

Stories of Faith – 3

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The Carpenter's Tools

The Carpenter loved His tools. Each one was precious to Him. He had a special place for each one, and always made sure that they were kept in excellent condition. His tools were valuable to him because He needed them to do His work.

One day, in the absence of the Carpenter, a quarrel broke out among the tools.

"I am the most important tool," said the saw, "for without me the Carpenter could not cut the wood to the shape He needs."

"No, I am the most important," said the plane, "for without me the Carpenter could not make the wood fine and smooth."

Then the chisel and hammer joined in. Each tool thought itself to be the most important.

The Carpenter returned. There was a hush over the workshop. He picked up the saw and set to work. Then he used the hammer, the chisel and plane in turn. After many hours, a beautiful wooden table was completed. The tools stared in wonder at the craftsmanship. Each tool realised that they had all been needed to get the job done. Each one was as important as the other. The Toolmaker had given each one a special ability.

God has made each individual special to Him. No two people in the world are exactly alike. No two people in the world have the same fingerprints. Even identical twins are different in small ways. God cares so much about us that He makes each person unique.

We all have special abilities. Some are good at drawing or singing. Others are good at running or swimming. No matter what talents we have, we should use them for God. Some people are naturally cheerful and friendly. Others have a natural desire to help people. For some, their special gift is bringing pleasure to others. When we use our gifts and talents for God, we are like lights shining out to the world.

God is Creator – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities – The Carpenter’s Tools

PART A

1. Who was the Carpenter?
2. How do we know that the carpenter cared for His tools?
3. Why was there a quarrel?
4. What is the meaning of *valuable*?
5. Who is valuable to God?
6. Name some of your friends and write down the special gifts and abilities that God has given them.
7. What special gifts and abilities has God given you?

PART B - God is creator

Read:

We are His special creation. We are more special than the animals. Psalm 139 tells us that we are wonderfully made. Everyone is special. Everyone is different. Everyone has something special they can do for God.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

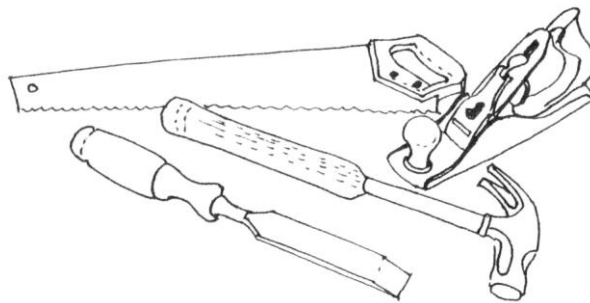
What can I do for God?

I can share His _____ with others.

I can do my very _____ for Him.

I can serve Him with the talents He has _____ me.

Missing words: best given love



Special Things for Justin

Justin Brown was eight years old. He had always wanted a dog of his own but Dad said there was a lot of responsibility involved in looking after a dog. There was the regular feeding, bathing, brushing and powdering, not to mention the exercising and provision of a warm place to sleep. "May be when you're older," Dad would say.

Justin would have loved the company of a dog. He didn't have many friends at school. Jonathan, his best friend, had recently moved away to another school. Justin wasn't good at football like the other boys, and somehow he always got left out of games.

"How was school today?" Justin's mother would ask as Justin sat down to his after-school snack.

"O.K.," he would reply sullenly. He didn't really want to talk about it.

"You know that God is a Heavenly Father who gives good things," said Mrs. Brown. "If you have a problem you can tell Him about it."

That night Justin told his Mum why he didn't like school anymore.

"It's not the same now that Jonathan's left. I don't have anyone to play with."

"Why don't we ask God our Father to help you make new friends," said Mrs. Brown.

Justin agreed, and together they asked God to do something really special for Justin.

"We don't know how God will answer our prayer, but we know that He will answer if we keep on asking," said Mrs. Brown. "God knows the best way to answer our prayers. He loves us, and only does what's best for us."

Each night Justin and his Mum would pray. Then it happened. A new boy came into the class.

"Justin, would you take care of our new class member, Peter?" asked the teacher.

Justin and Peter soon found they had a lot in common. They both liked drawing, liked the same T.V. programs, and both had the same secret wish...to have a dog of their own.

"Guess what, Mum!" shouted Justin as he ran in the door after school. I've made a new friend today. God really does answer our prayers!"

Mum had a big smile on her face. It looks as if God has given you more than one good gift today. Look what Dad's brought home for you.

Dad walked in with a little brown bundle.

"A puppy!" shrieked Justin.

"Your very own," said Dad. "I didn't want you to have a dog of your own until I was sure that you were responsible enough to look after it. I think you're old enough now. What are you going to call him?"

Justin thought for a moment.

"Pete," he said, taking the puppy in his arms.

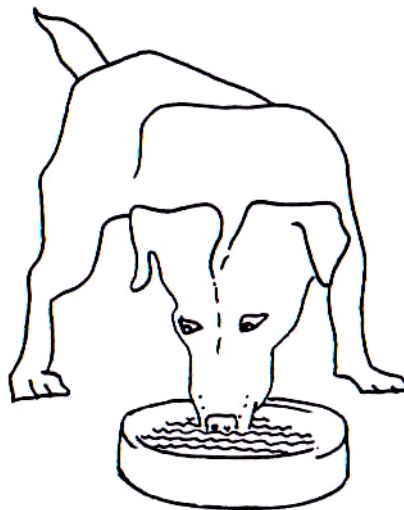
Then he remembered something.

"Thanks, Dad! You really are the best Dad in the whole world."

Justin gave Dad a big hug. Pete just gave Dad a big lick on the cheek.

"Pete's saying thankyou too," laughed Justin.

God is Love – Themes for Christian Studies 4



Activities – Special Things for Justin

PART A

1. Write a list of jobs you must do in caring for a dog.
2. What were Justin's special interests?
3. What did he **not** like doing?
4. Why was Justin unhappy in the first part of the story?
5. What did he decide to do about it?
6. How did things change?
7. If we don't get answers the first time we pray, what must we do?

PART B - God is love

Read:

God is a loving Father who gives good gifts to His children. Jesus told us to pray, "Our Father". Just as children ask their parents for the things they need, so too can we ask our Heavenly Father for the things we need.

Why do I need to pray?

Jesus told us to pray.

It is a way of showing God that we love Him.

It helps us to know God better.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I ask God for the things I need?

I can _____ to Him, and call Him 'Father'.

I can _____ Him for loving me so much.

I can thank Him for the things He _____ me.

Missing words: thank gives pray

Henri, the Boy from Paris

Henri was excited as the plane touched down on the runway. It had been a long journey from Paris, and he was full of curiosity about Australia. Henri's father had been given the opportunity to work in Sydney for two years.

Henri found that everything was different in Australia. The houses, the city, the people and the language they spoke were all new to him. Henri had learned some English at school in Paris but he still couldn't understand what people were saying. Henri didn't like his new school. It was all so strange, and nobody played with him. He couldn't understand what the other children were saying anyway. He was so glad when the bell rang at the end of each school day. Then he could go home to be with his own family. It felt so good when Dad came home at 5:30 and the whole family was together.

