



Aim:

To create some stunning, fun and colourful art projects that can be taken home and kept.

Instructions:

Jesus' most powerful teaching is through the lessons he taught by example. He made a point of living the way He wants us to live. Another one of Jesus' favourite ways of teaching was to tell a story or parables. Jesus used parables to reach people at different levels. Those who knew how to and were willing to listen with their hearts were able to understand what Jesus was teaching through the stories. Others heard a good story. Jesus often used the story to hold his audience's attention. After the story was told, he sometimes explained its true meaning.

Activity 1 Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus

Aim:

To teach that we need to trust Jesus with everything and that when we keep our eyes on Jesus and what He wants us to do we will never sink!

Equipment:

- A bowl of water
- An apple
- Tissue
- Piece of lego
- A paper boat

Preparation:

Read Luke 14:22-23

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Instructions:

- Prepare a washing up bowl or a bucket of water.
- Ask the children as you pick up each item if they think that it will sink to the bottom or float on the surface.
- As you look at each object make a big thing of the sinking and the floating. If they are right congratulate them and if they are wrong be surprised as well.



15 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.

In our story today we are looking at Jesus walking on the water. Now would you expect a whole man to sink?

Let's have a look –

While the disciples were going to the other side of the lake in their boat, the wind came up and the water began to get rough. The disciples looked, and saw Jesus coming toward them walking on the water.

They were terrified and cried out in fear – some of them thought that it was a ghost and they were really frightened, because nobody could walk on rough water or any water for that matter.

But Jesus called out to them and said don't be afraid, have courage because it is me.

Peter saw Jesus and said to him, *"Lord, if it's you," "tell me to come to you on the water."*

Jesus said to him "Come,"

Wow – that would be a bit scary wouldn't it. Stepping over the side of the boat and putting your foot out onto the water. Peter must have really trusted Jesus a lot don't you think?

So Peter climbed over the side of the boat and began to walk across the water to Jesus. Then he started to get scared and began to look around and see how strong the wind was and he started to sink.

So he cried out, *"Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"*

Then they both climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, *"Truly you are the Son of God."*

When Peter trusted Jesus and climbed out of the boat he kept his eyes on Jesus and walked safely on the water to Him. But when he took his eyes off Jesus and began to look at the things happening around him he began to sink.

In each of our lives there will be difficult times, stormy times when we will be quite worried about things and Jesus' actions here are telling us that as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus and trust in him, we will be okay, we will manage.

But when we take our eyes off of Jesus and get distracted by the things going on around us, we might sink

Let's Pray:

Dear God,
Thank you that when things get difficult
you are there to help us
if we keep our eyes on Jesus
and put our trust in him.
Amen.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

Prayer time – get the children to write a prayer that they want to say and then read them out together in a short prayer time at the end of the session.



20 minutes



3+ No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision.

Activity 2 Who Needs A Doctor?

Aim:

To learn about Jesus and to look at how Jesus went to those who needed him. The application is that Jesus' is there for the people who need Him.

Equipment:

A thermometer or a stethoscope.

Preparation:

Read Matthew 9:9-12

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

Instructions:

I am sure that all of you have seen a stethoscope/ thermometer.

Who uses a stethoscope/ thermometer? Yes, a doctor.

Have you ever been to the doctor? - most of us will have been ill at some time.

When you are ill, you go to the doctor's surgery, or sometimes the doctor will come to your house. In the past a doctor would carry a big black bag filled with medicine and what he needed and he would visit the homes of people who were ill and needed his help.

That's a really good picture of what Jesus did when he was here, living on the earth. He did not stay in the temple or in an office, he went where all the people were, mainly he visited people who were sad, who were ill or who had problems in their life.

One person that Jesus visited was a tax collector called Matthew. In Jesus' time people did not like the tax collectors because most of them were not honest and took more money from the people than they should have to pay. They were dishonest men. But when Jesus passed Matthew he told Matthew to get up from his tax collecting booth and follow Him. Matthew did what Jesus said and followed Him. Later they went to eat dinner at Matthew's house and many of Matthew's friends came to listen to Jesus talk. Many of them were tax collectors and the Bible says 'sinners'. The religious leaders from the temples heard that Jesus was with them and they were very cross that Jesus was even talking to them, and the fact that Jesus was eating dinner with them at Matthew's house made them boil with rage!

They asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

I think they were wondering why Jesus did not want to eat with them as they were respectable and could speak with Him about religious things. They were jealous!

Jesus heard them and answered, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ...For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Just like our doctors used to, Jesus went to the homes of the people who needed him and he taught them and loved them and helped them to understand that they needed to ask for forgiveness for their sins.

So if we follow Jesus actions and want to help people we should be doing what Jesus did, and be going out to where the people are and helping them and talking to them about the good news of Jesus to them.



15 minutes



5+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.



No nuts in the biscuits

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

You could follow this with a Community action project and get the children to practically engage with this passage.

Activity 3 How To Beat Temptation

Aim:

To look at Jesus temptation and to get the children to think of the different ways that they are tempted to do the wrong thing.

Equipment:

Biscuits or chocolates in a tin

Preparation:

Read Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, *"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

Jesus answered, *"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"* The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, *"I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."* Jesus answered, *"It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"* The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. *"If you are the Son of God,"* he said, *"throw yourself down from here. For it is written:*

*"He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."*

Jesus answered, *"It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"* When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Instructions:

- Get the children to sit down ready for you to do your talk and then sit down with them.
- Put the tin next to you and give them time to settle.
- Then say we are going to look at a story from the Bible when Jesus was tempted by the Devil.
- Ok let's read the story.
- Oh just a minute I think I left something in the other room.
- Can you just watch my tin here, don't open it or peek inside – I will be right back.
- Then go out of the room.
- Leave them for about two minutes to give them plenty of time.
- They will be desperate to open the tin and some may even open it to have a look.
- Get the other leaders to stop paying attention to the children and then return to the room.

I must say that might have been quite difficult for some of you – did anyone open the tin. Respond to what they say – if they did say didn't I tell you not to open that tin? Was it very tempting to open and look inside.



Well our story today is about Jesus and what happened when the devil tempted Him. You know that the most important thing to learn about today is not what we think Jesus would do, we must go to the Bible and see what Jesus actually did do. If we want to know what to do when the devil tempts us to do things that we shouldn't, we should read our Bibles and see what Jesus did when the devil tempted him and do the same.

So Jesus was tempted by the devil just we are sometimes tempted to do things we know that we should not. The Bible tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert or wilderness where he was tempted by the devil for a whole forty days. That was a very long time wasn't it?

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days and the devil knew that he was hungry, so he said to him, *"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

Jesus must have been very hungry and he could have wanted to do what Satan said, but he didn't. He answered, *"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

Then the devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, *"I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."*

Jesus answered, *"It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. *"If you are the Son of God,"* he said, *"throw yourself down from here. For it is written:*

'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, *"It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with God's word from the Bible.

So then the devil gave up trying to tempt Jesus because he could not do it and he waited for another time to try to tempt Jesus again.

