

Stories of Faith - 3

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Jesus knew their names

When Jesus called the disciples to be His followers, He called them by name. The first ones He called were the four fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James and John. Sometimes Jesus changed people's names because He had a special job for them to do. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter because of the special meaning that name had. Peter means 'a rock'. From now on Peter's life was going to be built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ.

One day, not long after this, Jesus met Philip walking down a street in Galilee. He knew that Philip would become one of His friends. "Follow me," Jesus said to Philip. Philip had a friend called Nathanael. He told Nathanael about Jesus.

"Come with me," said Philip. "I have found the One the Scriptures tell about." Nathanael went with Philip to see Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, He knew that Nathanael too would become one of His friends. He had never heard of Nathanael before, yet Jesus knew all about him. He even knew his name.

"How did you know me? How did you know my name?" asked Nathanael.

Jesus answered, "I saw you, Nathanael, even before Philip asked you to come and meet me. I saw you when you were sitting under the fig tree."

Nathanael was astounded and said, "Jesus, you really are the Son of God!" "You will see greater things than these," said Jesus, "if you become my friend."

God is Love – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – Jesus knew their names

PART A

1. Write the names of the first four followers of Jesus.
2. What job did they do before they followed Jesus?
3. Who brought Nathanael to meet Jesus?
4. Why was Nathanael surprised when he met Jesus?
5. Which word shows us that he was surprised?
6. Does Jesus know your name?
7. Find out the meaning of your name. On a piece of plain paper or cardboard, draw an outline of a large shield. Draw inside it some of your interests and hobbies. In one area of the shield write your name, and underneath write, "*Jesus knows my name. I am special to Him.*"

PART B

Read:

God is love

Think of how many people there are in the world. God knows the name of every person. He knows everything about each person! Just as a father knows each of His children, so God knows and loves each person very specially.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I show God that I love Him too?

I can tell Him that I _____ to be His special friend.

I can _____ Him for loving me so much.

I can _____ to Him.

I can _____ to Him.

(Missing words: sing pray want thank)

Judas

Judas had been one of Jesus' close friends. He was one of the twelve disciples. However, Judas did the worst thing a friend could ever do.

Some of Jesus' enemies wanted to kill Jesus. They wanted to capture him. They knew that Judas was in charge of the money. They told Judas that they would give him lots of money if he showed them where Jesus was. Judas decided that he loved the money more than Jesus. He showed the enemies where Jesus was and helped them in a plot to capture Jesus.

Judas had been a friend to Jesus for three years. Imagine how Jesus must have felt. He must have been very sad. What would you do if a friend was unkind to you? Would you be unkind to them too?

If a friend does something awful to us we feel hurt on the inside. If this happens, we can tell Jesus about it. He understands because he has gone through the same thing Himself. Jesus can help us forgive the people who have hurt us.

Jesus forgave everyone who hurt Him. When He was dying on the cross He said, "Father, forgive them." Jesus had tried to be a friend to everyone, but many did not want to be His friend.

Have you ever tried to be a friend to someone, and they have acted as if they didn't want to be your friend? Jesus understands that too. When other people make us sad, Jesus can heal us on the inside and take away the sadness.

God is Love – Themes 3

Activities - Judas

PART A

1. How do we know that Judas was a friend of Jesus?
2. What did Judas do to Jesus?
3. What do we call it when someone is your friend one day, and the next day decides NOT to be your friend?
4. Who are your best friends?
5. What things do you like doing with your friends?
6. If a friend did something bad to you, what bad thing might you want to do to them?
7. What would Jesus do?

PART B

Read:

God is love

God loves us even when we don't love Him. How could Jesus love someone like Judas, who did the worst thing anyone could ever do? Yet Jesus did. When Jesus was dying on the cross, He said, "Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." What a great love Jesus has..... to be able to love and forgive those who do awful things to you!

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I love people who are unkind to me?

I can _____ Jesus to help me.

