

Stories of Faith - 2

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James

James Blake was the naughtiest boy in the class. He was always getting others into trouble. He spent a lot of his time sitting on the steps outside the principal's office. James didn't have many friends. He thought that by doing naughty things, everyone would notice him, but it didn't really help people to like him. He was always causing trouble. One day he deliberately wrecked a model that some of the boys were making. That started a big fight.

James's teacher didn't know what to do about James. James's Mum just didn't know what to do either. It would soon be school holidays, so it was decided that James would go and spend two weeks with Grandma and Grandpa.

James liked staying with Grandma and Grandpa. Grandpa was his special friend. James loved to make things with Grandpa in the workshop. Grandpa was really good at making things, and he would show James how to use some of his woodworking tools.

"How would you like to make a little sailing ship?" asked Grandpa.
"That would be great!" said James excitedly.

Day after day the two worked together in the workshop.
"What are you two making?" asked Grandma.
"It's a surprise," said James.

They worked in the little ship for three whole days. James sanded the base of the little ship until it was very smooth. Then Grandpa drilled some holes for the masts. James put some glue in the holes and placed the two masts carefully in the holes.
"You can make the sails now," said Grandpa.
"I'm going to make a flag too," said James.

James worked carefully as Grandpa watched.
"I wish I didn't have to go to school," said James.
"Why?" asked Grandpa.
"Nobody likes me...and I'm always getting into trouble," James replied.
"I don't really like doing the things I do, but I just can't help it."

"Well there is Someone who loves you very much, James. Not just Grandma and I. Not just your Mum and Dad. Jesus loves you too you know. He can be your best friend...and He can help you be a good friend to others too. If you want Jesus to be your friend you must ask Him to forgive you for the wrong things you've done. Then ask Him to come and be your special friend. He'll help you to do the things that are right. Maybe if you really try to be a good friend to others, they will want to be your friend too."

James knew that Grandpa was right. After the holidays, he went back to school quite a different person. James couldn't wait to show his little sailing ship. Everyone looked at in amazement.

"It's wonderful!" said his teacher. "Your Grandpa must be a really special friend."

"Yes, he is," said James with a big smile.

James tried hard to be a good friend to others that term. The other children started to be friends with him too. James was happy about that, but most of all he was happy about his most special friend, Jesus.

God is Love – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities - James

PART A

1. What did James like to do with Grandpa?
2. Why was Grandpa a good friend?
3. How did Grandpa help James?
4. Who does Jesus love?
5. Draw the little boat that James made with Grandpa.

PART B - God is love

Read:

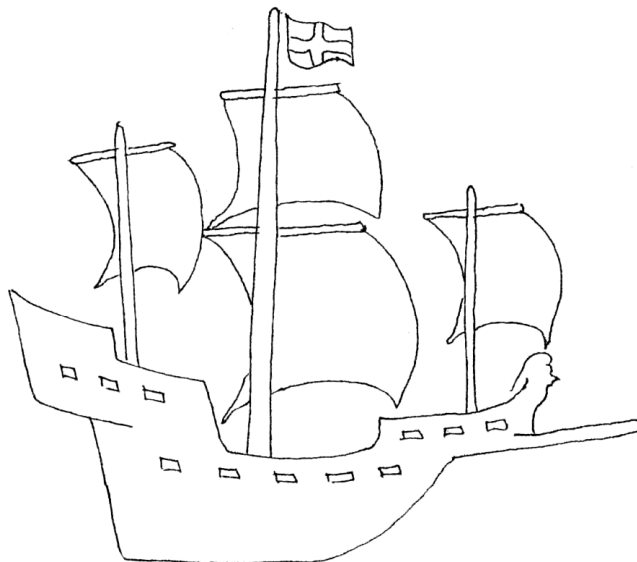
God loves everyone in the whole world. He even loves bad people. He loves them because He made them. God wants all people to come to Him and to love Him.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

I can be _____ to everyone, even when they do wrong things.

I can look out for people who are lonely or _____, and try to _____ them.

Missing words: help kind sad



Matthew the Tax Collector

Matthew was a tax collector. Tax collectors were people who used to collect money for the king. The king would use the money to build roads and bridges and other things the country needed. Most tax collectors were dishonest. They would keep some of the money for themselves. Zacchaeus was one who did this. People did not like tax collectors.

We don't know whether Matthew was dishonest, but we do know that when Jesus asked Matthew to be His follower, Matthew left his tax collecting at once. Lots of Matthew's friends wanted to meet Jesus too. They all came to see Jesus at Matthew's house. Some people, called Pharisees, said, "Isn't Jesus supposed to be a good person? Why is He making friends with all the dishonest men?"

Jesus heard them talking. He said, "I haven't just come to help good people. I have come to help sick people, poor people and dishonest people like these tax collectors! The Pharisees went away but Matthew wanted to stay with Jesus forever. He was so happy that Jesus had been kind to him, a tax collector! He was so happy that Jesus had forgiven him for all the wrong things he had ever done.

God is Love- Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Matthew the tax collector

PART A

1. What is a tax collector?
2. Name two people who were tax collectors.
3. Who were the Pharisees?
4. Did the Pharisees like Jesus for making friends with bad people?
5. What did Jesus say to them?