The next time you feel that the devil is tempting you to do something wrong, think about what Jesus did and remember that you too can be strong and resist temptation.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

At the end you use the biscuits and the chocolate for snack time and make a point that they are allowed the biscuits now because you have offered them to everyone.







Aim:

By working through the various activities, young people should begin to understand success from a biblical perspective.

Introduction:

Success is almost always portrayed as a positive thing. If you set a goal, and achieve it, then it's good – the world tells us. Yet that isn't what the bible teaches.

Activity 1 Comes Before A Fall

Aim:

To introduce the story of the Tower of Babel.

Equipment:

- Jenga (or similar) game
- Two blindfolds

Instructions:

- Read Genesis 11:1-9 to the group and then explain that they're going to help act out the story, so they need to remember what happens.
- Have two children start building the tower from the bricks you have and as they are doing so, ask the others what happened next?
- Explain that God 'confused their language' so they couldn't communicate and, although you can't do that today; you are going to make it a little bit harder.
- At this point, destroy the tower and ask two other children to have a go.
- This time, blindfold them. It should prove difficult (though probably not impossible!) to build the tower.
- At this point, God's response to this seemingly innocuous tower building may seem a little strange.
- The people set a target (build a tower), and were working towards it – it seems like a success story! Ask: So what made God act like this? If necessary, read out verse 4: "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.'"
- Point out that in this verse the reason that they are building the tower is very clear: they wanted to make a name for themselves. They wanted to be known as having the highest, best tower.
- Spend a few moments reflecting with the children on the sorts of things we might do just to draw attention to ourselves: Wanting the latest clothing / computer game Wanting to be 'popular' / trying to get in with the in crowd at school.

The final thing to impress is the most critical: That none of these things by themselves are problematic. Perhaps some of the children do have the latest computer game. That isn't displeasing to God, in the same way that building a tower wasn't the thing that grieved God. Rather, it was the fact they were doing it so people would look to them and say how great they were. In the same way, God doesn't want us to do any of these things to seek the approval of the people around us.



10 Minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.



10 minutes



No maximum number
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Tips/Advice:

Try and continue explaining the story/consequences while they are building the tower the first and second time. It keeps the devotions moving and the children engaged.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

One of the take away points here is that God did a fairly extreme thing. This was one community of people, united in tradition, geography and language. Language is the glue of community, allowing interactions and growth. God took that away from them. You can help explore this point a little more by only allowing the two children to use one hand each and/or no talking. It makes the illustration even funnier but also reinforces the story. God took drastic action. Why? Because their attitude was all wrong.

Activity 2 Attitude Matters

Aim:

To further explore practical applications of the Tower of Babel.

Equipment:

- Table and two chairs
- Two plates/cutlery set up for 'dinner'.
- Script (provided as template – or you could improvise!)

Preparation:

Photocopy script if you are using it. Select two children (or ask for volunteers) who would be willing to act out the mini-sketch and perhaps let them have a read through.

Instructions:

This can be a follow on activity from "Pride Comes before a Fall" or a separate one in its own right. Set the scene for the sketch:

It is dinner time and a parent and child have sat down to have dinner. The child has other ideas.

Sample Script:

CHILD: (Throws cutlery down) I HATE carrots

PARENT: They're good for you, eat up.

CHILD: (Stands up) I won't. They're horrible.

PARENT: (Shouts) Sit down.

CHILD: NO!

PARENT: Sit down or you are going to your bedroom

CHILD: (Sits down) – But I'm still standing up in my head.

After the sketch, thank your actors and ask the group what they saw.

Q. Did the child do what he was told? (Well, literally yes! He was told to sit down and did)

Q. If you were the parent, would you be happy with the child's reaction (Probably not! Why?)

The take away point for the child is that we might do what we are asked, but our thinking can still be wrong. Our attitude DOES matter. The attitude of the people of Babel mattered, and our attitude matters in all the big and small things we do.



In everything we do:

Playing games at BB, coming to church, doing school work, talking to friends:

There is the DOING part, and that's obvious: When we play games, the DOING part is kicking the ball or when working it might be writing or drawing. But at the same time, everything has a THINKING part. When we're playing football, do we want to win, whatever it takes? When we come to church, is it only because we have to? God knew the people of Babel had the wrong THINKING, so he stopped them.

Tips/Advice:

If you can get a run through (2minutes!) with your actors, you can make sure they know what they have to do. Depending on the children, it might work better just to brief them on what they have to say instead of letting them read a script.

Activity 3 God > Success

Aim:

To explore the meaning of worship by thinking about how we think of celebrities.

Equipment:

- Post it notes
- Marker pens/pencils
- Paper

Instructions:

- Introduce Paul to the group.
- Explain that he was around shortly after Jesus and was a leader in the church as well as a church planter and missionary. The Bible tells us that Paul was known as Saul before his conversion, and persecuted the early disciples of Jesus in and around Jerusalem. While travelling from Jerusalem to Damascus the resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a great light. Saul was struck blind, but after three days his sight was restored by Ananias of Damascus, and Paul began to preach that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God.
- In addition to that he wrote lots of letters which can be found in the New Testament.
- Explain that when they get older they might want to apply for a job and would need to write a CV listing all their achievements. What might they put on it if they had to do it today?
- Give each child a piece of paper and ask them write two things they are pleased to have achieved.
- When they are done, ask whether or not they think Paul had a 'good' list of achievements and then read them Philippians 3:4-6. After you've read it, stop to pick out (or see if they can remember) some of his 'qualifications'. As you do, write them on a sticky note and put up on the wall in front of the group.
- Tribe of Benjamin: Israel's first King came from this tribe and it was greatly esteemed.
- Pharisee: A very religious sect that followed their own rules in addition to the law of Moses.
- Persecuted the church: He hadn't believed that Jesus could be the Messiah and so had persecuted Christians as heretics.



15 minutes.



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.

He was extremely good at what he did. Yet he didn't think very highly of many of the things he had done. Explain you are reading the very next two verses. Read Philippians 4:-7-8. Paul says that he considers all these things RUBBISH compares to knowing Jesus. At this point you could rip the sticky notes up and throw them in a bin. Just like in "Pride Comes Before a Fall" (if you are doing these as a series), impress that Paul considered these things rubbish because knowing God is so much better.

Take away point: It is OK to be proud of the things we have done, as long as we can put God first.



Introduction:

These are Bible lessons teaching about how Jesus is the Light of the world. The children will learn that where the light is there will be no darkness. The children will learn that Jesus is the Light of the world and Christians will no longer walk in darkness.

Activity 1 Jesus Is The Light

Aim:

To teach that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Equipment:

- Mirror
- Torch

Preparation:

Read John 1:1-9 (NIV)

Instructions:

Have the children sit down in a circle. Turn off all the lights and have as dark a room as possible. Shine the torch in the darkness.

Read out John 1:1-5:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

So Jesus is the Word and He was with God before anything was made. The Bible says that Jesus is Life and he is the Light of all people. So in the darkness of the world the light comes from Jesus - just like it comes from my torch in the darkness.