I can say, "I forgive _____."

I can be _____, even when others are not kind.

(Missing words: you ask kind)

Jonathan and the missing pencils

Jonathan arrived at school and took the things he needed from his school bag. Today he was finishing off his project on reptiles. So far he had done four pages of beautiful drawings, and a piece of information about each reptile. Jonathan loved drawing. Everyone knew that he was good at it, and his teacher often gave him stars or special stamps for good work.

Recently Jonathan had received for his birthday, a beautiful set of pencils. It wasn't an ordinary set. There were 50 different colours and shades...even silver and gold. Jonathan was using his special pencils for the project.

Jonathan picked up his pencil case. Something was wrong. He quickly unzipped it. To his horror, nearly all of the pencils had gone. He counted them. Only 15 left! Jonathan cried silently, hoping that no one would see him. But someone did see him.

"What's wrong, Jonathan," asked his teacher, Miss Scott.

Jonathan explained what was wrong.

"I think we should pray and ask Jesus to show the person took the pencils, how wrong it was. Jesus knows how you feel too Jonathan. We must trust that He will turn this bad thing into something good," said Miss Scott kindly.

There was a new boy in the school. His name was Timothy. He used to get into lots of trouble at his old school. But all of a sudden, at this new school, he felt bad about doing the things he had done before. Something inside him said, "Take the pencils back." Finally he could stand it no longer. "I'll creep back after school when no one is there," he thought, "and put the pencils back in Jonathan's pencil case."

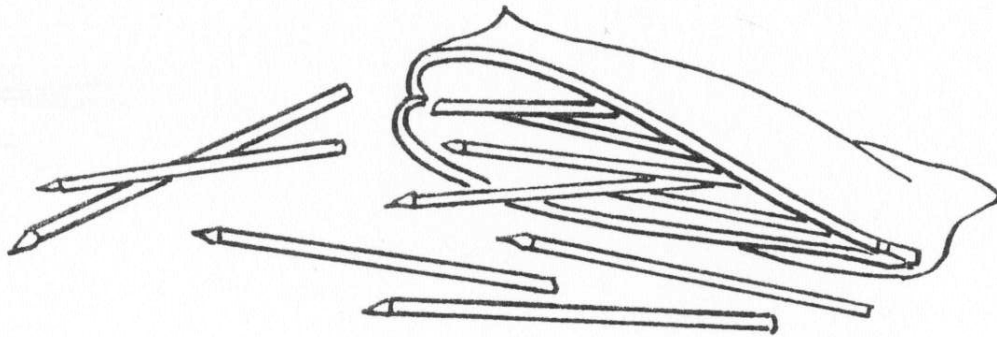
After school, he crept into the classroom clutching the pencils. To his dismay, Miss Scott was working at her table.

"Can I help you, Timothy?" she asked. She saw the pencils, and knew immediately why he had come. But instead of punishing Timothy, Miss Scott said 'thank you' for returning the pencils. She also told Timothy about a special friend of hers who wanted to be a friend of Timothy's too. This friend,

Miss Scott said, wanted to help Timothy. The friend, of course, was Jesus. Timothy was already sorry for what he had done. He told Jesus that he was sorry, and asked Jesus to be his special friend. The next day, Timothy also said sorry to Jonathan. In fact, they became good friends. Timothy no longer did the things that he did at his old school.

Jonathan was glad that Miss Scott was his teacher. She had helped him to trust God at a time when things went wrong. He had seen how God could turn something bad into something good. Jonathan not only had his pencils back, but he had a new friend as well. And best of all, Timothy had found a new friend, Jesus.

God is Love – Themes for Christian Studies 3



Activities – Jonathan and the missing pencils

PART A

1. Describe Jonathan's special set of pencils.
2. Why do you think Timothy felt bad about stealing the pencils?
3. Do you think Miss Scott should have been angry when Timothy returned the pencils?
4. Do you think Miss Scott was a good teacher? Why?
5. What important thing did Timothy have to do in order to be forgiven?
6. How did Timothy change?
7. Write about someone who has changed their life by becoming a Christian.