The first week had been difficult, but Henri was starting to like his teacher, Mrs. Green. She was kind and patient. On Thursday a new teacher came into the classroom. Henri was told by Mrs. Green, that this was Mrs. O'Brien who came each week to teach the children about the Bible. Henri listened carefully. Mrs. O'Brien told the children about Jesus. Yes, Henri remembered the stories about Jesus. He had heard these stories before in his own language in Paris.

That evening, Henri told his parents about Mrs. O'Brien and the Jesus stories. Henri's father thought for a moment.

"Let's find a church to go to each Sunday. Then you could learn more about Jesus and maybe make some new friends".

On Sunday, the whole family went along to church. What a surprise Henri received when he saw Mrs. O'Brien there. She soon introduced Henri's Mum and Dad to some of her friends.

Henri took his little sister along to the children's program. They had a great time. Even though Henri couldn't understand everything, he knew that the people here loved and accepted him. Henri learned more about Jesus and decided to make Jesus his special friend. When church was over he told Mrs. O'Brien.

"When you are a friend of Jesus you have lots of other friends too." she said. "It's like being part of a great big family. Just as you are loved by your own family, you are loved by God's family. Wherever you go in the world you will find people who belong to that family."

"Even when I go back to Paris?" asked Henri.

"Of course," replied Mrs. O'Brien.

But that didn't matter now. Henri was happy here in Australia. He had found a wonderful new family.

God is Love - Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities

PART A

1. Why didn't Henri like his new school at first?
2. How would you feel if you went to a school in another country, where they spoke a language you were not very familiar with?
3. Name two people who helped Henri.
4. Why did Henri get a surprise when he went to church with his family?
5. To make a fire you need lots of sticks, all placed together. If you separate the sticks while they are burning, one by one they will go out. Christians need to be together too. We need to share God's love with one another. What do we call being together with other members of God's family? Fill in the missing letters to make this word. You may need help from the dictionary.
fello_ _ _ _ _
6. How could you help someone who is new to your school or church?
7. Why is it good to be part of a family?
8. What is the family of God?

PART B - God is love

Read:

God is the Father of a big family. We are His children. The Bible tells us that those who receive Jesus become the children of God.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

Why is it good to belong to the family of God?

We can _____ one another.

We can _____ things together.

We can work together to bring others to _____ Jesus.

Missing words: know share help

The Wisdom of Solomon

Do you remember the story of David and Goliath? When David grew up he became king of Israel. David's youngest son was called Solomon. The Lord chose Solomon to be the new king when David died.

It was Solomon's responsibility to organise the building of the Lord's house. It would be a special building where people could come together to worship God. When Solomon was crowned king, he promised that he would always keep the Lord's commandments. After he was crowned, Solomon and the people went up to a place called Gibeon to give thanks to God. While they were there, God spoke to Solomon.

Read 1 Kings 3:4-14

Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do, and doing it.

Solomon needed wisdom. As king, Solomon had a lot of responsibility, and had to make a lot of decisions. He needed special wisdom in organizing the building of the temple. Solomon wrote many wise sayings. We can read them in a book called Proverbs.

There was a time when Solomon showed great wisdom in sorting out a quarrel between two women. The two woman came to Solomon. One had a baby in her arms. The other woman wanted the baby. The woman without the baby started to explain, "I gave birth to a baby, and three days later, this woman had a baby also. But she lay on the baby while she was sleeping and the baby died. She came to my house and stole my baby. Now she says that the baby is hers."

"No!" cried the woman with the baby. "You are lying. The dead baby is yours and the living baby is mine."

How was Solomon to know who the real mother of the baby was? God gave him wisdom.

"Bring me a sword," said Solomon. "I will divide the baby in two."

(Solomon didn't really intend to harm the baby, but the women thought he was serious.)

"No!" cried the woman without the baby. Let this woman have the baby! Don't kill him!"

King Solomon now knew who the real mother was.

"Give the baby to this woman," said the king. "She is the mother."

Soon all of Israel knew of Solomon's wisdom. God gave him wisdom because he chose God above everything else. He could have chosen to be the richest man in the world, but instead he chose to have the wisdom of God.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities

PART A

1. What did God say to Solomon at Gibeon?
2. What is wisdom?
3. Why is it important to have wisdom?
4. How did Solomon find out who was the real mother of the baby?
5. Why did God give Solomon wisdom?
6. What could Solomon have asked for instead?

PART B - God is wise

Read:

Sometimes we have to make choices and decisions. God can help us to know the right thing to do. Solomon chose to have wisdom rather than riches. We can make the same choice. Having Jesus in our life is far more important than being rich.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I become wise?

I can ask God for _____.

I can _____ to what God has to say.

I can act responsibly, even when we don't _____ like it.

I can listen to _____ and others who are wiser than me.

Missing words: listen feel wisdom parents

Scrooge

It was one week before Christmas.

"How can I afford Christmas presents for my children this year," sighed Jerry Thomas as he worked away in the office.

He looked at the time. Five o'clock and still another hour to go. The Christmas rush had meant that Jerry needed to work over-time every night now, and for no extra pay.

Mr. Scrooge, the boss, had not given Jerry a pay rise in two years. On the little money he received, Jerry could barely afford to buy food for his large family. The children were often in need of food and clothes. Then there were the bills to be paid.

Jerry would have changed to another job if it was possible, but both he and Mr. Scrooge knew that in such difficult times jobs were scarce.

"Maybe I could ask Mr. Scrooge for a pay rise," thought Jerry. "After all, it is Christmas."

Jerry took a deep breath as he walked to Mr. Scrooge's office and knocked at the door.

"Yes, come in," said a gruff voice. "Well, what do you want, Thomas! Didn't I tell you that everyone in this office works until six o'clock up until Christmas Eve?"

"Yes, I know sir," replied Jerry timidly. "But I was just wondering whether I could have a pay rise. After all, it is Christmas, and I haven't had a pay rise in two years. Please sir, I have a large family to provide for. I won't be able to afford any presents for them this year."

"How dare you!" shouted Mr. Scrooge. "Get back to your work at once. A pay rise is out of the question."

Jerry walked home that night with a heavy heart, knowing that there would be no Christmas presents this year, and certainly no special Christmas dinner.

Christmas Eve arrived, and Mr. Scrooge closed the office at six o'clock. He felt excited as he thought about the huge Christmas dinner his wife

would be preparing. Then there was the Christmas tree with all the expensive decorations, and the presents! He could hardly wait for Christmas day. He went to bed feeling very happy indeed.

During the night Mr. Scrooge had a dream. In the dream he saw himself at the office.

"No pay rises this year!" he heard himself say.

Then his dream took himself to the home of Jerry Thomas. He saw the children sitting around a table eating a Christmas lunch of bread and soup. Some of the children were still hungry, but there was no more food. There were no new toys for the children and no fancy decorations.

