

Themes for Christian Studies Level 2 Age 6

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Related resources

- Songs from the following *Beacon Media* recordings:
 - *All Creation Sings*
 - *Sing A Joyful Song*
 - *Couldn't Be Finer*
- Jesus First - a guide to character development (*Beacon Media*)
- Children's story Bible: "*The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories*" published by Zondervan (available through Christian Book Shops)

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Themes Level 2 (age 6)

Biblical overview

God is Creator

God provides for His creation

The Creation (Gen. 1 & 2)

The Fall (Gen. 2 & 3)

God provides (Matt. 6:25-34)

God is Love

God is kind to all people

Jesus was kind to the outcasts (Luke 17:11-19; Matthew 8:1-4)

Jesus was a friend of publicans and sinners (Matt. 9:9-13)

Jesus healed the blind and brought good news to the poor (Luke 18:35-43; Luke 4:18)

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

God is Wise

God knows what to do in every situation.

The wise and foolish builders (Matt. 7:24-27)

God gives wisdom to Daniel (Dan. 2 & 5)

God is Protector

God protects His people when they are in danger.

God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3)

God protected Daniel in the lion's den (Dan. 6)

Jesus protected the disciples during the storm (Luke 8:22-25)

God is Powerful

Jesus is Lord and King.

Jesus was born a king (Matt. 2)

Jesus was placed on trial for being a King (John 18:28-38)

Jesus will return to reign as King (Acts 1:6-10)

God is Truth

God is faithful to His word.

God keeps every promise He makes (Prov. 30:5)

God gave the rainbow as a sign of His promise to us (Gen. 9:8-17)

God kept His promise to Abraham (Gen. 15, 17 & 18)

God is Pure

God is pure because He is without sin

Sin entered the world because of disobedience towards God (Gen. 3)

Jesus offered healing and forgiveness (Matthew 9:1-7; Isaiah 1:18)

Jesus' death made the way back to God (John 18 & 19: 1 John 1:9)

God is Patient

Patience is listening for God to speak to us.

Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38)

God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice (1 Kings 19)

God is a Servant

Jesus, the willing and helpful servant.

Jesus helped at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

The extra mile (Matt. 5:41-42)

Jesus healed a crippled woman (Luke 18:10-28)

God is Life

God gives new life.

Jesus called the disciples to a new life (Matt. 9:9-12; Luke 5:27-32; John 1:43-50)

Nicodemus asks about new life (John 3:1-3)

The Great Feast (Luke 14:15-24)

God is Provider

God's provision never runs out.

Miraculous provision for a widow (1 Kings 17)

Miraculous provision for another widow (2 Kings 4)

God provided for Joseph and his family (Gen. 37-46)

God is Peace

God wants us to have peace with others.

Stop quarrelling (Job 22:21-23)

Abraham's unselfish choice (Gen. 13)

Esau forgives Jacob (Gen. 5)

Other stories/plays

Little Raindrop (*Creator 2.3*)

James (*Love 2.2*)

Helen Keller (*Love 2.3*)

The Three Little Pigs (*Wise 2.1*)

The Little Bird (*Truth 2.3*)

Helping - puppet play (*Servant 2.2*)

The Donkey that helped (*Servant 2.2*)

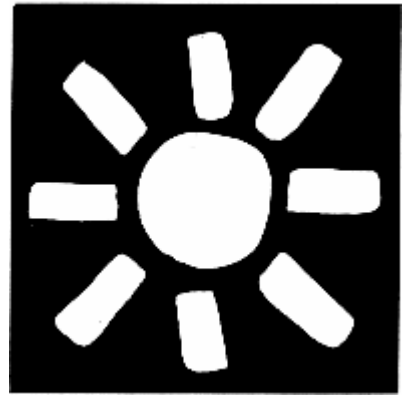
Sharing - puppet play (*Peace 2.2*)

God is Creator

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God provides for His Creation.



You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set. Psalm 104:19

Integrated topics for Christian Education

Water; dependence upon water; animals and water; pond life; sea life

Other

- animal life; plant life; ecosystems
- human biology
- solar system
- air
- water
- fossil records; the Great Flood; the six-day creation
- technology; inventions

Character development

confidence; creativity; flexibility; resourcefulness (see *Jesus First*)

Our response to *God is Creator*

- standing in awe of the Creator
- praising Him for His great works
- believing in a six day creation, (not millions of years)

God is Creator 2.1

Subtheme

God provides for His creation.

Bible references

Genesis 1; Genesis 2:1-4 The six days of creation

Genesis 1:9,10,20,21

...Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear...and God called the dry land earth, and the gathering together of waters He called seas.

...And God said, let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creatures that have life...

Focus

God's gift of water for life

Songs

All Creation Sings (*All Creation Sings*)

God is Wonderful (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Couldn't be Finer (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Story

Describe the events in the six day creation

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

List the order of events in the six day creation. Focus on day 2, (sky and water), and day 5, (creation of animals that live in water).

Why did God create water?

Why do we need water?

Why do animals need water?

Make a list of favourite animals that live in, on or around water.

Art/Craft

- Join with other classes in making a group mural. This age-group could contribute the basic land/sea scape, with rivers, seas, deserts, mountains, clouds, rain.
- Use paint to create land, sea and sky. Use brown, blue and blue-green.

God is Creator 2.2

Subtheme

God provides for His creation

Bible references

Genesis 2:4-25; Genesis 3 The beginning of sin.

Focus

God's beautiful world spoiled by disobedience

Songs

All Creation Sings (*All Creation Sings*)

Adam and Eve (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Story

Tell the story of Adam and Eve's original sin, and its effect upon their relationship with God, or or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

Because of disobedience, Adam and Eve were no longer friends with God. All their children, all their grandchildren, and everyone else born into the world after that, were unable to be friends with God either. However, many years later God sent Jesus into the world. By becoming a friend of Jesus, people were able to be friends with God once again.

Art/Craft

- Create a creation scene inside a shoe box (diorama).
- Depict the second day of creation. Create water effects using thin paint.



God is Creator 2.3

Subtheme

God provides for his creation

Bible references

Genesis 1-2 The Creation

Philippians 4:19 God shall supply all your needs.

Psalm 104:16-28 God provides for all His creatures.

Matthew 6:25-34 Do not worry. God provides for us.

Focus

When God created the world, He thought about the things we needed.

Songs

All Creation Sings (*All Creation Sings*)

God is Wonderful (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Couldn't be Finer (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Introduction

Look at pictures of animals. Talk about their need for food and water, and how God provides for them.

Story 1

Relate the words of Jesus from Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus told us not to worry about food or clothes. If God cares for the plants and animals, He will surely care for us.

Read the story from The Beginner's Bible – Timeless Children's Stories (Zondervan)

Discussion

When God first made the world, everything He created was perfect. God thought carefully about everything He made, and He cared about everything He made. He made sure that all living creatures had whatever they needed.

How did He provide for the needs of animals?

Out of all that He had created, He cared most about the man and the woman. He made sure they had everything they needed too.

How did God provide for the needs of people?

Story 2: Little raindrop

Little raindrop was so small. What use could he be in God's great big wonderful world? As he hovered in the sky, having just dropped out of a big white cloud, he looked over the great ocean.

"If only I could be great like the big ocean," he thought. Then he looked down at the river flowing into the sea. How beautiful it was, flowing over rocks and between lovely sandy banks where cool shady trees grew. "If only I could be beautiful like the river," he thought.

Then he looked down at the big dam. How useful it was. From this dam thousands of people would get water to drink, and water to wash with, and water to help their gardens grow. "If only I could be useful like the big dam." But he was only a little raindrop, not big enough to be much use at all.

Then all of a sudden he started falling. Down, down, down he went. He fell upon a vegetable garden along with many other raindrops just like himself. Together they would help the vegetables grow. The vegetables would provide food for many people. Then soon he found himself being washed away in a little trickle along with many other raindrops just like himself. Together they were travelling to the river. There they joined millions of other raindrops. How beautiful they all looked flowing along together, sparkling in the sunlight. Many of the raindrops would provide water for thousands of people, and animals and plants.

Then, after a long journey, little raindrop found himself with millions and millions of other raindrops in the big ocean. Now at last he was great. Not by himself of course. He was a tiny part of a great, great ocean. Here he could help to give life to millions and millions of fish, and other sea creatures, and sea plants.

Now the little raindrop had been useful, beautiful, and great. He was a useful, beautiful and great part of God's wonderful creation!

Activities

Look at water in different forms:

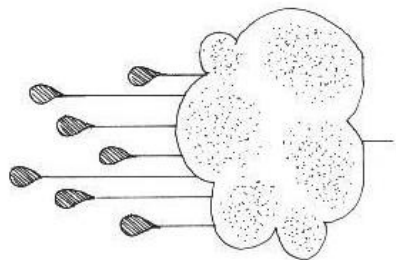
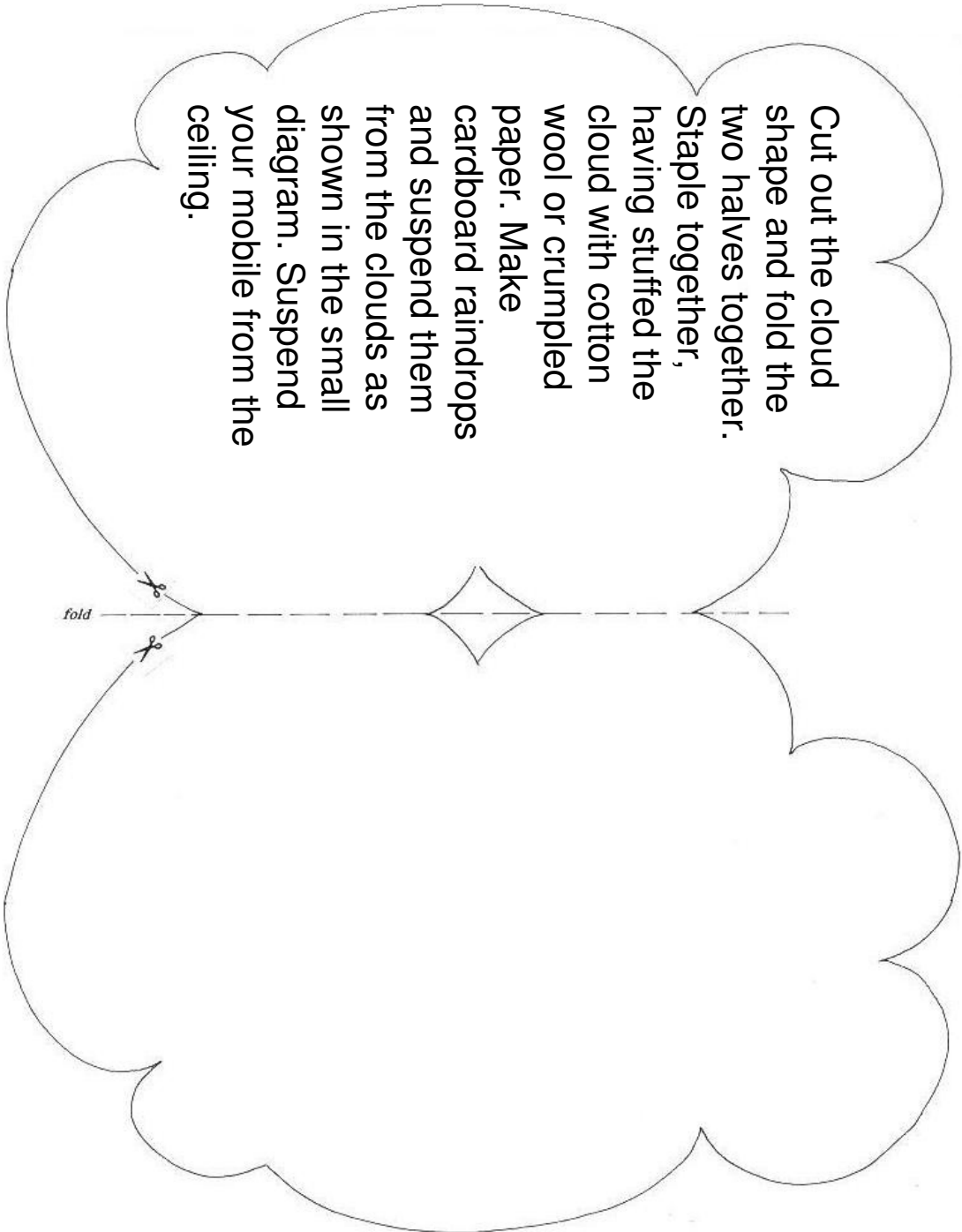
- ice from the freezer
- steam from a kettle - (Watch droplets forming on a saucer held above the rising steam.)

