Fish (10 mins)





5-10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.



15-20 minutes



4-12



Warn the children to
take extra care when
running under the
parachute, as there
is a risk of colliding
with another child.

Activity 1 Deep Sea Activities

Aim:

To get the children to start thinking about the sea.

Equipment:

- Deep Sea Puzzles template
- Pencils/ Pens
- Lego

Preparation:

Print off the Deep Sea Puzzles template, and put some Lego on the tables.

Instructions:

As the children arrive get them to start thinking about the sea. Give them a free choice of a variety of puzzles from the Deep Sea Puzzles template or using Lego to create models of things they might see in the sea.

Tips/Advice:

Suggest some ideas for building Lego models, e.g. a whale, fish, boat etc. Maybe try building some prior to their arrival as an example.

Activity 2 Stormy Weather

Aim:

To communicate what happened when Jonah didn't obey God's instructions.

Equipment:

- Parachute
- Balls

Instructions:

Get the group to gather around a parachute. Explain that you are going to tell them the beginning of the story of Jonah. At the different stages act out the story using different actions:

- Begin by sharing that God told Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh and tell them to stop doing things that upset Him and were wrong. There were over 120,000 people living in Nineveh and God threatened to destroy the city if they did not change their ways. Throw onto the parachute a ball that represents Jonah. Place the ball on the parachute and get the group to gently roll it around the parachute as slowly as possible.
- When Jonah heard these instructions he ran in the opposite direction to the port at Joppa and brought a ticket to travel by boat to Spain. Get the group to make the ball roll around the parachute in the opposite direction.
- The sea was really calm. Hold the parachute tightly and get the children to stand still so that the ball stops moving.
- The sun was shining and everyone was really hot. Lift the parachute up and get two people to swap places to get shelter from the sun.
- The wind then began to get stronger. Start to shake the parachute up and down gradually more strongly.
- The rain began to pour down. Raise the parachute above head height and gently move it up and down simulating rain.

- A terrible storm then blew the boat all over the sea. Shake the parachute up and down as much as possible but keeping the ball on the parachute.
- Throughout the storm Jonah was asleep. The crew of the boat drew lots to see who had upset the gods. They realised that Jonah had run away from and upset God. Jonah instructed them to throw him overboard into the sea. Shake the parachute up and down as much as possible, in order to shake the ball off the parachute.
- As soon as Jonah was in the sea, the storm died down and the sea was calm.
- Whilst in the sea, God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. Everyone sits on the inside of the parachute and pretends to be inside the fish.
- He stayed in the fish for three days and nights, and prayed to God promising to follow his instructions. Then the fish spat him out onto a beach. Throw the parachute up in the air and swap places with the person opposite.

You can continue the game by shouting out the different instructions and getting the group to respond with the appropriate action. You could begin repeating the same order, but then introduce the instructions randomly:

- Jonah ran away from God - Get the group to make the ball roll around the parachute in the opposite direction.
- Calm - Hold the parachute tightly and get the children to stand still so that the ball stops moving.
- Sun was shining - Lift the parachute up and get two people to swap places to get shelter from the sun.
- The rain poured - Raise the parachute above head height and gently move it up and down simulating rain.
- Terrible storm - Shake the parachute up and down as much as possible but keeping the ball on the parachute.
- Jonah overboard - Shake the parachute up and down as much as possible, in order to shake the ball off the parachute.
- Big fish - Everyone sits on the inside of the parachute and pretends to be inside the fish.
- Spat Jonah out - Throw the parachute up in the air and swap places with the person opposite.

Tips/Advice:

It is likely that the children will get excited during the activity. Instruct them that when you say a key word, e.g. Jonah, that the children need to listen for an instruction.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

This activity can be repeated many times, especially if you keep on introducing new moves.

- Give different children the opportunity to shout out the random instructions.
- Instead of telling the children the different actions, you could ask them for their ideas for acting out the different parts of the story.
- If you do not have a parachute don't worry. Read out the different parts of the story and get the children to act them out:
 - Jonah ran away from God - Get the group to run to one wall.
 - The rain poured - Pretend to raise an umbrella.
 - Terrible storm - Run around in blind panic.
 - Jonah overboard - Pretend to swim desperately in the sea.
 - Big fish - Pretend to be a shark.
 - Spat Jonah out - Sun bathe on a beach.
- You could even add in extra instructions, e.g. captain's coming (stand to attention and salute), hoist the sails (mimic climbing the rigging or pulling on the rope) etc.



15-30 minutes



Up to 5



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors.

It may be appropriate for an adult to cut out certain parts of the craft items.

Activity 3 Whale Of A Time

Aim:

To create a visual reminder of the story of Jonah & the whale.

Equipment:

- Whale of a Time template
- Scissors
- Felt tip pens
- Tissue paper, glitter and other craft items
- Glue
- 4 pint milk container
- Permanent markers
- Insulation tape
- Paper
- Wiggly eyes

Preparation:

Cut out parts of the template before depending on the time available.

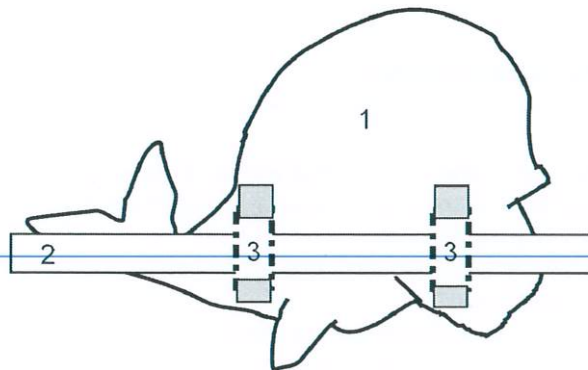
Instructions:

We have two ways for making a big fish/ whale craft item:

A) Jonah & the Big Fish

This craft item depicts Jonah being eaten by a large fish.

1. Begin by cutting around parts 1, 2 & 3 from the Whale of a Time template.
2. Colour in or decorate parts 1 & 2 using the craft material available. Give the children freedom to decorate in the manner they wish.
3. Cut out the hashed area in the mouth of the whale (part 1), feed Jonah through the mouth of the whale.
4. Place part 3 on the reverse of the whale over the top of the Jonah figures handle (part 2) and sellotape in position ensuring that the Jonah figure is free to move along the x-axis.



5. Now make the spout of water. Cut out part 4 on a blue piece of paper including cutting part way down into the centre of the square.
6. Roll it around a pen and sellotape it at the bottom.
7. Unfold the strips.
8. Cut two small slits at the sellotaped end and place on top of the whale over the whale's blow hole.

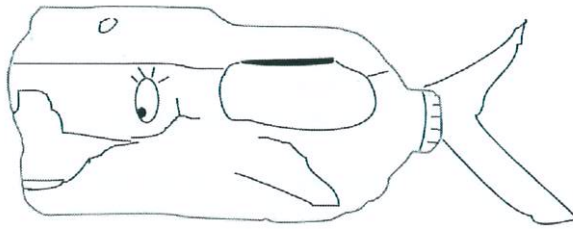
B) Big Fish Water Scoop

This craft item is great to use in a bath to wash your hair with.

1. Place the milk container on the work surface with the handle facing upwards. With the marker pen draw on a mouth shape on the base of the jug.
2. Cut along the lines with scissors, creating a wide mouthed scoop.
3. Use the plastic cut out to to create a tail.



4. Cut two slits into the container and glue the tail in position.
5. Cover any sharp edges created with insulation tape.
6. Use the markers to add any further details, including mouth, eyes, fins and blow hole.



Tips/Advice:

Have an example of the finished craft ready to show the children at the beginning of the activity.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Draw a big fish – Give each child a piece of paper and materials to draw a big fish



10 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Depending on which parts you use to make up your relay course the floor may be wet. Ensure that it is not a slip hazard before progressing to another activity.

Activity 4 Fishing Reel-ay

Aim:

To create an obstacle course to complete in teams.

Equipment:

- Fishing Reel-ay template
- Table
- Newspaper
- Water bowls
- Items for fish bobbing
- Balloons
- Ice cubes
- Cups

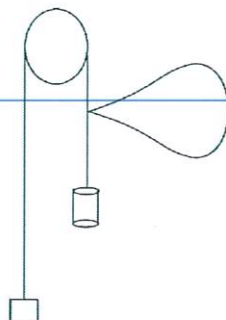
Preparation:

- Cut out the Fishing Reel-ay template
- Set up the obstacle course

Instructions:

Prepare an obstacle course for teams to compete against each other or against the clock. You may like to include:

- Fish fanning – Without touching the Big Fish use a newspaper to fan it over a specified distance.
- Table swimming – Swim under the table.
- Fish bobbing – Put some items in a bowl of water for the children to get out using only their mouths.
- Balloon burst – Put parts of a memory verse into different balloons. Each participant can burst one balloon per leg of the relay. When everyone in the team has completed the course get them to put the words in the right order to complete the verse:
 "I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."
- Ice cube melt – Melt some ice cubes using only your hands into a cup. Use the weight of the water to lower a balloon containing the bible verse reference (Jonah 3:2), by putting the water into a container. Ensure that the weight keeping the balloon out of reach weighs less than the melted water. Add the Bible reference to the memory verse at the end.



Activity 5 Inside the Fish

Aim:

To help the children imagine what it would be like to be inside a whale and hear how God always forgives us and gives us another chance.

Equipment:

- Tent
- Decoration

Preparation:

Set up a tent that is big enough for your group.

Instructions:

Get the children to gather outside the tent. Tell them that for this activity they need to use their imagination, and pretend that the tent is in fact a big fish/ whale and they are Jonah. Get them to act out how they would feel as they enter the fish/ whale. Sit them down inside the tent, and ask the following questions:

- What does it smell like? e.g. dead fish
- What does it look like? What else can they see in the whale? e.g. bones
- What does it sound like?
- How do you feel?

Briefly recap the story. Explain that when Jonah was in the big fish/ whale he prayed to God and thanked him for rescuing him from the sea (Jonah 2:9). Tell them that in a couple of minutes you are going to do something similar, but first we are going to look at the rest of the story. Summarise the story from chapter 3 onwards, make sure that you include the following details:

- God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!"
- The people of Nineveh believed these words, and they all went without food and put on sackcloth to demonstrate their repentance.
- The king follows his people's example, and leads the people in prayer to God. He prays that the people will give up the wrong things they did, and that God would change his mind and not destroy Nineveh.
- God changes his mind and does not carry out the destruction he threatened. Instead he gives them another chance.
- Jonah gets upset even though he knows forgiving others is in God's character. Jonah believed that their enemy was beyond God's grace and forgiveness. He was upset with God because his pride had been damaged; God had not done what Jonah said he would do.