PART B - God is love

Read:

Jesus showed God's love when He lived on earth. He even showed love and kindness to people like tax-collectors. Tax collectors were not good people. The love of Jesus changed the lives of these people. Bad people became good people.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I show God's love to others?

I can _____ people that God loves them.

I can tell people that God can change their _____.

Missing words: life tell

Helen Keller

When Helen was little more than one year old, she became very ill. When she recovered from the illness, her parents found that their little girl could no longer see or hear.

It was a frightening experience for a little one year old, to find herself suddenly in a world of darkness. She just clung to her mother's dress all day as her mother went about the housework. Her mother loved Helen very much and helped her understand the world around her.

By the time Helen was five she was able to help her mother fold and put away the clean clothes. She was even able to tell her own clothes from the rest.

Three months before Helen turned seven, a teacher came to live with them. Miss Sullivan would be Helen's own personal teacher. Miss Sullivan taught Helen to understand letters which she would spell into the palm of Helen's hand. Helen could tell one letter from another by feel alone. Soon she was able to put letters together to make words. Helen learned to make words into Miss Sullivan's hand too, and before long they were able to talk to each other using the silent language.

Miss Sullivan then taught Helen to read words, which were written in raised type, on special pieces of cardboard. Helen could read the words by feeling the letters. This was called Braille. Miss Sullivan would play hide and seek with Helen using the Braille word cards. It was Helen who actually thought up the game. One day she pinned the Braille word, 'girl', on her dress and hid in the wardrobe. She had left some other words on the shelf, as clues for Miss Sullivan. The words were: 'is', 'in', "wardrobe". This meant that Miss Sullivan had to go and look for Helen in the wardrobe. She and her teacher played this game for hours at a time.

Because Helen was only one year old when she became deaf, she had not been able to speak with her voice as we do. When Helen was ten, Miss Sullivan heard about a deaf girl in Norway who had been taught to speak using her voice. Helen wanted to try to do this too. It was very difficult because she had to learn how to say sounds by feeling the position of the teacher's tongue and lips as the sound was being made.

Then Helen would have to copy what the teacher did. On her first day, Helen had managed to imitate six sounds!

Helen never gave up. She kept trying until she was able to speak using her voice. When she was older, Helen helped others who had problems like herself. She wrote books and travelled the country giving speeches about helping the blind and deaf. She didn't need her teacher any more, but she always remembered Miss Sullivan, who had been so patient and kind to her. Helen thanked God for giving her Miss Sullivan.

Helen Keller was born in the U.S.A. and lived from 1880-1986.

God is Love – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Helen Keller

PART A

1. When did Helen become ill?
2. What happened to Helen because of the illness?
3. How did Helen's mother let Helen help around the house?
4. How did Miss Sullivan help Helen?
5. How did Helen learn to speak?
6. Why would we say that Miss Sullivan was patient and kind?
7. If you knew someone who was blind or deaf, how would you show love and kindness to them?

PART B - God is love

Read:

God is kind. God is patient. People can show God's kindness and patience in their lives. The Bible says, 'love is patient and kind'. Showing God's love to others is showing His patience and kindness. God wants us to show His love to everyone, especially those who cannot do things as well as we can.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I show God's love to others?

I can be _____ to people who can't do things as well as I can.

I can look out for ways to _____ people who have needs.

Missing words: help kind

The Three Little Pigs

Once upon a time there were three little pigs. The first little pig was a thoughtful little pig. He listened to everything his mother and father told him and did as they said without complaining. But the second and third pigs were such noisy, boisterous little pigs. They didn't have time to listen to their mother and father. They were always too busy squealing and playing in the mud.

The little pigs grew up, and one day Father Pig said to them, "It is time you little pigs went out and built a house for yourselves. You eat so much and you are growing very big. It is really getting too crowded in this pig house. Remember all that I have told you about building a house," he added.

So the three little pigs left home in search of a place to build a house. The first little pig took his father's advice. He found a good, firm, solid patch of ground. He went ahead and built a house of bricks. The second and third little pigs, however, did not care so much for a good firm piece of ground. After all, they loved mud, so they each chose a slippery, sloshy mud patch upon which to build their houses. The second little pig went ahead and built a house of sticks. The third little pig went ahead and built a house of straw.

The three little pigs made themselves very comfortable in their houses. However, one day, along came a big bad wind. The big bad wind huffed and puffed and blew down the straw house of the third little pig. Then it huffed and puffed again and blew down the stick house belonging to the second little pig. The two little pigs ran and ran, squealing all the way, to the house of the first little pig. The first little pig was sitting peacefully in his brick house, which was still standing securely on its firm foundation.