Pour coloured water from a large container into smaller ones. Guess how many small containers of water can be filled from a large container of water.

Art/Craft

- Draw a picture of a cloud with raindrops falling from it. Draw the living things that need the water.
- Make a mobile from the cut-out provided.

Cut out the cloud shape and fold the two halves together. Staple together, having stuffed the cloud with cotton wool or crumpled paper. Make cardboard raindrops and suspend them from the clouds as shown in the small diagram. Suspend your mobile from the ceiling.



God is Love Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God is kind to all people

*The Lord is good. His love is eternal.
Psalm 100:5 (GNB)*



Integrated Topics for Christian Education

- God's kindness to us: He provides for our needs.
- Our kindness to others: reaching out to people who have needs; showing love and acceptance of those who may be different from ourselves or have special needs, e.g. disabled, the elderly

Other

- myself: God loves me just the way I am
- my family: God's plan for love and protection
- understanding different cultural groups; love and acceptance of others
- compassion for the aged
- professions which show care e.g. nursing
- caring for animals
- the third world: giving and sharing
- friendship, fruits of the spirit
- biographies of those who have shown kindness and compassion
- the balance of nature
- the nation of Israel: Jews and gentiles; God's love for the whole world

Character Development (See *Jesus First*)

- kindness
- gentleness
- friendliness
- compassion
- forgiveness
- faithfulness

Christian Life

Our response to *God is Love*

- feeling loved and accepted
- loving God as He first loved us
- loving others

God is Love 2.1

Subtheme

God is kind to all people

Bible references

Luke 17:11-19 The ten lepers

Matthew 8:1-4 Jesus heals a leper.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another.

Focus

Showing kindness to people who have special needs; Thanking God for His kindness to us

Songs

Wide Wide as the Ocean (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Down in my Heart (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Thankyou for all the Good Things (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Introduction

Think of some of the things in God's creation that God has made especially for us. God has given us beautiful things to enjoy because He loves us. God made the world with conditions just right for living creatures. It is not like the other planets, which are either too hot or too cold for anyone to live on. When we feel the warmth of the sun we can think of God's kindness to us. When we feel the rain we can remember to thank God for it. These are just two of God's gifts to us.

Game

Take turns to act out one of God's gifts, e.g. rain; sun; food; water; animals; trees
The group must guess what is being mimed.

Discussion

Although God is always kind to us, people are not always kind to each other. In fact children can be unkind to one another. Can you think of times when other children have been unkind to you?

There are times when we really need people to be kind to us. Imagine that you have moved to a new school. You have left all your old friends behind and you are feeling very lonely. You would really like people to be kind to you. How could the children in the class make you feel better?

In the days when Jesus lived on earth, He always knew when people were lonely or unhappy. He was always kind to them. He was especially kind to people who had no friends.

There were people in those days who had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. They didn't look very nice because they had sores all over them. People didn't go near them because they didn't want to catch the disease. Jesus knew how they felt. Instead of keeping away, like everyone else, Jesus went right up to them and told them how much God loved them. He healed their awful sores and the disease never troubled them again.

Story

Tell the story from Luke 17:11-19

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

When Jesus healed the lepers, He was really showing kindness to them. However, only one man remembered to thank Jesus for His kindness.
Everyday we enjoy the things that God gives us, but sometimes we forget to thank Him too.

Prayer

Make a list of God's gifts to us. Talk to God and thank Him for these things.

Brainstorm

How can we show love and kindness to others?

EXAMPLES

Being a friend; saying kind words; helping; sharing; looking after someone when they are hurt.

Activity

Learn to read this sentence.

Jesus **healed** **people** **because** **He** **loved** **them.**

Cut up the words and jumble the word order. Then put the sentence back together again. Draw a picture for the sentence.

God is Love 2.2

Subtheme

God is kind to all people

Bible references

Matthew 9:9-13 Matthew the tax collector

Matthew 11:19 Jesus, friend of publicans and sinners

Romans 5:8 But God has shown us how much He loves us- it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! (GNB)

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another.

Focus

Although God is sad when people do things that are wrong, He still loves everyone.

Songs

Wide Wide as the Ocean (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Down in my Heart (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Zacchaeus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Story 1: James

James 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.

Discussion

Does Jesus only want to be a friend to good people?

Story 2: Matthew the tax collector

Tell the story from Matthew 9:9-13

or use *The Beginner's Bible* pp. 316-319 *Helpers and friends*

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.

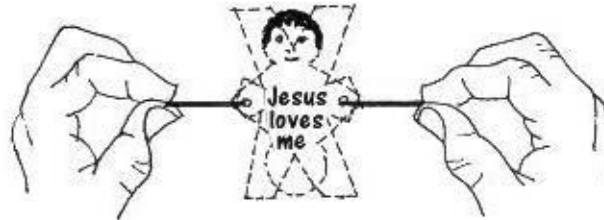
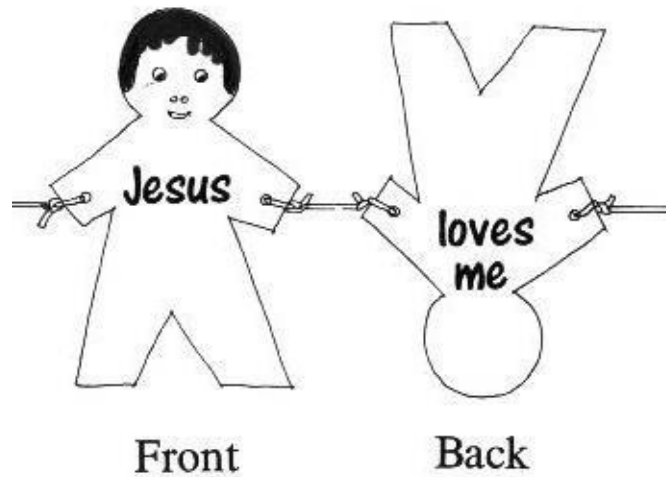
Some people called Pharisees said, "Isn't Jesus supposed to be a good person? Why is He making friends with all these dishonest men?"

Jesus heard them talking. He said to them, "I haven't only 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.

Art/Craft

Make a 'Jesus loves me' spinner.



God is Love 2.3

Subtheme

God is kind to all people

Bible references

Luke 18:35-43 Blind Bartimaeus.

Luke 4:18 Jesus came to bring good news to the poor.

Proverbs 14:31 Whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient and kind.

Focus

Jesus was kind to those with special needs.

Introduction: Feeling game

- Collect some small objects, e.g. rubber, pencil, ping pong ball; plastic animal.
- Place an object in a sock without allowing the children to see it. Ask a child to guess what the object is by feeling inside the sock. Replace the object and the next child takes a turn.

Discussion

What would it be like to be blind? You would have to rely on feeling as you did in that game. What are some of the things you could not enjoy?

In the time when Jesus lived, blind people were not cared for very well. There were no guide dogs and no books in Braille. There were no places where they could go to receive help. Blind people in those days just had to sit on the street and hold out a bowl, begging people who passed by for money. Because they were blind, they could not work to earn money. They had to beg for money to buy food.

Story 1: Blind Bartimaeus

Read the story from Luke 18:35-43

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Jesus often helped people like Bartimaeus. He knew how sad and lonely they were. Jesus was especially loving and kind to the people that no one else had time for. He was able to give them something much better than money. He was able to heal them, and show them how much God loved them.

Maybe you know someone who is sad or lonely. They may not be blind, but they may be sad or lonely for other reasons. What would Jesus want us to do if we knew someone like this?

Story 2: Helen Keller

This is the true story of a little girl who was born in America over 100 years ago.

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.

Discussion

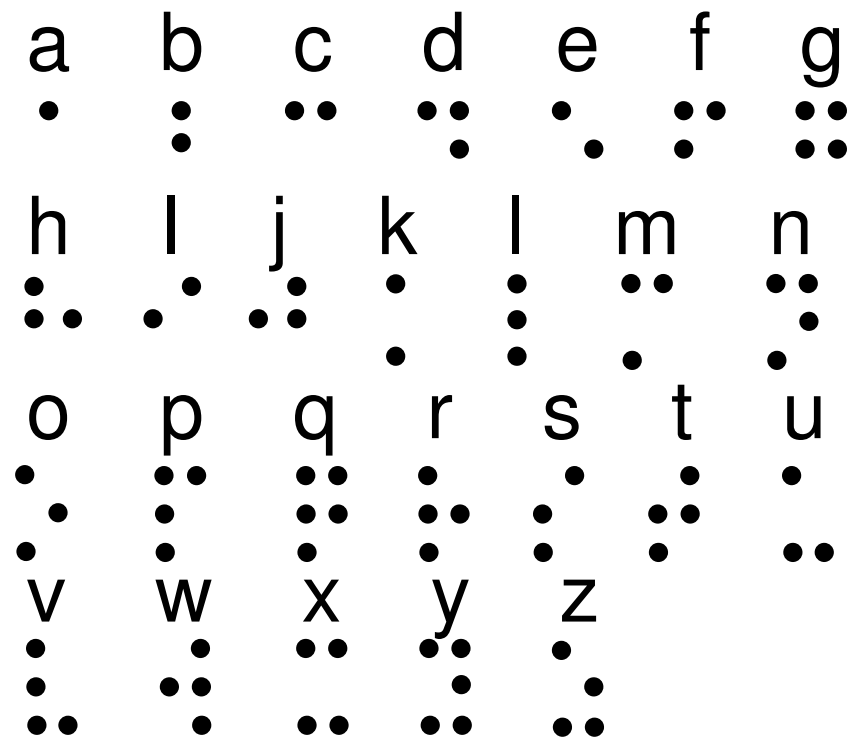
How did Miss Sullivan show kindness to Helen?

Do you think this helped Helen to learn?

If you knew someone who was blind or deaf, how would you show love and kindness to them?

Activity

- Write a message using the Braille alphabet. (see below)



God is Love 2.4

Subtheme

God is kind to all people

Bible references

Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan

John 13:34 Love one another.

Mark 12:33 Love your neighbour as yourself.

Focus

Kindness to those who are hurting

Discussion

Neighbours

Why is it good to have neighbours?

Neighbours are not just people who live next door. A neighbour can be anyone who lives near by.

Jesus said that we should love our neighbours as much as we love ourself.

How much do we love ourself?

We love ourself enough to make sure we have three good meals a day.

We love ourself enough to make sure we have a comfortable bed to sleep in at night.

We love ourself enough to make sure that we have things to keep us happy.

We love ourselves enough to make sure we have help when we are sick or hurt.

Would you want these things for your neighbour as much as you want them for yourself?

Background to the story

Jesus told a story about being a good neighbour. The story is about four people. Three of them lived in the same country. One of them lived in a different country. Three of the people lived in Judea. One of the people lived in Samaria. People who came from Samaria were called Samaritans. The people from Judea did not like the Samaritans. The two countries were next to one another. We could say the people of Samaria were neighbours to the people of Judea because the two countries joined up. However we couldn't say they were GOOD neighbours because they didn't like one another. Often Samaritan people would travel in the land of Judea.

Story: The Good Samaritan

Tell the story from Luke 10:25-37.

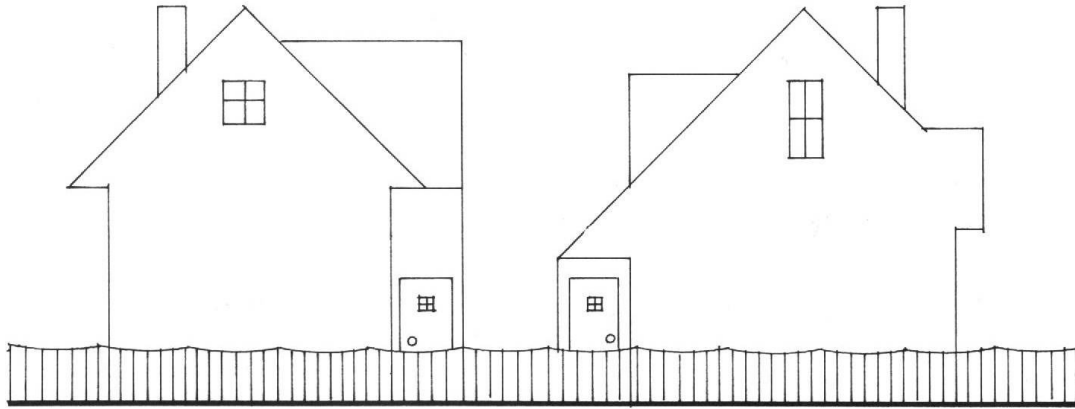
or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Because the hurt man was from Judea, you wouldn't expect the man from Samaria to help him, would you? After all, the people from the two countries were enemies. But Jesus said the Samaritan was really a good neighbour because he helped the man from Judea. You can be a real neighbour to anyone by showing love and kindness, even if you don't think the other person is your friend.

