

Stories of Faith – 1a

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The Baby Birds

(A true story)

In the roof of Grandma's house was a nest. A mother bird had built the nest, high up, away from danger. In the nest were four blue eggs. Mother bird sat on the eggs. She waited and waited. At last, four chirping baby birds hatched out of the eggs. Now mother bird often stayed away from the nest to collect food for her babies. She would bring worms back to the nest and pop them into the little open beaks.

One day, Tim came to visit Grandma. Tim was sometimes naughty. Today he felt like being very naughty. Tim saw the nest in the roof. Tim also saw a long, long stick resting against the shed wall.

"I know what I'll do," he thought. "I'll get that long, long stick and give the nest a poke."

Tim held the end of the stick very carefully.

"Yes, I can reach it," he said.

He gave the nest a little poke... then a bigger one. Down, down, down came the nest.

"Cheep, cheep, cheep," went the little birds.

Tim couldn't bear to look at the nest, now on the ground. He ran away crying. He knew he had been very naughty.

"What's the matter, Tim?" asked Grandma. "Why are you crying?"

"It's the baby birds," cried Tim. "They've fallen from the roof."

"How did they fall?" asked Grandma.

Tim just kept crying. Grandma went to have a look at the birds and saw the stick nearby.

"Did you knock the birds down with that stick, Tim?" asked Grandma.

Tim could not tell a lie.

"I did," he said, "and now all the baby birds will be dead."

"Come and have a look, Tim," said Grandma.

Tim counted the birds ...1..2..3..4.., and each bird was cheeping loudly.

"God has protected them all," said Grandma. "Do you know that God cares for birds and knows about it when they fall from their nest? Just think about how much He loves us. He knows exactly how many hairs are on your head, Tim," said Grandma.

"I'm so glad that the babies are still alive," said Tim. "But now their nest is ruined."

Grandma saw an old flower-pot in the garden shed.

"Why don't we make a little nest from this, Tim? We'll put it on the roof, exactly where the old nest was."

Tim and Grandma set to work, making a cosy nest from straw and cotton wool. They carefully placed the birds in the new nest and put it gently in position on the roof.

"I don't think the mother will come back to feed the babies now that she knows humans have touched the nest," said Tim sadly.

"Let's wait and see," said Grandma.

They waited.

Before long, the mother bird did come back. In her beak she was carrying a little bunch of worms. Into each little open beak she popped a piece of worm. Tim was very happy.

"God really does look after all his creatures," he thought. "I know He cares for me too."

Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, God cares for you more than the birds."
Luke 12:6-7

God is Love – Themes 1



The Baby Birds Activities

PART A

1. Where was the nest?
2. Draw the nest showing what was inside it.
3. What did Tim do that was so naughty?
4. Draw the new nest that Grandma made.
5. Why did Tim think that the mother bird would not come back?
6. What did Tim learn about God?
7. Look up this Bible verse: **Matthew 6:26**. Write it and draw a picture for it.

PART B - God is love

Read:

God shows His love to us in the way He cares for us. He loves us more than the birds. He loves us because we are His children.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I show God's love to others?

I can _____ others that Jesus loves them.

I can care for others as Jesus _____ for me.

I can speak _____ words.

I can do things to make others _____.

Missing words: kind happy cares tell

The Spider's Web

This story shows the foolishness of disobeying those who love and care for us.

Belinda Beetle belonged to a very large family. Like all beetles, she had four wings: two underwings for flying, and two upper ones for covering and protecting the special flying wings. Right down her back was a straight line where the two wings met.

Belinda was a shiny Christmas beetle with six long legs and two feelers. She was very proud of her beautiful colours...so beautiful that she could almost have been used as a decoration on a Christmas tree.

Belinda would spend most of her day climbing gum trees and munching on the juicy green leaves. Sometimes she would see beautiful spiders' webs shining in the sunshine.

"How I would love to touch a beautiful spider's web," she thought, but knew she mustn't, as her father and mother had told her NEVER, NEVER TO GO NEAR SPIDERS' WEBS.

"A spider's web is very sticky," they would say. "If you touch it you will get caught in it and not be able to get out again."

Belinda was a very curious little beetle. She was so curious that one day, she just couldn't resist going near a spider's web.

"If I'm very, very careful," she thought, "I'm sure I could touch the web without getting caught."