Read John 1:6-8: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light

God sent John the Baptist to prepare people for when Jesus came. He came to tell people that Jesus was coming - that a light was coming - but that he was just a witness to the light. Now I have a mirror here and I want (pick a child to help you) you to shine the torch onto the mirror. In the darkness the light is shining off the mirror and is reflected back to shine on you. So I am not the light - the mirror is reflecting the light.

So John was like the mirror - he was reflecting the light of Jesus until Jesus came himself.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



20 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



20 minutes



3+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.

The Bible says that all those who believe in Jesus and know that he is the Son of God have the right to be children of God

Dear God,
Thank you that you sent Jesus to be the light
and that through Him
we are able to become your children.
Amen.

Activity 2 Let Your Light Shine

Aim:

To learn about how Jesus calls us to be the light in the world for Him so that others may see Him in us.

Equipment:

- Torch
- Bowl
- You could have some items that the lady had to take out of her trolley, toilet paper, washing-up liquid, washing powder, milk.

Preparation:

Read Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

Instructions:

Have you ever travelled in a car through the country and then come out of the country to see a town built on a hill that shone really brightly because of all the lights.

Have you been to a city or a big town where there's light everywhere?

That is an example of how a city on a hill cannot be hidden – because the light cannot be hidden. It shines out for everyone to see.

(Use the bowl and the torch to illustrate this part.)

Do you have a light beside your bed? Would you ever put it under a bowl? Of course not because you need the light to be seen or you won't be able to read or play in your room.

Read the Bible story. Jesus is saying here that we should let our light shine if we love Jesus. The light of Jesus in us needs to be seen.

I have a story to tell you. There was a lady in the supermarket in front of a vicar. When it came to the time to pay she did not have enough money. She asked the lady at the till to take off some of her items, like toilet paper and washing-up liquid, washing powder and milk. (you could illustrate the story here with items). All the things she had in her trolley were important things not luxury items that she did not really need. The lady was very embarrassed and the Vicar behind her said that he would like to pay for her shopping – for all of it. The woman said no really you do not need to do that but he insisted and so she thanked him profusely and he even went after her and helped her put the things in her car.



He did not tell the lady that he was a Christian, but he said that we all need to shine and be like Jesus to other people. When people are sad or in trouble and they know that you are kind and helpful then they will come to you for help. And they might find out that you love Jesus and that is what makes you the way you are.

Be an example. Just by being happy and by being friendly with everyone at school you can help people. Jesus says, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

So Jesus is talking about you being a Christian helping others. In that way they may see why you do and then they may want to find out more about Jesus.

Activity 3 Stained Glass Window

Aim:

To illustrate that Jesus is the light and that He shines through us and we show that light in different ways and different colours by the things that we do and say.

Equipment:

- Black card
- Coloured tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue or Sellotape

Preparation:

Prepare the table where the children will be working.

Instructions:

- Show a picture of a stained glass window.
- Get the children to draw and cut out shapes for their design on the black card.
- On the back of the black card glue or tape different coloured tissue paper in the cut out areas.
- Make sure that all the areas cut out are covered in tissue paper.
- Then punch two holes in the top where you could put some string to hang up the window.
- The children can take home their windows and hang them in window for the sun to shine through.



15 minutes



5+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using scissors and glue.



**Introduction:**

Children need to learn from the Bible the guidelines and promises that God gives Christians to live by. We need to use the Bible when teaching Children about forgiveness, prayer and courage but we are using movie clips to reinforce the teachings.

Activity 1 Shrek – Forgiveness

Aim:

To teach about forgiveness using the film Shrek and the passage from Matthew 6:14-15

Equipment:

- Paper
- Pens/Pencils
- DVD Player
- TV/Projector
- Shrek DVD (U)

Preparation:

Read Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV):

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Instructions:

The section you will show is Chapter 16. This scene shows Shrek and Donkey having an argument and follows them making up and showing each other forgiveness and becoming friends again.

Donkey: Come back here! I'm not through with you yet!

Shrek: Well, I'm through with you!

Donkey: Uh-uh. You know you are always, "Me, Me, Me." Well now it's my turn. So you just shut up and pay attention. You are mean to me. You insult me, and you don't appreciate anything I do. You are always pushing me around or pushing me away.

Shrek: Oh yeah? Well if I treated you so bad, how come you came back?

Donkey: 'Cause that's what friends do. They forgive each other.

Shrek: Oh yeah, Donkey, I forgive you...for stabbing me in the back!

Donkey: Oh! You are so wrapped up in layers, Onion Boy, you're afraid of your own feelings!

Shrek: Go away!

Donkey: See! There you go, doin' it again just like you did to Fiona. All she ever did was like you, maybe even love you.

Shrek: Love me? She said I was ugly. A hideous creature! I heard the two of you talking.

Donkey: She wasn't talking about you. She was talking about somebody else.

Shrek: She wasn't talking about me? Then who was she talking about?

Donkey: Uh-uh. No way. I ain't sayin' anything. You don't want to listen to me. Right? Right?

Shrek: Donkey...

Donkey: No!

Shrek: Okay, look; I'm sorry. Alright? I'm sorry. I guess I am just a big, stupid, ugly ogre. Can you forgive me?

Donkey: Hey, that's what friends are for, right?

Shrek: Right. Friends?

Donkey: Friends



20 minutes



4+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.

Ask the children if they understand what this scene is about. When they begin to give you answers encourage all answers and lead the conversation to forgiveness. Get a large piece of card and ask them to write down things that are wrong – things that they have done and things that others have done to them – you could use different sides of the paper for each.

Once they are written down allow the children to talk if they want to and then ask,

“Have you ever forgiven someone?”

Let them think this through and chat about it.

“Do you think you have ever been forgiven?”

You may need to prompt answers – so you can talk about friends and parents and different feelings when you feel forgiven or when you don't want to forgive others.

Let's look at what the Bible says about Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15:

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Then ask – “Who forgave you of everything and made it possible for you to go to heaven?”

JESUS - He died on the cross so that you and I could be forgiven. God has forgiven us all for lots of worse things than Shrek did to Donkey and if Jesus was willing to give his life for our forgiveness, it's the least we can do to forgive each other and ask for forgiveness from others too

Let's Pray

Dear God,

We are sorry for the times when we do things wrong and for the times when we do not forgive others easily. Help us to be forgiving.

Thank you that Jesus went to the cross so that we might be forgiven by you and get to meet you in heaven.

Amen.


20 minutes

**4+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.**

Activity 2 Evan Almighty - Prayer

Aim:

To learn about prayer using a clip from Evan Almighty and Matthew 7:7-8

Equipment:

- Bible
- DVD Player
- TV/Projector
- Evan Almighty DVD (PG)

Preparation:

Read the passage Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV):

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Instructions:

Begin the clip at Chapter 2 (Intro about house etc).

Joan: You know, those boys were having so much fun tonight, I thought I would never get them to bed. And then Ryan did the cutest thing. He asked if we could all pray together.

Evan: Really? What did you pray about?