How can YOU be a good neighbour?

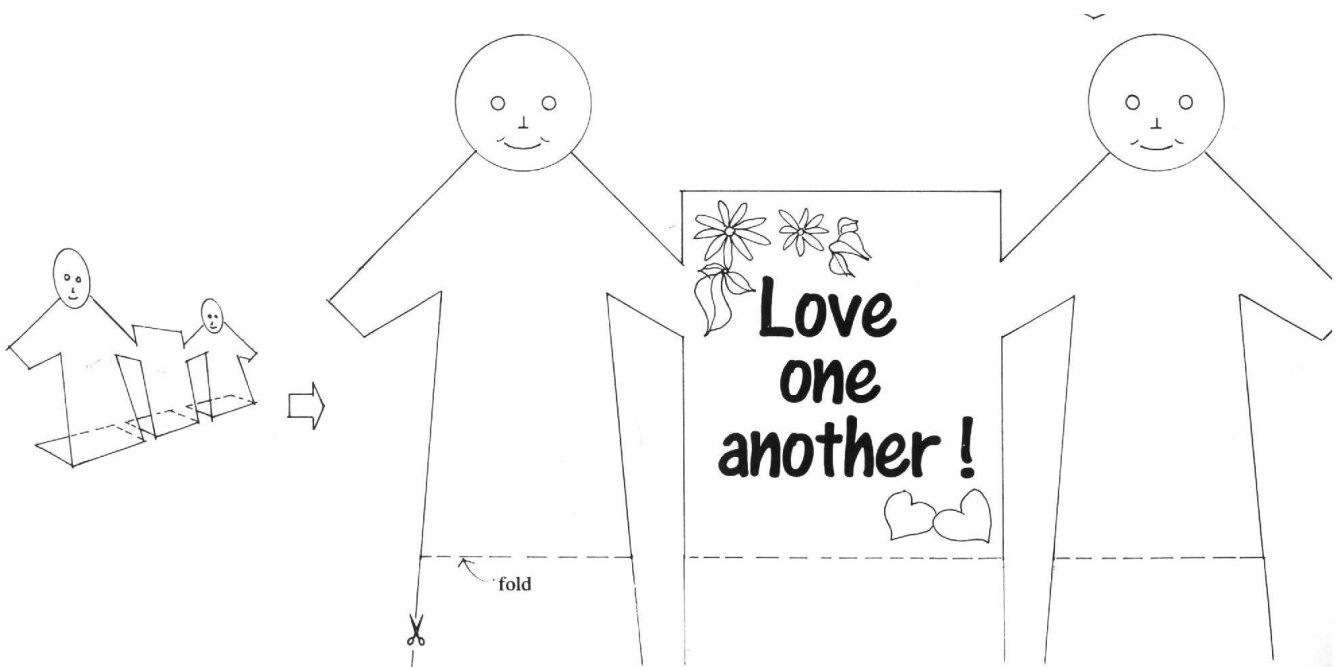
Activity 1

Draw yourself in the first house. Draw a neighbour in the next house. Now in another drawing, show how you can be a good neighbour to this person. Write a sentence about your picture.



Activity 2

Make standing figures by backing the cut-out with card.



Activity 3

Cut out a heart and paste it on a card. Draw your face and your neighbour's face inside the heart. Decorate it and give it to your neighbour.) Remember that your neighbour does not have to be the person living next door to you.)

God is Wise

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God knows what to do in every situation.

*Go to the ant...consider her ways and be wise.
Proverbs 6:6 (KJV)*



Integrated topics for Christian Education

- Wise choices in shopping; choosing friends; choosing a pet.

Other

- civil laws
- environmental responsibility; recycling; wise use of environment
- safety
- stranger danger
- planning for the future; careers
- biographies of those who relied on God for guidance and wisdom
- technology; inventions (God's wisdom given to man)
- journeys/exploration: people who relied on God's wisdom and guidance
- preparation for outdoor activities e.g. hiking, orienteering
- preparation for disasters: taking precautions
- preparation for seasonal weather conditions
- wise choices and decisions: drugs and alcohol

Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- wisdom
- obedience

Christian Life

Our response to *God is Wise*

- acknowledging that God knows more than we do
- allowing Him to be in charge of our life

God is Wise 2.1

Subtheme

God knows what to do in every situation

Bible references

Proverbs 2:3-12

It is the Lord who gives wisdom; from Him comes knowledge and understanding. (Verse 6 GNB)

Job 12:13 God has wisdom and power.

Matthew 7:24-27 The wise and foolish builders

Focus

It is wise to build our lives on Jesus.

Songs

He's Wiser (*All Creation Sings*)

My Dad (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

The House on the Rock (*All Creation Sings*)

Introduction

Look at pictures of different kinds of buildings.

Some buildings, like palaces for instance, have very elaborate designs. Other buildings are quite simple. If a building is going to stay standing for very long, it needs to be designed and built by a wise person. That person needs to know which parts of the building need to support other parts. He must know how strong certain parts must be. The part that needs to be really strong is the foundation. That's the part that takes the whole weight of the building.

Find a picture of the leaning tower of Pisa. What could be the problem with this building?

Story 1: 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 all that 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.

Question: Why was the first little pig a wise little pig?

Story 2: 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.

Discussion

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?

Art/Craft

- Make a poster: "Be wise! Build your life on Jesus".
- Draw the two houses described in Matthew 7:24-27.

God is Wise 2.2

Subtheme

God knows what to do in every situation.

Bible references

Daniel 2 Daniel explains the king's dream.

Daniel 5 Daniel explains the writing on the wall.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Focus

When we don't know the answer to a problem, ask God to give us His wisdom.

Songs

He's Wiser

My Dad

God is Greater

Introduction

Define the meanings of 'wise' and 'wisdom'.

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

Think of things that are very difficult for a young child to understand, but easy for an older child.

As we grow older, we can understand many more things. However no one has ever been, or will ever be, as wise as God. If we need wisdom, we can ask God to give it to us. This is what the Bible tells us to do in James 1:5.

What would you do in these situations?

1. You are lost in a big department store. You don't know what to do.
2. You borrowed a toy that belongs to your best friend. You have broken it and don't know what to do.
3. You have just moved to a new place. The children in your new school are not very friendly. You don't know how to make friends.

Story: Daniel explains the king's dream

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.

Discussion

Were the two kings very wise?

How was Daniel able to explain the king's dream and the writing on the wall?

Why was Daniel such a wise person?

What must we do if we want God's wisdom?

Activity 1

Here are some wise sayings from the Bible, written by a wise king called Solomon.

1. If you want people to like you, forgive them when they do wrong things to you. (Proverbs 17:9)

Questions: What does 'forgive' mean? When should we forgive people?

2. Good people think before they answer. (Proverbs 15:28)

Question: What might happen if you don't think before you speak?

3. Always obey the Lord and you will be happy. (Proverbs 28:14)

Question: What is the best way to be happy?

Activity 2

Fill in the gaps with a, e, i, o, u, to make this message from James 1:5.

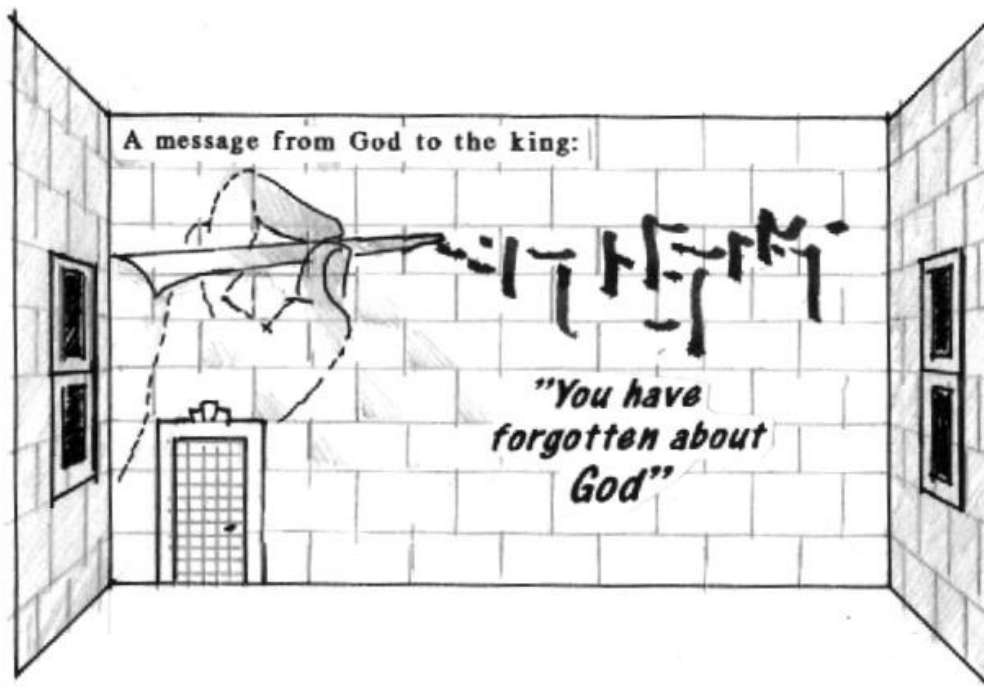
_sk G_d f_r w_sd_m.

Art/Craft

Daniel explains the king's dream

As a group activity you can cut up a large cardboard box so that 3 sides remain. The children can work together to create a wall using crayons or paint.

Alternatively children can create their own wall from a piece of paper.



God is Protector

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God protects His people when they are in danger

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10



Integrated topics for Christian Education

Protection services: e.g. policemen; life savers; firemen

Other

- family
- shelter: history of buildings;
- castles and fortresses protection services e.g. police; firemen
- human biology: immune system; the blood
- armour and weapons: the armour of God
- human body - skeletal system; blood
- sea voyages, ships and lighthouses
- environmental protection: saving animals on the verge of extinction
- animal defense mechanisms; camouflage
- animal parenting

Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- security
- courage

Christian Life

Our response to *God is Protector*

- trusting in God as Father
- feeling safe and secure in His care

God is Protector 2.1

Subtheme

God protects His people when they are in danger.

Bible references

Daniel 3 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Psalm 37:39-40 The Lord protects the righteous in times of trouble.

Psalm 91 God will put His angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go. (GNB)

Focus

Don't be afraid to obey God.

Songs

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

A Great Big Dad (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Introduction

Think of times when it might be difficult to obey God.

EXAMPLE:

Your friends are doing something you know is wrong. They want you to join in. If you don't, they will tease you.

Story: The Fiery Furnace

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were friends of Daniel. Tell the story of their protection in the fiery furnace

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worshipped the true God. They would not bow down to statues, even though they knew they would be punished. They would only obey God. God was watching over the three men. He knew that these men loved and obeyed Him. He protected them in the fire. Jesus was with them to keep them from harm. Even though they were in the middle of the flames, they were not hurt.

Art/Craft: Paper collage

1. Prepare background: Cut out flames from orange, red and yellow paper. Stick the flames on to the background sheet.
2. Prepare cut-out figures as shown and stick on to the background.
3. Add captions.



God is Protector 2.2

Subtheme

God protects His people when they are in danger.

Bible references

Daniel 6 Only God could save Daniel from the lions.

Psalm 4:8; Psalm 23 God will keep me safe.

Psalm 46 God is with us.

Focus

God promises to protect those who love and obey Him.

Songs

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

A Great Big Dad (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Story: Daniel in the lion's den

Tell the story of Daniel's protection in the lion's den.

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

How do we know that Daniel loved God?

How do we know that Daniel obeyed God?

Do you think that Daniel would have been afraid?

Do you think Daniel would have asked God to help him?

How did God take special care of Daniel?

What are some of the things you have been afraid of?

What should we do when we are afraid?

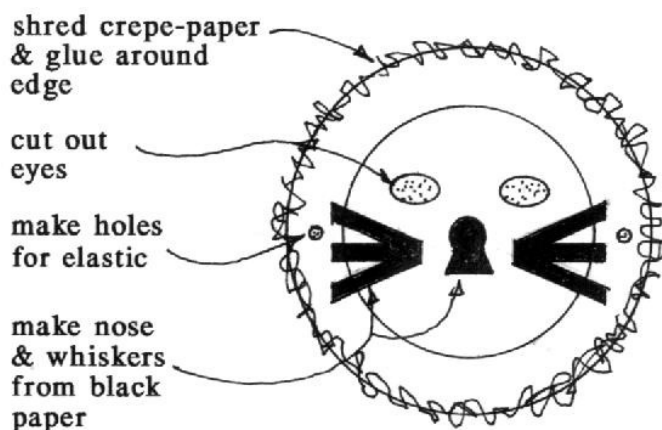
Art/Craft

Make some props to be used in dramatising the story. (See activity sheet 10)

1. Lion masks from paper plates.
2. A king's crown.
3. A scroll containing the king's orders: 'Everyone must bow down to me.'