Then Mr. Scrooge heard a voice. It was the voice of his conscience. "You think you are very wise, Mr. Scrooge. You have a very profitable business and you have everything you could possibly want. But your money is worth nothing. You only think of yourself. The more you have, the more you want, and you don't care how you get it. Can you really enjoy this Christmas, Mr. Scrooge?" said the voice of his conscience.

Mr. Scrooge woke up with a start. It was six o'clock in the morning.

"Yes, there is still time," he thought to himself.

He grabbed some of the expensive presents he had put aside for his nephews and nieces. There were plenty to spare. He packaged up some food that had been prepared for his own Christmas table.

Jerry Thomas awoke to the sound of the door bell. He opened the door but there was no one there. He looked down and his eyes fell upon a large box wrapped in Christmas paper. On the box was a note signed, Mr. Scrooge.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities - Scrooge

PART B

1. What kind of a boss was Mr. Scrooge?
2. Why did Jerry need a pay rise?
3. At the beginning of the story, what was the most important thing in life for Mr. Scrooge?
4. How did Mr. Scrooge get what he wanted?
5. What does God say is the most important thing in life? (Matthew 6:33)
6. What made Mr. Scrooge change?

PART B - God is wise

Read:

God knows best. When Jesus is in charge of our life, we have God's wisdom, because He shows us what is right. Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do, and doing it. Having God's wisdom is better than being rich. King Solomon knew that God's wisdom was the most important thing in life, but Scrooge thought that money was more important.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I have God's wisdom?

I can _____ God for it.

I can tell Jesus that He is more important than all the money in the _____.

I can listen to what God _____ me to do, and then do it.

Missing words: world tells ask

The Exodus

God Prepares for the Rescue

In the Old Testament we read about a special group of people who trusted God. They were the Israelites. They suffered terribly because they were slaves to the cruel Egyptian Pharaoh. God saw how His people were suffering and decided on a special plan to rescue them. It was not easy. It would take time, as the Pharaoh's heart was very hard. He was determined to keep the Israelites as slaves.

God decided that the person to be in charge of the rescue plan was Moses. You may remember that Moses was the baby who was found in the bulrushes by the Pharaoh's daughter. He was adopted and cared for by the princess in the Pharaoh's palace. When he grew up, God showed him that he was an Israelite, and not an Egyptian. Moses knew that God's special power was upon him for the dangerous and very important task of setting the Israelites free from Egyptian rule.

Again and again Moses went to the Pharaoh and said, "God says 'Let my people go'". Each time the Pharaoh said, "No!" and his heart became more and more hardened.

The Israelites worked day after day making bricks for the Egyptians. If they did not work hard enough they were whipped. The Israelites cried to God to save them but the Pharaoh would not change his mind.

There was now only one thing God could do. That was to send plagues and disasters to Egypt to show the Pharaoh that God was very serious about the release of the Israelites. Sending disaster to Egypt would be the only thing that would make the Pharaoh agree to letting God's people go. In fact, God had to send ten different disasters to Egypt before the Pharaoh would finally let the Israelites go.

God is Protector – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities – God Prepares for the Rescue

1. Write the meaning of the word *adopted*.
2. Was the real mother of Moses an Israelite or an Egyptian?
3. Why did God have to send disasters upon Egypt?
4. Use your Bible to make a list of the ten disasters:

DISASTER 1 Exodus 7:14-18

DISASTER 2 Exodus 7:25; 8:1-4; 8:13-14

DISASTER 3 Exodus 8:16-19

DISASTER 4 Exodus 8:20-24

DISASTER 5 Exodus 9:1-7

DISASTER 6 Exodus 9:8-12

DISASTER 7 Exodus 9:13-26

DISASTER 8 Exodus 10:3-6

DISASTER 9 Exodus 10:21-23

DISASTER 10 Exodus 11:1-5

The Escape

God told Moses that the tenth disaster would be the final one. After this the Israelites were to escape. God told Moses exactly how the people were to prepare for the escape. Moses gathered the people together.

"Tonight we are leaving Egypt," he said. "Tonight at midnight, God will send the angel of death into Egypt. The oldest child in every family will die. However God will protect all the Israelite children. Every family must kill a lamb. Use the blood to make a sign on the door-posts of your houses. The blood should be placed down the side posts and across the top. Then when the angel of death goes through Egypt he will pass by your door and your oldest child will be safe."

The angel of death passed through Egypt at midnight, exactly as God had said, but the Israelite children were protected.

Then Pharaoh sent word to Moses, "Go. Leave Egypt! Take your children and your animals with you."

So God's people left Egypt that night. God went with them to show them the way back to their own land.

Activities – The Escape

1. How does God protect His people today?
2. Write about a time when God protected you.
3. When should we remember to ask God for protection?
4. What is God's rescue plan for all people? (John 3:16)
5. Why was the tenth disaster the most terrible one?
6. How did the Israelites escape the tenth disaster?

Part 3: God Rescues His People Again

The Pharaoh was sorry he had let the Israelites go. Even though God had sent ten disasters, Pharaoh had not learnt his lesson. He called his soldiers together.

"Get ready!" he commanded. "Take your horses and chariots and go after the Israelites. Bring them back to Egypt."

The Israelites were a big group. With their children and animals and all their goods they could only move slowly. It did not take long for Pharaoh's army to catch up. The Israelites saw them coming, and were terribly afraid. But Moses trusted God.

What did he say to the Israelites? (Exodus 14:13)

God had been leading the Israelites by a big cloud. God was in the cloud. Suddenly the big cloud was behind God's people. The sky became black over the Egyptians, but over the Israelites it was bright daylight.

Find out how God protected the Israelites from the Egyptians. (Exodus 14:21-31)

God had a rescue plan for **all** of His children. God is not just concerned about the Israelites. He has a rescue plan for all people. When people became separated from God through sin in the Garden of Eden, God needed to make a rescue plan so that all people could once again be friends with God. God's rescue plan was to send Jesus. Because of Jesus we can be forgiven for the wrong things we do and become friends with God.

Activities – God Rescues His People Again

PART A

1. How does God protect His people today?
2. Write about a time when God protected you.
3. When should we remember to ask God for protection?
4. What is God's rescue plan for all people? (John 3:16)
5. Why was the tenth disaster the most terrible one?
6. How did the Israelites escape the tenth disaster?

PART B - God is protector

Read:

When God first created the world, there were no dangers. The world was a very safe place. However, after Adam and Eve sinned, all sorts of trouble came into the world. God made a rescue plan. He sent Jesus. He watches over those who love and obey Him.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be sure that God is looking after me?

I trust Him as _____ Father.

I believe that He _____ a special plan for my life.

Missing words: has my

The Story of Gideon

The Midianites Rule Israel

Read Judges 6:1-10 .

What does the Bible tell us about the Midianites? (verse 2)

What happened to Israel because of the Midianites?