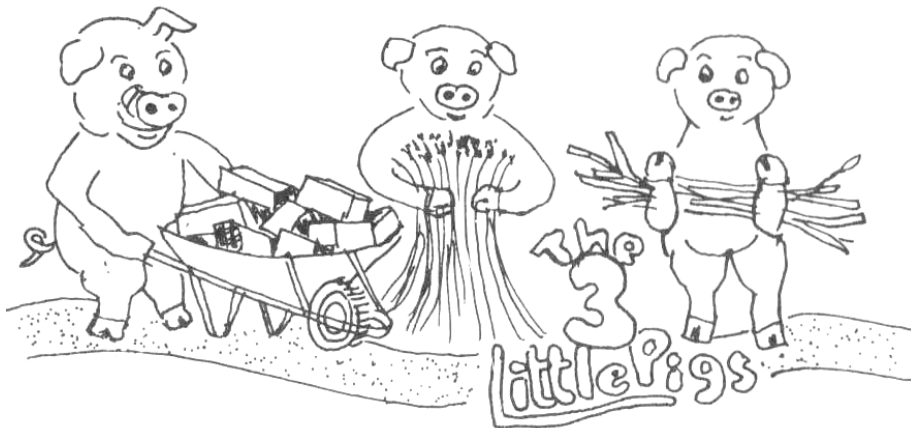
The two little pigs knocked on the door. "May we come and live with you?" they asked when the first little pig opened the door. Well, the first little pig was not really surprised. "Yes, you may come and live with me," he said.

The three little pigs sat comfortably in the brick house on the firm foundation. Then along came the big bad wind once again. It huffed and puffed, and blew and blew, but it could not blow the house down. So the three little pigs lived happily together in the brick house.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

1. What did the second little pig use to build his house?
2. What did the third little pig use to build his house?
3. Why was the first little pig a wise little pig?
4. This is like the story of the wise man who built his house on a rock. Why would brick be similar to rock?
5. What do these words mean?
securely thoughtful foundation



The Wise and Foolish Builders

Jesus told a little story about two men who built houses for themselves. The first man chose a good place on solid rock. Although it was harder to build on rock, the man knew it was worth the extra work. Before long, there was a terrific storm. The wind blew furiously and the rain teemed down. Soon there was a great flood, but the house did not fall for it was built on rock.

The other man was foolish for he chose an easy place on low, sandy ground. His house did not have a solid foundation. When the storm and floods came it fell down with a loud crash.

Jesus then said this to the people who were listening to the story: "Everyone who comes and listens to Me, and obeys Me, is like a man who built on a strong foundation." We can know a lot about Jesus, but we are not wise unless we do what He says to do. Jesus wants to live in our hearts and lives. Then our lives will be built like the house on the rock.

Because God is wiser than anyone, He always knows what to do. If you have invited Jesus to live in your life, then He will help you when you don't know what to do. Maybe you have a really big problem that you don't know how to solve. Jesus can help you.

Think of times when Jesus can help you. What must you do if you want Him to help you?

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – The wise and foolish builders

PART A

1. Where did the wise man build his house?
2. Where did the foolish man build his house?
3. Who should we build our life on?
4. Write the meaning of these words:
solid **furiously** **teemed**

PART B - God is wise

Read:

God knows everything. He always knows the right thing to do. If we want to know the right thing to do, then we should ask Him. We can find out what God has to say in the Bible. Knowing the right thing to do, and doing it, is being wise.

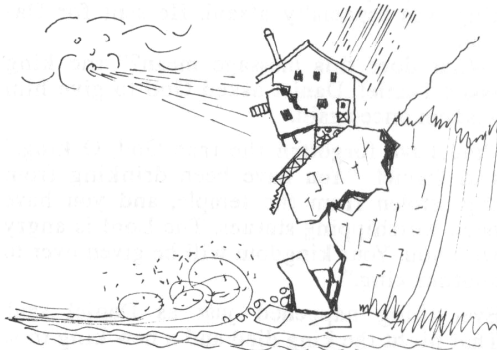
Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be wise?

I can do what God _____ me to do.

I can build my life on _____.

Missing words: Jesus tells



Daniel

This is a true story about a man who needed God's wisdom in two different situations. He didn't know the answer himself so he asked God for wisdom. The man's name was Daniel and his story is found in the Bible.

In the land of Babylon lived a King called Nebuchadnezzar. He was not a good king. He did not worship the true God. He had captured some of God's people to work for him in the palace. One young man was Daniel.

Daniel was a good man who loved God. Sometimes the king would worship statues, and he asked others in his kingdom to do the same. But Daniel would never worship a false god. God was pleased with Daniel and gave him wisdom. Daniel became wiser than all the other men in the kingdom.

One day the king had a dream. He was very troubled because he didn't know the meaning of the dream. He asked the wise men, but they didn't know. Then he asked Daniel.

"If you can tell me what the dream means," said the king, "I will reward you."

"I can't tell you what the dream means," said Daniel, "but God can. I will ask Him."

Daniel asked God to tell him the meaning of the dream. God told Daniel that the dream was about Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom which would one day be great. Daniel told this to the king, and the king was very pleased. He gave Daniel many gifts and gave him an important position in the kingdom. The king made it known that Daniel was the wisest man in the kingdom.

Some years later, Nebuchadnezzar died and his son became king. Like his father, the new king did not worship the true God. The new king did something that greatly displeased God. He stole gold and silver cups from God's temple and used them at a special feast. During the feast the people worshipped statues of silver, wood and stone.

God was so angry with the king that He sent Him a special message. This is what happened. While the people were eating and drinking, a hand appeared. It wrote a message on the wall. God made the hand appear and God wrote the message. The message was in a language that no one could understand. All the people at the feast were afraid. The king was especially afraid. He sent for Daniel.

"What does this message mean?" the king asked Daniel. Daniel asked God to give him wisdom once again.