Act it out

Using the story, make up a short play.



God is Protector 2.3

Subtheme

God protects His people when they are in trouble

Bible references

Luke 8:24 Jesus protected His disciples in the storm.

Psalm 27:1 The Lord protects me from all danger. I will never be afraid. (GNB)

Focus

Do not be afraid.

Songs

What A Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

A Great Big Dad (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Discussion/activity

Think about times when you have been afraid. What should we do when we are afraid?

Draw a picture to show a time when God has protected you.

Write a sentence about your drawing. (*See activity sheet 11*)

Story: Jesus calms the storm

Tell the story of Jesus calming the storm from Luke 28

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)



Discussion

Would you have been afraid?

What did Jesus say to the disciples when they were afraid?

Act it out

Divide into two groups. One group can create the sound effects of the storm.

EXAMPLES:

Use mouth sounds for wind; pat knees rapidly for rain; crash saucepan lids or use wooden spoon on baking dish for thunder.

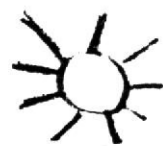
The second group huddle together on the floor as if they are in a small boat.

What do you do as the water starts to pour into the boat? (bail out the water)

What do you need to do to the sails? (*pull on the rigging*)

What about the anchor? (*throw it over the side*)

Someone wakes Jesus who is sleeping in the boat. Jesus stands and tells the storm to be still. All is quiet.



God is Powerful

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

Jesus is Lord and King.

The Lord rules... greater than the roar of the oceans, more powerful than the waves of the sea. Psalm 93:4 (GNB)



Integrated topics for Christian Education

- Kings and kingdoms: fact and fantasy; royalty; animal kingdoms; lion - king of the beasts.
- Related literature: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. (C.S. Lewis) *Video version is available*

Other

- God's power in creation
- force and energy/machines, tools, toys, transport
- electricity magnetism
- steam power; hydroelectric power
- solar system: expresses the greatness of God
- landforms: the power of creation expressed in mountains; volcanoes
- change: chemical reactions
- weather: powerful forces seen in storms; hurricanes
- transport; flight: utilizing the power forces in the Creation
- God's power to do miracles

Character Development (See *Jesus First*)

- faith
- surrender to a powerful God

Christian Life

- expecting to witness God's supernatural power in our lives
- allowing the Holy Spirit to work supernaturally through us
- relying on God's power and not our own strength

God is Powerful 2.1

Subtheme

Jesus is Lord and King

Bible references

Matthew 2 Jesus is born as King.

Isaiah 9:6-7 He will govern and reign.

Psalm 66 He rules the earth.

Focus

Jesus did not come to be a ruler of the land, but to live and rule in people's hearts and lives.

Songs

King of All (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Jesus You Are My King (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

Discussion

Look at pictures of kings, queens, their crowns, robes and jewels, their palaces. What makes kings and queens so special? What is their special job? What do we mean when we say that kings and queens *rule*.

Long ago, in the days of the Old Testament, a king was promised to the people of Israel. This king would be different from any other king. He would not have a royal throne or wear a royal crown. Yet He would be a King. He would be able to show people the way to God. He would be able to rule in the lives of people who wanted to have Him as their own personal King. Everyone knows the story of the birth of this King.

Story: The birth of Jesus

Revise the story of the birth of Jesus and the wise men who were looking for a newborn king.

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

How did the wise men know that a new king had been born?

What kind of king did King Herod think Jesus was going to be?

Why can we say that kings and queens have power?

Did Jesus have power?

Why was His power different to the power of other kings?

When Jesus lived on earth, what powerful things did He do?

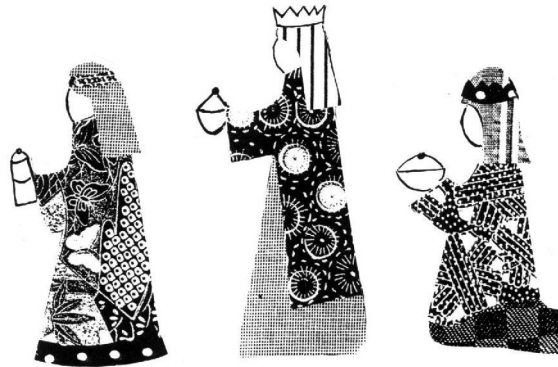
Can Jesus still do powerful things?

Act it out

Make up a play about the three wise men and King Herod. King Herod calls the wise men to him and questions them about the new baby king. The wise men go to visit Jesus and then go home a different way so as to avoid Herod. Make royal robes from pieces of material, jewelled crowns from paper and cellophane, old jewellery/gold chains for extra ornamentation.

Art/Craft

Make a collage of the three kings presenting gifts. Children can use different types of wrapping paper or fabrics for their clothing. Alternatively they can draw the kings and create patterned robes using pencils.



God is Powerful 2.2

Subtheme

Jesus is Lord and King

Focus

Some people want to have Jesus as King of their life. Some people do not.

Bible references

John 12:12-19 The triumphal entry

John 18:28-38 Jesus on trial for being King

Focus

Some people want to have Jesus as King of their life. Some people do not.

Songs

Jesus You are my King (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

King of All (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

God is greater (*All Creation Sings*)

Act it out

One child is chosen to be a king. Some can be the servants. Others can be part of the crowd waiting for the king to arrive. A herald trumpets the king's arrival and the servants roll out a red carpet. The crowd waves and shouts 'long live the king' as the king walks down the red carpet.

Discussion

Why do people get so excited when a king is coming?

Why is a red carpet sometimes laid down for a king or queen?

Story 1: Jesus enters Jerusalem

Tell the story of the triumphal entry, (John 12: 12-19)

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible* – (Zondervan)

How did the people show Jesus that they wanted Him as king?

Why did they lay down their coats?

Story 2: Jesus Dies as King

Tell the story from John 18:28-38 or read from *The Beginner's Bible* pp. 482-490.

It wasn't long after this that some people decided that this king called Jesus was becoming too popular with the crowds. "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, sarcastically.

"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'. Some one 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.

Discussion

How do we make Jesus our King?

ASK: (Ask Him into your life; ask for forgiveness)

OBEY: (God tells us what He wants us to do in the Bible)

FOLLOW: (Try to be like Jesus, and never give up being a Christian)

Art/Craft

Make a booklet about King Jesus, or fold a piece of paper into four:

Page 1: Jesus was born as king. (Draw baby Jesus in the stable.)

Page 2: Some people said, "We want King Jesus!" (Draw Jesus riding into Jerusalem)

Page 3: Some people said, "We don't want this king!" (Draw Jesus on the cross.)

Page 4: Jesus wants to be King of our hearts and lives. (Draw child reading the Bible.)

God is Powerful 2.3

Subtheme

Jesus is Lord and King

Bible references

Acts 1:6-10 Just as Jesus ascended into Heaven, He will return as King.

Psalm 47 God is king of all the earth.

Revelation 4:11 God is worthy to receive honour.

Revelation 5:12-13 Jesus is worthy to receive honour and praise.

Focus

Jesus will return as king and He will reign forever.

Songs

Jesus You are my King (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

King of All (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

Introduction

Think about the word 'forever'.

What does it mean?

Numbers can go on and on forever. We call this infinity.

Things don't last forever, but God's Kingdom does.

Story: Jesus goes up to heaven

Tell the story of Jesus returning to heaven, (Acts 1:6-10)

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

Even though Jesus has gone back to Heaven, His Spirit is still with us. He is always there watching over us and helping us. If we love Jesus, we can live forever with Him.

As the disciples were watching Jesus go up into Heaven, two angels dressed in white appeared. They told the disciples that just as they saw Jesus go up into Heaven, He would come back one day in the same way.

When Jesus does come back, He will be a very powerful King. He will defeat Satan who will be put away forever, never more to do his evil works.

Art/Craft

Make a collage showing Jesus ascending to Heaven and the disciples standing watching. Use cotton wool for the clouds and fabric for clothing.

God is Truth

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God is faithful to His word.

Live a life that measures up to the standard God set when He called you. Ephesians 4:1 (GNB)



Integrated topics for Christian Education

- Our faithfulness to others
- Keeping promises; keeping agreements
- being loyal, dependable and true to your word
- being a true and honest friend
-

Other

- discovering truth through the scientific method
- discovering real or substitute: testing materials e.g. gold or imitation
- fact or fantasy: discerning the difference between a true story and make-believe.
- scientists who discovered the truth: e.g. Galileo who discovered the truth about the solar system; pendulums
- discovering the truth through archaeology
- creation science: scientists who seek the truth and gather evidence to show that the universe is not millions of years old
- the media and advertising; consumer education: honesty/dishonesty in advertising and packaging; deception through advertising; customer surveys; testing performance of products

Character Development (See *Jesus First*)

- honesty
- discernment

Christian Life

- believing God's Word
- obeying the truth

God is Truth 2.1

Subtheme

God is faithful to His word

Focus

God keeps all His promises.

Bible references

Psalms 119:86 All God's commandments are faithful.

Proverbs 30:5 God keeps every promise He makes. (GNB)

1 Samuel 18-20 David and Jonathan

Songs

Sunrise Sunset (*All Creation Sings*)

Whatever is Good (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Definition

What is a promise?

A promise is doing the thing that you say you will do.

A promise is keeping your word.

Discussion

People make promises every day. What are some of them?

What promises do parents make to children?

What promises do children make to parents?

What promises do we make to our friends?

How do you feel when someone breaks a promise?

Would you trust that person again?

People often break promises, but God doesn't. That is why we can always trust Him. If God says something in His word, then we can believe it. The Bible says that God is faithful. This means that He keeps all His promises. We can depend on Him.

God wants us to be faithful too.

What does it mean when someone says, 'I can depend on you'?

Think about friends...

How can you be a faithful friend?

(Sharing, praying, playing, helping, showing kindness)

Story: David and Jonathan

Tell the story of David and Jonathan from 1 Samuel 18-20

or use *The Beginner's Bible* pp. 186-191 "*Best friends*"

Promise signs

Sometimes people give something to another person as a promise sign. When Jonathan gave David his things, it was a sign to show that he would always be a faithful friend.

People give wedding rings as a promise sign. The wedding ring says, 'I will stay with you forever'.

Because Jesus died on the cross, He was able to forgive people. The cross is a sign of God's forgiveness to us.

Activity: Make a promise box

Decorate the outside of the box. Promises can be prepared on strips of paper and placed in the box.

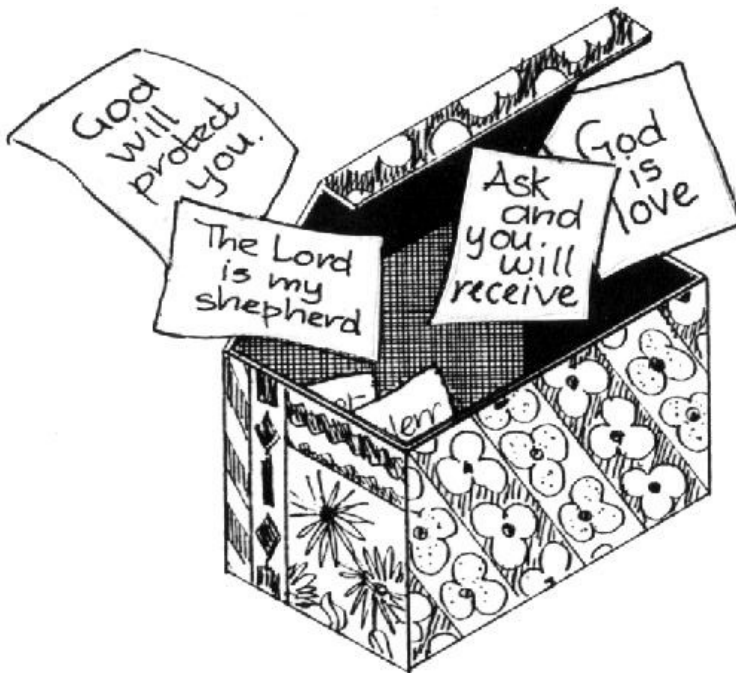
Close your eyes and select a promise from the box. You can choose a new promise every day of the week, or ask someone else to choose one.