(verses 4-6)

What did the Lord send when the Israelites called to the Lord for help?

(verse 8)

Why had God allowed the Midianites to rule over the Israelites? (verse 10)

God Chooses Gideon to Set the Israelites Free

One day a man called Gideon was threshing his father's wheat to make flour. While he was working, an angel said, "God is with you Gideon. God is going to help his people now, and he wants you to be the leader."

"But I'm only a poor farmer," said Gideon.

The angel said, "God will be with you to help you."

Gideon was afraid to be leader. He asked God to give him a special sign to assure him that He really would be with him.

That night, he placed a sheep's fleece on the ground. He said to God, "If you really want me to save Israel, make the fleece wet by the morning."

In the morning the fleece was wet with dew, even though the ground around it was dry. This was the sign that Gideon needed. He knew that God had chosen him for a special job. He was chosen to save God's people from the cruel Midianites.

The Midianites are Defeated

Gideon couldn't fight the Midianites by himself. He needed an army. Soon he had 32,000 volunteers. But God said, "That's too many. Send home all those who are afraid." That only left 10,000 men.

God said, "That's still too many. Take the men to the river to drink. Send home all those who get down on their knees to drink. Keep only those who lay down on their stomachs and lap up the water with their tongues."

(When a soldier lies on his stomach to drink, his eyes can still watch out for the enemy.)

That only left 300 men.

Read how Gideon and his army defeated the Midianites.

(Judges 7:16-22)

God rescued the Israelites from the Midianites because the Israelites worshipped the true God. The Midianites worshipped false gods. The Israelites however, started to become disobedient. They started to worship false gods too. This is why God allowed the Midianites to rule over the Israelites for a while.

When God chose to set his people free, He wanted the people to know that it was through God's power that they were set free and not their own. When Gideon looked at the size of his army compared with the Midianite army, he was afraid. There were thousands of Midianites. Gideon's army was only 300 men.

God wanted it this way. He wanted to show that the battle was won through His power.

It seemed impossible for Gideon's army to win, but God is more powerful than men. God told Gideon what to do. The Midianites were so confused by all the noise that they thought they had lost the battle. They ran away in fright.

God is Powerful – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities – The Midianites Rule

PART A

1. Why did Gideon put the sheep's fleece on the ground?
2. Draw the men drinking at the river. Draw a circle around the ones that God chose to fight in the army.
3. Did the Midianites worship the true God?
4. Why had God allowed the Midianites to rule over the Israelites?
5. Why did God only want a few men to fight the battle?

PART B - God is powerful

Read:

God is king of the whole universe. He is in charge of everything. When it looks as if it is impossible for us to win the battle, then we must remember that nothing is impossible with God. We do not have to fight battles like Gideon, but we may have battles in life. When things go wrong, and it looks as if nothing will go right, then God's power can work for me!

Copy and fill in the missing words:

What should I do when things go wrong?

I should remember that God is more _____ than the problem.

I should remember that God _____ me and will make things turn out right in the end.

Missing words: loves powerful

The Sower and the Seed

There was once a farmer who wanted to grow some wheat. He took his bag of seed and started to throw it here, there and everywhere. He didn't plant each little seed carefully in the ground as you may do with peas or beans. That would take too long. He just threw the seed all around the field.

Well I'm sure you can guess what happened. Not all of the seed landed in the nicely ploughed soil. There was a little breeze blowing that day. Some of the seeds blew away and fell on to the road. That was no place for seeds to grow. It was far too hard, and the seeds would be trampled under people's feet. Besides that, the birds flying above could see the seeds lying there on the road so they would quickly swoop down and eat the seeds.

Some of the seeds blew away and fell on hard stones beside the road. The seeds would never have a chance to grow there. There was no soft soil for sending their roots down, and who would water them?

In one corner of the field was a thistle patch. Some of the seeds blew across there too. Very soon the thistles decided that they didn't want any little seeds growing in their patch. As the seeds tried to grow, the thistles took all the water from them, and then finally grew up so tall that the little plants couldn't get any sunshine.

Meanwhile, the seeds that fell on the fine ploughed soil sprouted. As the farmer watered them and the sun shone on them, the little seeds grew into beautiful heads of golden wheat. But the seeds that fell on the road, the rocks and among thistles just didn't grow at all.

Jesus told that story because He wanted people to understand their own hearts. When our hearts are ready to accept Jesus, God's word can be sown in our hearts and we will receive it with joy. As we learn more about Jesus and choose to love and obey Him, it is like sun shining into our hearts.

Some people however do not want to accept Jesus. Their hearts are hard, just like the road or the rocks in the story. There are still other

people who say, "Yes, I want to be a Christian," but later they see their friends who are not living for Jesus. They forget about Jesus and go with their friends. Their hearts are like the soil where the thistles grew. The soil is soft enough, but other things get in the way. Jesus wants us to have hearts that will receive His words and never turn away from them.

God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities

Make up some cartoon characters. Draw four fairly large boxes. In your boxes, draw four different backgrounds representing the four different types of soil. Now put one character into each picture and use speech bubbles to show what each one is saying.

First character, standing by the roadside

"I know what the Bible says, but I would rather live my old life."

Second character, standing on some rocky soil

"I'm so happy to be a Christian! Isn't it great!" "but it's hard being a Christian. I think I'll go back to my old life."

Third character, standing on thorny ground

"Yes. I'll be a Christian." "but I think I would have more money if I wasn't a Christian. I think I'll go back to my old life."

Fourth character, standing on the good soil

"Yes, Jesus. I will be your follower, I will never leave You."

Puzzle

If our hearts are to be like the good soil then we need to ____ God's word and _____ it. Then ____ and produce _____.

(Find the missing words from Mark 4:20)

Mary Jones and her Bible

Mary Jones was a girl who lived in Wales more than 200 years ago. If you look at a map of Great Britain you will find Wales next to England. In those days the people of Wales didn't speak English. They only spoke their own language, Welsh.

Mary started school when she was nine years old and soon became a very good reader. At school there was a big Bible written in Welsh. One day she was asked by the teacher to read aloud from the Bible. Mary was excited. She loved the Bible stories and was now able to read them for herself.

She told her parents about her opportunity to read the Bible at school, but at the same time felt sad that there was no Bible at home. Her family was poor and could not afford to buy a Bible.

Mary decided that she would save up to buy one, no matter how long it took. Mary worked hard. She collected fire-wood and helped her neighbours with cleaning and baby-sitting. Every job earned her a few pennies. Finally, after six years she had enough money.

Mary was fifteen now. She knew of a man who sold Bibles in a village 40 kilometres away. Mary decided to go to see this man.

"How will you get there?" asked her parents.

"I'll walk," said Mary. "I know I can walk that far."

"We will pray that God will keep you safe," said her parents.

Mary had only one pair of shoes. She knew that she couldn't afford them to wear out, so she decided to walk barefoot. It was rough and stony. Mary's feet became sore but she pressed on. Finally she arrived at the village.