Explain that God always gives us another chance whenever we make mistakes, and whoever we are. Read out Matthew 18:21-22. See if anyone knows the answer to the sum, ensure that you explain that this is not a literal number but implies that God never gives up on us.

Take this opportunity to pray that God will help us to do what he wants us to do. Tell the children at the end of the prayer you are going to give some examples of how we can do what God wants us to do. Tell them that after each question they can stand up and say "Yes God, I will" if it is something that they want to do.

Pray:

"Dear Lord, thank you for the story of Jonah. We all do things wrong, but thanks that you forgive our mistakes. Please help us to listen to what you are saying to us, and help us to do as you say. Help us to love other people like you love them, and that throughout our day we will say yes to what you want from us."



10 minutes



Dependent on the size of the tent.



At this point introduce the questions:

- Will you listen to God when someone needs your help? Yes God, I will
- Will you make friends with someone at school or BB that other people ignore? Yes God, I will
- Will you be kind and helpful to members of your family? Yes God, I will
- Will you admit to God when you have done things wrong? Yes God, I will
- Will you forgive others when they have done things wrong to you? Yes God, I will

Amen.

Tips/Advice:

- Decorate the tent on the outside with eyes, fins, blow hole and scales. On the inside you could add a tongue, fish remains, shells etc.
- Adapt the prayer at the end to make it pertinent to your group.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

- You might like to explore the link between Jonah and the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. Emphasise that we should not seek to limit what God's allowed to do and the extent to which he forgives people.
- Watch "Jonah - a VeggieTales Movie". This is the story of Jonah and the Whale as you've never seen it before - a story where we learn that one of the best gifts you can give - or get - is a second chance.

Activity 6 Go Fish

Aim:

To recap the story of Jonah.

Equipment:

- Go Fish template on card per team

Preparation:

- Cut out the whale pieces from the "Go Fish" template.
- Ensure you have one complete whale per team, and that each whale is printed on a different colour card.

Instructions:

Get the children into teams of 5, and read out the following questions. For every question that the team gets right, one member of the team must run and find a piece of the whale somewhere in the playing area within 20 seconds. It must be on their colour playing card, and the aim of the game is to complete the picture of the big fish.

You may want to use the following questions or make up your own reflecting what details and version of the Bible story you have shared with the children:

- Who did God speak to? (Jonah)
- Which city did God want Jonah to go to? (Nineveh)
- What did Jonah do when he heard God's commands? (Go in the opposite direction and buy a ticket for a boat to Spain)
- What happened to the boat that Jonah was on? (It got caught in a storm)
- What was Jonah doing during this? (He was asleep)
- What did the sailors do? (Prayed to their gods and woke Jonah up)
- How did the sailors identify who was causing the storm? (They drew lots)
- Who worked out how to stop the storm? (Jonah)
- What did Jonah do to stop the storm? (Told the sailors to throw him overboard)
- What happened to the sea when Jonah was thrown overboard? (It immediately became calm)
- What happened to Jonah? (He was swallowed by a big fish)
- How many days was Jonah in the fish? (Three days and three nights)
- What did he do whilst he was in the fish? (Pray to God)
- What did the fish do with Jonah? (Spat him up on the beach)
- What was God's second message to give to the people of Nineveh? (40 days from now Nineveh will be destroyed)
- How did the people of Nineveh respond? (Everyone believed the message, and the king led his people to say sorry and turn from the bad things that they were doing)
- What did God do in response? (He changed his mind, forgave the people of Nineveh, and gave them another chance.)
- Why was Jonah upset? (His pride was upset because God didn't do what he said he would do, and he didn't believe that the people of Nineveh deserved another chance.)
- How many people lived in Nineveh? (More than 120,000)
- How did God feel towards the people of Nineveh? (He loved and felt sorry for them.)

Tips/Advice:

- Make sure that you only use questions that you have previously given the answer to.
- You could give all the teams the same questions or take it in turns.
- You may want to make it possible to complete multiple whales by putting out multiple whale parts.



10 minutes



5 maximum per team



Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

As an alternative put the answers around the room on the walls to remind the children.

Additional Resources:

- Listen with the Bible (CD album), Scripture Union - Part of the Light range, this is a collection of 26 lively retold stories from the Bible for children under 8.
- Friends and Heroes DVD episode 12: No way out

Introduction:

Daniel's life story is full of lessons for children about faith, trust, prayer, obedience and God's plan for His people. With age appropriate activities that are fun and interesting, leaders can engage children with the story of Daniel.

The story of Daniel can be found beginning in Daniel 1 where he is brought into Nebuchadnezzar's service and ending in Daniel 12 with the vision of the end times.

The teaching aim is that the children understand that Daniel obeyed God, he trusted God and God protected Daniel.

Activity 1 Daniel & King Nebuchadnezzar

Aim:

This lesson will look at Daniel 1 and focus on his obedience and trust in God.

Equipment:

Bible

Preparation:

Read Daniel 1.

Instructions:

Tell the first part of the story of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and attacked it and took control of it. God allowed him to do this and to take the King of Judah captive and steal from their temple. The people had been disobedient to God and God gave them over to their enemies. A young boy named Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who were relatives of the King of Judah were also taken by Nebuchadnezzar into his service because they were intelligent, strong, healthy and handsome. Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to speak his language and after three years training to serve him.

Daniel was a young man who loved God and obeyed Him. He changed their Jewish names and gave them Babylonian names so that they would forget about their old names and old ways. The king named them Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to forget about their God and their people. But Daniel and his friends did not forget their God and they stayed obedient and God looked after them.

The Babylonian people worshiped gods they had made up in ways that did not please God. They took their food and offered it as gifts to their gods before they cooked and ate it. When Daniel saw that the king wanted them to eat this food he said he could not eat it. Daniel and his friends chose to obey God, because God had told them not to eat food offered to any other god but Him. They asked if they could just eat vegetables and water and he and his three friends were allowed to by the men who served King Nebuchadnezzar.

After the three years had passed King Nebuchadnezzar called for Daniel and his friends to come and answer his questions. Daniel and his friend's wisdom and understanding were above anyone else in the king's service and so the king took them into his service, making them important people in the kingdom of Babylon.

Now we all know what God wants us to do don't we – because he has given us His commandments. God has told us how He wants us to live and He wants us to obey Him. Can anyone think of ways that God has told us how to live in the right way to Honour Him?



10 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



(There may be a lot of ideas – encourage them but focus on Biblical commands and let the children know that they are from the Bible)

Love our neighbour
Honour our father and mother
Do not steal
Love God first before anyone or anything else

Well, we need to be like Daniel and his friends and we need to obey God and trust that however hard it is to follow His rules – we must follow them because God will look after us and bless us if we obey Him.

Shall we say a prayer together - Dear God, Thank you that Daniel and his friends trusted You and obeyed what you had taught them. Please help us to learn more about You and to obey and trust you too. Amen

Tips/Advice:

Have your talk inside your Bible so that the children realise that this is not a story it is from God's Word.



20 minutes



5+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2 King Nebuchadnezzar's Throne

Aim:

To think about the way that the King wanted to have clever people around him and he trained them for three years to be his subjects.

Equipment:

- Throne
- Crown
- Cards template
- Box

Preparation:

Choose one child or use a leader to be King Nebuchadnezzar. They will sit on the throne at the end of the room, wearing the crown. Cut out the card words from the story that they must act out or draw (whichever is easiest in your setting) to get to be one of the King's subjects.

Instructions:

- Put all the word cards into a box or bag for the children to pick out.
- This game is for the children to please the king by acting out or drawing the words on the card that they are given.
- There are 14 words and they can do the task individually or in pairs or threes - whichever works best for your group.
- They must come before the king and bow – then they must act or draw their word.
- If the king guesses their word then they are allowed into his kingdom and they join him beside his throne.
- If they do not have their word guessed then they are refused entry.
- The words are quite simple so they should be able to act it out successfully.
- Those who join the king can help him to guess.

Tips/Advice:

You can make this more fun by having the king wear a crown and a cloak and use a leader to act this part.

Activity 3 Daniel And The Lion's Den

Aim:

To understand God's faithfulness and create a craft.

Preparation:

Read Daniel 6.

Instructions:

After many years a man named Darius took over as king. He liked Daniel and his other officials became jealous of all the power that the king gave Daniel. So they plotted against him. There was nothing that Daniel had done wrong so they realised the only way they could bring him down was to use his love for his God. They went to the king one day and said that the king that he should issue a rule and enforce that rule that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to the king, should be thrown into the lions' den.

What a terrible thing to plan. They had plotted and planned and the king agreed with them not realising that they were trying to use him to bring Daniels downfall.

A few days later Daniel was at his home praying to God as he did three times each day. The men of the king saw him and reported him to the king. The king was very upset as he loved Daniel and he tried to save him but it was a rule that he had made himself. Then the king had Daniel taken to the Lions' den but he said to him first, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!'

- *Now we are going to pretend that we are in the lion's den and one of you will be Daniel. Let's turn the lights down because it was night time when Daniel went into the den. All of you are going to pretend to be lions - as Daniel comes into the den. What noise do lions make - they growl and they prowl don't they. Shall we growl and prowl around our den together.*
- *(As the children continue to growl and prowl around - carry on reading the story. Ask them to listen and copy what you say.)*

The king was so worried about Daniel all night he did not eat or sleep. He rushed to the den at dawn and had the stone taken away from the den. The lions were all lying down quietly and Daniel was unharmed. The guards took Daniel out of the den and he said to the king, 'My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.'

Because Daniel had trusted in God there was not a mark on his body, the lions had not touched him.

Tips/Advice:

Let the children enjoy being lions and read in an animated way to engage them all.



15 minutes



6+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Make sure that it is not too dark in the room - so that they will not bump into each other.



20 minutes



6+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors and glue.

Activity 4 Lion Mask Making

Aim:

To make their own lions to take home to remind them of the story of Daniel trusting God and for God being a God who protects and looks after us.

Equipment:

- Paper plates
- Wool (can be pre cut into the right length pieces)
- Lolly Pop sticks
- Coloured Pens/Pencils
- Glue
- Sellotape
- Scissors

Preparation:

- Have a table prepared with all the craft equipment on.
- Prepare one earlier so that the children can see what they are making.

Instructions:

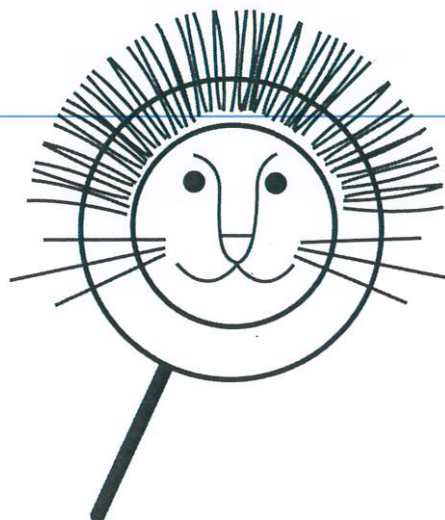
- Give each child a paper plate and get them to draw a lion's face in the middle of the plate. Show them the one you made earlier.
- Cut out eye holes where they have drawn the eyes.
- Then tell the children that they can colour in the faces and glue wool on as hair around the lions face.
- Tape the lolly pop stick to the back so that the children can hold onto them in front of their faces.