Examples of promises:

- God loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus. (John 3:16)
- If we tell God that we have done wrong things, He will forgive us. (1 John 1:9)
- Ask God, and you will receive. (Luke 11:9)
- God will protect you. He puts angels in charge of you. (Psalm 91:11)
- God loves us so much that He calls us his children. (1 John 3:1)
- Jesus is coming back. (Acts 1:10)
- The Lord is my shepherd. (Psalm 23:1)

Exercise:

Make a promise to your Mum or Dad today. Keep the promise for a whole week.



God is Truth 2.2

Subtheme

God is faithful to His word

Focus

The promise of a Saviour

Bible references

Genesis 9:8-17 The rainbow: a sign of a promise.

John 3:16 God loved us so much that He sent His Son.

Psalm 33:4 God is faithful.

Songs

Sunrise Sunset (*All Creation Sings*)

Whatever is Good (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Revision

What is a promise?

A promise is doing the thing that you say you will do.

A promise is keeping your word.

Story: Noah and the great flood

Tell the story of Noah and the promise given to him, that the world would never again be destroyed by flood.

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

The rainbow was a sign of God's promise to all people. He would never destroy the world again with a flood, but instead would provide a way for people to be forgiven. God's people, the Israelites waited and waited for the promised One who would be able to forgive their sins. Do you know who they were waiting for?

Finally the day came when the promised One was born. His name was Jesus. He was called the Saviour because He would be able to forgive people for the wrong things they did. Now, anyone who wants to do so, can make Jesus their Saviour. All we have to do is ask Him.

God has given us two promise signs. The Old Testament promise sign is that of the rainbow. When we see the rainbow we remember that Jesus will come. The New Testament promise sign is the cross, which promises forgiveness to everyone who asks for it.

Art/Craft

Outline a rainbow in pencil. Using permanent marker or oil pastel, write inside the rainbow, 'God keeps all His promises'. Paint with water colours.

God is Truth 2.3

Subtheme

God is faithful to His word

Focus

God will always keep His promises.

Bible references

Genesis 15,17,18 God kept His promise to Abraham.

Numbers 23:19 God doesn't lie.

Songs

Sunrise Sunset (*All Creation Sings*)

Whatever is Good (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Discussion

Discuss the meaning of 'trust'.

Which people do we trust?

Why do we trust them?

Can we trust God? Why?

Trusting someone is having faith in that person. We can have faith in God because He always does what He says he will do.

Story 1: The 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 that lived in the hollow of the tree. He spent the winter with the squirrels that 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.

Discussion

This story is only make-believe, but it does show us how important it is to believe in the things that are true. Because the little bird had never seen the home in the south, it was difficult for him to believe in it. Some people won't believe in God because they can't see Him. However we can see the things He does. We can see the way that He protects and heals and helps people. We can feel His love. Because of this we can believe that His word is true. We can believe in God's word even though we can't actually see God.

Story 2: God's promise to Abraham

Tell the story of the promise given to Abraham, Genesis 15, 17, 18.

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Abraham had faith in God's word. God gave him a promise. The promise was that he and his wife would have a son even though they were too old to have children. Now that was a hard thing to believe. At first his wife Sarah did not believe it, but Abraham trusted God to make the promise happen, and it did.

Discussion

What is faith?

Faith is depending on God to do what he says He will do. Faith is trusting in God.

Abraham needed faith to believe that God would keep his promise. He needed faith because:

- He and his wife were too old to have children.
- They had already waited a long time for a baby.

The son that was born to Abraham was very special, because many, many years later, Jesus was born into Abraham's family.

God is Pure

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God is pure because He is without sin

Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.
Psalm 51:7



Related topics for Christian education

- Water: pure/impure.
- Methods of purification: straining; filtering; evaporating; floating; sinking; dissolving.

Other

- water (symbol of purity)
- light (symbol of purity)
- purity in relationships: loving and forgiving
- the fall of the perfect creation; environmental pollution
- the purity of heaven

Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- honesty
- goodness
- respect
- responsibility

Christian Life

- living as Jesus wants us to live
- putting into practice the words of Jesus
- having a clean heart

God is Pure 2.1

Subtheme

God is pure because he is without sin

Focus

Sin separates us from God.

Bible references

Genesis 3 God's pure world spoiled by disobedience

Psalms 145:17 The Lord is righteous in everything He does.

Psalms 18:30 God's way is perfect.

1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 9:14 Jesus was without sin.

Songs

Adam and Eve (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

White as Snowflakes (*All Creation Sings*)

Mud pies (*All Creation Sings*)

Discussion

Discuss things that are clean and pure.

EXAMPLES: freshly fallen snow; white clothes that have just been washed; crystal clear water.

Experiment

Prepare a bowl full of pure water.

What kinds of things could make this water impure?

- solid particles (*e.g. sawdust, wood chips, dirt*)
- other liquids

How could we get rid of the things that make the water impure?

- Straining to remove things that float: (*sawdust, wood chips*)
- Using a funnel and paper filter to remove finer particles: (*dirt*)
- Boiling muddy water and collecting the water droplets made by the steam.

Discussion

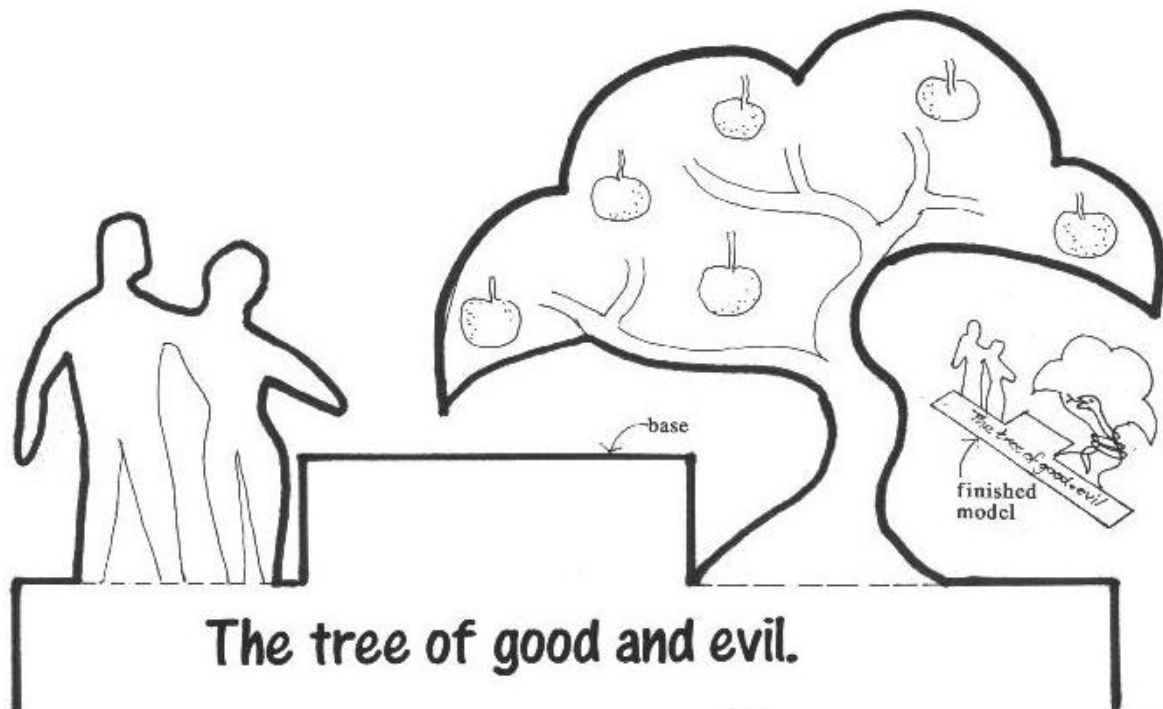
Just as this water began as being pure, the people that God made were once pure. They never did anything wrong. They had no sin. Then one day, Satan came along and asked the man and woman to follow him instead of God. Because the man and the woman obeyed Satan, their lives became impure. Everyone born after them also had impure lives.

This created a big problem. God was pure, but people were impure. This meant people could no longer be friends with God. That's why God sent Jesus. By forgiving us for our sin, Jesus can remove the impurity from our lives, and we can be friends with God again.

Story: The creation and fall

Revise the creation story and the fall of Adam and Eve, or use *The Beginner's Bible* pp. 16-27

Art/Craft Make or draw the tree of good and evil.



God is Pure 2.2

Subtheme

God is pure because He is without sin

Focus

Jesus has power to forgive sins.

Bible references

Matthew 9:1-7 The paralysed man was not just healed but forgiven as well.

Isaiah 43:25 I am the God who forgives your sins. (GNB)

Isaiah 1:18 I will wash you as clean as the snow. (GNB)

Songs

Adam and Eve (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

White as Snowflakes (*All Creation Sings*)

Mud Pies (*All Creation Sings*)

Discussion

Think of a time when you have had a fight with a brother, sister or friend. Often, after a fight, people don't talk to each other. People become separated because of fighting. However, when they forgive one another they come together again.

When people do wrong things they become separated from God. However when we ask Jesus to forgive us we can become friends with God again. The reason Jesus is able to forgive us, is because He Himself has no sin. He has never done anything wrong.

Story: 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, carrying a man on a stretcher bed. 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'?"

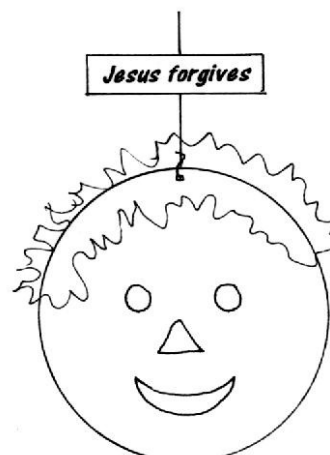
Then Jesus said to the paralysed man, "Get up. Pick up your bed and go home." The man did as Jesus said.

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 sort of 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.

Art/Craft

Make a smiling face mobile to show how people feel when Jesus forgives them. Use a paper plate or cardboard circle as a base. Use coloured paper for facial features and wool for hair. The mobile should be double sided.



God is Pure 2.3

Subtheme

God is pure because He is without sin.

Focus

The way back to God

Bible references

John 18 & 19 The death and resurrection of Jesus.

1 John 1:9 Jesus bridged the gap between people and God.

Songs

Adam and Eve (*Couldn't be Finer*)

White as Snowflakes (*All Creation Sings*)

Welcome, Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Preparation

Prepare the drawings for the story. Make them into large visual aids.

Discussion

When Jesus died, He was really being punished for something He didn't do. Jesus had never done anything wrong and yet He was being punished as a guilty person. God had planned, from long ago, that Jesus would take the punishment that the people of the world really deserved. Everyone in the world has done something wrong, but Jesus will forgive everyone who asks to be forgiven. He can forgive sins because of His death on the cross.

Definition

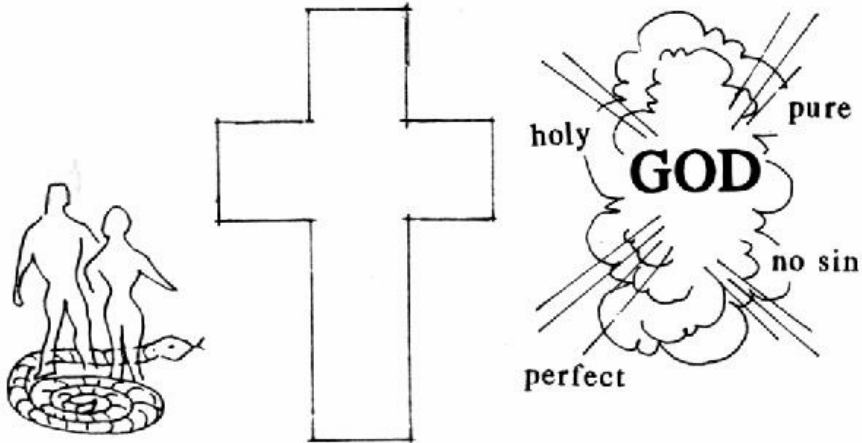
We say that God is 'pure' because He has no sin. We can also say that He is 'holy'.

Story: The way back to God (*Relates to drawings shown below*)

When God created the world, everything was perfect. Even the two people he had created, Adam and Eve, were perfect. However Adam and Eve listened to the wicked serpent. They chose to obey him instead of God. When they did this, a huge gap was formed between the people and God. Adam and Eve could no longer be friends with God because God was perfect and without sin, but they now had sin in their lives. It was not just Adam and Eve who were sinful, but also their children, their children's children and so on. Now there was a huge gap between people and God.