"You have forgotten the true God, O king," said Daniel. "You have been drinking from cups stolen from the temple, and you have been worshipping statues. The Lord is angry with you. Your kingdom will be given over to another king."

Everything happened just as Daniel said. That night the king died and a new king took his place.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Daniel

PART A

1. Was King Nebuchadnezzar a good king?
2. What did he do to God's people?
3. How did Daniel help the king?
4. How was Daniel able to explain the meaning of the king's dream?
5. Why did God make the hand writing appear on the wall?
6. What was the meaning of the message on the wall?

PART B - God is wise

Read:

God knows everything. Daniel asked God to show him the meaning of the dream, and the message on the wall. God knew the meaning. Daniel was wise because he asked God for wisdom. Sometimes we have problems that are too big for us. Sometimes we don't know what to do about our problems. God knew what to do. If we ask Him, He will show us what to do, just as He showed Daniel.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be wise?

I can ask God for _____.

I can ask God for the answers to my _____.

Missing words: wisdom problems

Jesus Dies as King

Jesus was very popular with the crowds. Some of King Herod's followers didn't like it. "Maybe they will want Jesus to be king instead of Herod," they thought. They did not understand that Jesus was a different kind of king. He didn't want a throne or a crown or servants. He wanted the kingdom of God to be in people's hearts and lives.

Because Herod's followers were afraid of Jesus becoming too popular, they decided that they must kill Jesus.

"So you say that you are the King of the Jews," said Pilate, the Governor.

"My kingdom does not belong to this world," said Jesus. "My kingdom is from another place called Heaven."

"So you are a king!" said Pilate.

"Yes," said Jesus. "I was born into the world to tell people the truth about God's Kingdom. People who listen to Me and accept Me can belong to this Kingdom."

Pilate did not understand.

"What should I do?" Pilate asked the people in the court.

"Kill Him!" they shouted.

Then Jesus was taken away by the soldiers. They made a thorny crown and put it on Jesus' head. They put a purple robe on Him because purple was the colour for a king. They laughed at Him and said for fun, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then they hit Him across the face.

Finally they nailed him to a cross and placed a sign above His head, 'The King of the Jews'. Someone said, "No. That is not right. It should be, 'This man SAID I am King of the Jews', but seeing that it was already written, they did not change it.

Although most people did not believe that Jesus was the Heavenly King, some did. On the third day Jesus showed the world that He had more power than any other king. He came alive again, and He lives forever as King. Jesus wants to be your King.

God is Powerful – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Jesus dies as king

PART A

1. What kind of king did people think Jesus would be?
2. What kind of king is Jesus?
3. Who said that Jesus should be killed?
4. Why did the soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus?
5. What was His crown like?
6. What sign did they place above the head of Jesus?
7. How did Jesus show the world that He was more powerful than any other king?

PART B - God is powerful

Read:

We know that God made everything. Think about how big the world is. Think about the stars and the planets. Only a very powerful God could create all that! Our very powerful God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross. He did it so that we could be forgiven for our sin. Jesus is a powerful king. He is not a king that wears a crown and rules a country. He is king of heaven and earth. He is more powerful than any king!

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can God give me power in my life?

I can make Jesus _____ of my life.

I can _____ Him to forgive me.

I _____ what He tells me to do.

I can _____ Jesus.

Missing words: ask follow king do

Little Bird

Far away in the north, a mother bird sat on her nest. It was springtime. Soon the eggs would hatch. As the days grew warmer, the eggs cracked open and four baby swallows dried their bodies in the sunshine. As mother bird provided food each day the baby birds became bigger and stronger.

Spring passed and summer arrived. It was time for mother bird to teach the little ones how to fly. By the end of the summer the birds were flying confidently. They loved their home in the north. The sun shone, the grass was green, the flowers bloomed and there was always plenty to eat.

Then autumn came. The young birds saw the leaves on the trees change to beautiful shades of red, gold and brown. Soon the leaves started to fall, turning the ground beneath them into a beautiful carpet of colours. Towards the end of the autumn mother bird called her young ones together to announce some news. She told them that very soon they would be leaving their home in the north. They would be making a long, long journey, with their aunts and uncles and cousins, to a new place in the south, for soon the winter would come. Snow would cover the ground and the icy winds would blow. They must fly to a new place where the air was warm and the sun shone and the grass was green.

Soon the birds, along with their aunts and uncles and cousins, set off on their journey. The four young birds flew close to their mother. It would be a long and difficult flight for such young birds.

One little bird started feeling tired. He started to think about his beautiful home in the north. "Surely winter cannot be so bad," he thought. "I do not believe that the new place in the south could possibly be as good as my lovely home in the north." So the little bird left the other birds and flew off in the opposite direction. He had made up his mind to go back.

By the time he reached his old home the snow had already started to fall. He was sorry he hadn't trusted the words of his mother. He went to his old nest in the oak tree. The little nest was filled with snow. "I can't

stay here," he thought. The little bird went to visit the squirrels who lived in the hollow of the tree. He spent the winter with the squirrels who kindly looked after him. All winter long he thought about his family. What a happy time they would be having in their beautiful new home in the south. Now he wished he had believed the words of his mother.