"Can you direct me to the house of Mr. Charles?" she asked a friendly minister. The minister took her to the home of Mr. Charles.

"I'm so sorry, Mary," said Mr. Charles, "but I only have one Bible left and I have already promised that to a friend."

Mary started to cry. Mr. Charles felt sad too.

"Mary," he said, "I will let you have the Bible. My friend can have an English Bible while I am waiting to get some more."
Mary's tearful face quickly changed to a happy one.

The next day she started the long journey home with her Bible under her arm. After some days she arrived home. How happy her parents were to see her. God had protected Mary and helped her to get the Bible. Now they too could read the Bible.

Meanwhile Mr. Charles thought of Mary's eagerness to own a Bible.

"I'm sure there are others who would like to have their own Bibles as well," he thought. Mr. Charles went to London, and with a friend started working to produce Bibles for the many people who needed them. This involved translating and printing. It was his aim that one day there would be enough Bibles for the whole world. The work started by Mr. Charles in 1804 later became known as the British and Foreign Bible Society.

God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 4



Activities – Mary Jones and her Bible

PART A

1. What language did Mary speak?
2. Where is Wales?
3. How did Mary save enough money for a Bible?
4. How far did she have to walk to get the Bible?
5. Why did she walk barefoot?
6. Why was she disappointed when she got to the village?
7. What did Mr. Charles do for Mary?
8. What work did Mr. Charles start in 1804?

PART B - God is truth

Read

When we know the truth, then we must not turn away from it, even when things get difficult. God shows us His truth in His word, the Bible. Having the word of God in our hearts helps us to stay with the truth.

Look up the Bible verses and write sentences to explain how God's word can help us when we are:

angry.....James 1:19-20

sad.....2 Corinthians 1:3-5

afraid.....Psalm 27:1

The Angel of Light

Long ago, before the world was created, there lived a beautiful creature named Lucifer. The Father and the Son had created Lucifer along with many other beautiful creatures, but now they wished they had never made him. Lucifer had joined with some of the other creatures in a special plot to overthrow the Father and Son.

Lucifer declared war, and there was a battle in Heaven. The battle, however, could not be won by the evil forces. God's power proved to be greater than any evil power! Lucifer, and his army of evil angels, were thrown to a place of outer-darkness where they would live forever.

Meanwhile, the Father and Son decided to create a beautiful planet called earth, which would be home for man and woman. The man and woman were created to be friends with the Father and Son. However, someone in outer-darkness was watching. Once again he would try to destroy the power of the Father and the Son. He would try to make the man and woman obey him instead of their Creator.

Would the man and woman stand up to the test? Would they obey Lucifer or their Creator? To the Father's dismay, the man and woman chose to obey Lucifer. The Father was filled with sadness. There was now only one thing to do. The Son would have to be sent to earth to live amongst the people. He would become a man and later die. By doing this, the power of Lucifer would be broken, and once again the man and the woman could be friends with the Father. In order to be friends with the Father, the people would first have to accept the Son and ask Him for forgiveness.

Many did accept the Son, and for them, the power of Lucifer was broken. They were set free from their sadness, and were no longer persuaded by the evil one. They became children of God. Lucifer would sometimes try to make them return to following him, but as they continued to trust God they found the strength to resist the temptation of the evil one.

Although they still had to battle against evil, they knew that for them, the battle had been won. They now had the love of God in their hearts and knew that they would be God's children forever. They knew from reading God's special book that they had a place prepared for them in a beautiful city called Heaven. The book also told them that one day the work of Lucifer would be completely finished and he would be destroyed forever.

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities – The Angel of Light

1. What does Lucifer mean?
2. Who is Lucifer?
3. Why was he called by this name?
4. What did Lucifer do to try and be more powerful than God?
5. How did Lucifer gain power over the man and the woman?
6. How was this power broken?
7. What will happen to Satan in the end? (Revelation 20:10)
8. Read about the children of darkness and the children of light from 1 John 1:5-7 and Ephesians 5:8-11.
9. Make a list of opposites. Put the words showing **light** on the left, and the words showing **darkness** on the right. For example, *goodness* is the opposite of *sin*; *truth* is the opposite of *lying*. Draw yellow boxes around the words that show light, and black boxes around words that show darkness.

◆ WORKS OF LIGHT:

goodness, truth, love, kindness, faith, joy

◆ WORKS OF DARKNESS:

sin, lying, hate, unkindness, fear, sadness

10. *Look up these Bible verses and write sentences to explain what to do when we are:*

feeling selfish....Galatians 6:2-3

tempted.....Ephesians 6:10-11

Heaven

Heaven will be a beautiful place. It will be far more beautiful than any place here on earth. The book that tells us most about Heaven is the very last book of the Bible called Revelation.

What will make Heaven such a beautiful place? Firstly, it will look beautiful. Do you like gold and precious jewels? Well, Heaven is full of these. There is a city in Heaven called the Holy City. The whole city shines like a precious stone. In fact it is made of crystal. The city is as clear as glass and so are the walls around it. The foundation stones upon which the city is built are precious stones that we have here on earth. They are jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, carnelian, yellow quartz, beryl, topaz, chalcedony, turquoise and amethyst. The streets of the city are made from pure gold. Nothing impure is allowed into the city. That is why only the purest of metals and precious stones are used.

Another reason for Heaven being such a beautiful place is that there is no sickness, sadness, crying, pain or dying there. These things were brought into our world when Satan had his way in the Garden of Eden. However God has promised that Satan will one day be destroyed forever. He will be thrown into a lake of fire. None of his evil works will be allowed into Heaven. Just as everything used in the building of the city is pure, so are the people in it. God will take away all sin from people's lives if they have asked for forgiveness. There won't be any need for police in Heaven. You might think that all those precious jewels and the gold might get stolen. However, there is no risk of that happening. No one wants to lie, kill or steal, because those who live in Heaven are true followers of Jesus.

The Bible calls the people who live in Heaven 'the saints'. They are people who have had their names written in the book of life. The good thing is that any one can have their name written in the book of life if they truly want to be a follower of Jesus. Even people who have done really bad things on this earth can go to Heaven. If they decide to change, and to ask Jesus for forgiveness, then God will accept them. However, they must decide to become a follower of Jesus sometime during their life on earth.

There is a tree of life and a river of life in Heaven too. The river has pure water which sparkles as crystal. Its refreshing water gives life to all who live there. Near the river is a tree which gives fruit twelve times a year.

No one will need to sleep in Heaven because no one ever gets tired. It's just as well because there's no darkness. It's just beautiful daylight all the time. However, the sun does not make the light. Because God is light, He will be the light for us in Heaven.

God will sit on a beautiful throne in Heaven because He will be king. There will be angels in Heaven too. They are God's special messengers. However, we are more important to God than even the angels. We were created to love and praise Him, and in Heaven we will just love spending time with God, telling Him how much we love Him.