Tips/Advice:

Try not to let them put too much glue on the plate for the wool - it will get messy and take time to dry.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

This craft can be done before the Daniel 6 Lion's Den story and the children can wear their masks during the story.



Activity 5 Lion Jump

Aim:

To get the children active and to reinforce the teaching about God's faithfulness.

Equipment:

Line marker out with tape or chalk.

Preparation:

Mark out line.

Instructions:

- Have the children line up one behind the other in a line.
- They must all be on one side of the line.
- The leader stands at the front of the line facing the children at the end of the line which has been marked out.
- The left side is in the Lion's Den and the right side of the line is freedom.
- When the leader calls Lion's Den all the children must jump onto the left side of the line.
- When the leader calls freedom all the children must jump to the right.
- It is a game of elimination.
- As the children jump some will jump the wrong way or not at all and they must be tagged out by another leader.
- As you call get faster and say the same side and some will jump anyway.
- The last child jumping wins the game.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

The game can finish quite quickly so just play it again or slow down the calls. You can make it easier or harder.



20 minutes



5+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Make sure that the children don't get too dizzy and fall over.



Aim:

To learn about the story of David looking at the battle with Goliath.

Introduction:

David is chosen by God. The prophet Samuel seeks a new king from the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. Seven of Jesse's sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel says "The LORD has not chosen these." He then asks "Are these all the sons you have?" and Jesse answers, "There is still the youngest but he is tending the sheep." David is brought to Samuel, and "the LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.'"

David becomes a young warrior famed for his bravery and for his skill with the harp. David would take his harp and play when Saul was angry and he would feel better. David became great friends with Saul's son Jonathan.

David is bringing food to his older brothers who are with Saul. He hears the Philistine giant Goliath challenging the Israelites to and David tells Saul he is prepared to face Goliath and he strikes down Goliath with a stone from his sling. When David is 30 years old, he is anointed King over Israel and Judah.

David also wrote the book of Psalms.

Activity 1 David & Goliath Cup & Ball

Equipment:

Each Team requires:

- 1 Tennis Ball or similar
- 1 Soft Football / Sponge Ball
- 15 Plastic Cups

Instructions:

- The object of the game is for each team to build a tower from the plastic cups. The tower represents Goliath's body and his head.
- The area around the tower is the team's ring.
- Each team should place their tennis ball on the highest cup of their tower.
- Whilst this is taking place the other team members can use the football to try and knock down the other team's tower.
- The footballs can only be thrown from inside their own ring.
- Teams can only have 1 ball in their possession and in their ring at any one time.
- The team at the end of the game whose tower is standing tallest with a tennis ball on top wins.
- Best played with at least 2 players per team.
- Only limited to the space in the hall / area.
- Limitless number of teams can be in play.



20 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2 David And Goliath Drama

Aim:

To act out the story of David and Goliath.

Equipment:

None essential.

- Crown
- Sling shot (paper "rocks")
- Armour – This can be made as a craft activity with cardboard and foil.
- Armour for the philistine army (all members of group are occupied in making it)

Instructions:

David and Goliath - from 1 Samuel 17

Characters: David, Goliath, Narrator 1 & 2, Israelite 1 & 2, Saul

This play can use a leader to play Goliath. Get the narrators to stand together at one side. Then get the Philistines to stand on one side of the stage area and the Israelites on the other.

- **Narrator 1:** The Philistines got their armies together for war against Israel. A champion warrior called Goliath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was very, very tall, almost a giant and wearing complete body armour. A mighty warrior. He defied Israel and God saying,
- **Goliath:** Choose a man to fight me. If he kills me, we will become your subjects; but if I win, you will become Philistine subjects and you will serve us.
- (the Israelites are terrified at this – they should look scared)
- **Narrator 2:** (David enters) A young shepherd named David, came to the camp of the Israelites, bringing food and supplies from his father. When he arrived in the camp, he heard about Goliath.
- **Israelite 1:** (to David) Do you see that giant Philistine? He comes here and challenges all of Israel.
- **Israelite 2:** King Saul has offered anyone from his army a reward if they can kill him.
- **David:** How dare he challenge Israel? Who does he think he is, in defying the army of the Living God?
- **Narrator 1:** King Saul was told about what David had said and called him over.
- **David:** (bows to the King) Don't fear for this battle because of this giant Philistine, I, David, your servant will go and fight him and in God's name will kill him for his defiance.
- **Saul:** You can't fight him. You are only a shepherd boy with no battle skills and Goliath is a great and mighty warrior!
- **David:** I have protected my sheep from wild animals. The Lord has rescued me from the paw of the lion and the bear and my God will rescue me from the hand of this unworthy Philistine.
- **Saul:** Go then, and may the Lord be with you.

- **Narrator 2:** Saul looked at the small child that David was and he gave David his armour. David tried it on and it was very heavy for him, he could hardly move in it all and it didn't feel right. So instead he took his staff and sling and found 5 smooth stones. When Goliath saw David coming towards to do battle he laughed at him and mocked his arrogance.
- **Goliath:** Am I a dog that you come after me with sticks? Come here and I will make you food for the wild animals! (Goliath laughs and all the Philistines laugh. The Israelites look very nervous but David is defiant)
- **David:** "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
- **Narrator 1:** As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.
- **Narrator 2:** So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

Activity 3 David And Goliath Maze

Equipment:

- David And Goliath Maze template.
- Pens/Pencils

Preparation:

Print out David And Goliath Maze template for each child.

Instructions:

Complete the maze and match pictures to each other.



5 minutes



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision.



15 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 4 Giants In Our Lives

Aim:

To look at the giant that David faced and to think about the giants in our lives.

Equipment:

- Roll of wallpaper or lining paper
- Marker pen
- Tape measure

Instructions:

Tell the children that Goliath was a real giant. The Bible tells us that he was about 9 feet tall – that is a very tall giant. Let's see what that would look like to us.

Get a tape measure and ask two children to help you measure out the nine feet on the roll. Let's see how tall Goliath actually was. When you have pulled out nine feet of roll. Cut off the paper from the roll and use blue tack to stick the paper to the wall. Then draw the outline of a man on the paper.

David was only a shepherd boy. Get the roll again and draw out about five feet. Cut that length off and stick it next to Goliath. Draw a boy shape onto it.

Do you think that David looked at Goliath and got scared or maybe even terrified? What did David have that Goliath didn't? Yes - he had God with him on his side. We can have God on our side too if we trust in Jesus and then we can stand up against any giant.

We all have to face some kind of giants in our lives but they are not really as big and scary as Goliath are they. Having a giant in our life is having something that scares us and seems much too big for us to handle on our own. It might be starting at a new school, not having many friends to play with, or there could be some troubles at home.

We can write down things on our poster of Goliath if we want to. If you want to you can come up and write your giant onto Goliath here.

Now let's all think about how God can help us with our problems? We can ask God to help us by praying to Him and trust that He will help us. Sometimes God uses our friends and family that He has given us to help us.

Remember how much David trusted in God and how God helped him to win the battle against a mighty giant. Well God can help us too if we ask for His help.

Lets pray:

Dear God,
Thank you that you helped David face
the giant Goliath, we pray that you will
help us with our giants that we face and
help us to trust that you are always with us.
Amen.

Activity 5 Five Small Smooth Stones

Aim:

To remember the story of David and how God was with him and how God is with us too.

Equipment:

- 5 Smooth stones per child
- Paint
- Marker
- Paper Bag

Instructions:

- Give each child five small stones.
- Have the children paint each stone a different colour.
- Then discuss what God is like. Come up with 5 characteristics including – God listens, God provides, God protects, God rules, God forgives.
- Using a marker pen get the children to write onto each stone - a different characteristic of God.
- On the paper bag get the children to write the verse 1 Samuel 17:47 – 'For the battle is the Lord's.'
- Leave the stones to dry and then before the children go home have them put their five stones into their bag to remind them that God is with them and He will stand with us against our giants.

Devotion Links:

Bible passages you can use to reinforce the story of David and Goliath:

- For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you; Do not fear, I will help you. (Isaiah 41:13)
- Jesus Said "What is impossible with men is possible with God." (Luke 18:27 NIV)
- Dave and The Giant Pickle - Veggie tales could be used shown. (www.bigidea.com)
- Brick Testament (www.thebricktestament.com/king_saul/index.html)



20 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



The children must be told that they are never to throw these stones at anyone else.



Aim:

To teach the story of Joseph and to include activities and crafts that help to expand and reiterate the story. Aim: Relying on God/Forgiveness. Crafts and games related to the theme, all programme areas covered.

Introduction:

The idea is to run a session on Joseph that covers the entire evening with Bible teaching and complementary games and crafts covering each of the five programme areas. The best order is as follows:

- Desert Tag
- Story Time
- Joseph Craft
- Forgiveness talk
- Maze
- Desert Tag to end

Activity 1 Desert Tag

Aim:

The aim is to get across the desert and to free any children who have been tagged.

Instructions:

This is like tag but you call out something about what the children are wearing and they then have to run to safety from one side of the hall to the other side. As the person in the middle you are able to tag the. They can be tagged whilst crossing. They can be untagged by other children who come after them by running under both of their outstretched arms.

Call out things like:

- If you have a red jumper on
- If you are wearing black shoes
- If you have red hair
- If your eyes are blue

Tips/Advice:

Make the children who are tagged stand with their arms outstretched. To be freed a child must go under one arm and then the other. Both can be tagged whilst in the process.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Once this game has been played a few times you can get children to be the tagger and come up with different questions to ask.



15 minutes



6+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Give a short briefing at the start highlighting the danger of running into others and into the walls. Clearly make sure that all the children understand the rules of the game and what they are meant to be doing.



15-25 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure children are supervised when using scissors and glue.

Activity 2

Joseph's Coat Of Many Colours Craft

Aim:

To reinforce the story of Joseph and give the children a choice of craft activity.

Equipment:

- Tissue paper
- Paper
- Colouring pens or washable markers
- Coffee Filters
- Contact paper – clear sticky (one sided) covering
- Water sprayer
- Scissors
- Glue
- String
- Hole punch
- Joseph's Coat template

Preparation:

Cover surface in newspaper and prepare equipment. You may like to make one beforehand so the children can see what it is they are making. This will help those who learn by seeing.

Instructions:

Joseph's father gave him a special coat since he was his favourite son. Joseph's coat of many colours can be created in two ways.