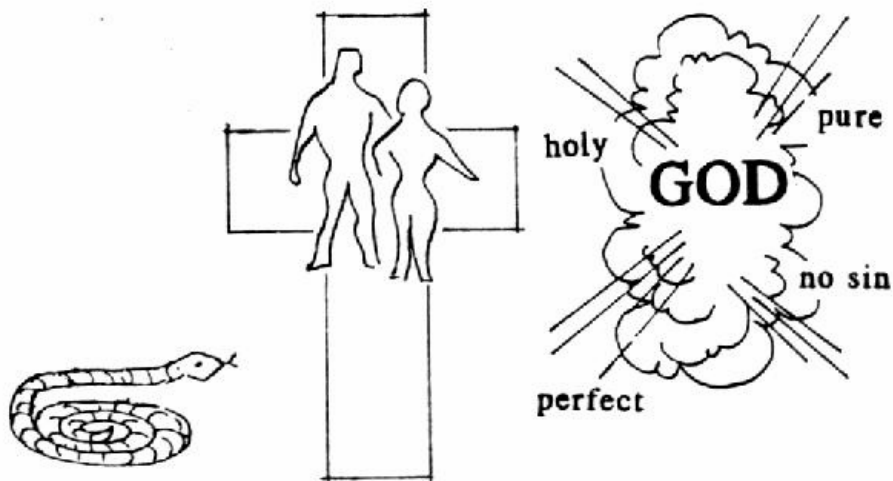


God made a special plan so that the people He loved so much could once again be friends with Him. He sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that people could be forgiven for their sin.



The cross became like a bridge. It was the way back to God. Now, when people understood why Jesus died, they could ask Jesus to forgive them for their sin and become friends with Jesus. Being friends with Jesus is being friends with God, because Jesus and God are one.

People can now walk across the bridge to be with God. They can do this by asking Jesus to forgive them for their sins. Then they must ask Jesus to be their special friend.



God is Patient

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

Patience is listening for God to speak to us.

Be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GNB)

Integrated Topics for Christian education

- listening games; sound; the ear; hearing impairment
- listening carefully and patiently to other people

Other

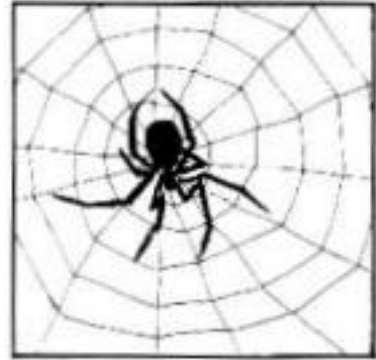
- waiting for things to happen
- patient observation of plant or animal growth
- patience with people
- tolerance
- patience in hobbies and occupations
- lifestyle 100 years ago: patience in doing tasks manually.
- lifestyle of pioneers and early settlers
- development of technology

Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- patience
- diligence
- self-control

Christian Life

- being patient with others
- having self-control
- waiting for God to answer prayer



God is Patient 2.1

Subtheme

Patience is listening for God to speak to us

Focus

The importance of listening

Bible references

Luke 10:38 Mary and Martha

Matthew 13:10-16 The hidden meaning of the parables. We need to listen with special ears.

Songs

Give Me ears (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Waiting Patiently (*All Creation Sings*)

Listening activities

Use any games that focus attention on listening.

EXAMPLE 1: *Follow the sound*: One child is blindfolded. Another child stands somewhere in the room tapping. The blindfolded child must walk to the child who is tapping. (The blindfolded child will need another child to hold their hand to make sure they do not crash into things.)

EXAMPLE 2: *Razzle Tazzle Game*

A bell is placed in the centre of the circle. One child sits in the centre with eyes closed. A second child is chosen to steal the bell. After stealing the bell, this child takes his/her place again in the circle, hiding the bell behind their back. Everyone chants, 'Razzle-tazzle, who can tell, who has come to steal the bell?' The child in the centre has three guesses.

EXAMPLE 3: *Identify the sound*

The teacher prepares a bag of objects that make sounds, e.g. a whistle, tapping sticks, a spoon and a glass, paper that can be scrunched, a pair of scissors opening and closing. Children have to close their eyes and try and identify each sound as it is performed by the teacher.

EXAMPLE 4: *How many sounds can you hear?*

Ask children to close eyes and count the number of sounds they can hear in the immediate environment.

Discussion

To listen carefully we must be very patient. It is important to be patient when someone is giving us instructions. See if you can listen patiently to these instructions, then carry them out:

Stand up. Pat your head three times, then touch your toes. Stand up again and blink three times.

Sometimes, when a person is in a hurry to do something, they don't even wait for the complete instructions.

EXAMPLE: Dad has bought a new piece of equipment for the family. (*Here the teacher can name a specific piece of equipment, e.g. a camera.*) Dad asks the children to sit quietly and listen while he explains the operating instructions. One of the children, James, jumps up before

Dad has finished explaining, and says, "It's O.K. Dad. I know how to do it! I know how to do it!"

What might happen if James tries to operate the piece of equipment before Dad has finished explaining?

Did James listen patiently?

Story 1: The Parables

Jesus told many stories to the crowds who gathered around Him. However not everyone listened carefully to the words of Jesus. Some people thought they already knew everything they needed to know about God. These people were the Pharisees. They didn't even try to understand what Jesus was saying.

Jesus told stories called parables. These stories had hidden meaning, and Jesus would tell parables to make people listen carefully. People had to think carefully about the story in order to understand the hidden meaning. Jesus said that careful listening and thinking, was listening with special 'ears'.

Children may already know of some examples of parables. e.g. The House on the Rock.

Story 2: Mary and Martha

Tell the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38

or read from the children's story Bible - The Beginners Bible – (Zondervan)

What does this story teach us about listening to Jesus?

Act it out

Dramatise the story of Mary and Martha.

God is Patient 2.2

Subtheme

Patience is listening for God to speak to us

Focus

Listening to God takes time.

Bible references

1 Kings 19 God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice

Matthew 14:23 Jesus went to a quiet place to pray.

Psalm 85:8 I am listening to what the Lord God is saying. (GNB)

Songs

Give me Ears (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Waiting Patiently (*All Creation Sings*)

Ask, Seek, Knock (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Listening Game: Sound identification

Select some percussion instruments or noisy objects.

EXAMPLES: saucepan lids; rice shakers; spoons, OR, commercial instruments such as tambourine, maracas, drum, triangle.

Children sit in a circle. Place the instruments in the centre. Ask children to close their eyes, then play the instruments in sequence. (No more than three.) The children must identify the sounds in the correct order. Teacher asks: *Which did I play first? second? third?*

Discussion

Discuss the importance of listening, and the fact that listening requires patience.

When do we have to listen carefully?

Which people have important things to tell us?

EXAMPLE 1

Mum wants you to go with your big brother to buy some things from the shop. She needs a carton of milk, a packet of biscuits and six potatoes.

Did you listen carefully? Can you remember what she needs?

EXAMPLE 2

Mum wants you to tidy your room. She wants the books stacked neatly in the shelves, the clothes on the floor to be placed in the dirty laundry basket, and the toys put away. Can you remember what to do?

God has important things to tell us too. But how do we listen to Him?

- By listening to the Bible.
- By listening to people who obey Him.
- By praying to Him, and then waiting quietly to see whether God wants to give you any special thoughts. Some people call this a 'quiet time'. We can have a quiet time every day. Maybe every evening at bed time, you can ask Mum or Dad to read you a Bible story. Then you can pray. Then wait for God to speak. He won't speak in a loud voice, may speak through your thoughts.

Story: 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.

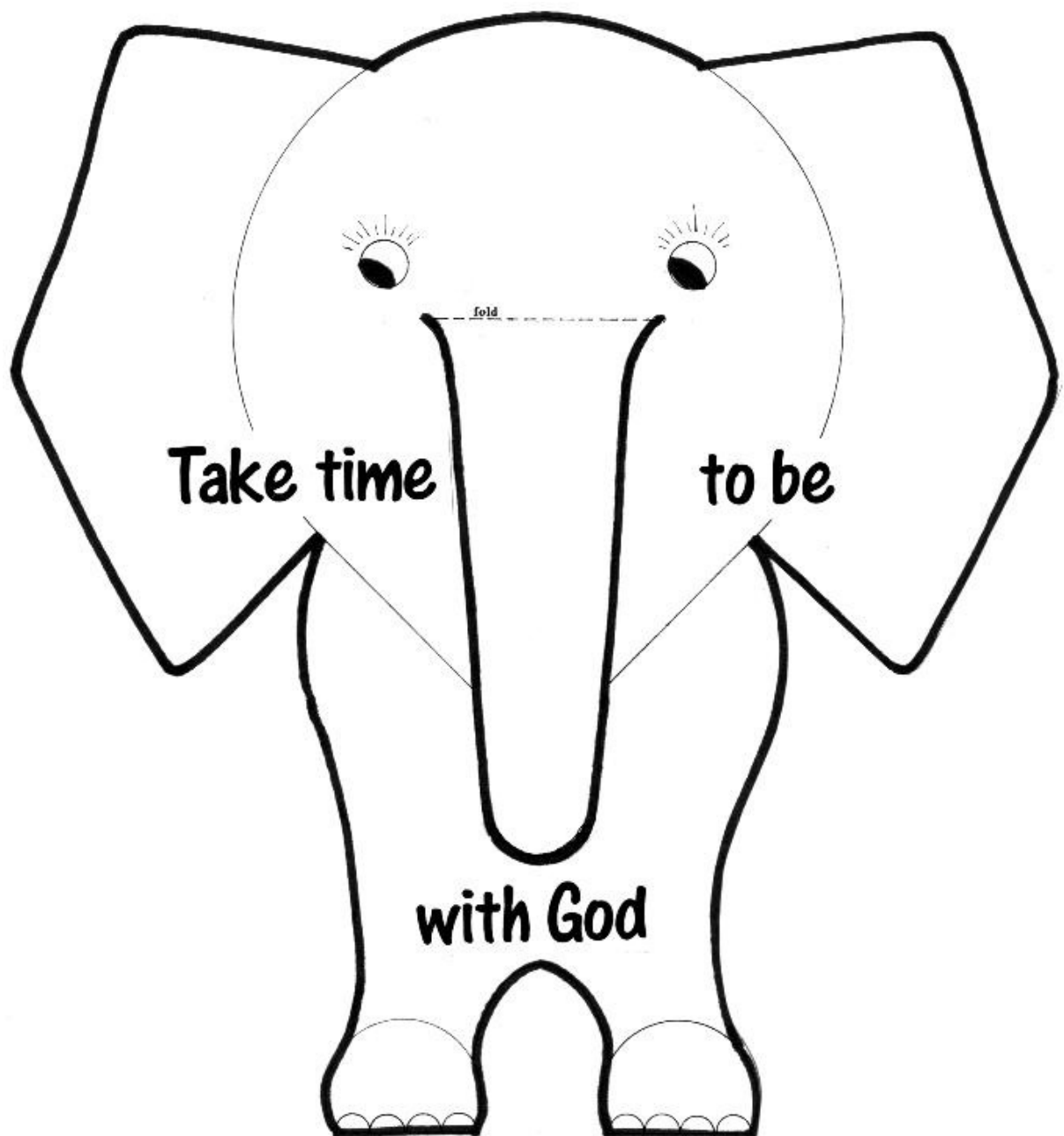
Then there was an earthquake. The ground trembled and the rocks fell down around him. Surely this must be God's voice," he thought. But no, it was not. Then Elijah saw a flickering fire. But no, God was not in the fire.

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.

Discussion

- The story shows us that God wants to speak to us when we take time to listen. God wants to speak when everything is quiet. It could be difficult to hear God speaking during our favourite TV show, or during a game of hide and seek. However when we take time to read, think, pray and listen, God can speak to us. .
- Listening to a Bible story and understanding the meaning is a way of hearing God speak to us. God can also speak to us through our conscience. That's something inside that tells us when it is wrong to do something.
- When Jesus was living on earth, he would often go away quietly on His own to talk with His Heavenly Father. After a busy day, He would send all the people away, and go and pray.

Art/Craft



God is a Servant

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

Jesus, the willing and helpful servant

Let love cause you to serve one another. Galatians 5:13 (GNB)



Integrated topics for Christian Education

People who serve the community - e.g. fire-fighters, ambulance, police

Other

- serving in the home
- people who serve in the medical profession
- look at the way in which technology serves e.g. to spread the gospel
- communications
- serving with time and talents
- occupations
- pioneers and explorers who sacrificed and endured
- missionaries

Character Development (See *Jesus First*)

- helpfulness
- humility
- sacrifice

Christian Life

- serving God and others with humility
- giving up time and energy to help others

God is a Servant 2.1

Subtheme

Jesus, the willing and helpful servant

Focus

Willingness to help people

Bible references

Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus healed many people, including Peter's mother.

John 2:1-11 Jesus helped the hosts at the wedding.