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 4



Activities - Heaven

PART A

1. What things will NOT be in Heaven?
2. Who will be in Heaven?
3. What is the Holy City like?
4. What is it made of?
5. What colours are the jewels? (Try to find out more information from books, an encyclopaedia, dictionary or computer.)
6. What will God be sitting on?
7. Why do you think the book of life, the tree of life and the river of life are needed in Heaven?
8. Draw a picture of Heaven.

PART B - God is pure

Read:

Although Satan was once the angel of light, his works are works of darkness. God uses the word **darkness** to stand for things that are evil. He uses the word **light** to speak about things that are good, pure and holy. Jesus tells us to walk in the light, just as He is in the light. This means that as followers of Jesus we must live a life that is good, pure and holy.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I walk in the light?

I live as a child of the _____.

I can show goodness and truth in my _____.

I can obey God's _____.

I can do what Jesus would _____.

Missing words: life do word light

The Little Red Hen

Once upon a time there was a little red hen who wanted to make a loaf of bread, but she had no flour.

"I shall grow some wheat," she said.

The little red hen asked her chicks to help her.

"First we must plant the wheat," she said.

The little red hen asked the other farmyard animals to help too.

"Who will help to plant the wheat?" she asked.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks planted the wheat by themselves.

The wheat grew, and the heads turned to golden brown.

"We must harvest the wheat," said the little red hen to her chicks.

"Then we must collect the grain and put it into sacks."

"Who will help me harvest the wheat?" the little red hen asked the other farm animals.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks harvested the wheat and put the grain into sacks all by themselves.

"Now we must take the sacks of wheat to the mill to be ground into flour." said the little red hen. "Who will help me?" she asked the other animals.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks took the wheat to the mill and brought back the freshly ground flour.

"Now it is time to make the bread," said the little red hen.

"Who will help me knead the dough?" she asked.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks made the bread by themselves. Soon some hot brown loaves were taken out of the oven. They smelled delicious.

"Who will help me eat the bread?" the little red hen asked.

"I will," said the cat.

"I will," said the dog.

"I will," said the mouse.

"Oh no," said the little red hen. "You wouldn't help me to plant the wheat, or to harvest the wheat, or to put the grain into sacks, or to take the sacks to the mill, or to knead the dough. My chicks and I will eat the bread ourselves. And they did!

God is Patient – Themes for Christian Studies 4



Activities – The Little Red Hen

PART A

1. Who refused to help the little red hen?
2. These are the things the little red hen had to do to make bread. Put them in the right order by writing a number next to each one:
 - ◆ knead the dough
 - ◆ take the sacks to the mill
 - ◆ plant the wheat
 - ◆ harvest the wheat
 - ◆ put the bread in the oven
 - ◆ put the grain into sacks
3. What is the meaning of *harvest*?
4. Find out the meaning of **diligent**. (Use your dictionary)
5. Doing lots of hard work, and sticking to it requires patience. What jobs do you need to have patience for?

PART B - God is patient

Read:

God does everything very well. When He created the world, God said it was good. He has taken patience and care to design plants and animals so beautifully. When watches were first invented, they were made very carefully by hand, using many, many tiny parts. A watch maker had to work with patience and care. God wants us to do things patiently and carefully. He wants us to do things well. Doing things patiently and sticking to the job, is being diligent.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be diligent?

I can do things with _____.

I can do things with _____.

I can try to do things _____.

I will not give up when the job seems _____!

Missing words: patience care well big

The Fisherman's Wife

This is an old folk tale about a lady who lived with her husband in an old shack. They were very poor. One day the husband went fishing and caught a large fish. To his surprise, the fish spoke.

"Please, Mr. Fisherman, let me go, for I am not really a fish but a prince."

So the fisherman let the fish go. When he went home, he told his wife about the fish. She exclaimed, "Why didn't you ask for anything first? Surely this fish could have granted you a wish. Go back and catch the fish again. Tell the fish that I am tired of living in this old shack. I want to live in a house."

So the fisherman went back to the sea and caught the fish again. He asked the fish to grant his wife's wish.

"Alright," said the fish. "Your wish is granted. Just let me go again."

When the fisherman returned home he found his wife living in a lovely house. But she soon became tired of the house.

"Go back and catch the fish again," she said. Tell him I'm tired of living in this house. I want a mansion."

So the fisherman went back to the sea and caught the fish again. He told the fish that his wife now wanted a mansion.

"Your wish is granted," said the fish. "Just let me go."

When the fisherman returned, he found his wife living in a mansion, but she soon became tired of it.

"I want to be a queen and live in a palace," she said.

Once more the fish granted her wish. But soon she became tired of being queen.

"Go back to the fish," she said to her husband, and tell him that I want to be God so that I can rule the world."

The fisherman went back to the sea. He caught the fish again and told him of his wife's request.

"Go home," said the fish, "and you will find your wife living in the old shack."

Of course, this story is only make-believe, but it does show us the danger of desiring to be too great, or more important than everyone else.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities

PART A

1. The fish said, "I am not really a fish but a _____".
2. Give two reasons why this story couldn't be true.
3. Put the steps in the story in order, by placing a number next to each.
 - ◆ The wife wanted a mansion.
 - ◆ The wife wanted a house.
 - ◆ The wife wanted to be God.
 - ◆ The wife wanted a palace.
4. What does Jesus say about being great? (Read Matthew 18:1-4)
5. How do we know the wife was proud?
6. What does it mean to be humble?
7. What does *The Fisherman's wife* story teach us?

PART B - God is a servant

Read:

Jesus was the greatest servant that ever lived. He was not proud. He did not boast about how good He was. He did not show off. He did things to help people. He always thought about others more than He thought about Himself. Jesus was humble. A humble person is not proud. A humble person does not try to be great. But a humble person IS great in the eyes of God.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be a humble servant?

I can think of others as being _____ important than myself.

I can _____ myself.

I do not have to _____ off.

I do not have to try to be _____.

Missing words: show great more be

Good King Wenceslas

This is a true story of a king who chose to serve others despite his high position.

One cold, snowy day, about Christmas time, King Wenceslas looked out of his window and saw deep snow all about. The moon was shining brightly, and he could see someone slowly walking along. It was a poor man in old clothes. The king saw that the man was stooping down to collect fire wood, but the wood was wet from being buried under the snow.

"That will not make a good fire," thought the king.
The king had a page boy. He was a sort of junior servant. The king called for the page boy.

"Do you know this man?" asked the king.
"Yes," said the boy. "He and his family live up on the hill."
"Then help me to take some things to his family," said the king.

The king gathered up some of his own good fire wood, and also packed some roast beef. The two set off in the bitterly cold wind. The king went first, carrying the wood, and the page boy followed, carrying the meat. The sky grew darker and the wind blew harder. The page boy found that he could hardly walk because the snow was so deep. When he put his feet into the snow he could hardly pull them out again.

"I can't go on," he said to the king.
"Never mind, boy," said the king. "Just watch my footsteps. Walk directly behind me and place your feet in my footprints."