- Use a coffee filter for each child and then they can colour them with washable markers. You can then spray the coffee filter with water and allow the colours to run and blend together. Let this dry thoroughly, then cut the filter into a coat shape and glue onto a printed Joseph's Coat template.
- You can also use tissue paper for a coat of many colours. By using the template of Joseph's coat cut out the area where the coat would be, leaving a paper outline. Place Joseph on clear contact paper, sticky side up, and fill in the area of the coat with colorful pieces of torn tissue paper. Cover the finished product with another piece of contact paper, placing sticky sides together – push out any air bubbles with a ruler. Then press the edges together to seal them and cut around Joseph's outline. This can then have a hole punched into it at the top and loop some coloured string into the hole to hang in a window for a stained glass look.

Tips/Advice:

Be careful when the children are using scissors. Ensure that they know how to use them safely. Have Pritt sticks or have paint brushes in the glue to limit the mess. It is advisable to put newspaper on surfaces to keep mess to a minimum.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Both crafts can be simplified and you can use ordinary colouring pens without spraying, and tissue paper can be glued onto the template and not covered.

Activity 3

Story Time Of Joseph Looking At Forgiveness.

Aim:

To teach the story of Joseph in a colourful and engaging way.

Equipment:

- White Board or Roll of Wallpaper
- Colouring Pens/Pencils
- Bible

Preparation:

You can pre draw the pictures in a pencil outline and then just colour over them.

Instructions:

There once was a man named Jacob who had twelve sons. (Draw twelve stick figures on the board or have a roll of wallpaper stuck on the wall where you can pre draw or draw as you tell the story and have the children count them as you draw.) Out of all his sons, Joseph was his favourite son. (Write Joseph over one of the stick figures.) Jacob wanted to show Joseph how much he loved him so he had a very special coat of many colours made for him. (Stick a coloured coat on top of the Joseph figure or colour him in.) This coat was very colourful, and whenever Joseph wore it all his brothers would be very jealous. They didn't think that it was fair that he got such a beautiful coat and they got nothing. Joseph also had a dream where he saw all his brother's bow down to him. When he told them this dream they became even more jealous of him.

One day Joseph was sent out into the fields (draw some fields) to go check on his brothers who were tending their sheep (draw some sheep). His brothers saw him coming from a long way off because they could see his very colorful coat and they began to get angry towards him and started to plan what they could do to him because they were so jealous.

When Joseph came to them, they grabbed him and pulled off his beautiful coat. Then they threw him into a well. Soon Joseph's brothers saw a caravan of men passing by who were on their way to Egypt. (draw camels loaded walking through the desert). So the brothers decided to sell their brother Joseph to the men who then took him to Egypt as their slave.

The brothers couldn't go back home to their father without Joseph so they made a plan. They decided to kill a goat and smear the red blood all over Joseph's beautiful coat. (Add red to the coat.) They took it home and told their father that Joseph had been attacked by a wild animal and his coat was all that was left.

This made Joseph's father very sad. He thought that Joseph his beloved son was dead.

Joseph's brothers treated him unfairly and they lied to their father.

But this isn't the end of our story. God was with Joseph and kept him safe. God had a plan for Joseph's life. God was watching over Joseph.

In Egypt Joseph was sold to a man named Potiphar. He liked Joseph a lot and God blessed him because of Joseph so he put Joseph in charge of his house and all of his property. Potiphar's wife had an argument with Joseph and he was put in prison with the Pharaoh's prisoners. (draw bars to show prison) While Joseph was in prison, God helped him and made the jailer like him.

The king's prisoners had dreams and Joseph told them what they meant (draw sleeping men with dream bubbles) and they came true. Joseph was then called to tell the Pharaoh what his dreams meant and Pharaoh believed him and put him in charge of all of Egypt. (draw pyramids and Joseph looking Egyptian)



20 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Then there was a great famine where there was not enough food but Joseph had stored plenty of food for Egypt (draw lots of food). Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt to buy food. The brothers all bowed to him because he was an important person. Just as he dreamed they would at the beginning (draw brothers bowing).

After a few meetings with his brothers he could not keep it in any longer and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed. They were very happy and his brothers were very sorry. God had blessed Joseph richly.

Tips/Advice:

Make sure you read through the story to make sure you know where you are going. Have a Bible to hand – it is good for the children to see where the story comes from and get them used to the Bible.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

The drawings don't have to be amazing – you could always stick pictures onto the wallpaper and unroll slowly. If you have time you could get the children to act out the story by reading through a second time. There are plenty of parts. Joseph – 11 brothers – Caravan of men – Jacob.

Activity 4 Joseph's Maze



5-10 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.

Aim:

To find their way between Jacob and Joseph through the maze.

Equipment:

- Joseph's Maze template
- Pens/Pencils

Instructions:

Get the children to follow the maze and draw a line through it so that Jacob can find his son Joseph.

Activity 5 Forgiveness

Aim:

To look at the concept of forgiveness.

Equipment:

- Variety of pencils, in different sizes, shapes and colours. (They all must have good rubbers on them)
- Wiggly eyes (sticky)
- Glue

Instructions:

- Sit the children in a circle and say to the children, "Look at all these pencils. They all are very different; short, tall, thin, fat - different sizes, shapes and colours. Just like Joseph and his brothers were all different. They all have one thing in common, though. They all have a rubber on the end for when we make mistakes in our writing and drawing."
- Compare the pencils to people. Tell children that people are all different but they all have a rubber too. God is our rubber. When we ask forgiveness, He takes away our sins, just like the rubber wipes away the pencils' mistakes. Then let the children create "pencil people" with the wobbly eyes.
- Prayer - Dear God, teach me to forgive like Joseph did, just as you have forgiven me. Let me be a light for other people to see. I want other people to know that I love you and that forgiving is the best thing that I can do. Amen.



10 minutes



3+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.



Aim:

To demonstrate that God is responsible for the harvest.

Introduction:

Thanksgiving celebrations for a successful harvest have taken place throughout the world for thousands of years. Traditionally people have brought an offering of food to a Harvest Festival Service, and afterwards the food has been made into parcels and given to people in need. Harvest Festivals are now often seen as quaint village customs, but this perhaps misses something very important at the heart of the tradition.

How much do we take for granted everything that we have around us? Unless you've got an allotment or a small vegetable patch the chances are that you are very much removed from the processes of growing food. Anyone of us can pop in our car, go to the nearest supermarket, and get endless types of vegetables and fruit all year around. We're removed from almost any concern that a crop might fail or that extreme weather conditions might mean that we go hungry. If one crop fails somewhere in the world we can normally pay a bit extra and get it elsewhere. The problem is we have so much and half the time we don't even realise it.

How would you react if your local supermarket had no potatoes? Would you be surprised, possibly even angry? It's as if we've become separated from the soil from which we were created, and live out of sync with nature. Strawberries are no longer just for Wimbledon or the summer, but a year long right to eat. In all this we often forget to thank God for all he has provided, and more than that we begin to think everything, whether food or possessions, is ours to keep for ourselves.

Harvest is a time to thank God for his generosity. In Leviticus 9:9-10, 23:9-14, and Deuteronomy 26 we read about God's instructions on harvest offerings. These offerings acknowledged God's good provision to His people not only thorough food, but also by bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. His people in response to God's generosity, showed generosity to others. God's people were instructed to give the first part of the crop back to God, and to give a tenth of their crops to refugees, orphans and widows. On top of this the poor had the right to glean from the field. During harvest His people were not supposed to go back over their crop and harvest for a second time, nor harvest into the corners of their field. This meant the poor could go and gather up the un-harvested crop for their use (the book of Ruth shows this in action).

God blesses us not just for our own enjoyment, but in order that we can go and bless others also. Use these activities to remind yourself and the children in your group of all the good things that God has given us, and revisit the tradition of sharing with others who are not so fortunate. Harvest Festival shouldn't just be a twee festival from the past, but a chance to re-engage with the processes that we have taken for granted.



10 minutes



4+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate
supervision.

Activity 1 Supermarket Sweep

Aim:

To have fun connecting with the food we eat.

Equipment:

Supermarket Sweep templates.

Preparation:

- Cut out the templates prior to the activity.
- Set out the room so that at one end is a table with the cut out food items on it.

Instructions:

This activity is a relay race that involves shopping for items on the team's shopping list:

- Divide the group into teams and give each a shopping list.
- Tell them that when you say go, a member of each team must run to the table and find an item from their shopping list.
- Once they have found it, they must run back and place it on their shopping trolley.
- When this has been completed the next member of the team must find the next item, and so on.

If an incorrect item is brought back, the team must return it to the table.

Finish by asking the children why food is so important. Make sure that they state that it sustains us and is nice.

Activity 2 Vegetable Printing

Aim:

To have fun creating a picture about harvest.

Equipment:

- Three halves of potato, cut into big, medium and small rectangles
- One half of a potato cut into zigzags
- Carrot cut into big, medium, and small circles (cut into three pieces)
- Red paint
- Black paint
- Yellow paint
- Paper

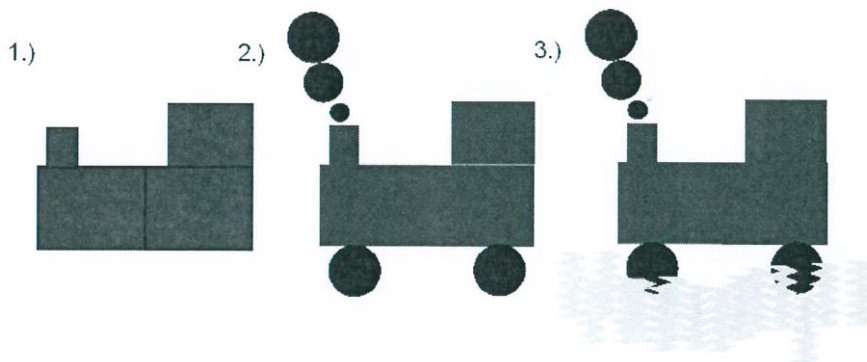
Preparation:

Cut the potatoes and carrots prior to the start of the activity.

Instructions:

This activity involves the children using potatoes and carrots as stamps to make a picture:

1. Print two large red rectangles side by side in the centre of the paper. On the right add the cab by using the medium red rectangle and to the left add the funnel using the small red rectangle.
2. Use the big carrot to print two black circles underneath for wheels and add small, medium and big circles of black paint coming from the funnel for smoke.
3. Finally use the zigzag potato shape to add yellow corn under the tractor.
4. Once you have shown an example, the children are free to create a picture of their choice.



Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Give opportunity for the children to personalise their drawings by adding more detail to the picture using the materials provided.



20 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



10 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure children are supervised when using scissors and glue.

Activity 3 Cress Caterpillar

Aim:

To see what plants need to grow.