Joan: He met a dog. What do you think he prayed for?

Evan: Just a walking Petri dish, that dog.

Joan: ... and Jordon was very precise. He prayed for good visibility, good weather on the hiking trip tomorrow.

Evan: The hiking trip? Oh, right. Yeah. The hiking trip. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Joan: Do you wanna know what I prayed for?

Evan: Yeah, what did you pray for?

Joan: I prayed we would become closer as a family.

Evan: Honey, you don't need to pray for that to happen. I will make that happen.

Joan: What would you pray for?

Evan: Me? I don't know. Praying just...

Joan: Honey, you're the one who said you wanted to change the world. It's a pretty big job. If it were me, I would take all the help I could get.

Evan: (praying) Hello, there. Hi. This is Evan Baxter. Um... just wanted to say thank you for everything. Thank you for the new car and for the house. The house is great. I love it. I mean, I picked it out, but you created matter and everything, so... I just wanted to say that I think Joan makes a good point, and that I am now in a position of great power, and I know that with great power comes great responsibility. So, God please help me change the world. Okay. That's it. I'm hanging up now. God bless... Well, you. Okay.

End clip at 8 minutes.

How many of you have mobile phones? It's important to talk to other people isn't it? Having a mobile means that our Mums and Dads and our friends can get hold of us wherever we are and we can get hold of them too.

Can you answer this question for me - If talking to friends and family is so easy and we do it every day, why don't we spend time talking with God? Let the children answer this question.

Busyness, Can't see Him, Forget, Is He listening?
Well it is really important to talk to God because God wants us to know Him.
Let's look at the Bible and see what Jesus says about prayer –

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV):

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

God is listening and He does answer our prayers.

Let's think about how we pray.

Firstly we need to take time to pray. We need to find time in our day to talk to God. It can help to pray at the same time each day. Evan and his family prayed at bedtime didn't they?

If we make praying a habit, like brushing our teeth we will make it something that we do each day.

Look at your hand and see you have 4 fingers. It is really good to remember this when you pray-

1. Praise - Praise is saying what you love about God. It's saying, "God, I love how you made the sea and the beach. I love that you sent Jesus as a rescuer for our sins."

2. Sorry - Confess means telling God sorry about the wrong things that you have done. It's when you ask for forgiveness of your sins. It's saying, "I'm sorry that I lied. Forgive me for getting in a fight with my Dad."

3. Thanks - God has done so much for each one of us. What are you thankful for today? We are thankful for our homes, our family, that we are able to go to school, our health and for all the good things that God has given us.

4. Ask - God says in Matthew 21:22 that, If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Pray for other people - for your family. Pray for yourself. Ask for people to learn about Jesus, for God to help people in trouble, for people to be healed.

When we watched the film we saw that Evan prayed to God and asked for help to change the world. Evan did not ask for anything specific but he asked for God's help. That is how we should pray and we need to trust that God will answer our prayers. Sometimes God does not answer in the way we expect but He answers in the best way.

When we pray, sometimes we try to tell God how we want Him to help us. But we need to trust that he knows best and that he is answering our prayers in His way and in His time.

So let's pray together:

Put your hands together and put your fingers up together. We will pray in the way that we talked about. So when I pray each of the four fingers we will put one pair of fingers down. When I say 'we want to praise you for' you can say out loud what you want to praise, say sorry, thank and ask for.

Dear God,

We want to praise you for _____,

We want to say sorry for _____,

We want to thank you for _____,

We want to ask for _____,

Amen

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

You can cut out hand shapes and the children can write on each finger the prayer words and write the Bible verse in the palm of the hand.


20 minutes

**4+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.**

Activity 3 A Bug's Life – Be Strong And Courageous

Aim:

To learn about God being with us in everything using Joshua 1:9 and A Bug's Life.

Equipment:

- Bible
- DVD Player
- TV/Projector
- A Bug's Life DVD (U)

Preparation:

Read the passage Joshua 1:9:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Instructions:

Start at the beginning of the film.

Bug: I'm lost! Where's the line... What do we do?!

Bug 2: Help. We'll be stuck here forever!

Bug 3: Do not panic! Do not panic! We are trained professionals. Now, stay calm. We are going around the leaf.

Bug: Around the leaf? I don't think we can do that.

Bug 3: Oh, nonsense! This is nothing compared to the "Twig of 93. That's it...that's it...good! You're doing great...There you go, there you go! Watch my eyes; don't look away. And here's the line again!

End the clip at this point.

Do you ever panic when things go wrong, when life does not go to plan? We all do but our passage from the Bible today is looking at courage.

Joshua 1:9:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

In that clip we saw the ants going about their daily lives, doing their work, collecting their food and returning to their base. Well what happened when something fell into their path?

They panicked, they stopped, they did not know what to do – they needed direction.

They were definitely not strong and courageous were they. They were afraid!

Well the Bible tells us that we will meet problems in our life – but that we will find strength not in power but in trusting in God. We will all have troubles and we will sometimes not know what to do but we have an answer in the verse in Joshua

What?

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.

God has commanded us and he wants us to be strong and courageous.

How?

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

The Bible says that we must not be afraid because God is with us wherever we go. If we trust in and follow Jesus God promises to be with us wherever we go.

So we need to obey God, read His Word, and know that He is with us!

By trusting in God's promises you can be courageous when you face difficulties this week. Just like the bugs listened and found a way to overcome the challenge that they faced.

Let's Pray together:

Dear God,
Thank you that we can trust in your promises.
Thank you that you promise that if we trust in You,
you will be with us wherever we go.
Amen

**Aim:**

To become disciples by considering some of Jesus' first followers.

Introduction:

Jesus' followers have always come in all shapes and sizes, have not always been great at listening to him, but all know him for who he is. We can learn a lot from the early followers and we explore their call and lives in these activities. The final activity also makes the link between following a physical Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit, through using a short game.

Activity 1 Getting The Call

Aim:

To think about how the first disciples were called and realise that we must respond to that same calling.

Preparation:

Have another leader briefed on what they must do. I.e, at a certain time they need to come into the room and just announce that the children should follow them and then leave.

Instructions:

- Play a game of Simple Simon (Simon Says) with the children until you have a winner.
- After the game ask if they always do as they are asked.
 - Q. Do you always do what you're asked?
 - Q. If I asked you to run round the building, would you?
- Start reading Matthew 4:18-22. At this point, the second leader should enter the room and just announce that the young people should go with them and then leave. See if anyone moves to go and then respond accordingly:

The disciples were called in a similar way. Explain the passage you had been reading. The first disciples were fishermen and they had been at work when Jesus simply said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." In the same way, the children had been in the middle of devotions when the call to follow had come – Maybe they went, maybe they didn't. Either way, the disciples realised that Jesus was something special and responded to the call to be fishers of men. Jesus makes the same call today – How will you respond?



10 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Just make sure it is clear that we are not encouraging the children to follow any stranger that might tell them to follow.



10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2 Mary Magdalene

Aim:

To see that Jesus' followers were a diverse group united by a common faith and intense commitment.