Belinda reached out one of her six long legs. She touched the web, then quickly tried to pull back again. She pulled and pulled, but she only became more entangled in the web. There she was, stuck in the beautiful shiny spider's web.

Now Belinda knew why her mother and father told her to NEVER, NEVER GO NEAR SPIDERS' WEBS....and now she knew that she should have obeyed.

God is Wise - Themes 1

The Spider's Web Activities

PART A

1. Read the first two paragraphs again, and then draw Belinda Beetle.
2. What did Belinda Beetle eat?
3. What did she want to do most of all?
4. What did her father tell her?
5. Write two endings for this story. First write a sad ending and then write a happy one.
6. What does **obey** mean?
7. Who should we obey?

PART B - God is Wise

Read:

God knows more than anyone. He knows what is best for us. That is why it is wise to obey the things He tells us to do. Being wise is doing the right thing. Being wise is listening to people who know more than we do.

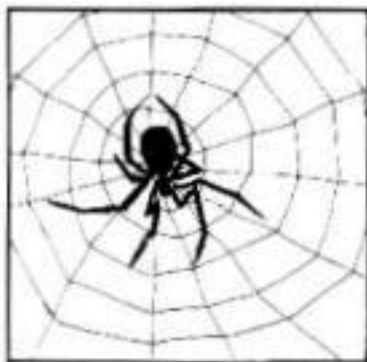
Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be wise?

I can _____ to Mum and Dad, and obey them.

I can listen to God and _____ Him.

Missing words: obey listen



Dad's Birthday Cookies

Scene 1

Billy: Hi Betty!

Betty: Hi, Billy!

Billy: Guess what I've got for you?

Betty: Ah..... Can I play with it?

Billy: Well, not really.

Betty: Can I eat it?

Billy : Yes.

Betty: A peanut butter sandwich?

Billy: No. Look! Two chocolate cookies - one for you and one for me.

Betty: (Munch, munch). It's really nice of you to give me this cookie Billy. Where did you get it from?

Billy: Well, Mum made some cookies especially for Dad's birthday party tomorrow night. I saw them on the bench and thought how much you would like one.

Betty: But did your Mum say you could have one?

Billy: Well, no, but I'm sure she wouldn't mind.

Scene 2

Mum: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. That's funny. I'm sure I made 10 cookies. Billy, did you take 2 cookies from the plate?

Billy: No Mum. I've been outside the whole time.

Mum: Are you sure you didn't take them?

Billy: No Mum. Not me!

Scene 3

Betty: You know Billy, I really think we should tell your Mum about those cookies.

Billy: Oh, I don't know. I only took the cookies because I wanted to make you happy.

Betty: But the Bible says we shouldn't take things that don't belong to us. That's called stealing. Come on Billy. Let's go and see your Mum.

Scene 4

Mum: Hi, Betty. Hi, Billy.

Billy: Mum, I have something to tell you. I know what happened to the missing cookies. I took one for Betty and one for me. I'm sorry I took them without asking and I'm sorry I told you a lie when you asked me if I took them.

Mum: I'm glad you told me the truth Billy. God forgives us when we are sorry, and I forgive you too. Come on, let's make some more chocolate cookies together.

God is Truth- Themes 1

Dad's Birthday Cookies Activities

PART A

1. How many cookies did Mum make?
2. Who took the cookies?
3. What should Billy have done if he wanted cookies?
4. How did Billy get himself into even bigger trouble?
5. What happened at the end of the play?

PART B - God is Truth

Read:

God never tells a lie. Everything He says is true. He is the only true God. God wants us to worship Him and no one else.

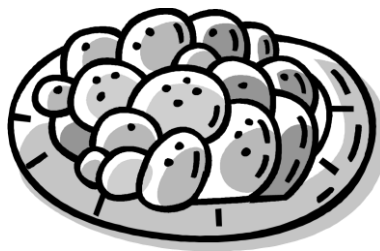
Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be truthful?

I can _____ the truth with my mouth.

I can _____ the things that I know are right.

Missing words: do speak



Ananias and Sapphira

Once there was a man called Ananias and his wife Sapphira. They were two people in the church.

God wants people to give money to the church. This is called giving money to God. God doesn't really use the money Himself. He doesn't need to buy things, but the church can use the money to help other people who need things.

Ananias and Sapphira knew that it was important to give money to the church. They sold a piece of land. It might have been a farm. We don't really know, but anyway, they got a lot of money for it.