So at last they made it to the poor man's house. When the poor man arrived home with his wet fire wood, to his surprise, he found a fire blazing and a good Christmas dinner of roast beef waiting for him.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities – Good King Wenceslas

1. What was wrong with the firewood the poor man was collecting?
2. What is a page boy?
3. How did the page boy help?
4. What did the king gather up to take to the poor man?
5. Why was the journey hard?
6. What did the king do for the page boy when he could walk no longer?
7. What surprise was waiting for the poor man when he arrived home?
8. What kind of king would you say King Wenceslas was?
9. What does Jesus say?
- 10 . If you want to be great in God's kingdom then you must become a _____ . (Matthew 20:26)
10. Which of these things will make a person greatest in God's kingdom? (Choose the best answers)
 - Having beautiful clothes.
 - Being rich.
 - Being an important person in the church.
 - Telling God, "I'm sorry."
 - Telling God that you need Him.
 - Being really clever.
 - Admitting that you have a lot to learn.
 - Being a good runner.
 - Being kind.
 - Being humble.
 - Knowing Jesus.

The Story of Granny Smith

Granny stirred the pot on the stove, singing quietly to herself as she worked.

"Autumn is my favourite time of year," she thought. "There's always so much to do... berries to pick, apple pies to make, and of course, crab apple jam."

"That should be enough cooking," she said, as she removed a very large pot of crab apple jam from the stove. Granny then proceeded to fill two dozen crystal clear jars with the beautiful red crab apple jam.

"Now for the labelling," she said.

On each of the jars Granny proudly placed her own personal label...

GRANNY MARIA ANN SMITH

CRAB APPLE JAM

4th April 1902

Of course there was now the cleaning up to be done. Granny gathered up the scraps. She put these in the barrel with the remains of the crab apples.

"All good for compost," said Granny. "Nothing to be wasted."

Granny threw the contents of the barrel on to the compost heap and continued cleaning up.

Months went by...

Granny gave no more thought to the crab apples. However, when Spring arrived, Granny noticed a small seedling growing out of the compost heap.

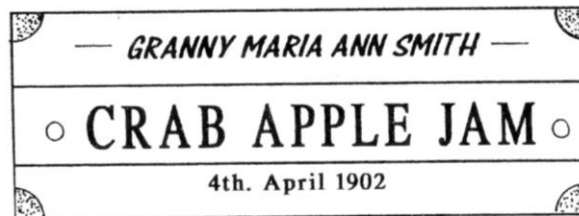
"Looks to be a small apple tree," she said, "just in the place where I threw those crab apples last Autumn."

Granny carefully transferred the seedling to some good soil in a protected part of the garden. As years went by, Granny watched the tiny seedling develop into a fine apple tree. Then one Summer she noticed some small green apples on the tree. By Autumn they had grown into large green apples, quite unlike any she had ever seen.

The story of Granny Smith is a true one. The large green apples were the delicious Granny Smith apples which are now world famous. The discovery of the new variety of apples near Sydney many years ago is something for which all Australians are very grateful. The story reminds us too that something good can come from something that looks useless. Just as new life can come from a seed which is thrown away, Jesus can give new life to people.

God said that all people need a new start. At some stage in their life, every person needs to put their old life behind them and make a new start with Jesus. Jesus can forgive us for everything. The new life that Jesus gives us is the beginning of living forever. The Bible calls it eternal life.

God is Life - Themes for Christian Studies 4



Activities – Granny Smith

PART A

1. How do we know that Granny liked making jam?
2. What time of year did she make jam?
3. What are crab apples?
4. What did Granny do with the scraps and peelings?
5. What colour were the new kind of apples?
6. What is the name given to this kind of apple?
7. Where did this happen?
8. Find out what John 17:3 says about eternal life.
9. Write a sentence about each picture on the next page.

PART B - God is life

Read:

God has always been there. God will always be there. This means He is eternal. He has always lived, and will always live. By giving our lives to Jesus, we can live with Him forever. We too can have eternal life. The story of Granny Smith reminds us of something new coming from something old. When we become a Christian, God gives us a new life.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I give my life to Jesus?

I can ask Him to forgive me for my _____.

I can invite Him to live in my _____.

I can be His follower, and do the things He wants me to _____.

Missing words: life sin do

The Skate-board

Eric was eight years old when he came to Hawaii with his mother and two older sisters to live with Youth With A Mission.

Skate-boards were 'in' at the time, and just everybody had a skate-board...Everybody, that is, except Eric. Whenever they were near the shops, Eric was always found to be gazing longingly at skate-boards.

"Mum, why can't I have a skate-board?" he begged one day.

"You know why, Eric. I'd love to be able to buy you one but we just don't have the money for it at present. If you want one so badly, why don't you pray to our loving Heavenly Father?" said Mum. So Eric began praying earnestly for a skate-board.

One Sunday, not long after this, the family were driven home from church by a young man. When he opened the trunk (boot) of his car to hand them their things, Eric noticed a skate-board there.

"Could I try it out please?" he begged.

The owner was happy to allow Eric to ride it, and when he saw how much it meant to him, he said, "Eric, would you like to have it? I'd be glad to give it to you."

Eric was delighted! It wasn't the shiny plastic new one he had dreamed about but it was a skate-board and he received it joyfully.

As soon as they arrived home Eric took the board outside to look for a place to ride it. But there were only rough stony paths and roads around their home, so he pleaded with his mother, "Mum, would you please take me to some place where I can ride it properly? It's so rough and rocky all around here."

So Jan, his mother, agreed to take him after supper that evening. They found a cul-de-sac, (court) where the road had been sealed but no houses had yet been built...a nice safe piece of road for a skate-board rider.

Jan settled down by a street light to read whilst Eric set off up the slope with his treasured skate-board. For a few minutes all went well. Then suddenly the regular rumbling of wheels on road was broken by a cry of despair, and then a 'clunk, clunk, clunk' that faded into silence.

"Oh no!" cried Eric as he ran crying to his mother. "Mum, my skate-board's gone down the drain! Look, it went under that metal grid there."

Mother and son were equally distressed. How could it happen that after longing and praying for so long, he should ride it for five minutes and then lose it? It seemed so wrong!

There was no way to retrieve the board, so they climbed back into the car and drove off home, both in tears. But as they drove, God spoke to Jan, who took up the message and spoke it out to Eric.

"Eric, we're going to stop crying. This is nothing more than an opportunity to prove God's faithfulness. The Bible tells us we are to praise God and thank Him in all situations. That's what we're going to do right now, and God is going to show His faithfulness."

So Jan began to praise God. Eric was silent.

"Come on Eric, you must praise Him too. I know it isn't easy, but it's what God wants you to do."

Eric looked up questioningly at his mother. "How can I thank God when my favourite play-thing has just gone down the drain," he thought. However his mother encouraged him, and soon Eric was able to praise God too.