Instructions:

Mary Magdalene travelled with Jesus and was very much one of His followers. She was also there with Jesus at two of the most significant moments in his life: the crucifixion and the resurrection. Explain that you are going to read a short story about Mary and they should listen carefully as there will be a quiz.

Story:

Mary grew up in a town called Magdala and had a difficult childhood. She was controlled by evil spirits, but when she met Jesus, the demons became powerless. From that point on she became a follower of Jesus. She was there at the crucifixion, trying to be a comfort to Jesus' mother. After the crucifixion, Mary went to the tomb where Jesus had been put, but the body was not there. She met an angel who told her that Jesus had risen from the dead. When she returned later that day with the disciples, she saw a man she thought was the gardener and asked where the body had gone. When the man spoke, she realised it was Jesus and she worshipped at his feet.

Have all the children stand in the middle of the room (you could put a cone down and have them come back and touch it before each question) and explain that it is a True/False quiz and assign opposite walls as true or false. As soon as they know the answer, they should run and touch the wall.

True or False:

- Mary personally knew the disciples (T)
- Mary was Jesus' sister (F)
- Mary was freed from demons by Jesus (T)
- Mary was from Bethlehem (F)
- Mary was there when Jesus was crucified (T)
- The last time Mary saw Jesus was at the crucifixion (F)
- After the resurrection, Mary thought Jesus was a gardener (T)



25 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 3 Listening To The Right Voices.

Aim:

To help the young people understand that even though Jesus isn't physically walking the earth, we can still have a real relationship with a God who guides us.

Equipment:

- Cones or Chairs
- Blindfolds (at least 2)

Preparation:

Set the room up ready for the Blindfold/obstacle game described below.

Instructions:

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and reassured and encouraged them. He then ascended to heaven to be with his Father. The disciples were obviously sad for 'losing' their friend and also concerned about the future, but he had some reassuring words for them.

Play the Blindfold/obstacle Game:

- Divide the children into pairs.
- In each pair, one person should be blindfolded, and the other able to see.
- The room should be set up with a start line and a finish line, and between these two point, obstacles (chairs, cones etc.) placed randomly.
- When you say go, the person who is not blindfolded must guide their partner (by voice only) through the obstacles to the other side.

Reflect on the game a little: Was it easy to hear the person guiding you? Did you confuse their voice with anyone else's? Explain that the disciples might have felt a little blindfolded after Jesus left. He had been their friend and leader, telling them where to go/how best to live. Suddenly, that voice guiding them had left. Read John 14:15-18. Jesus explained that he was sending them another friend – a counsellor – someone to guide them. They wouldn't be able to see him, but he would be there guiding.

Explain that God still guides Christians today though, sometimes, we are too busy to hear his voice. As the game got on, it probably became easier to recognise the voice of the person guiding you, as you got used to how it sounded and what they were saying. And so it is with us. The disciples got used to Jesus and recognised his voice, and we can learn to recognise the voice of God as he guides us through prayer, his Word and through other Christians.



Fruit Of The Spirit

SPIRIT

God and me



Aim:

To learn about the fruit of the spirit and to put into practice each fruit in our attitude and in our behaviour.

Activity 1 BB And The Fruit

Aim:

To think about the practical application of the fruit of the spirit at BB.

Equipment:

Cards

Preparation:

Write the fruits on individual cards.

Instructions:

Sometimes, when we think about BB and the games and sports that we play, the first thing that we think about is winning and being the best. However, there are nine fruits of the spirit that we need to learn about and develop while we are part of BB.

The fruits of the Spirit as seen in Galatians 5:22-23 are, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

- We need to think about our friends at BB and we need to LOVE them all. They are our friends and we spend a lot of time together.
- We will always be happy to come to BB and be full of excitement and JOY as we play games, do craft and learn more about God.
- We will behave well with our leaders and our group will be a place of PEACE where there is no fighting or any arguments.
- We are PATIENT and happy to wait until it is our turn to play or to run in a team game.
- We look after each other and respond to each other with KINDNESS and are always ready to help others out.
- We do our best to be GOOD to each other and we are not mean. We help each other and are happy for others when they do well.
- We need to show FAITHFULNESS to our company and realise that we are part of a group, part of a team that needs us so we must make an effort to be there each week and to get involved.
- If we are upset about something we must not respond with anger, because God calls us to respond with GENTLENESS and respect.
- We must all show SELF-CONTROL this means not losing our temper when we don't win or we think something is unfair. We will talk about it with our leaders.

Have each one of the fruits on a card and ask the children to stand by one that they think is difficult. Is it difficult always to keep our temper?



15 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



15 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.



10 minutes



3+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2 Fruit Of The Spirit Tree

Aim:

To remember the fruits of the spirit and draw them onto the tree and colour it.

Equipment:

Pens/Pencils

Preparation:

Prepare craft table.

Instructions:

- Get all the children sitting down at the table.
- Give each child a piece of A3 paper.
- Ask them to draw a tree with nine large apples or nine different types of fruit.
- Can they remember the nine fruits of the Spirit we mentioned in activity 1?
- They need to write them in the apples/fruits on the tree.
- They can work together on the ones that they can't remember.

Activity 3 To Make A Fruit Salad Hangman

Aim:

To remind the children of each of the nine fruits.

Equipment:

- Large pieces of card
- Crayons/Felt tip pens

Instructions:

- Sit the children down at the table or have them lying on the floor.
- Ask each child to draw a large piece of fruit on the card and colour it in
- On the back ask the child to draw the number of dashes equal to the number of letters in one of the fruits of the spirit e.g. _ _ _ _ _ could be kindness.
- Play hangman with each fruit.
- Once the word is complete hang the fruit from the ceiling or wall if appropriate.



Aim:

To gain an understanding of what Psalms are. In doing so, the aim would be to encourage a deeper, more real relationship with God.

Introduction:

The Book of Psalms is perhaps not as 'easy' to teach to children as an Old Testament story or New Testament parable. However, in some ways, Psalms is a book decidedly in touch with real life. Whether the writers were praising God or crying out to him in desperation (both of which are considered in the activities below), we can learn both something about the character of God, and something about our relationship with him.

Activity 1 Getting Real With God

Aim:

To realise that God wants us to be real with him, however we are feeling.

Equipment:

- Bible for each child or projector/screen
- Whiteboard or flipchart

Instructions:

- Ask: What are the favourite bands/songs at the moment. Do they know what song is number 1 in the charts? Explain that the bible has a 'songbook' in it, including songs about love, failure, forgiveness and all other sorts of things. They tell us a lot about how we can interact with God. While many were written when everything was going well and sing God's praises, others were written in darker times.
- Read Psalm 22:1-15. It would be helpful if either a) all the children had a copy of the passage in front of them; or b) it was displayed/projected electronically.
- Consider the 'strong language' in the passage. E.g., forsaken, groaning, cry, worm, scorned, hurls insults, roaring lions tearing...
- Draw out what this person might have been feeling? Impress that they were being honest with God, even if that means being angry. There are psalms expressing all these emotions and more. We have made prayer into a polite, formal thing and it doesn't have to be either of these things. When Jesus prayed, he did so passionately, with emotion and being extremely truthful.
- Jesus experienced dark times too. In fact, when he was being crucified, one of the final things he said was "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Sound familiar? It would have been instantly recognisable to the people listening. Not only was it an expression of the pain he was both physically and spiritually feeling, but it was a final demonstration that He was the fulfilment of all the prophecies that had come before him.