Then Ananias had an idea. Why don't we say that we are giving all the money to the church, but really we'll give some of it, and keep the rest for ourselves. Then everyone will think how good we are for giving all the money.

Ananias and Sapphira took their money to the church.

"This is all of the money we got from selling the farm," said Ananias.

"Really?" said the person in charge of the money. "You kept none for yourselves?"

"No," said Ananias.

"Well then, God must be very happy that you have given everything to Him."

But God was not happy. Ananias had not told the truth. He only said that so that others would think he was a good person.

Sometimes people tell lies so that others will like them. Maybe they say that they have very special, expensive toys when really they don't at all. Maybe they tell lies about things they've done, or places they've been to, just to sound important.

God doesn't want us to tell lies about the things we do. He just wants us to be ourselves. He loves us just the way we are. We are all very special to God.

God is Truth - Themes 1



Ananias and Sapphira Activities

PART A

1. How did Ananias and Sapphira get the money?
2. What did they want to do with the money?
3. Did they give all the money?
4. Did they say they had given all the money?
5. Why was God not pleased with them?

PART B - God is truth

Read:

God tells what is true in the Bible. He wants us to obey the things He says. Telling the truth is being honest.

Missing words: honest Bible obey says

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be truthful?

I can be _____ .

I must tell _____ of the truth and not just _____ of it.

Missing words: part all honest

Bathtime

Billy

Hello everyone. I've just had a bath. I always feel so good after a bath. Don't you? Who likes having a bath?

Mum

Billy, don't forget to wash your hands and face.

Billy

Mum says I always forget to wash my face. Do you forget to do that too? I love sitting in the warm soapy water with lots of things to play with ... things like my bubble pipe and my toy boat and my plastic animals. Sometimes I make really, really big bubbles. Sometimes I put my plastic animals in my boat and make a Noah's ark.

Having a bath reminds me of something. Jesus said that we have to be clean on the inside as well as on the outside. That's funny. I don't get dirty on the inside. I get dirty outside when I play football, or make mudpies, or climb trees, or dig in the garden with Dad, but these things don't make me dirty on the inside.

I wonder what Jesus means when He talks about being clean on the inside.

I was unkind to my best friend today, and that made me feel awful. I suppose that's a bit like being dirty on the inside. I answered back my Dad this morning... and I disobeyed my teacher at school...and I took two chocolate cookies from the tin without asking Mum. I don't feel very good about those things.

Bathing with hot water and soap can make me clean on the outside but Jesus is the only person who can make me clean on the inside. He can forgive me and take away my sin.

I think I should say sorry to Jesus for all those things I did. And I'm going to say sorry to Mum and Dad and my teacher as well. I'm going to do that right away.

God is Pure – Themes 1

Bath Time

Activities

PART A

1. Draw some of your own bath toys.
2. Why do we need to take a bath or a shower?
3. What does it mean to be clean on the inside?
4. Who can make us clean on the inside?
5. Draw a boy or a girl who is very dirty. Draw a speech bubble and make them say something.

PART B - God is pure

Read:

God has never done anything wrong. God is pure. We sometimes say that a snowflake is pure white. This means it has no dirt or dust in it. Sin is doing the wrong thing. We can say that dirt spoils a pure snowflake. We can also say that sin spoils a life that is good. God has no sin, but people do.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can my life be pure?

I can ask _____ to forgive me for my sin.

I can try to do the things that are right and _____.

Missing words: Jesus good



Jesus Forgives Peter

There is a story in the Bible about a man who did something wrong, and he felt really bad about it. His name was Peter. He was a friend of Jesus. Do you remember when Jesus was captured by the soldiers and taken away to be killed on the cross? Peter got really scared and ran away in case they tried to capture him as well. He went to a place where he thought no one knew him, and stood by the fire to keep warm. Then someone recognised him. "Didn't I see you with Jesus?" asked the person. "Aren't you a friend of His?"

"No. No. Not me. You must be thinking of someone else," Peter said.

But after he had said that he felt awful on the inside. He had told a lie. He really was one of Jesus' friends, but was too afraid to say so.

We all know that Jesus didn't stay dead, but came alive again. When Peter met Jesus again, Jesus knew that he had told a lie about being His friend. Peter had to say that he was very sorry. That made him feel better on the inside, especially when Jesus said, "I forgive you".