God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

PART A

1. Is this story a true story?
2. Why was it difficult for the little bird to believe that there was a home in the south?
3. Is it hard to believe in things we can't see?
4. What does the Bible tell us we must have, if we are to believe that Jesus is true? (Hebrews 11:3)
5. How could you help someone to believe in Jesus?

PART B - God is truth

Read:

Do you know anyone who believes in the tooth-fairy? Sometimes children believe in the tooth-fairy because they think it is true. When they get older they find out that it isn't true after all. Jesus is not like the tooth-fairy. He IS true, and we can ALWAYS believe in Him. When we know that God is true, then we can trust in the things He says. He will always keep His promises!

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I know that God is true?

I can feel His _____.

Jesus is my special _____.

Only God could make such a beautiful _____.

God still does _____ today.

I have _____ that God keeps all His promises.

Missing words: miracles friend love world faith

Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

Jesus was on His way home after a tiring day. As the boat pulled into the shore He was met by some people who were carrying a man on a stretcher. The man was paralysed. That meant he had no feeling in his legs at all. He couldn't walk. He could only lie all day on his mat. The man's friends knew that Jesus could heal people. They brought the man to Jesus.

"You have a lot of faith!" Jesus said to the friends.

"Your sins are forgiven," said Jesus to the paralysed man.

Some of Jesus' enemies, the Pharisees, were watching Jesus.

"How can a man forgive sins?" they questioned amongst themselves.

"Only God can do that!" (They didn't know that Jesus was God!)

Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said to them:

"Is it easier to say, 'your sins are forgiven, or, 'get up and walk'?"

Then Jesus said to the paralysed man, "Get up. Pick up your bed and go home." The man did as Jesus said.

Some other people were watching Jesus too. They did not think as the Pharisees did. "If Jesus has the power to make a paralysed man walk, then surely He must have power to forgive sins," they thought.

When someone has their sins forgiven it makes them feel clean inside. When you have done something wrong you feel awful on the inside. That is called 'feeling guilty'. It's not a very nice feeling. It makes people feel unhappy. But when a person asks Jesus to forgive their sins, they feel clean inside. They feel happy. The paralysed man would have been happy for two reasons: his body was healed, and his sins were forgiven. He no longer had to lie in his mat all day, and he no longer felt guilty.

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

1. What does paralysed mean?
2. Did Jesus heal the paralysed man?
3. What other special thing did Jesus do for him?
4. What did the Pharisees think about Jesus?
5. How can Jesus make us clean on the inside?

The Still Small Voice

This is a story from the Bible. It is about a man called Elijah. Elijah was God's special messenger. God would speak to him through his thoughts, and Elijah listened. Elijah would then bring messages from God to the people. Elijah was called a prophet, because He heard God speaking, and told others what God had said.

One day, while Elijah was having a sleep under a tree, an angel touched him and said, "Wake up. Eat and drink, Elijah." Elijah looked around and saw a loaf of bread and a jar of water near his head. Elijah ate some bread and drank some water, but then went back to sleep again. He was feeling very tired. Then the angel woke him again.

"Eat and drink, Elijah, for you must go on a long journey to Mount Sinai. You will need this bread and drink to give you strength for the journey."

Elijah ate and drank some more, then set off for Mount Sinai. When he arrived, God told him to go and stand on the top of the mountain, because God was going to give him a special message. Elijah went to the top of the mountain. He waited for God to speak.

Elijah heard a great wind. Leaves on the trees swirled about, branches shook and dust blew against him. "This must be God speaking," thought Elijah. But no, it was not God's voice.

Then there was an earthquake. The ground trembled and the rocks fell down around him. Surely this must be God's voice," he thought. But no, it was not.

Then Elijah saw a flickering fire. But no, God was not in the fire.

Then it became very still. Everything was very quiet. Elijah waited and waited. Then there came a soft whisper. Yes, this was God's voice. God spoke to Elijah in the quietness of the evening on top of the mountain. Elijah spoke to God too. Elijah told God how sad he was that the people of Israel were disobeying their Lord. God told Elijah many things. God told Elijah who the new kings would be, and about a new

prophet called Elisha, who would be able to hear God's voice just as Elijah had done.

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

1. What is a prophet?
2. What did the angel tell Elijah to do?
3. Elijah listened for God's voice in these three things. Put them in the right order:
 - the fire**
 - the wind**
 - the earthquake**
4. How did God speak to Elijah?
5. How can God speak to you?



Helping

Mum:

Billy, will you set the table please?

Billy:

Why should I help? I hate setting the table, AND putting the dishes away, AND cleaning shoes. Why should I do all those things when I don't want to?

Mum:

Billy, where are you?

Billy: (to the audience)

I always try to get out of helping. I hide in my room and read a book, or sneak outside to play. I hate helping. Mum and Dad are always forcing me to do things...a bit like a slave. Slaves get forced to do things. There were slaves in Bible times. That reminds me of a story in my Bible. Here it is. Jesus said, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go two miles with him, and then if someone asks for a coat, then give him two."

Wow! Imagine going two miles. I can't even make one! And imagine giving my only two coats away. I suppose Jesus was saying that we should be willing to do things for others, even difficult things. I suppose setting the table is not really so hard after all.

Mum:

Billy, please come and set the table.