15 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



20 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2 The Lord Is My Bodyguard, I Shall Not Want.....?

Aim:

To introduce the 23rd Psalm and explore how it is still relevant today.

Equipment:

Bodyguard Template .

Instructions:

- Psalm 23 is arguably one of the most famous passages in the Bible. When it was written, the Shepherd/sheep analogy would have been something that immediately resonated with anyone hearing it. Nowadays, the analogy might not be so clear.
- In this activity, the children will modify Psalm 23 with updated words. Introduce Psalm 23, explaining that it is a Psalm which talks about the comfort and security we can find in God. We are compared to sheep, and him to the Shepherd. In that way he protects and guides us (rod and staff), feeds and nurtures us (fields and water) and protects us from people who seek to hurt us. Explain that their challenge is to make it relevant to them.
- Share the template with the children - look at the key words that might be changed.
- Ask the children to read out their new versions.
- Conclude by reflecting back on the original words: Even though the analogy might be old, we know that God's character never changes. Therefore, the same reassurance can be found today, whether we think of God as our Shepherd, or our bodyguard!

Activity 3 Writing A Psalm

Aim:

To spend some time exploring their idea of God through the medium of creative writing.

Equipment:

Writing a Psalm template

Instructions:

- Explain that there are 150 Psalms in the Bible, and they are all conversations between a person and God. Today, the children are going to have a go at writing a Psalm.
- Emphasise that it doesn't have to rhyme or follow any kind of pattern, but should be a true expression of what they are thinking/feeling.
- Run through the 'pointers' on the template with them before they start writing:
 - Include one sentence in this format: He is as _____ as a _____. E.g., He is as big as a mountain
 - Think of one thing to thank God or praise Him for.
 - Is there anything you want to ask God for?
 - Tell God something you have learned about Him / from Him.
 - Include the words "Me", "My" or "I" at least 5 times to make it personal.
- Decide whether it would be more appropriate to have individual psalms or the children working in groups.



Aim:

To teach the children about Lent.

Introduction:

Originally Lent was a time of fasting which lasted 40 days, in the month leading up to Easter. Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of Lent, when perishable foods like eggs were used up - for making of pancakes. Now people give up things for Lent. The word 'lent' does not appear in the Bible, but fasting is talked about.

Activity 1 What Is Lent?

Aim:

To think about what we know of Lent and to find out what it is based on. To make the point that it is not something talked about in the Bible but a way in which we have followed Jesus' wilderness fasting and how it can prepare us for Easter.

Equipment:

Bible

Preparation:

- Read through the passages
- Use some personal stories if any leaders have given up things for Lent.

Instructions:

- What is Lent?
- Has anyone heard of it and does anyone know what it means?
- Lent is simply the time before Easter when people choose to prepare their heart and mind for all that Easter means.
- People have based it on the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and praying and being tempted by the devil. Read Matthew 4:2
- So people have chosen to make Lent a time of 40 days for fasting and prayer to think about all that Jesus gave up for us on the cross and how He rose again on the third day - which is what we remember at Easter.
- A lot of people chose to give up something that is personally important to them for Lent (which is like making a personal sacrifice). This will remind them of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

Some people give up things like:

- eating meat
- sweets.
- Tea
- Fizzy drinks
- TV

They give up something that they will miss so that they have time to think about the things they do that are wrong, the things that would upset God (sins). This is an important time to time to think how we can help others more and be more obedient to God.



10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

- So lent starts on Ash Wednesday and goes all the way to Easter.
- What is Ash Wednesday?
- In Bible times, people who repented of their sins - asked God's forgiveness for all the bad things that they had done - sometimes wore sackcloth (which is a kind of rough, scratchy cloth like they make sacks from) and smeared themselves with ashes. Jesus talked about this being a way of showing being sorry for sins. (you could read Matthew 11:21 and Luke 10:13)
- Lent is not something that is talked about in the Bible, but is something that people have used to bring them closer to God and to prepare for Easter.
- Easter is when we celebrate the last days of Jesus life on earth and the events that happened to Him.

Important days in the last week are:

Maundy Thursday - the last supper.

Good Friday - the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday – Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples.

Extension Tasks/Adaptations:

You could do a quiz to see how much the children have remembered.

- How long is Lent?
- Why do people celebrate Lent?
- What do people do to celebrate Lent?
- What would you give up?
- What is sackcloth?
- Why do we celebrate Easter?



10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2

How Did Jesus Prepare For Easter?

Aim:

To think about what Easter meant to Jesus and how he prepared for it.

Equipment:

Bible

Instructions:

- Lent is the time just before Easter. These are words that we have given to before, during and after Jesus' death.
- Jesus and His disciples did not use the words Easter and Lent. It is only after these things became known to others and Christians began celebrating the things that had happened that we named them.
- We like to give things names don't we – we have names, our pets have names and where we live has a name. Different times have a name so we named the time Lent and Easter.
- Jesus was prepared for Easter even before He was born, because it was God's plan that Jesus would save us by dying on the cross. So He was prepared for it before the earth was even created.



John 1

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The Bible talks of Jesus as the Word – He was with God in the beginning, through Him all things were made and in Him is life – the light to all men.

It can be complicated but we need to see that Jesus is part of God and a very big part of God's big plan for us.

Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. He told His disciples what was going to happen to Him but they did not listen and did not believe that He would be killed!

- Jesus told the disciples that He would have to die.
- He then told them that He would be raised up on the third day.
- He also told them what they had to do when He returned to be with God in Heaven.
- He also prepared Himself by praying to God His Father.

So that is how Jesus prepared Himself for Easter and that is why some people do something to prepare themselves for that time when we celebrate Easter.

Ask the children to think of ways in which they could prepare for Easter. Not by buying eggs and chocolate, but by thinking about what Jesus did for each of us.

Activity 3 Jesus Prepares For Easter Worksheet

Aim:

To use the worksheet to prompt memory of what you have learnt about Lent.

Equipment:

- Jesus' prepares for Easter template
- Paper
- Pens
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

- Give each child a template.
- There are nine discs on the sheet in the wrong order of events of Jesus preparing for Easter.
- They need to cut out the discs and put them in the right order and then stick them onto another piece of paper in any way they like, but in the right order.
- Once you have checked that they have them in the right order they can stick them onto their sheets.



10 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using Scissors and glue.





Aim:

to learn about David.

Introduction:

Many of God's chosen leaders learned to pray as children. King David learned to commune with God as a young shepherd boy on the hills of Judea. One of the things that King David is known for in the Bible is his praise and worship. Much of the book of Psalms (songs of praises) was written by him.