God is Pure – Themes 1

Activities

PART A

1. Why did Peter run away after Jesus died?
2. What was Peter asked when he was standing by the fire?
3. How did Peter feel after he said he didn't know Jesus?
4. When did he feel better?
5. It is not always easy to stand up for Jesus. When might it be hard for you to stand up for Jesus?

PART B - God is pure

Read:

God has no sin. People do have sin. When we ask Jesus to forgive them, He takes away our sin. Then we feel clean on the inside.

Copy:

How can my life be pure?

I can ask Jesus to forgive me when I do something _____.

I can try not to do that wrong thing _____ time.

(Missing words: next wrong)

Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and Sarah loved God. They listened to God and did the things He told them. One day God told Abraham something he could hardly believe. God said that Abraham would be father of many children.

Sarah and Abraham were quite old. They had no children of their own, and were really too old to have children now. Abraham waited, day after day, for God to do the thing that He had promised. Abraham had to be very patient.

One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was lunch time. The sun was high in the sky and it was very hot. He looked up and saw three men. They were strangers.

"Please stop and rest," he said to the strangers. "Come and sit down under this tree and I will bring you a bowl of water for you to wash your feet. I will also get some food for you so that you will have strength for the rest of your journey."

"Thank you," said the men. "We accept."

Abraham went to Sarah.

"Quickly bake some bread from the best flour," he said. "We have some visitors."

Abraham went to get some meat, some milk and some cream as well. He set out the food under the tree and the men ate it. Then one of the men said, "Where is your wife, Sarah?"

"In the tent," said Abraham.

"Nine months from now she will have a baby," said the man.

Sarah heard the man say this. She was listening at the doorway. She laughed because she thought she was too old to have a baby. Then God spoke to Abraham. God said, "Sarah should not have laughed because there is nothing too hard for the Lord."

Nine months later, Sarah did have a baby. His name was Isaac. When Isaac grew up he had a son... When his son grew up he had a son... When that son grew up he had a son... and so the family kept on growing, until finally one of Abraham's great, great, great grandchildren had a very special baby. His name was Jesus. Abraham did become the father of many children...many great, great grandchildren and the father of a great nation. It was the nation of Israel.

Like Abraham we have to be patient in order to see God's promises come true. It may seem to take a long time, but if God says He will do something, we can be sure He will keep His word.

God is Patient – Themes 1

Abraham and Sarah Activities

1. Fill in the missing words:

Abraham and Sarah lived in a _____.

Abraham and Sarah did not have any _____.

God told Abraham that he would become the _____ of many children.

2. Draw the special visitors that came to see Abraham.

3. Who sent the special visitors?

4. What did the special visitors tell Abraham?

5. Why did Sarah laugh?

6. Fill in the missing words:

God said, "Nothing _____ too _____ for _____."



Jesus Goes Out To the Desert

Jesus always obeyed His Heavenly Father. As a boy He obeyed God. When He grew up to be a man He still obeyed God.

One day He went for a long walk in the desert. He stayed there many days. He did not take food with Him and he had no one to talk to. He just wanted to be alone with God.

The bad angel, Satan, was there in the desert too. You cannot see this bad angel, but you can see the things that he does. He makes people do evil things. Well, Satan thought that this would be a good time to make Jesus do something wrong. Satan talked to Jesus.

"Why don't you listen to me?" he said. "You could do some fantastic tricks like jumping off those rocks. Everyone would think how great you are if you jump off those rocks and don't hurt yourself."

Jesus knew that this was not what God wanted Him to do. Jesus didn't need to jump off rocks to make people think he was important. Jesus must do only the things that GOD told Him to do. God was His Heavenly Father and He must obey Him only.

"Get away from me Satan," said Jesus. He said "NO" to Satan, and after a while Satan left Him.

God is a Servant – Themes 1



Jesus Goes Out To the Desert

Activities

PART A

1. Why did Peter run away after Jesus died?
2. What was Peter asked when he was standing by the fire?
3. How did Peter feel after he said he didn't know Jesus?
4. When did he feel better?
5. It is not always easy to stand up for Jesus. When might it be hard for you to stand up for Jesus?

PART B - God is pure

Read:

God has no sin. People do have sin. When people ask Jesus to forgive them, He will take away their sin.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can my life be pure?

I can ask Jesus to forgive me when I do something _____.