Galatians 5:13 In love serve one another.

Songs

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Jesus Take My Hands/What Can I Give (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Discussion

Discuss situations in which we would see servants today. Examples: restaurants, hospitals, Buckingham Palace.

Game

One child can be the king or queen. The others take turns in being a servant. The group must guess what the servant is doing to help the king/queen.

Servants are people who like to help others. They are not forced to help. They help because they choose to.

Many years ago, there were cruel masters who forced people to work for them. The people who worked for the masters were called slaves. The slaves had to work hard for no pay. The slaves didn't like working for the masters.

Servants are different from slaves. Servants choose to work for others but slaves do not. Servants enjoy working but slaves do not. God wants us all to be HIS servants. He wants us to work for Him because we CHOOSE to. People who love Jesus are happy to work for Him. Many people have given their whole life to serving Jesus because they love Him so much.

Jesus was a servant too. Imagine someone as important as Jesus being a servant. He just loved to help people. Once, all in the one day, Jesus healed Peter's mother who had a fever, and healed lots of other people too. Jesus must have been very tired at the end of the day, but He didn't mind because He loved helping people. Another time He washed the dirty dusty feet of all the disciples. Another time He helped some family friends at a wedding party.

Story: The wedding at Cana

Tell the story of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding at Cana, (John 2:1-11).
or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible* – (Zondervan)

How did Jesus help out at the wedding? Who did He help? What would have happened if He hadn't helped?

How can people serve Jesus today? How can we be servants for Jesus?

God is a Servant 2.2

Subtheme

Jesus, the willing and helpful servant

Focus

Willingness to help, even when the task is difficult

Bible references

Matthew 5:41-42 The extra mile.

Matthew 21:1-11 The disciples served Jesus by bringing the donkey.

Hebrews 13:16 Share what you have.

Ephesians 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly.

Songs

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

What Can I Give/Jesus Take my Hands (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Puppet sketch: 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.

Discussion

What are some difficult things we might be asked to do for others?

Story 1: 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 its 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 who lined the roadway, cheering and shouting 'Hosanna'. How noisy it was. But the little donkey just kept going.

Discussion

Why do you think the little servant donkey was not afraid?

Story 2: Saint Nicholas

This is a well-known story from Holland, about someone who was a servant.

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."

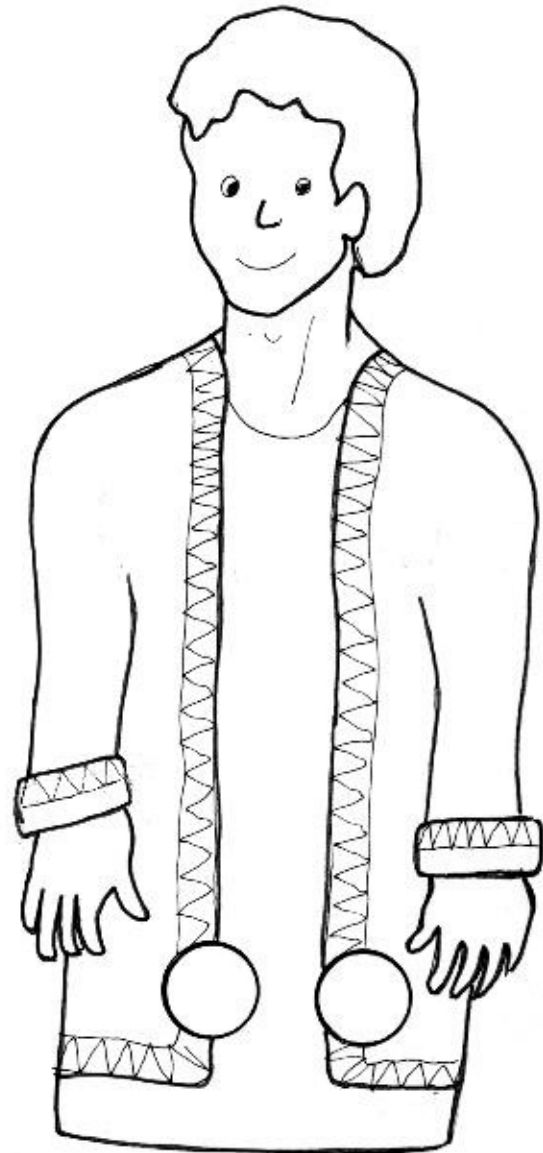
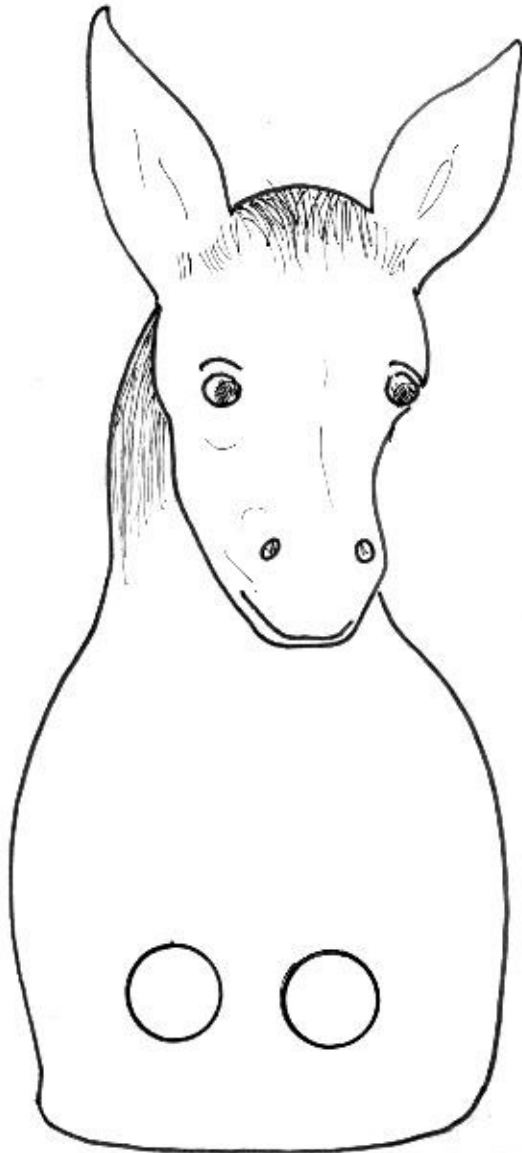
Nicholas worked hard, for he hadn't much time. "Only a few weeks until Christmas," he thought. He hammered and chiselled away in his workshop making toy trains, dolls and little horses. When it was almost Christmas he gathered up the toys and set off for the homes of the poor children. He didn't want 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 organising things to do with the church. But he didn't. He wanted to help. That's really being a servant.

Art/Craft

Make finger puppets to tell the story of the donkey that helped Jesus. Back cut-outs with card and cut holes for fingers to poke through. Fingers act as the puppet's legs.



God is a Servant 2.3

Subtheme

Jesus, the willing and helpful servant

Focus

Willingness to help others when we would rather please ourselves

Songs

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Lord I Want to Shine (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Bible references

Luke 18:10-28 Jesus healed a crippled woman.

Isaiah 1:19 Be willing and obedient.

Galatians 6:2 Help to carry one another's burdens.

Puppet sketch 1: Time for work and time for play

Betty:

Guess what Billy! I've got a new toy. Do you want to come over to my house and see 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 see her new toy?

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.

Discussion

- Why was it difficult for Billy to be willing and helpful?
- Think about times when you have wanted to do something special, but jobs needed to be done first.
- What if Mum asks you to do a job when a favourite T.V. program is on, or when it is your time to play? Would that be difficult?

Puppet sketch 2: Helping a friend

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)

Billy's 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!

Discussion

Why was it difficult this time for Billy to be helpful?

It wasn't always easy for Jesus to help people. There were some people who would try to stop Jesus from helping others. They were the Pharisees. Once they told Jesus that He shouldn't be helping a person because it was God's day, Sunday. Do you think we should help people on Sundays?

Story: Jesus heals a crippled woman

Tell the story of the healing of the crippled woman, (Luke 18:10-28)

or use *The Beginner's Bible* pp. 406-411 *The woman who could not stand up*.

Art/Craft: 'helping hands'

Make some hand prints. Use sponges saturated in paint for stamp pads. Print hands on to paper. If you find this too messy, draw around hands and colour in.

God is Life

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God gives new life

*No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.
John 3:3 (GNB)*



Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Animal life cycles: metamorphosis, environmental studies.

Other

- The cycle of human life from birth to old age
- plant life; ecosystems
- plant life
- requirements for life: air, water
- desert survival
- joy in life: celebrations and cultural festivals

Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- joy
- enthusiasm

Christian Life

- receiving God's gift of eternal life
- accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- knowing the joy that Jesus gives

God is Life 2.1

Subtheme

God gives new life

Focus

Following Jesus

Bible references

Matthew 9:9-12; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32; John 1:43-50

Jesus calls the disciples to a new life.

John 5:24-25 & John 6:53-54 Eternal life.

John 20 The resurrection.

John 11:25 Jesus, the resurrection and the life

Songs

He is Alive (*All Creation Sings*)

Jesus is a Friend (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Fishing Game

Using a rod with string and magnet attached, children take turns to 'fish' for cards. Cards have paper clips stuck to them so that they will be attracted to the magnet. Each fish-shaped card contains a disciple's name. Read the names as each card is 'fished' from a bucket.

Story: Jesus calls His disciples

Tell the story of the calling of the first disciples, from using bible references shown above, or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

Jesus chose twelve friends to follow Him. Before they followed Jesus they had different kinds of jobs. Some were fishermen. Some were money collectors. Some had other jobs. When Jesus asked them to be His friends, they had to leave their jobs and follow Jesus...everywhere! They listened to Him talk about God. They watched Him heal people. It was a new way of life for the disciples.

Jesus wants us to live a new life too. He wants us to be His friends and followers just as the disciples were. Being a follower of Jesus means that we live the way Jesus wants us to. We do the things He wants us to do. Did you know that God lives forever and ever? Living forever is called 'eternal life'. After Jesus died on the cross, He came alive again to live forever. Whoever loves Him and follows Him will live forever too. Our bodies will not live forever, but the part of us that we cannot see, our spirit, will live forever. God gives 'eternal life' to all those who love Him.

Puzzle

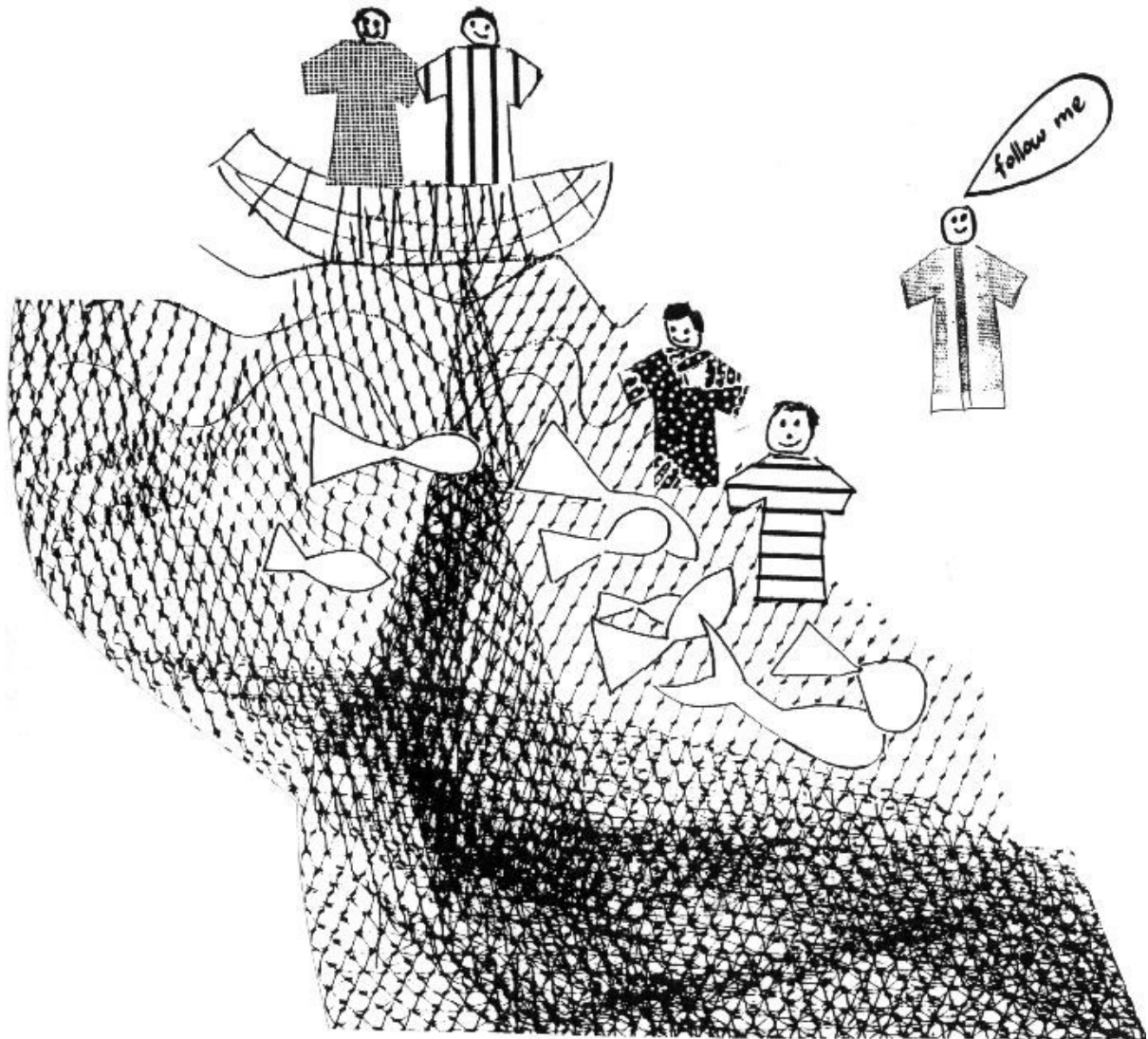
What did Jesus say to Peter, Andrew, James and John?