Equipment:

- Egg carton
- Wiggly eyes
- Paint
- Plastic bags cut into strips
- Cress seeds
- Water
- Glue
- Scissors

Preparation:

- Ask the children to bring egg cartons from home.
- Cut up the strips of plastic bags and egg cartons to the required size.

Instructions:

Create your own special cress caterpillar out of an egg carton by following these simple instructions:

- Cut out a row of three egg compartments from an egg carton to form the body of the caterpillar.
- Paint the outside of the carton green with a different colour stripe around the top.
- Glue on some wiggly eyes, and stick on a nose and mouth.
- Using two pipe cleaners form antennae.
- Line the base with strip of plastic bags (to prevent the carton from going soggy).
- Add some scrunched-up kitchen roll into each compartment, leaving a space from the top of about 1cm.
- Sprinkle the seeds along, pressing them down lightly.
- Check daily for growth and dampness.

Talk with the children about what they think the cress needs to grow, and give them the challenge to look after it at home.

Tips/Advice:

You may find it beneficial to do a different activity whilst the paint is drying and return to it later for the next part of the activity.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Alternatively fold pieces of kitchen towel in half, and cut out the letters of their name. Lay out the letters on a tray and add some drops of water. Carefully sprinkle cress seed on the damp paper towel. Water and watch grow.

Activity 4 Thankfulness

Aim:

To praise God for the food that we enjoy.

Equipment:

- Paper
- Colouring Pens

Instructions:

Ask the children to write or draw on a piece of paper their favourite food, but not to show it to anyone. Get them to fold up the piece of paper, and stand up. Tell them that you are going to guess what their favourite food is. If the food you call out is on their paper they must sit down. Keep on going until everyone is sat down or you run out of ideas.

Psalm 104 (GNB) talks about the glory of God's creation, and in particular helps us praise God for the food that he provides us with. Begin to draw together the theme of the evening, by asking the children where our food comes from? Answers may vary from supermarket, parents, farmers etc. Trace back the answer, and ask the children to think about what is needed for our food to grow, e.g. food, light, heat, water, air etc.

Read out the following inspired by Psalm 104, and ask the children to shout out "*We praise you God. How great you are!*" you might like to create an action as well, whenever you say the word "*We*". Tell them that it celebrates the fact that everything we have ultimately come from God.

Praise the LORD, my soul! O LORD, my God, how great you are!
You made the earth and everything in it.
We praise you God. How great you are!

You make springs flow in the valleys, and rivers run between the hills. They provide water for the wild animals to quench their thirst. For the trees near by to grow, and the birds to make their nests and sing.
We praise you God. How great you are!

From the sky you send rain on the hills, You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for human beings to use, so that they can grow their crops.
We praise you God. How great you are!

The food you provide makes us happy, cheerful, and strong.
We praise you God. How great you are!

Lord, you have made so many things!
How wisely you made them all!
We praise you God. How great you are!

Finish by asking some of the children to pray by thanking God for all that we have. You may suggest that they start their prayers "*We thank you God for*". Draw the time to a conclusion by praying:

"Thank you God for all the food that you provide. We praise you for the food that keeps us alive and sustains us, but also that it tastes so nice and makes us happy. We thank you that it all comes from the world you created. Amen."



20 minutes



3+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Psalm 104



5 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.



Luke 21: 1-4

Activity 5 Harvest Festival

Aim:

To explore how we can share all that we like so much with others.

Preparation:

Write a letter home detailing how the children can contribute to your harvest festival. Link in with how your church celebrates Harvest.

Instructions:

Ask the children if any of them know what churches traditionally do at harvest time? Why? Explain that harvest is the time when the food that is grown is gathered in. Farmers use big combine harvesters to cut their crops, and we say thank you to God by giving some back! The food is often then distributed among the poor of the local community.

There's a story in the New Testament (Luke 21:1-4) that describes how a lady gave two small copper coins. They weren't worth very much at all, but Jesus praises her generosity because she gave everything that she had. Harvest is a great time to thank God for everything that has been provided, by giving away from the abundance that we have received. You may like to do this yourselves. Send a letter home detailing what you have been doing at BB and provide an opportunity for them to contribute. We've got two ideas below:

- Work with a local agency, e.g. a charity working with the homeless or elderly, who will be able to assist you in drawing up a list of appropriate items and help with distribution. It may help to think about more than just food. What about toiletries, as it all ultimately comes from God?
- Ask the children to think about what they really like or enjoy, e.g. football, cakes etc. Get them to bring them in and then give, sell or auction the items off to raise funds for an appropriate charity. We will then, like the old lady, be giving the best of what we have.

Additional Resources:

Send a Cow (www.sendacow.org.uk) helps African farmers grow enough food to feed their families, sell produce and develop small businesses that last. Inspired by Christian values, they provide training, livestock, seeds and ongoing support; and help families to make the most of the land and resources they already have.

The organisation has got some great materials to help you join in and have a Harvest celebration to remember, including a giant display poster of an African farm, stickers, downloadable resources and some really fun ideas! To order a copy of their pack call: 01225 874 222 or find out more online at www.sendacow.org.uk/harvest.

Trips/Visits:

- Working farm
- Nature centre

Introduction:

This is a fun evening session. You can decorate the hall with balloons and streamers. Get the children to come dressed up as circus and funfair characters. Have the leaders dressed as clowns, tightrope walkers, etc etc.

Each child can be given a number of tickets when they arrive which allow them to play the games. This will limit the number of times they can play each game and give the session a time out. 6-8 tickets should be enough.

If anyone in the church or any of the parents are able, have them come along to do face painting of clowns etc.

Activity 1 Race Track Riders

Aim:

This game will give the children a chance to race each other and win a prize.

Equipment:

- Draw the track on a large piece of card or use a sheet of wood to paint the track.
- Dice
- 6 different animals (draw on cards or models can be used)
- Prizes

Preparation:

Prepare the racetrack.

Instructions:

- Create your racetrack with six lanes. If you use wood then paint on the lanes and you can use marker pens to write finish and numbers on.
- You can also choose to make the racetrack out of card using a marker pen.
- Divide each lane into about 8-12 spaces, as shown below.
- This is a game for six players and each child chooses an animal and places it onto the board at the start.
- The leader running the game throws the dice or you can get the children to throw the dice and whichever number comes up the child in that lane gets to move one space forward
- The first child's animal to make it to the finish line wins a prize.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

- You can buy large foam dice to make the game more fun (www.dicebag.co.uk).
- Children can draw their own animal character to play.



15 minutes



6+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.



20 minutes



5+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors and glue.

Activity 2 CD Animals

Aim:

To turn an old CD into an animal.

Equipment:

- CD's
- Felt
- Craft foam
- Wiggly eyes
- Pom Poms
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Scissors

Preparation:

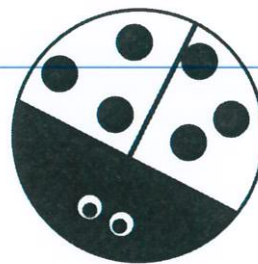
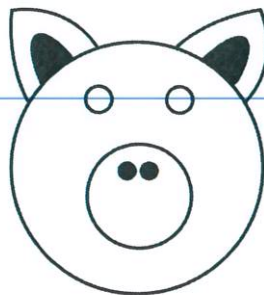
- Prepare the craft area and lay out all of the materials.
- Make an example to show the children.

Instructions:

- Give each child a CD and show them some pre made animals so that they have an idea of what they can create.
- Cover the CD with glue and cut out circle shapes of felt or foam.
- Stick these on either side of the CD.
- Depending on which animal you make create a face using the other materials.
- Pompoms used for eyes.
- Pipe cleaners can be antennae

Tips/Advice:

Create a few animals first so that the children can see what they are making.



Activity 3 Fun Fair Games

Aim:

To knock down the items or to get the ring around the bottle to win prizes.

Equipment:

- Bean bags or rubber balls
- Cans/blocks etc
- Bottles
- Plastic rings
- Prizes

Instructions:

Knock Your Block Off

- Stack the cans or blocks into a pyramid.
- Each child when playing will be given two bean bags or rubber balls.
- The aim is to knock the pyramid down.
- Children win a prize based on how many blocks they knock down.

Hoop the Loop

- Stand your bottles on a table.
- They need to well spread out so that there is room between each one for the rings to fall.
- Attach a prize to the side of each bottle with tape. These can be sweets or party prizes – whistles, pencils etc.
- Each child gets one plastic ring and has to throw the ring in order to throw it around a bottle of their choice.
- If their ring goes onto the bottle they win a prize.

Bucket Ladder

- Get a small step ladder and hook small buckets to each step on the ladder.
- The children then have to throw balls aiming for the buckets from the top to the bottom.
- If they can get a ball in each bucket they win a prize.

Guess How Many

- Fill a large clear jar with sweets.
- Children write their guess as to how many sweets are in the jar on a sheet of paper.
- At the end of the evening or at a set time, announce the winner and give them the jar as a prize.

Where is Wally?

- Set up a map
- Put a location in an envelope and keep until the end.
- Get the children to guess where in the world Wally is.
- They can put a drawing pin in where they think he is and write down their guess.
- At the end of the session open the envelope and see who won.



15 minutes



6+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



10 minutes



5+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 4 Treasure In Heaven

Aim:

Looking at how the Bible tells us that we should not store up treasure here but that our true treasure is in heaven.

Equipment:

- Bible
- Treasures

Preparation:

- Read Luke 12:32-34
- Have some treasures that are personal to you.

Instructions:

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

Luke 12:32-3

- Remind the children that during this activity we have been trying to win prizes.
- Show the children some things of yours that you treasure. Old photos, jewellery, clothes, pictures etc.
- Tell the children that what this shows is that our possessions will not last but that Jesus has told us that if we know Jesus he has a treasure in heaven for us that will last forever.
- Look at the treasures you have and explain why they will not last. If you have old watch that has stopped working or a great jumper that you loved that has a hole in it or an old picture that is torn or fading.
- Show them the hole in the jumper and tell them that a moth made it because they love eating wool.
- In this Bible verse Jesus tells us that we must not spend all our time keeping earthly treasures because none of them last. He tells us that we need to concentrate on Him and what he has told us to do.
- We must look after and be kind to others, tell our friends about Jesus and bring them to BB and then we will store up treasure in heaven that will last forever when we go and live with God and Jesus in Heaven.

Let's pray:

Dear God,
Thank you that you sent Jesus to teach us the
right way to live and thank you that you have
promised us treasure in heaven when we come
to be with You. Help us to remember not to
always want more stuff on earth but that we
need to focus on others.
Amen

Aim:

To develop the children's knowledge of a Bible character.

Introduction:

Moses lacked confidence and was a poor speaker. Despite what Moses lacked God chose to use him. The Bible describes Moses as "meek," which means that he was willing to be trained by God. God often chooses unlikely people to do things for Him because God wants people of faith who will trust in Him and do what they are called to do. Moses was someone who trusted in God and obeyed God.