I can try not to do that wrong thing _____ time.

Missing words: next wrong

Jesus Lived in a Family

Jesus, when He lived in the town of Nazareth, had a Mum and Dad and brothers and sisters. He lived in a family too. We know that His Mum and Dad were called Mary and Joseph. We know that one of His brothers was called James.

Jesus loved His family and would often help Joseph in the carpenter's shop.

Jesus lived in a house with a flat roof. It had steps going up to the roof. In the cool of the evening, Jesus may have sat with his family on the roof. Perhaps Joseph would tell a story or read from the Scripture. The house was very small. It had no bedrooms with beds. Instead, the family slept on mats, which were rolled up and placed out of the way during the day. This area then became the living room.

There were no taps in the houses of Nazareth. Instead, everyone would get their water from the village well. Jesus would go with Mary to the well each day, carrying their water pots. They would fill their water pots and carry them back home again. There were no supermarkets in Nazareth either. Mary would take Jesus to the local out-door market where they would buy the things they needed. Back home, Jesus would help Mary bake bread in a special oven over an open fire.

On the Sabbath day Jesus went with his family to the church. It was called a synagogue. Jesus listened hard for He wanted to learn as much as He could about His Heavenly Father. There were no books in the synagogue. The Scripture was read from a scroll.

Jesus loved His family very much. He felt safe in their care. Joseph and Mary were not rich. They could not buy lots of toys or fine clothes, but Jesus didn't mind. He knew that they loved Him very much, and that was most important. Jesus thanked God for His family.

God is Peace – Themes 1

Jesus Lived in a Family Activities

PART A

1. What do you think Joseph might have made in the carpenter's shop?
2. How do you think Jesus would help him?
3. How do you think Jesus helped His Mum?
4. Draw a picture of the house showing the outside.
5. Draw a picture of the house showing the inside.
6. Where did Mary buy their food?
7. How did they get water?
8. Why was the Sabbath a special day?
9. What is a synagogue?
10. How was the Scripture read in the synagogue?
11. Was Jesus from a rich family?
12. Why was He happy?

PART B - God is peace

Read:

Peace is like a calm feeling inside. When you have peace you do not worry. When you have peace you do not feel upset. God can give us peace.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I feel peace inside?

I can rest because I know God is looking _____ me.

I can feel safe because I _____ that my Mum and Dad look after me.

I can feel happy because I belong to a _____, just as Jesus did.

Missing words: know after family

Peter is Set Free from Prison

Do you remember the wicked king Herod? When Jesus was born, King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus. Wicked king Herod hated people who were Jesus' friends. Peter was a friend of Jesus. He had been put into prison because he was a friend of Jesus, and worse than that, king Herod planned to kill him.

However, God took care of Peter. In the prison Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. The soldiers were watching that Peter didn't escape. Peter's hands were tied together with chains.

Then suddenly an angel stood next to Peter. The room was filled with light. The angel touched Peter and said, "Get up quickly."

The chains fell from Peter's hands. "Get dressed," said the angel. "Put on your coat and shoes and follow me."

Peter did as the angel told him. Peter followed the angel past the sleeping soldiers. They kept on walking past more soldiers until they reached the great iron gate. The gate swung open by itself, and Peter and the angel walked out onto the street. Then the angel disappeared.

When Peter realised he was free he thanked Jesus, who sent the angel to save him from the wicked king.

Peter had some friends who had been praying for him to be set free from prison. Peter went to their house. The girl who answered the door was so excited that she ran back upstairs to tell her friends. "Peter's at the door!" she said. They could hardly believe it. Peter kept knocking until finally they let him in. They were so happy when Peter told them how the angel had saved him.

That same night, Peter ran away to another place where the wicked king could not find him. Not long after that, king Herod died.

God is Peace – Themes 1

Peter is Set Free from Prison Activities

PART A

1. Who did King Herod hate?
2. Why was Peter in prison?
3. What happened when the angel came?
4. Who sent the angel?
5. Why didn't the soldiers stop Peter?
6. Who had been praying for Peter?

PART B - God is Peace

Read:

God is so big. He loves us like a great big Dad. He watches over us. He also sends His angels to watch over us. We can rest because God keeps us safe.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I feel peace inside?

I can tell God that I feel _____ because He is caring for me.

I can tell Jesus that I do not feel _____ because He is with me.

Missing words: afraid safe

