

Fire and Firemen

God is a Servant

This unit of study has been designed for use in conjunction with other Beacon Media resources:

Themes for Christian Studies Level: God is a Servant

Fire is a good servant or a bad master.

Fire fighters are important and faithful community servants.

God wants His people to be faithful servants.

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Fire and Firemen

God is a servant

Here is a saying:

Fire is a good servant but a bad master.

Think about this saying.

A servant is someone who does something good for us. A servant helps us.

When can a fire help us?

A master is someone who is in control. A master can be good or bad. A good master will help the servant do the right thing. But a bad master can treat someone badly.

How can a fire treat us badly?

Firemen are good servants. They help us when a fire is out of control. Firemen are very brave. They put their own life at risk to help others.

Jesus was the greatest servant. He gave his own life to save us. John 15:13 says, "No one has shown greater love than this – that he lay down his life for his friends."

Fire engines

Early fire engines carried huge water barrels. Firemen squirted water with _____.

The f_____ they pumped the steadier the water flowed.

Missing words: faster, huge hoses

Next, steam engines were invented and firemen didn't have to pump any more.

Today's engines are very fast and powerful.

Draw a picture of one you have seen.

Fire engines today carry many things to help the firemen in their work.

Here are some of the things a fire engine would carry. Next to each, write what it could be used for.

Rope

First Aid

Bolt Cutters

Axe

Oxygen and Mask

Firemen

When you dial _____ which is the emergency fire number, you are connected to a person who takes down details about the fire. You will need to say:

Instructions are then sent to the nearest fire station. Within minutes the first engine is on its way.

Firemen have to be ever ready, must finish the job and make sure their equipment is always working.

Why would do they need to do this?

Firemen are very faithful servants to our community.

How do firemen help us?

What is a servant?

Here are two true stories from the Bible about good servants.

Jesus had a cousin called John. John had a special job to do for God. For a long time he went out into the desert to get ready for the job. Then when it was the right time, he came back to the towns and told people that Jesus was coming. He baptized people in the river and said, "Get ready for Jesus. He is going to take away your sins." Many people did not like John for doing this and did not believe him, but John obeyed God. Then finally one day, Jesus came and started his work on earth. (Matthew 3:11)

Here is another servant of God. Do you remember Noah? God told him to build a big boat because it was going to rain. Until that time it had never rained on earth, so and people did not know what rain was. Only dew had gathered on the earth. People laughed at Noah and said that he was silly to build a boat. "There would be no rain," they said. But Noah obeyed God and did the job God had called him to do. He was able to save the animals and his whole family because he obeyed God. (Genesis 6-8)

A servant must obey God.

Firemen must obey their instructions. They have to know exactly what to do in a fire. They can save many people by being obedient servants.

Can you be a servant of God? _____

Science experiments

Name: _____

1. With your teacher, conduct an experiment to see what fire needs to burn. Light a candle and put a jar over it. What happens to the candle?

2. What does a fire need to keep going? _____

3. What will burn? (An experiment for the teacher to conduct)

Material	Prediction Yes/No	Burnt well	Burnt a little	Slow	Not at all
Card					
Cotton					
Wool					
Steel					
Foil					

4. What material should you never wear near a fire?

5. What material would be safer to wear near a fire?

Bushfires in Australia

Lightning can cause bushfires. However, people start most fires. Careless people burning off on hot days, campers who do not put out their fires properly and smokers who foolishly throw away burning matches and cigarette butts all cause fires. Many fires are also deliberately lit.

What happens to wildlife?

In every bushfire many animals die. Possums and koalas simply climb higher in their trees where they may be burnt or suffocate. Kangaroos, dingoes and goannas sometimes run out of the path of a fire but more often than not a fire is too fast for them. Insects, grubs and spiders are burnt up in dead leaves on the forest floor. Small marsupials and reptiles sometimes escape by sheltering under rocks. Wombats and other animals which burrow deep into the soil are usually insulated from the heat and survive.

A bushfire often burns in a patchy way and wet gullies may not burn. Some animals survive here but after a fire, food is scarce and many animals die of starvation. Only birds which can fly swiftly out of danger and go to other food sources are safe.

Plants die too, of course. However there are many plants which can survive or grow after a fire.

Many plants have hard woody fruit to protect their seeds. Banksias and hakeas are samples. Other plants such as acacias and native peas, have hard coated seeds which are cracked by fire and then germinate quickly. Some plants, particularly eucalyptus have buds under the bark and at the base of the stem which spring to life after a fire.

Have you looked at an area of bush a few months after it has been burnt? If you look carefully you will see lots of other ways plants have survived. Next time you go for a walk in the bush look for clues of a past fire burnt bark, scars on tree trunks, lots of wattles or just a few.

What happens to the forest?

Bushfires aren't altogether bad. Some of our bush land actually needs fire to maintain itself. Without fire, some old trees die and are not replaced because fire is needed to germinate seed. Mountain ash and some Eucalyptus, only regrow from seed stimulated by fire.

In National parks and state forests, fire is often deliberately lit. These are controlled fires and they are usually started in cooler months and when the day is calm. These fires reduce the buildup of dead trees, branches and leaves. This lessens the likelihood of a very hot fire burning out of control and endangering people and houses. Scientists carry out research to advise managers when and where to burn.

1. How can fires start?

2. On a separate sheet of paper, draw some pictures to show what animals do to try and escape a bushfire.

3. Name some plants that can survive a fire. Draw some of these plants.

4. Explain how a bushfire can be good for growth of some plants.

5. Why would a park ranger order for a fire to be deliberately lit?

Fire and Safety

Do you know what a Total Fire Ban means? It means that ANY FIRE in the open, including incinerators, barbeques (wood, gas or electric) is ILLEGAL.

Ways to put out a Fire:

- Cover it with earth or sand to stop the air from getting to it.
- If a person's clothing catches fire, roll them in a blanket.
- Small fire can be put out by fire extinguishers. Some are filled with water and some are filled with foam.

Sometimes firemen walk through fire with asbestos suits on. The suit does not get hot inside or burn outside. They spray the fire with water. For petrol or oil fires, they have to use foam. Foam smothers the flames.

Let's pretend that we are firemen in a big city. We are upstairs the fire station talking and reading.

Suddenly the alarm bell goes. Quickly! Down the pole! There is no time to lose. Out through the doors! The fire bell rings to warn the traffic to make way for us. Put your helmets on to protect your head.

Have you got your axe to break down doors or windows to reach anyone who is trapped?

There's the fire! It's a large house caught up in big clouds of smoke and red flames. There are many people watching already. A policeman is holding them back to keep them out of the way. The engine comes to a sudden stop. Hurry! Out you get! Connect the hoses to the fire hydrant in the street.

Suddenly someone shouts that there is a little girl trapped upstairs. The smoke is so thick that it is hard to see or breathe properly. You must put on a special breathing mask.

The ladders are up in place. Up you go with a coil of rope slowly, higher and higher. There is the window. Out with your axe and

break in. Take the little girl over your shoulder and climb back down the ladder.

Questions:

1. Name two things that are good for putting out fire.

2. Draw what you would do if a person is caught by a fire.

3. What are fire extinguishers filled with?

4. What do firemen use to put out oil or petrol fires?