Activity 1 Baby Moses

Aim:

To learn how God looked after Baby Moses.

Equipment:

- Images of things that protect us
- A map showing where Egypt is and the River Nile

Preparation:

Know the story well rather than read it to the children.

Instructions:

- Ask the children to name things that people wear to protect themselves (Gardening gloves, an apron, a helmet, etc).
- There are also people who protect us from harm. Can you think of them? (Police, Fire fighters, lifeguards, etc).
- Have pictures, images of some of the above available if possible.
- Tonight we are going to think about God's protection and how he looked after a special little baby.
- Tell the story of the birth of Moses

Moses was born a long time ago in Egypt, but he was not an Egyptian. He was an Israelite. The new Pharaoh (king) of Egypt was worried about the number of Israelites in Egypt and treated them very badly. But the Israelites grew in number.

The Pharaoh gave an order that every newborn baby boy was to be thrown into the Nile River and killed, but baby girls could live.

When Moses was born his mother hid him for the first three months, but as he grew she could no longer hide him. She put him in a basket and placed him among the reeds at the edge of the River Nile. He was found by the daughter of the Pharaoh who gave him to his own mother to bring up until he grew older when he was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter.

Remind the children of the things and people that we sometimes use to protect us. God's protection is always there, even when we don't know it. He has a plan for us just like He did for Moses. Although things may seem difficult at the time, God is always working in us for the good.



10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision.



20 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate
supervision when
using scissors and
glue.



5-10 minutes



Play in pairs and
each pair will need
a set of cards.

Activity 2 The Pyramid

Aim:

To reinforce events in the story.

Equipment:

- Pyramid template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pens/Pencils
- Sand

Preparation:

- Prepare a model to show to the children
- Photocopy template and cut out if necessary depending on ability

Instructions:

If you think of Egypt and the Pharaohs, what buildings do you think of?

- Show the children a completed pyramid – they can be coloured with pens/pencils or sand stuck to them.
- Give out Pyramid template.
- Cut out and glue together
- Colour in with pens/pencils or cover with glue and then cover in sand which will stick to the glue.

Tips/Advice:

If using pencil crayon to colour in the pyramid it is easier to do this before the sides are glued together.

Activity 3 Moses Pairs

Aim:

To reinforce events in the story.

Equipment:

One set of cards per pair

Preparation:

This activity should follow activity 1 so the children are aware of the story.

Instructions:

- Children are divided into pairs and a set of cards given to each pair.
- The cards are placed individually, face down on the table.
- The first child picks up one card and then another. If it is a matching pair the child keeps the cards.
- If they do not match they are place back down.
- The second child has a go.
- The winner is the child who has the most pairs

The skill is in remembering where the cards have been placed back down

Introduction:

To trust in God means to obey Him willingly, even when we do not know what will happen in the end.

Memory Verse:

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Proverbs 3:5 (The Message)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

Activity 1 Trust In God's Plan For Your Life

Aim:

If children learn when they are young and practise putting their trust in the Lord, they will learn that He will support them throughout their life in good and bad times.

Equipment:

- Bible
- Colouring Pens/Pencils
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Card or purchase 'snap-on' wristbands

Preparation:

Read Bible verses.

Instructions:

What are you scared of?

You can say what you don't like – dogs, snakes, dark etc, etc.

God says to us in the Bible:

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) - *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

God says don't be afraid of the things that scare you because He is with us. He tells us that He will give us strength to face our fears and he will help us when we are afraid and hold us up. He tells us to trust in Him and not to be afraid.

Learning to trust in God and knowing that He will guide you is very important for your lives.

In the Bible God says – Jeremiah 29:11:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

So even when we feel unsure about what is happening around us God knows what is happening and is in charge. So we must trust that He has a plan for each one of us and a very important plan. Plans that will be for our good.



15 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors.



10 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Check for allergies as food smells could trigger some allergies.

You can do a craft that lets the children create something that says - Trust in God. Cut strips of card approx 3cm wide for each child and get them to write the words "Trust in God" and colour the band. Alternatively you can buy 'snap-on' wristbands from craft companies (e.g. Baker Ross - www.bakerross.co.uk) and write on them and colour in. Once they are done you can staple the band around their wrist and they can go home remembering that they can Trust in God.

Activity 2

Can You Believe In The Existence Of Something That You Cannot See?

Aim:

To think about God and to explore the concept of trusting in God's Word and what He says even though we cannot see Him.

Equipment:

Sealable plastic food pots x 3

Preparation:

Put food into three plastic pots overnight – seal them and leave them. Don't let the children see the food. Take the food out just before you do the talk. Best foods to use are onion, chocolate, coffee, cheese, sweets etc.

Instructions:

Can you believe in something that you cannot see? Have you ever seen your own brain? We all believe that things exist, even things that we have never seen. We know that our brain is there because we think and feel and understand things.

Have you ever seen the wind? We see the wind in the trees and when we feel it on our faces, but we cannot see the wind because it is invisible.

Have you seen history? History is something that has been written down over hundreds and thousands of years, but it is by faith in what we read and understand that we believe that things in the past have happened.

I have a few pots here – can anybody tell me what is in them? Nothing? Are you sure? Give the pots to a few children and ask them to open the pots and tell you what is in them. They should smell something and tell you what it is. Then you say that is interesting. Even though you cannot see anything in the pot – there is something there. The smell remains of the food.

Let's have a look at something the Bible says about God.

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Romans 1:2- (NLT).

Even though you can't see God, He is everywhere, all around us just like the air is everywhere, just like the wind is everywhere, just like the smell in the pot is there even though you cannot see it.

Even though we can't see the air or the wind, we do believe it is there because we can breathe, we can see the wind moving in trees and blowing in our faces.

Just like the wind we cannot see God, but we can trust that He is there. God made everything the world and everything in it and He made me and He made you.

God shows himself in three ways:

- He shows himself in the earth that he created.
- God shows Himself in the Bible and he tells us about Himself. If you read your Bible, you will get to know more about God without needing to see Him.
- God shows Himself in Jesus who He sent to earth to be our friend and to show Himself to people.

So let's trust in what we can't see and remember that God can be seen by us everyday if we look around us and read our Bibles.

Let's Pray:

Dear God,
Thank you that we can trust that you are always
with us. Even though we cannot see You we
know that You are all around us and have
shown Yourself to us in different ways.
Help us to always trust in You.
Amen

Activity 3 Trust Verses

Aim:

To get the children to look up the verses in the Bible from the Trust Verse Cards.

Equipment:

- Bibles
- Trust Verse Cards template

Preparation:

Print out Trust verse cards template for each child – they can be printed on paper or card. Then if you can laminate them so that they will last and the children can keep them. More than one verse card can be printed on each sheet.

Instructions:

- Give each child a Bible verse card.
- Then get everyone to sit down on the floor. Allow the children to be comfortable – if they want to lie down on their stomachs this will be ok.
- Give each child a Bible and then one by one look up each verse in the Bible and get children to read out the verses. They will need help with this.
- They can take their Trust verse card home with them.



10 minutes



2+ No maximum
number depending
on adequate
supervision.



10 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Have leaders ensure that the barriers are sensible and trustworthy to take on the task.



10 minutes



2+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors and glue.

Activity 4 Trust Wall

Aim:

To get the children to trust the person by the wall.

Instructions:

- Have the children get into a line facing towards a wall. Have them stand a few metres away from the wall.
- The leader then calls two children forward to be the barrier. They must stand close to the wall in front of the line of children.
- The first child walks ahead with their eyes closed towards the wall. The barriers must catch every child gently before they walk into the wall.
- Get everyone to have a turn walking at the wall.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Change over the child acting as the barrier every so often.

Activity 5 Trust Hearts

Aim:

To get the children to think about who they trust and to make a heart in which to keep the names.

Equipment:

- Paper
- Templates
- Pens
- Scissors
- Glue
- Trust Heart template

Preparation:

Print out the Trust Heart template.

Instructions:

- Get the children to draw around the template and then cut around it on the paper of their choice. They will need two sheets of paper cut out to the same heart shape.
- They then need to cut the second heart shape in half so that they are left with a pocket to stick on the front of the heart. Use glue to stick the half onto the heart leaving the top part open.
- Then they will take small pieces of paper and write the names of the people that they trust in their life.
- These names can then be put inside their trust hearts.
- Let the children decorate their hearts with stickers, paper, colouring etc.
- Let the children take them home.

Animals in the Bible Quiz

Answer the following 10 questions by ticking the correct answer:

1. In the Garden of Eden, what animal tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit?

Lion
Rat
Snake
Turkey

2. When Noah sent a raven out from the ark, it returned with a branch from an olive tree in its mouth.

True
False

3. When David was a little boy, what kind of animals did he take care of?

Cows
Horses
Pigs
Sheep

4. Because he prayed to God, Daniel was thrown into a den of ____.

Bears
Lions
Tigers
Snakes

5. When Jonah tried to run away, God made a giant fish swallow him.

True
False

6. In his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus rode upon a ____.

Cow
Horse
Donkey
Lion

7. After spending all his money, the prodigal son found work feeding ____.

Cows
Goats
Pigs
Sheep

8. After Peter denied Jesus three times, an animal made a loud noise. What kind of animal was it?

Cow
Dog
Donkey
Rooster

9. Aaron made a golden image of this animal for the people of Israel to worship.

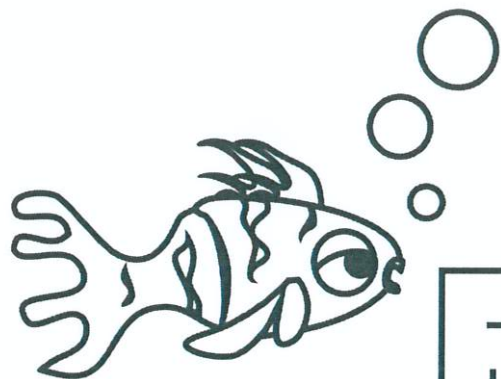
Lion
Dog
Ox
Calf

10. Two of which animal were used in the feeding of the 5000?

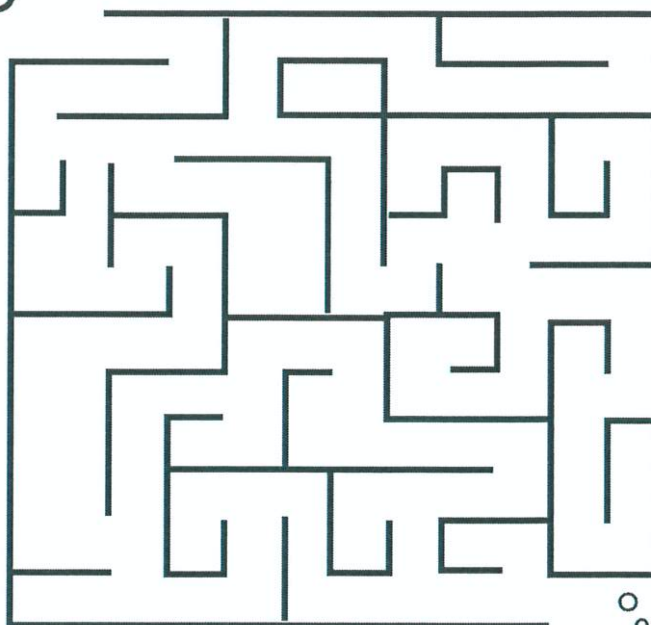
Chicken
Lamb
Fish
Cow

Deep Sea Puzzles

Complete the puzzles below . . .