After the children had gone to bed, Jan pondered the situation. "Lord, I don't know how You're going to do this, but I just believe You will prove Yourself for Eric's sake."

Next day she called the council authorities to inquire whether they could retrieve the skate-board.

"I'm sorry, ma'am, but we have to wait for volunteers for a job like that! I can't send a worker out."

"Well," ventured Jan, "if I found volunteers, would you object if we lifted the grid and climbed down into the drain to look for the board ourselves?"

"No, that's alright, ma'am. We'd allow that."

"Oh! Thank you so much," said a relieved Jan.

"But be careful!" came the final comment, "It's twenty feet down!"

Jan found two young sturdy men who were willing to go down the man-hole to search in the drain. They gathered some strong rope and boarded a truck to drive up to the drain in the cul-de-sac. They tied knots for hand-holds along the rope and then, with all the strength they could muster, they removed the grid that covered the drain. The rope was secured to the truck, and then lowered down the man-hole. Down went Stan, into darkness, and right out of sight.

"Are you alright down there? they called from the top.

"Yes, I'm fine," he called back.

"Can you see the skate-board?"

"Yes, I see it. And there's something else down here too."

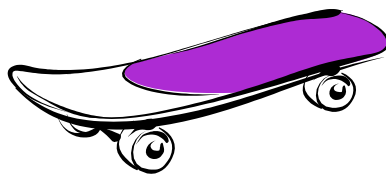
Soon Stan was up to the top again, a broad grin of triumph on his face.

"Here's your skate-board, Eric," he said as he handed it back to it's happy owner. "And look what else was there."

He held up another skate-board...almost brand new.

"Oh!" cried Eric, ecstatic, "That's just the kind I wanted, and it's almost new. Thank you Stan. Thank you Mum for helping me to trust God. Thank you Heavenly Father. You are so very good to me. You've given me just the kind of skate-board I need."

God is Provider – Themes for Christian Studies 4



Activities – The Skateboard

PART A

1. Why do you think God provided a skate-board for Eric?
2. Do you think that God would provide every toy we ask for?
3. When Eric lost the skate-board, his Mum said that they should try to praise God anyway. Choose the best answers:

Praising God when things go wrong shows us that:

- ◆ God likes things to go wrong.
- ◆ God wants us to trust Him because He is in charge.
- ◆ God is more important than anything.
- ◆ God doesn't care when things go wrong.
- ◆ We can be happy because God can turn bad things to good.

4. How did Eric get his skate-board back?
5. How did God turn a bad thing into something really good?

PART B - God is provider

Read:

God loves us and wants to give us good things. He wants to make us happy. This doesn't mean that we will get a new bike or the latest new things every time we ask for them. However, sometimes God provides in special ways, just because He loves us.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

What should I ask God to provide for me?

I can ask to keep me _____ and healthy.

I can ask for food, _____ and a place to live.

I can ask for _____ friends.

Occasionally I can ask for something _____.

Missing words: clothes safe good special

The Master Musician and His Son

Long ago, in a place called Musicland, lived a Master Musician and His Son, who created the most beautiful music in the whole world. Everyone who lived in Musicland was gifted in playing an instrument, and they would often come together for a great performance. The Master Musician and the Son were not only the greatest composers, but also the greatest conductors as well. Only They knew exactly how the music should sound, and only They could direct the orchestra with the necessary skill.

Under Their direction, the orchestra produced beautiful, harmonious music. As long as the musicians followed the Master Musician and the Son, they would not only produce beautiful music, but also live in happy harmony with each other.

There was one member of the orchestra who excelled above the rest. His name was the Musician of Light. The Master Musician and Son decided to train him so that one day he may become a conductor too. The Musician of Light worked very hard, but one day he thought of an idea which was not a good idea...in fact it was an evil idea. He decided that he could become greater than the Master Musician and Son, and even overthrow them. He waited cunningly for his opportunity.

One day, in the absence of the Master Musician and Son, the Musician of Light called the orchestra together. He had composed some new music, which he thought would make him famous. As he trained the musicians in this new kind of music, something very strange happened. Instead of the beautiful, harmonious sounds, there was clanging and jarring and scraping. The music made the musicians agitated and unhappy. They started fighting amongst each other. Some became jealous of others and hate grew in their hearts.

Suddenly the Master Musician returned! As He walked on to the stage the musicians were afraid. The Master Musician raised His hands to conduct the music, but only clanging, jarring and scraping sounds came from the orchestra.

The Musician of Light, with an evil look in his eye, crept off the stage. The Master Musician knew immediately what had happened. From the moment the musicians had decided to follow the evil musician, they could only play his kind of music. They could no longer play the music of the Master Musician. There was now a huge barrier between them. The Master Musician was heart broken.

However, there was a way by which the barrier between the Master Musician and the orchestra could be broken. The Son would have to be sent to fight the evil musician. If the musicians would listen to the Son and follow Him, then the relationship between the Master Musician and the orchestra would be restored.

With great sorrow in His heart, the Master Musician asked the Son if He would be willing to take on the mission. The Son agreed to the plan, even though he knew that the fight against the evil musician would be a painful struggle.

One day, as the Musician of Light was conducting the orchestra, the Son appeared on stage. The fight began. The Son wrestled and struggled with the Musician of Light. The Son endured the cruel blows of the evil one. After a long struggle the evil musician was defeated. Knowing that his time had come, he ran off stage. He gathered up a group of followers and started his own orchestra in another part of Musicland.

However, many were happy that the evil musician had been defeated. They decided that from now on they would follow the Son. In making that decision, something happened inside them. As they lifted their instruments, the beautiful sound of the Master Musician's music was heard once again. The Son had broken the barrier. The musicians were again at one with the Master Musician. They loved the Master Musician and they loved the Son, and they were once again very happy.

God is Peace – Themes for Christian Studies 4

Activities – The Master Musician and His Son

PART A

1. Describe the music of the Master Musician and His Son.
2. Find out what **harmony** means.
3. What does it mean for people to live together in harmony?
4. Who wanted to become greater than the Master Musician?
5. What kind of music did the orchestra make under the control of the Musician of Light?
6. Find out what **agitated** means.
7. What happened to the musicians when they played this kind of music?
8. What is a barrier?
9. In the story, who had caused the barrier?
10. Who battled with the Musician of Light?
11. Who won the battle?
12. Who is the Son?
13. Who is the Musician of Light?
14. In real life, what has the Son done for us?

PART B - God is peace

Read:

The battle between darkness and light has been won! Just like in any war, there needs to be peace to end the war. The war was between Satan's kingdom of darkness and God's kingdom of light. God made peace when He sent Jesus to die on the cross. Before Jesus came, people were separated from God. That's because Satan had made a wall, caused by Adam and Eve's sin. Jesus broke down that wall. He made peace.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I have peace with God?

I can _____ to be with Jesus and not against Him.

I can _____ Jesus and be His follower.

I can _____ Jesus to be in charge of my life.

Missing words: receive decide ask