Activity 1 God Chooses David To Be The King

Aim:

To get the children to learn about how God doesn't judge us on the way we look.

Equipment:

- Strips of card to make crowns
- Stapler
- Pens
- Colours
- Stickers

Preparation:

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Instructions:

I love playing sports. Do you?

I like to play team games like football and rounders. The first thing you do in team games is to choose two teams. Two team captains take it in turns to choose players for each team.

How do the captains go about choosing players? Do they choose the most popular kids? Do they choose the coolest? Do they choose the ones who have the newest games consoles? No they chose players based on their fitness and skill. They choose children who will help them win the game. It is not important what they look like or how cool they are.

I have been one of the people that the team captains didn't pick until there was only me left. I wasn't that good at hitting balls or shooting goals. I wasn't the fastest or the fittest but I was keen, I loved playing and I knew that if one of them just chose me I would help them to win.

In the Bible story today, God has decided to choose a new King for Israel. He told Samuel the Prophet to go in to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse, where one of Jesse's sons was going to be the next king of Israel. When Samuel got to Jesse's house he asked him to bring out his sons so that God could tell him which one He had chosen. As each of Jesse's sons came to him, God told Samuel that he was not the one. Samuel couldn't understand, each of them were handsome and strong.



15 minutes



4+ No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using Scissors and glue.

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

He wasn't the oldest, or the tallest, or the strongest. He was just a shepherd boy.

But when God looked at David, He saw a king. Why? Because God does not look on outward appearances, God looks at the heart.

- Think about the times when you judge people by their appearance, by how they look, the clothes they wear, and the way they speak.
- Sometimes you may think that they are too young or too simple to do anything important for God. If you ever think like this remember the story of David. When people looked at David, they saw a shepherd boy - when God looked at David, He saw a king.
- Using the materials given ask the children to make crowns - that signify that David was God's anointed King.



10 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 2 Where Does Our Strength Come From?

Aim:

To understand that our strength is from God using the story of David and Goliath.

Equipment:

- Some fun fitness tasks set up - hoops, skipping rope etc.
- A small bag with 5 smooth stones
- A Bible

Preparation:

Read through Samuel 17 - pick as much of the story as you feel is appropriate.

Instructions:

- Set up a choice of fun fitness tasks such as: keeping a hoop going round your waist; rolling a hoop along and catching it before it falls; skipping alone, or with two others turning the rope. Or, if one of the children trains with a sports team, ask them to lead you all in warm-up exercises.
- Comment how these and other exercises can help us get fit and strong, but that in today's Bible story, the main character does not need to exercise: God makes him strong!
- What do you think is in this bag? Let one of the children take the bag and look inside. Let the child describe the stones. Ask if it reminds anyone of a Bible story that they know. When I look at these five stones it makes me remember the story of David and Goliath.



- Does anyone know the story of how a young boy called David fought and killed a giant warrior named Goliath? Goliath was more than nine feet tall! How tall do you think that is. (you can pick a point where the children can visualise how tall nine feet is). He wore a suit of armour that was made of bronze metal which weighed more than any of you and he had a sword and spear.
- David was a young shepherd boy who looked after his family's sheep. He did not wear armour and he did not have either a sword or a spear? David's weapon was a sling shot and the five smooth stones which he picked up from a nearby stream. David was angry that Goliath had been rude about his people and his God – so he went out against Goliath. A small boy against a giant. But because God was with him David was able to defeat the giant Goliath - who all the soldiers of the Israelite army were afraid of.
- David did not trust in himself to defeat the giant. When Goliath shouted at David and was ready to kill him, David said, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty." (1 Samuel 17:45 NIV)
- When you need strength, put your trust in God, not in your own ability.

Finish with a prayer

Dear God,
Just as you gave David the strength to face Goliath in battle
we know that when we put our trust in You, You will give us the strength
to overcome difficult things in our daily life.
Amen.

Activity 3 **David The Shepherd And His Fluffy Hand Sheep**

Aim:

To get the children to make sheep linking David being a simple shepherd and the way Jesus calls Himself the Shepherd.

Equipment:

- White crayon
- Black and white paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cotton wool balls
- Hole punch
- Black marker
- Thin ribbon
- Pink post it heart shaped notes

Preparation:

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13



15 minutes



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision.



Ensure adequate supervision when using Scissors and glue.

Instructions:

- Use a white crayon to trace around your hand onto the black paper then cut out the hand shape.
- Cover the palm of the hand and the base of the thumb and fingers with glue, then stick on cotton wool balls to make the hand look like a sheep.
- Next use the hole punch to make an eye for the sheep from the white paper and draw a dot in the centre of the eye for a pupil with a black marker pen.
- Glue the eye to the middle of the thumb.
- Tie a small piece of thin ribbon around the base of the thumb to form the sheep's neck and tie it in a bow.
- Write on a heart shaped post it and stick it on the back of the sheep - The Lord is my shepherd- Psalm 23

The Story Of Samson

SPiRiT

God and me



Aim:

Understand The Story Of Samson. Samson's hair was not the source of his power; it was simply an outward sign that his life was set apart for God's service.

Activity 1 Spotlight On Samson (1)

Aim:

To learn from the story of Samson.

Equipment:

The Story

Preparation:

Read the Bible passages. Judges 13-16 and this version.

Instructions:

- Read the story

Yet again the Israelites had done evil in the eyes of the Lord so He delivered them into the hands of the Philistines. Soon God wanted to send someone to help free the Israelites, so he sent an angel to see the wife of Manoah from the Danite tribe who would become Samson's mother. Samson's mum actually couldn't have any children, but an angel of the Lord came to her and said, "You can't have any children now, but God is going to give you a son. Make sure you don't drink any wine or eat any animals considered to be unclean. You will have a special son. He should never cut his hair, eat grapes or raisins, drink wine or touch a dead body, and most importantly his purpose will be to save the Israelites from the Philistines."

This special boy was Samson. As he grew up he realised that he had a special gift, he was incredibly strong. As Samson got older he was able to kill a lion with his bare hands and defend himself against 1000 Philistines. He was a bit like a super hero! I guess you could say Samson didn't like the Philistines and the Philistines didn't like Samson. The Philistines were constantly trying to figure what the secret was behind Samson's strength. If they could figure that out then they would get rid of him. After all Samson had killed many Philistines.

As Samson became a young man he started to like girls. There was one girl he especially liked, her name was Delilah. The rulers of Philistine noticed that Samson was coming to see Delilah a lot more lately. So they decided to go to Delilah and make a deal with her. Delilah was just on her way home from a walk, thinking about the next time she would see Samson, when some of the rulers of the Philistines approached her. One of the men asked her, "Delilah, we were wondering if you could find out what makes Samson so strong. We are so curious; if you find out we would like to give you 5,500 pieces of silver." This was about £3000, which was a lot of money. Imagine getting £100 from your parents to go and buy sweets. The amount of money Delilah got seemed to her as big as that!

Delilah was just about to say no, when all of a sudden she starting thinking about all the fabulous things she could buy with all that money. She really hadn't taken that much time to think about it when she said, "I'll do it!"