Help! This fish is lost. Help him find his way back to the school of fish . . .



Find the words in the word search below . . .

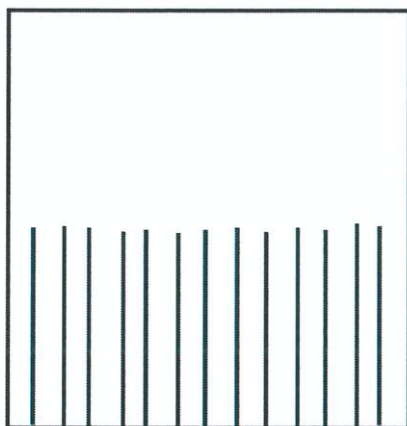
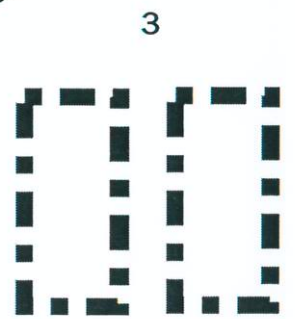
A	H	G	H	B	O
B	F	I	S	H	C
A	L	M	E	N	E
W	I	U	A	C	A
L	K	P	E	S	N
X	W	H	A	L	E

Words to find:

- Fish
- Sea
- Whale
- Ocean
- Blue

Whale of a Time

Cut out the shapes below.



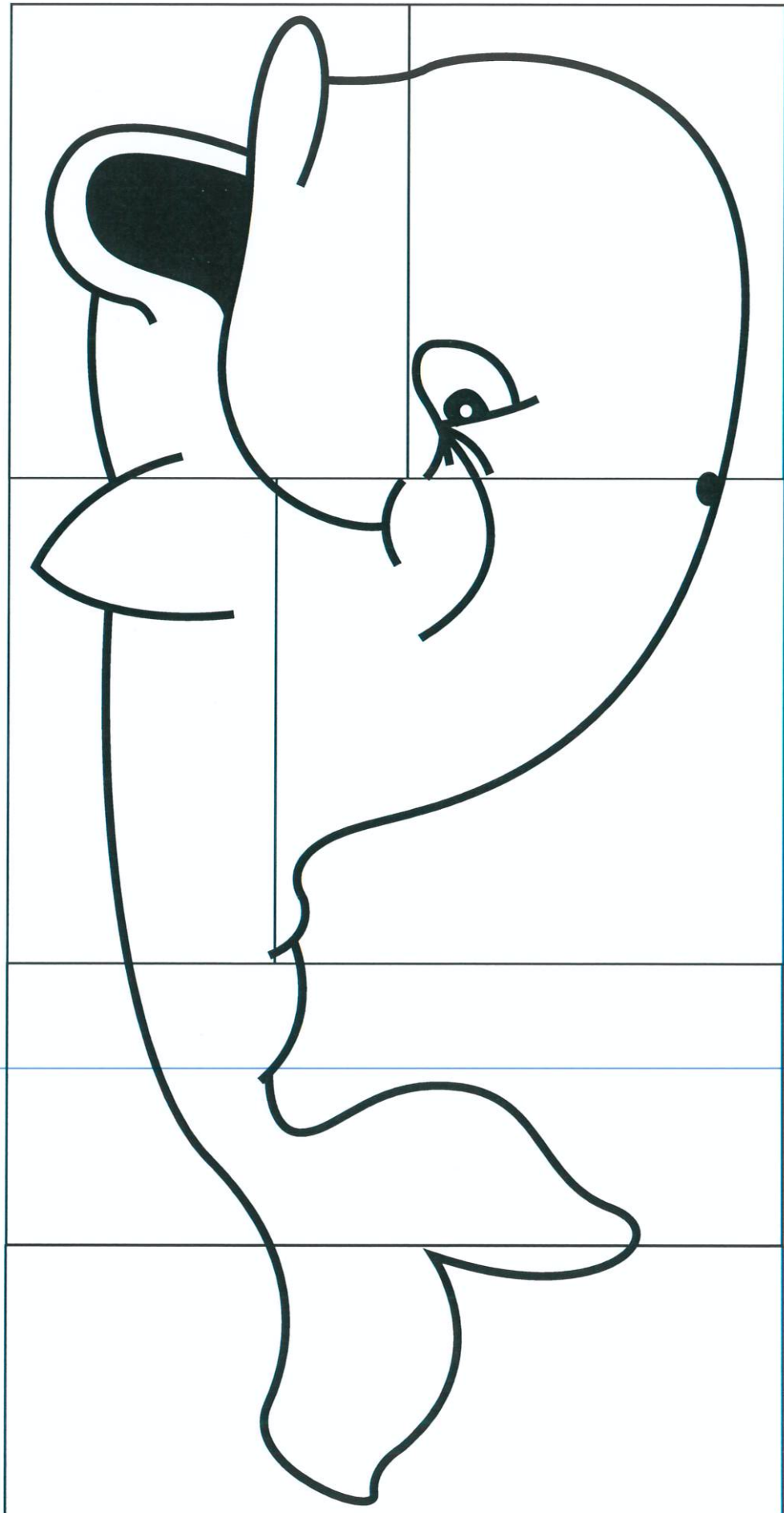
Fishing Reel-ay

Cut out the template below:



Go Fish

Cut out the fish
in to 6 parts
using the boxes
as guides.



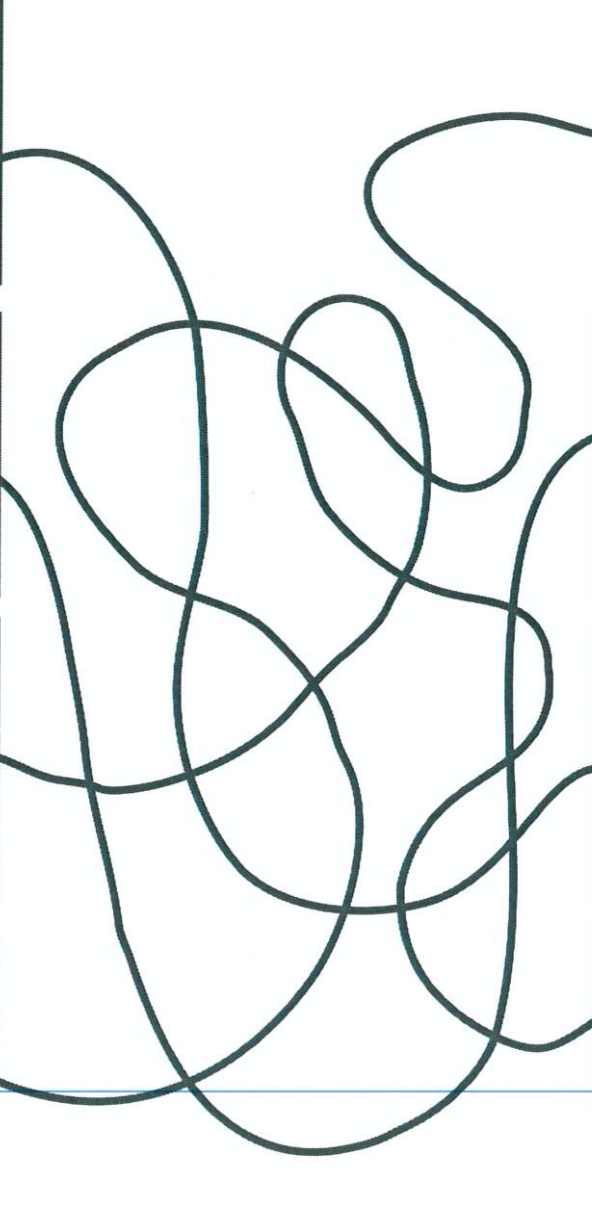
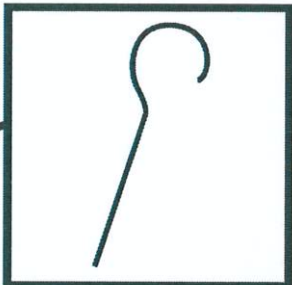
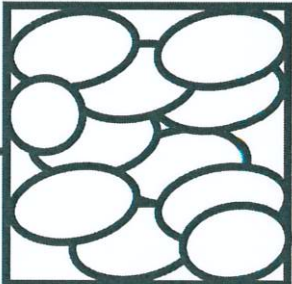
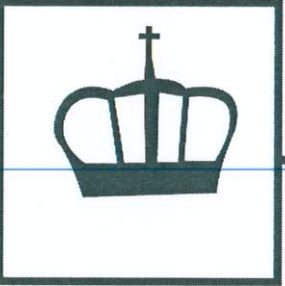
King Nebuchadnezzar's Throne Cards

Cut out the cards below:

strong	attacked
steal	forget
obedient	worship
food	captive
handsome	speak
gifts	wisdom
important	friends

David & Goliath Maze

Follow the lines to match up the pictures and write the correct letter in the box.