Billy:

Yes, right away Mum.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

1. What do you like to do for your Mum?
2. What do you like to do for your Dad?
3. What jobs **don't** you like doing?
4. What should you do when Mum or Dad asks you to do a job?
5. Which Bible story can help us when we don't feel like doing jobs for others?

The Donkey that Helped Jesus

Jesus was always helping others, but this time He needed some help. He asked his two friends to go and get the donkey. Now getting a donkey may seem like an easy job, but this donkey had never been ridden before. A donkey that has never been ridden usually bucks and kicks the first time someone sits on its back because it's not used to the heavy weight. Like a horse, a donkey has to be trained to take riders and heavy loads.

The two friends of Jesus knew that the donkey had never been ridden. They might have been wondering whether the donkey would kick them as they untied it. They may have thought, 'What does Jesus want with an untrained donkey,' but even though they didn't understand, they obeyed. They did exactly as Jesus said, without arguing or complaining, and to their surprise, the donkey came with them very willingly. It didn't even buck when they laid coats on its back.

The two disciples were being servants because they were helping Jesus. Though he didn't know it, the little donkey was going to be a servant for Jesus too, because he was going to carry King Jesus into Jerusalem. As soon as Jesus got on to the donkey's back, the donkey must have known that Jesus was someone special. The donkey didn't feel afraid with Jesus. He stood quite still as Jesus climbed on to his back. Then he walked along quietly into Jerusalem, carrying Jesus. The donkey wasn't even afraid when he came to the crowds of people that lined the roadway, cheering and shouting 'Hosanna'. How noisy it was. But the little donkey just kept going.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – The donkey that helped Jesus

1. Who brought the donkey to Jesus?
2. Why would you expect the donkey to buck and kick?
3. How did the donkey help Jesus?
4. Why do you think the little servant donkey was not afraid?
5. What is an untrained donkey?
6. Fill in the correct word:
ride, riding, rode, ridden
 - ◆ Jesus _____ the donkey.
 - ◆ The donkey had never been _____.
 - ◆ The people saw Jesus _____ the donkey.
 - ◆ It is usually hard to _____ an untrained donkey.

Saint Nicholas

Long ago, in Holland, lived a man called Saint Nicholas. He had a very important position in the church. Nicholas had a kind heart. Even though he was very busy, he did not forget about poor people. He wanted to help them.

It was almost Christmas. Nicholas was sad because he knew of many boys and girls who would not receive any Christmas gifts. Their parents did not have enough money to buy them.

Then he had an idea. Nicholas was very good at making things. "Yes," he thought. "I'll set to work and make some gifts for these children." Nicholas worked hard, for he hadn't much time. It was only a few weeks until Christmas. He hammered and chiselled away in his workshop making toy trains, dolls and little horses.

When it was almost Christmas he gathered up the toys and set off for the homes of the poor children. He didn't want anyone to know who had made the toys so he delivered them secretly, slipping them quietly through open windows or leaving them on doorsteps.

What happiness Nicholas brought to those children that Christmas. Nicholas continued to make toys for poor children every Christmas, but he always delivered the toys in secret.

Jesus said that when we do something for others, we shouldn't boast about how good we are, or expect a reward. That's why Nicholas didn't tell anyone who had made the toys. Nicholas could have forgotten about the poor children because he was so busy working for the church. But he didn't. He wanted to help. That's really being a servant.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities - Saint Nicolas

1. How do we know that St. Nicholas a kind person?
2. What kind things did he do?
3. St. Nicholas didn't want people to know that he had made the toys so he delivered them in secret. Why did he do this?
4. What might a proud person do?
5. What is a servant?

Willing Helper

Betty:

Guess what Billy! I've got a new trampoline. Do you want to come over to my house and try it?

Billy:

Wow, Betty. That's fantastic. I'd love to! I'll just check with Mum...

...Mum, can I go over to Betty's house and try out her new trampoline?

Mum:

Well Billy, I did ask you to get the fire wood when you came home from school...and to hang up your clothes. I need those jobs done before you go.

Billy:

But Mum, by the time I've done all those things, there won't be any time left to play before tea!

Mum:

Sorry Billy. You should have thought of that earlier.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Willing Helper

PART A

1. Why didn't Billy want to do his jobs?
2. What should he have done?
3. What if Mum asks you to do a job when a favourite T.V. program is on? Write two different ways in which you could reply: a) unwilling b) willing
4. What kind of a helper does Jesus want us to be?

PART B - God is a servant

Read:

A servant is a helper. To be a good helper we must be a willing helper. This means helping without grumbling or complaining. Jesus showed us how to be a willing helper. He was often tired from helping so many people, but never too tired to help another person. He helped people by healing the sick and teaching about God.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be a willing helper?

I can do jobs without _____ or complaining.

I can do jobs even when I am not _____ to do them.

I can be _____ about the jobs I do.

I can be happy because I am _____ Jesus.

Missing words: happy grumbling serving asked

Friends

Teacher:

Billy, would you be kind enough to stay back with Ben for five minutes at lunch time to help him with his spelling?

Ring, ring. (lunch bell)

Friends: (after teacher has left the room)

Come on Billy. You don't want to stay and help him. He's not one of our friends. He started a fight with Matt yesterday. If you're going to help Ben, then you can't be one of our friends!