Find words to rhyme with the words below. The beginning letters are given.

I fill take two dishes of ten.

(w) (m) (y) (f) (m)

Art/Craft Make a collage. Orange bag or onion netting can be used for the net.



God is Life 2.2

Subtheme

God gives new life

Focus

New life for those who receive Jesus

Bible references

John 3:1-3 Nicodemus asks about new life.

Luke 14:15-24 The great feast

Revelation 3:20 Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks.

Songs

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Jesus is a Friend (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Nicodemus (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Introduction

Look at a party invitation.

Discuss the details: the kind of party, the date, place and time.

Everyone likes receiving invitations. When someone sends you an invitation, they expect you to reply, usually by a certain date. They want to know whether you will accept the invitation or not.

Story 1: The big 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.

Discussion

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. I'm sure you would be disappointed.

Jesus has sent an invitation to all of us. It is an invitation to be His friend. When people don't accept, He is very disappointed.

Story 2: 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.

Bible research

Jesus gives us an invitation in the last book of the Bible:

Revelation 3:20 *Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.*

Art/Craft

Activity 1

Make an invitation:

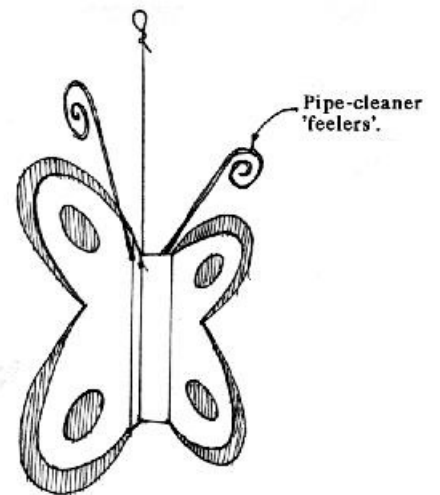
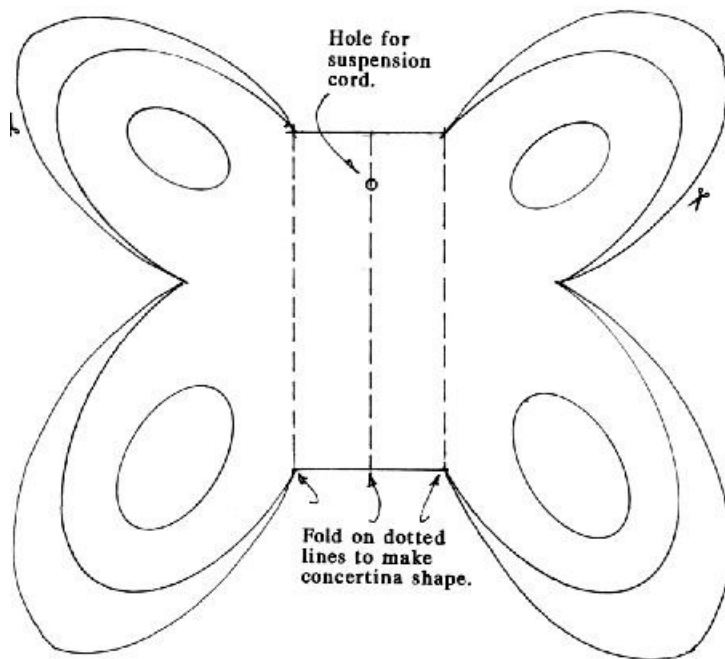
Fold the card in half so that it opens like a book. On the inside, write:

To (Write your name)

Jesus said, "I want to be your friend."

Activity 2

Make butterflies. Explain why they are a symbol of new life.



God is Provider

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God's provision never runs out.

I have provided all kinds of grains and all kinds of fruits for you to eat. Genesis 1:29 (GNB)

Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Plants - trees and forests

Other

- food
- fibres and fabrics
- animal husbandry
- fishing industry
- third world food shortage
- technology
- rainforests; ecosystems

Character Development (See Jesus First)

- trust
- faith
- thankfulness
- generosity

Christian Life

- trusting God as Father
- thanking God for His provision



God is Provider 2.1

Subtheme

God's provision never runs out

Focus

The goodness of God; thankfulness

Bible references

Psalm 103:5 He fills my life with good things. (GNB)

Psalm 50:10 He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

1 Kings 17 Miraculous provision for the widow when Elijah prays

2 Kings 4 Miraculous provision for another widow when Elisha prays

Songs

Thankyou for all the Good Things (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Thankyou Lord for This Fine Day (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

God Is a Provider (*All Creation Sings*)

Introduction

Think of some of the good things God provides for us.

God wants to give us good things. Can you imagine a Mum or Dad who never ran out of money? God, our Heavenly Father, own everything. He never runs out of good things to give us. We can ask Him to provide the things we need.

Story: God provides oil for Elijah and Elisha

The Bible tells us about two men who trusted God to provide the things they needed. The first man was called Elijah. The second man was called Elisha. They both saw God do miracles to provide for them.

Tell the stories of the provision miracles experienced by Elijah and Elisha, (1Kings 17 and 2 Kings 4)

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible* – (Zondervan)

Missing Words

1. Elisha told the woman to get some j_____.
2. The lady who helped Elisha only had a little f_____ and a little oil.
3. God provided a b_____ for the woman who helped Elisha.
4. The lady was able to make a lot of b_____ from the flour and oil.
5. The lady sh_____ the bread with Elijah.
6. The woman sold the oil and had plenty of m_____.

Missing words: flour; money; baby; shared; bread; jars

Art/Craft

Make items of imitation food from flour/salt dough. Bake in moderate oven 4-5 minutes. Paint them.

Recipe for flour/salt dough

1 cup plain flour; 1/2 cup salt; approximately 1/3 cup water

Mix flour and salt together in a bowl. Add the water a little at a time. Work the dough with hands until it holds together. Knead the dough. If the dough feels too wet, add some extra flour. If it is too crumbly, sprinkle a few drops of water on to it.

God is Provider 2.2

Subtheme

God's provision never runs out.

Focus

God looks after families of those who trust Him.

Bible references

Genesis 37-46 God provided food for Joseph and his family.

Psalms 104:24-28 God provides food for His creation.

Matthew 6:25-34 Do not worry about food and clothes.

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd. I have everything I need. (GNB)

Songs

Thankyou Lord for This Fine Day (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Thankyou for all The Good Things (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

God Is a Provider (*All Creation Sings*)

Introduction

Look at different grains, e.g. wheat, rice, barley.

Discuss the different uses of these grains.

Game

You will need two or three pairs of tweezers, some cups and some grain. Give each child a pair of tweezers and a cup. Place a bowl of grain in the centre. Someone says 'Go' and counts to 20. Players must pick up one grain at a time with their tweezers and place the grains in the cup. The player with the most grains in their cup on the count of 20 is the winner.

Story: Joseph

This is a true story about a family who saw God provide for them. The father of the family was called Jacob. He loved God. He had twelve sons. One of the sons, called Joseph, thought about God more than the other brothers. God did something special for Joseph. God gave him dreams that had a special meaning. The brothers did not like Joseph, but God was with him. God had a plan for Joseph. God helped him become a ruler in the king's palace. God told Joseph about a bad drought that was coming to the land. It would be a time when no food would grow. Joseph was able to warn the king about the drought. He told the king to store up food. That is how God provided food for the whole land, and even for Joseph's family who came from a different land.

Tell the story of Joseph from Genesis 47-46, focusing on provision of food

or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

How did Joseph become a very important person?

How did God tell the king to save up food?

How did God provide for Joseph's family?

Art/Craft

Make a place mat for the table by drawing food items on pieces of card. Cover the finished drawings with clear contact or plastic if you have it.

God is Peace

Level 2 (age 6)

Subtheme

God wants us to have peace with others

*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1*



Integrated Topics for Christian Education

- Peace and harmony in play; sharing toys, games, stories, experiences.
- Mathematical problems involving sharing.

Other

- security through homes and families
- shelter from the environment
- dealing with fears
- trust, (inner peace)
- dealing with fears, (obstacles to peace)
- barriers to peace, (racial, national, cultural prejudices)
- national and international peace
- biographies of peacemakers and those who have struggled for peace
- peaceful environment: nature walks
- art and music: compare examples - which examples create a feeling of peace?

Character Development

- contentment
- being a peace-maker

Christian Life

- experiencing inner peace
- feeling safe and secure in God's care

God is Peace 2.1

Subtheme

God wants us to have peace with others

Focus

Having fun together without quarrelling

Bible references

Genesis 13 Abram's unselfish choice: a peaceful end to quarrelling.

Job 22:21-23 Stop quarrelling.

Mark 9:50 Peace with one another.

Songs

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

God is my Peace (*All Creation Sings*)

Introduction

Why do you think God gave us brothers and sisters?

Why do some brothers and sisters argue and fight?

When do Mum and Dad say, 'Let's have some peace and quiet!'

Brainstorm

Make a list of suggestions for peaceful play. Peaceful play means, 'no quarrelling!'

Story 1: 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 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 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.

Story 2: 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.

Sharing activities

EXAMPLES:

- Bring along a toy to share with others in the group.
- Bring some food to share.
- Make a cake and share it.
- Play some games which involve sharing or taking turns.

Art/Craft

Draw a 'sharing' picture. Write a caption for the picture. e.g.

- Sharing my new bike with my friend.
- Sharing my best toy with my sister/brother.

God is Peace 2.2

Subtheme

God wants us to have peace with others

Focus

Resolving conflict: sharing and forgiving.

Bible references

Genesis 5 Jacob and Esau.

Matthew 18:21-22 Forgive your brother.

Ephesians 4:31-32 No more hateful feelings...Instead...forgive one another as God has forgiven you. (GNB)

Songs

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

God is my Peace (*All Creation Sing*)

Discussion

What are some of the things we can share together?

More sharing activities

Sharing a song:

Take turns in selecting a favourite song. Invite the group to join in singing the song.

Sharing books:

Everyone can bring along a favourite story book. Take turns in showing pictures and telling the story.

Puppet sketch 1: Sharing

Billy:

My Mum gave me a packet of 'Smarties' for being a good boy. 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.

Betty:

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, then you can come inside and help me make a chocolate cake.

Puppet sketch 2: Forgiving

Betty:

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

Billy:

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

Betty:

OK. 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 telescope falls to the ground.)

Betty: *(Looking through the telescope)*

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:

OK. What are you two fighting about?

Betty:

He broke my kaleidoscope!

Billy:

I did not!

Mum:

Instead of blaming each other and fighting, how about forgiving 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.

Discussion

If we do have a fight with someone, forgiving each other, and being friends again, is the best way to end the fight. What could happen if two people don't forgive one another?

Story: Jacob and Esau

This is a story about two brothers who had a fight. They were twin brothers. One was called Jacob, and the other Esau.

Tell the story of Jacob and Esau from Genesis 5, or use *The Beginner's Bible* pp. 54-72

Discussion

What bad thing did Jacob do to Esau?

What did Esau want to do to Jacob? How did the fight end?

Think about times when a brother or sister has done something wrong to you. Maybe a younger brother or sister has destroyed something you have made. How do you feel? How could you act? What would Jesus want you to do?

Is it always easy to share with brothers and sisters? Is it always easy to forgive? What does God want us to do?