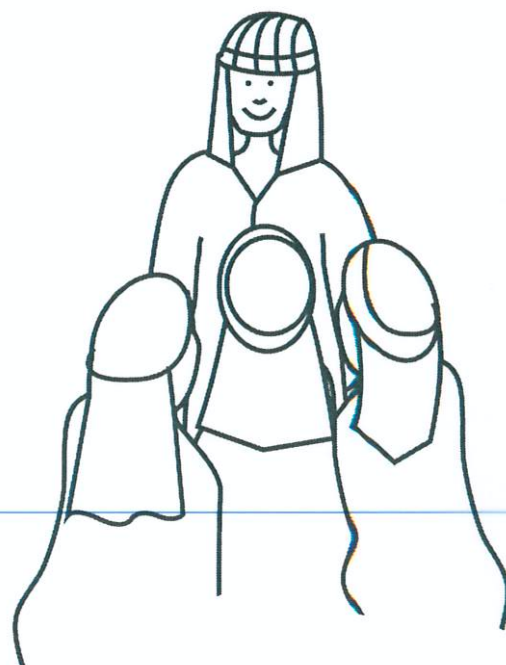
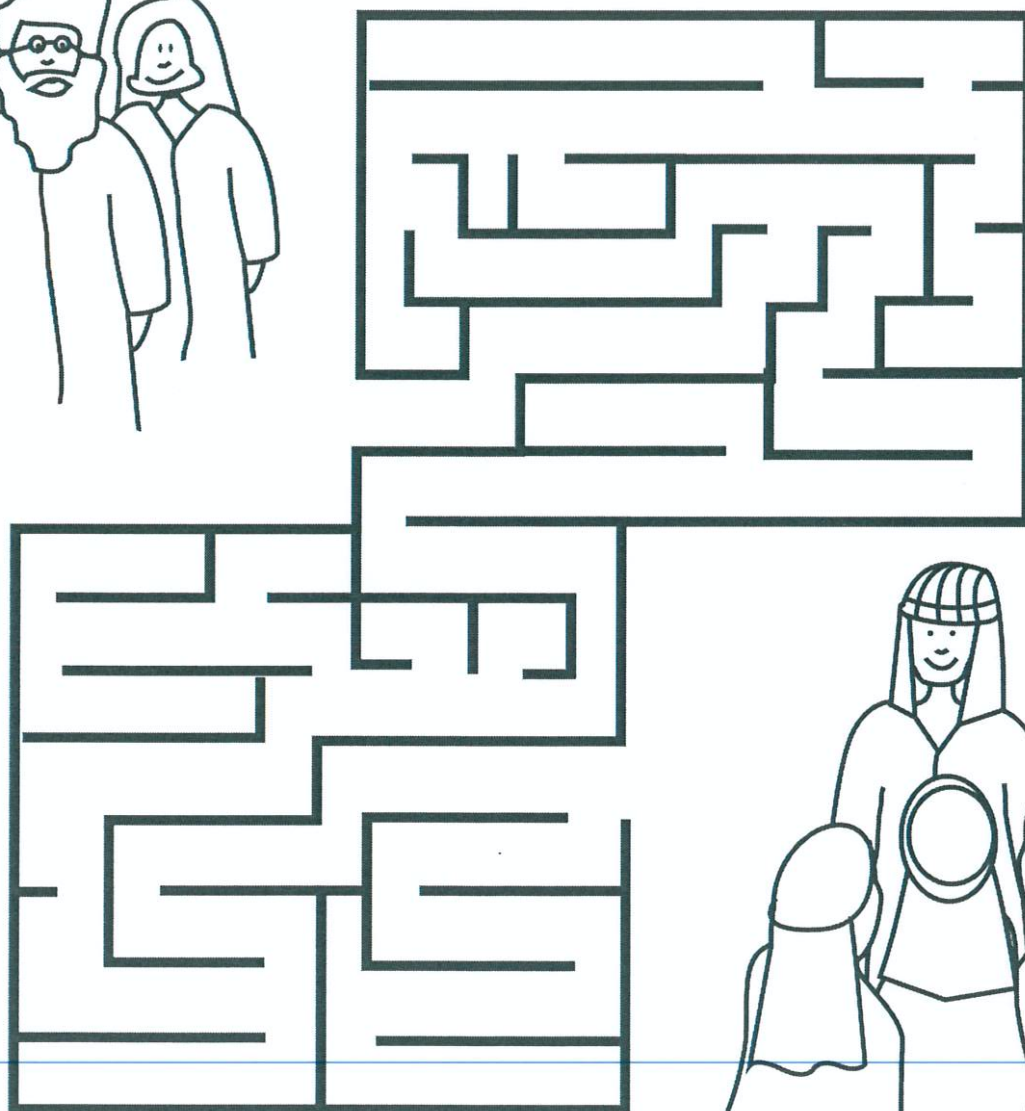
A			KING SAUL	
B				
C	DAVID			
D				

Joseph's Coat



Joseph's Maze

Help Jacob to find Joseph . . .



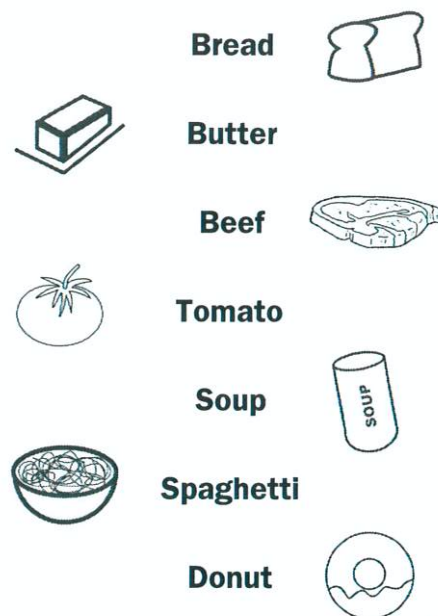
Supermarket Sweep

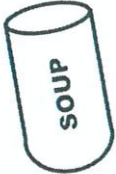
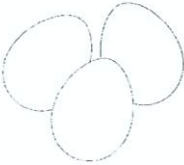
Cut out the shopping lists and the items of food below:

SHOPPING LIST 1



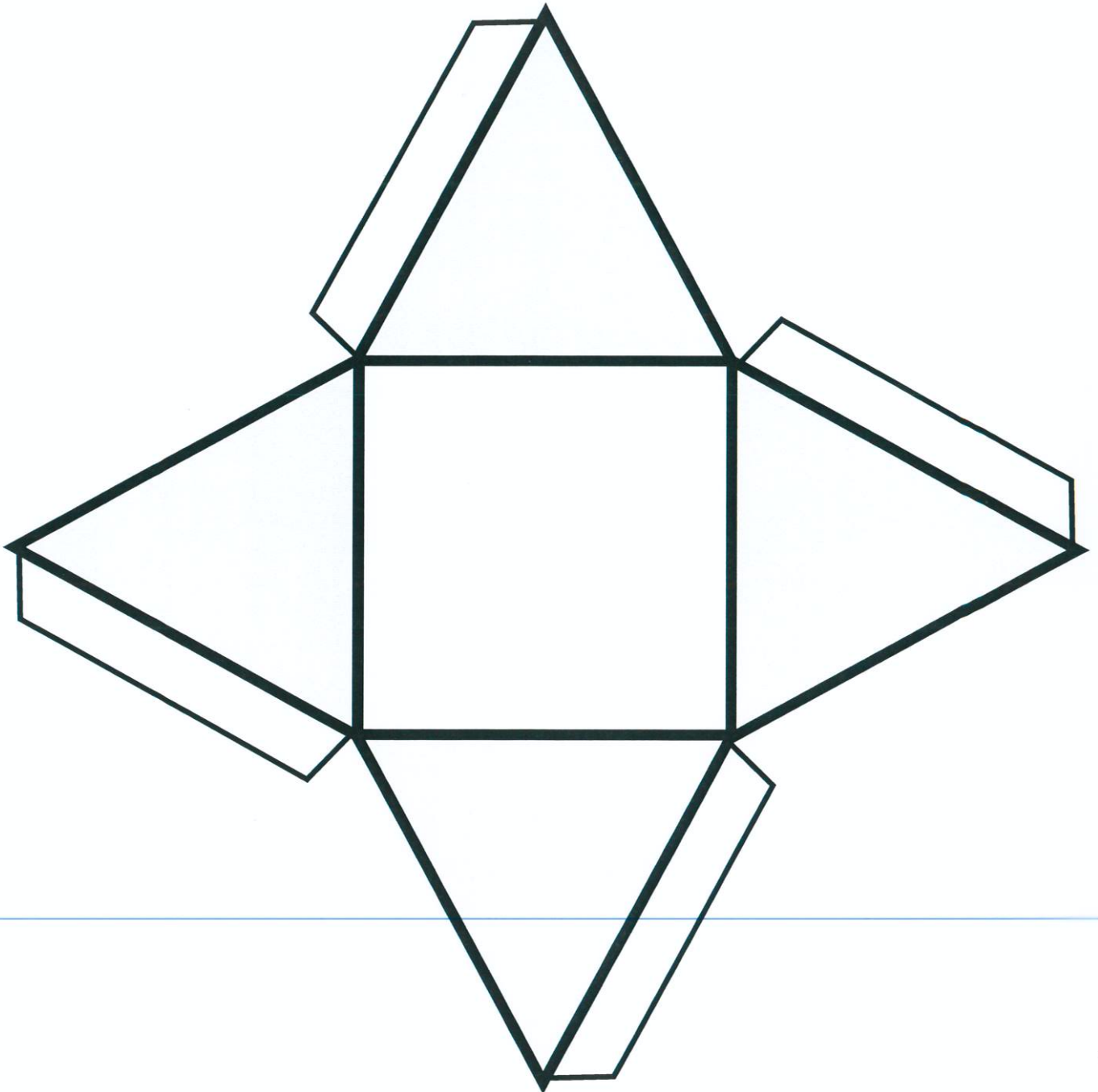
SHOPPING LIST 2



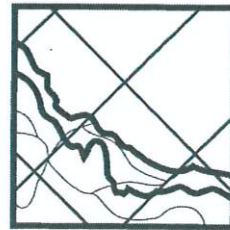
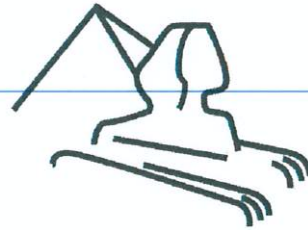
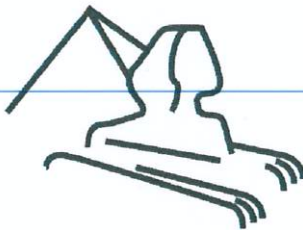
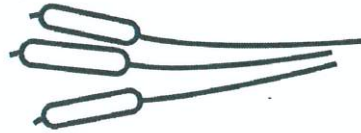
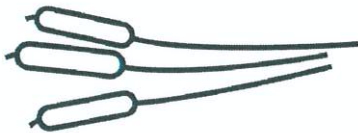
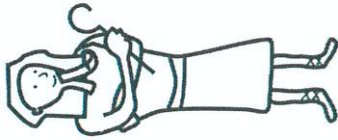
The Pyramid

Cut out the pyramid template below and glue the flaps together to make your pyramid.



Moses Pairs

Cut out the cards below.



Trust Verse Cards

Cut out the verse cards below (there are 2 of each verse card on this sheet), you could then laminate the cards so that they last longer.

 Psalm 9:10 Trust God because He will never let you down	 Psalm 13:5 Trust in God's love
 Psalm 22:4 Trust God because he looks after His people	 Psalm 91:2 Trust God for protection
 Nahum 1:7 Trust God because He cares for those who trust Him.	 John 14:1 Trust in God and in Jesus
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Trust Hearts

Cut out the heart shapes below, there are 3 sets on this sheet.