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

1. Why was it difficult for Billy to be helpful?
2. Write two ways in which Billy could have answered his friends.
 - a) the wrong way
 - b) the right way

The Great Feast

Here is a story from the Bible. It is about a man who sent out some invitations. He was holding a big dinner party. The man was very rich and had servants to prepare the food for him. It took many days to prepare for this feast. When all the food was prepared and the tables were set, he sent out the servants to tell the invited guests that everything was ready.

As the servants started reminding people about the big feast, it seemed that no one wanted to come. Everyone had some kind of excuse.

One of them said, "I have just bought a piece of land and I have to go and have a look at it. Please excuse me." Another one said, "I have just bought five head of cattle and I cannot come." Another said, "I have just been married and I haven't got time to come at the moment."

When the servants told the master the news he was very angry. "Go out on the streets," he said. "Bring back the poor people, the crippled, the blind, and the lame."

These people did accept the invitation. There was a full house after all.

God is Life – Themes for Christian Studies 2



Activities – The Great Feast

PART A

1. What was the first excuse?
2. What was the second excuse?
3. What was the third excuse?
4. Who accepted the invitation at the end of the story?
5. In this story we are reminded how sad someone can feel when their invitation is not accepted. How would you feel if you sent out invitations to your birthday party and no one accepted?
6. Jesus has sent an invitation to all of us. What is the invitation?
7. Who is the invitation for?

PART B - God is life

Read:

God is a living person. God created life. The life we see here on earth is very beautiful, but it will not live forever. God can give life that lasts forever. It is called eternal life. When our body grows old and dies, the part of us that loves Jesus will live forever. To have eternal life, we must ask Jesus to be our special friend.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I have eternal life?

I can _____ the invitation that Jesus has given me.

I can ask Jesus to _____ my sins.

I can ask Him to be my special _____.

Missing words: friend accept forgive

Nicodemus

Jesus was once asked by a man called Nicodemus, "What must I do to be a part of your kingdom?"

Jesus answered, "If you want to be part of the kingdom of God, you must be born again."

Nicodemus thought this was a bit strange. How could he become a new born baby again? But Jesus didn't mean that Nicodemus was to become a baby again. What He meant was this: Just as a baby is the beginning of a brand new life, people need a new life too. We can have new life when we ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we have done in the past. Then we can begin a new life with Jesus as our friend. Jesus wants everyone to accept His invitation.

God is Life - Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities

1. What did Jesus mean by being "born again"?
2. How can someone become a friend of Jesus?



Seagulls

"Lisa," said Mum. "Would you take your little brother to the park for me?"

Lisa helped to get two-year-old Daniel ready for the outing. She helped Mum pack a picnic lunch of peanut butter sandwiches, cakes and apples. When they arrived at the park there were a few seagulls on the grass. They sat down and opened their picnic. Immediately the seagulls started crowding around them. Some more seagulls flew in to see what was going on.

It was the first time that Daniel had seen seagulls. He was fascinated by them. The seagulls did not take their eyes off the food. They were just waiting for a chance to move in and gather up a crust or a crumb that might drop on to the ground. Well, that did not take long to happen.

Daniel soon dropped a piece of his peanut butter sandwich, and much to his surprise there were great squawks, and then a flutter of wings. It was a great race amongst the seagulls to see who could get to the food first. It was a case of first in, first served. A rather proud looking seagull took the first piece of bread and flew off with it. The seagull did not go too far away though, because he did not want to miss the chance of collecting a second piece.

From the moment the proud seagull picked up the bread, the others were after him, squawking and fighting and pushing in. But the big proud seagull did not let go of his prize.

Daniel threw another piece, and another. Each time there was the same big commotion. The seagulls fought and squabbled, and never for a moment thought of sharing.

People can fight with each other, a bit like seagulls. They push others out of the way because they want to get there first. They want the biggest and best of everything. Jesus said that the people who are happiest are the ones who don't always push in to be first, but who let others go before them. He said that the first in His kingdom are really the last, and the last are really the first.

God is Peace – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Seagulls

1. What happens when you feed seagulls?
2. How can people be like seagulls?
3. Fill in this message. Find out the missing words from the Bible:
The _____ in God's kingdom are the ones who are willing to be
_____. (Mark 9:35)
4. Give an example of Mark 9:35 in real life.

Abram's Choice

There is a story in the Bible about a man who let others go first. His name was Abram. He and his brother called Lot were on a journey to a new land. They were travelling with their families. The two families finally arrived in the new land and set up camp. Soon quarrels broke out between Lot's servant and Abram's servants. They quarrelled about the best grass and the shadiest water holes.

"We are going to feed our sheep here," Lot's servants would say.
"No, we were here first. We are going to feed our sheep here. You go away," Abram's servants would answer.

Abram knew that God was not pleased when the servants quarrelled together. Abram said to Lot, "Our servants are always quarrelling. Soon they will make us quarrel too. Let's not live together any more.

Then Abram took Lot to a place where they could look over the land about them. "You choose first," said Abram.

Lot looked at all the land about him. He could see the River Jordan and the green grassy land around it. Lot chose the best land for himself. He said, "I will go there," and pointed to the lovely land around the river.