15 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

So Delilah went home and started to think about how she could get the secret out of Samson. She thought maybe she could make his favourite dinner for him and just ask him. After all he did love her; maybe this would be easier than she thought. So Delilah got busy making a nice meal and waited for Samson to arrive. As they sat down to eat, Delilah asked how Samson's day was and after a few minutes she just decided to ask, "Samson, could you please tell me the secret of your great strength? I guess I'm just curious and want to know how your enemies can tie you up and how you can get out so easily." Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me up with seven brand new bowstrings (from a bow and arrow) that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

So later that night after supper Delilah made an excuse to go for a walk and met up with the rulers of the Philistines and told them what Samson had said. They immediately went out and found seven bowstrings to give to Delilah and told her, "We want you to tie Samson up when he is asleep. Let us into your house when the coast is clear and when you wake him up we want to be there to capture him."

So Delilah did what the men asked her to do. It was a little tricky because it took Samson a while to fall asleep, but once he was snoring she started to tie him up. When she was done the men came in and hid all around, and when they were ready Delilah shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" But without any difficulty at all Samson snapped the strings like there was never anything around his hands.

Well, Delilah felt quite silly and was a little hurt that Samson wouldn't tell her the secret of his strength. (It's funny she felt upset as she was trying to trap Samson). She started to think that the Philistines wouldn't think that she could find out the secret and then she wouldn't get any money. So Delilah put on her sad face and looked up at Samson and said, "You made a fool out of me Samson, you lied to me. Seriously now, tell me how you can be tied."

Samson said to her, "If anyone ties me with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man." So Delilah did what she had done before and tied him up with the new and improved ropes.

She shouted again, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" But without any difficulty at all Samson once again snapped out of the ropes like there was only thin thread tied around his hands.

Delilah was getting angry, but she didn't want Samson to notice. She had to make Samson think she was sad that he lied to her. Delilah put on her saddest face (and even tried to cry a little) and said to him, "Oh, Samson how could you lie to me again (sniff, sniff)? Please tell me now how you come to be so strong; I really, really want to know."

Even though Delilah seemed sad Samson told her another lie and Delilah was once again made a fool of. Delilah finally said to Samson, "How can you tell me you love me, when you don't trust me with your thoughts and secrets?"

But Samson just decided to ignore her. The only problem was that Delilah wouldn't stop asking. She asked in the morning during breakfast, when they were out for a walk, at lunch, at supper, before bed, she asked all day long and Samson just couldn't take it anymore. Finally Samson said, "Enough already! I will tell you everything, just leave me alone! My hair has never been cut. I had to take certain vows when I was born and have been given this gift by God. If my head was shaved I would become as weak as any other man."

Delilah could tell this was the truth, so she asked the Philistines to give her one more chance. They came as they had all the other times, but this time they brought Delilah's money along with them. Samson fell asleep on Delilah's lap so she got someone else to shave off his hair. As they were shaving it off Samson's body began to get weaker. When it was completed Delilah called out, "Samson, the Philistines are coming!"



As he woke he wasn't aware that his gift from God had left him and the Philistines grabbed him. This time Samson could do nothing to fight them off.

The Philistines had captured Samson, and put him in prison, but his hair began to grow again. God still had plans for him. In the end Samson regained his strength before they could kill him. They tied him up to two large pillars that held a large temple up and he was able to break free during a sacrifice to their god Dagon, but when he did the temple fell on him and a large number of Philistines.

This was how God freed the Israelites from the Philistines.

- Samson ended up breaking all of his promises. He didn't seem to take God's rules for him seriously. God still used Samson to defeat the Philistines but he could have done so much more if he had obeyed.
- Ask the children about what we learn from the story of Samson, some responses are below;
 - Great strength in some areas of our life does not make up for great weakness; Although Samson had great physical strength, he broke his vow to God and revealed his secret, and made himself weak.
 - He confided in the wrong people.
 - God can use a person despite his mistakes.
- Close with a prayer.

Activity 2 Spotlight On Samson (2)

Aim:

To learn the Story of Samson through drama.

Equipment:

Possible costumes and props to act out the sketch

Preparation:

This activity follows on from activity 1 and the children should be aware of the story.

Instructions:

- Read aloud the opening of the sketch below or make up your own beginning.

DELILAH Oh come on Samson, why won't you tell me?

SAMSON Because I can't

DELILAH Why can't you?

SAMSON Because I can't.

DELILAH I'll cook you your favourite dinner

SAMSON Do you think I'm stupid?

DELILAH she obviously does. What makes you say that?



10 - 5 minutes



No maximum number
depending on
adequate supervision.

SAMSON Because when I told you my strength is taken away if I was tied by seven fresh bowstrings I would lose my strength what did you do? Delilah shrugs You tied me up so when I woke I was Tossed like a turkey!

Continue the sketch. There is no need to write anything down, simply act out the scenes. Remember as well as the two main characters, there are lots of parts for the Philistines.

At the end, remind the children of what the story teaches us and close with a prayer.



10 - 15 minutes



5+ No maximum
number depending on
adequate supervision.

Activity 3 Delilah - Did Betrayal Help Her?

Aim:

Look at what Delilah did and decide if she was right or not.

Equipment:

- Either the story or the play from activity one or two
- A space where the children can sit around the leader.
- A Bible

Preparation:

Read all of Judges 13-16

Instructions:

- After reading either the story or doing the sketch ask the children if they think what Delilah did was right.
- Ask if they think the motivation of money is wrong
- Briefly remind the children of the role Judas had in the betrayal of Jesus and ask them if they can see any similarities in the story. The main two you should look for are;
 - They both betrayed someone to the enemy
 - They both betrayed for money.
 - Greed
- Although the Bible doesn't mention Delilah again we know that Judas bought a field with his money and was killed there. Acts 1:18-19
- Even though these people betrayed, God's plans still worked.

Psalm 23 - Bodyguard

A psalm of David

The LORD is my _____(shepherd)_, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in _____(green pastures)_,
he leads me beside _____(quiet waters)_,

He restores my _____(soul)_.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through _____(the valley of the shadow of death)_,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your _____(rod)_ and your _____(staff)_,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely _____(goodness)_ and _____(love)_ will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Writing a Psalm

- Include one sentence in this format: He is as _____ as a _____.
E.g., He is as big as a mountain.
- Think of one thing to thank God or praise Him for.
- Is there anything you want to ask God for?
- Tell God something you have learned about Him / from Him.
- Include the words “Me”, “My” or “I” at least 5 times to make it personal.

Jesus prepares for Easter

Cut out the circles and put the events that happened to Jesus into the correct order.

**Jesus
went to be
with God in
Heaven**

**Jesus
fasted
and
prayed**

**Jesus
died**

**Jesus
Was
arrested**

**Jesus
rose
again**

**Jesus was
with God when
he created the
world**

**Jesus
told his
disciples what
would happen
to Him**

**Jesus
was taken
to be
crucified**

**Jesus
went into the
wilderness**