Abram did not argue. He allowed Lot to have the best land. Abram took the land that was left. It was not good land, but he was not sad about what he had done. He knew that he had done what God wanted him to do. Because Abram pleased God, God blessed Abram with more than he could ever wish for, and he was very happy. Later, when God gave Abram a son, He changed his name to Abraham.

God is Peace – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Abram’s Choice

PART A

1. Who put himself first?
2. Who put himself last?
3. What kind of land did Lot choose?
4. Did Abram say, "That's not fair!"?
5. Explain how Abram put himself last.
6. Who made the wisest choice?

PART B - God is peace

Read:

God wants us all to treat each other kindly, with no fighting. Allow others to go first is really saying, "It doesn't matter if someone else gets the best."

Copy and fill in the missing words:

Why should I let others go first?

Jesus is looking after me and will provide everything I _____.
I don't have to _____ others to get the things I want.

Missing words: hurt need

Sharing

Billy:

My Mum gave me a packet of chocolate buttons for helping her in the garden. She said that they are only for me, and I'm not to share them with anyone.

Betty:

I don't believe you Billy. You're just saying that so you don't have to share them with me. Well I'm not going to share anything of mine with you either!

Billy:

You never share any thing with me anyway.

Betty: (shouting)

I do so!

Billy: (shouting back)

You do not!

Mum:

What are you two fighting about?

Betty:

Billy won't share his chocolate buttons.

Billy:

And she won't share her things with me!

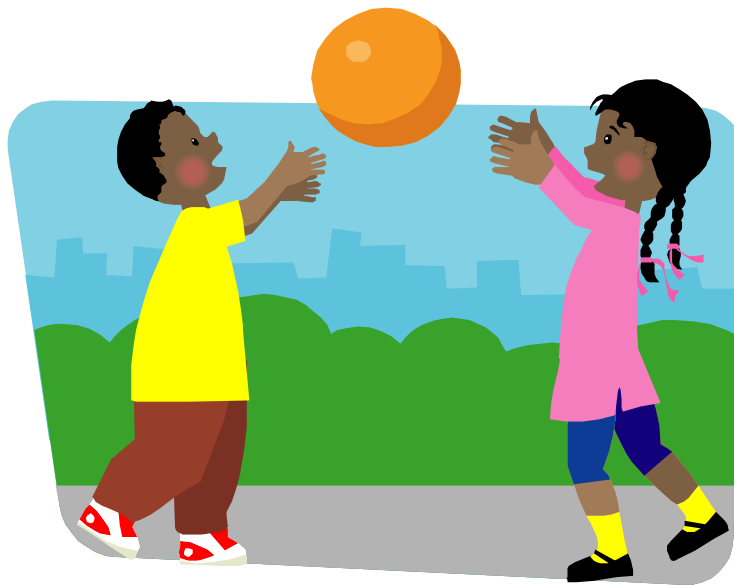
Mum:

You don't have to fight. Sharing is easy you know. Why don't you two say sorry to each other? Billy, you give Betty some of those chocolate buttons, then you can come inside and help me make a chocolate cake.

God is Peace – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Sharing

1. Why did Mum give Billy the chocolate buttons?
2. Do you think Billy was being mean? Why?
3. What should Billy have done in the first place?
4. What would you expect Betty to say if she was given some chocolate buttons?
5. Think of something you own that you can share with others. Write about it.



Forgiving

Betty:

How do you like my new kaleidoscope, Billy? You look through it like a telescope and you can see all different colours and patterns.

Billy:

Let's have a go. (Billy snatches it from Betty and looks through it.)

Betty:

O.K. That's long enough.

Billy:

But I haven't had a proper go yet!

(Betty tries to snatch it back but Billy pulls away. The kaleidoscope falls to the ground.)

Betty: (Looking through the kaleidoscope)

Oh no! It doesn't make patterns any more. You've broken it Billy!

Billy:

YOU broke it because you snatched it!

Betty:

No. You broke it!

Billy: (shouting)

I did not!

Betty: (shouting)

You did so!

Mum:

O.K. What are you two fighting about?

Betty:

He broke my kaleidoscope!

Billy:

I did not!

Mum:

Instead of blaming each other and fighting, why don't you try to forgive one another?

Billy:

Sorry Betty.

Betty:

That's O.K. I'm sorry for blaming you.

Mum:

Come on. Let's play a game of Snakes and Ladders.

God is Peace – Themes for Christian Studies 2

Activities – Forgiving

PART A

1. What is a kaleidoscope?
2. How did the fight start?
3. How did Mum help the children to make peace?
4. Write about a time when you had a fight, but later forgave your friend or your brother or sister.
5. Find out what Jesus says about forgiving one another in (Luke 6:37). Write this in a sentence.

PART B - God is peace

Read:

Has Mum ever said, "Let's have some peace!" Sometimes brothers and sisters quarrel and argue. God tells us that to make peace, we have to forgive one another. Ephesians 4:31-32 says, "*No more hateful feelings. Forgive one another as God has forgiven you.*"

Another way to make peace is to share things. Selfish people do not share things. They want everything for themselves. Sharing is not being selfish.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I make peace?

I can _____ my things.

I can let others have a _____.

I can _____ someone if they do or say something against me.

I can be calm, and not lose my _____.

Missing words: forgive share temper turn