PART B - God is wise

Read:

Sometimes we don't understand why things happen, but God does. Having the pencils stolen seemed like a bad thing. Who would want their beautiful new set of pencils stolen? But God turned the bad thing into something good. Jonathan learned about trusting God when things go wrong. Timothy was sorry for stealing the pencils and came to know Jesus.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

What should I do when things go wrong?

I can trust God, because He knows much _____ than I do.

I can trust God to make the bad thing turn to something _____.

(Missing words: good more)

Paul and Silas

Paul and Silas had been put into prison for telling people about Jesus. They were having a very bad time in prison. Their backs were swollen and bleeding because they had been whipped. Their arms and legs had been put into wooden things called stocks, so that they couldn't move. They thought about the pain that Jesus must have suffered. Even though their bodies were in pain, their hearts were happy. They sang songs and praised God all night. Everyone could hear them.

Suddenly, at midnight, there was a big earthquake. The prison shook. All the locks on the doors broke. The doors opened, and the chains, which had been bolted to the floor or the walls, came loose. The prisoners who had been chained could now escape.

When the jailer woke up and realised that it was an earthquake, he thought that all the prisoners would have escaped. He knew that he would have been killed for letting the prisoners escape. He was so afraid of getting into trouble that he was going to kill himself.

But Paul called out, "It's all right. No one has escaped. We're all here."

The jailer called for a light. He fell at Paul's feet. He knew that Paul was a servant of God.

"I want to give my life to God too," said the jailer. "What must I do?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," answered Paul. "You and your whole family."

The jailer washed the sore backs of Paul and Silas. He then went to get his own family. They came back to the jail and all of them gave their lives to Jesus. The next day Paul and Silas were set free. God had turned something bad into something good. Paul and Silas had been set free, and a whole family had given their lives to Jesus.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – Paul and Silas

PART A

Imagine you are the jailer. Now answer these questions, pretending you are the jailer.

1. What was the earthquake like?
2. What happened after the earthquake?
3. Why are you surprised?
4. Who helps you to give your life to God?
5. How do you help Paul and Silas?
6. What do you tell your family?
7. What does your family do?

PART B - God is wise

Sometimes we don't understand why things happen, but God does. He can make good things come from bad things. That's because He's the wisest person in the whole universe. You wouldn't have thought that something good could come from being in prison. Yet, something wonderful happened. The jailer and his family became followers of Jesus!

Copy and fill in the missing words:

What can I do when things go wrong?

I can trust in God because He _____ best.

I can ask God to turn something bad into something _____.

(Missing words: good knows)



Pilgrim's Armour

Long ago in the City of Destruction lived a man called Pilgrim. Pilgrim was not happy in the city of Destruction. People were always fighting. One day a man called Evangelist came along. He told the people in the city that they could live much happier lives if only they would follow the path to the Celestial City.

"How can I ever be happy when I have this big burden on my back?" asked Pilgrim. "How do I get rid of it?"

(A burden is something heavy. It's like a big weight on your back. It's always there. You just can't get rid of it. It makes you feel very unhappy.)

"See that light in the distance?" said Evangelist. Follow the path and you will come to a gate. The gate is called the Gate of Decision. When you arrive at the gate you will see an old wooden cross. You must kneel at the cross and ask Jesus to forgive you for all the wrong things you did in the City of Destruction.

Pilgrim followed the path, and there, as Evangelist had said, was the wooden cross. As Pilgrim asked for forgiveness, immediately his burden fell from his back and rolled down the hill. Pilgrim went through the gate and followed the path to the Palace Beautiful. He knocked on the door, and the door was opened by a princess.

"I am the princess of the King," she said. "Come in and I will give you the armour that you need for your journey to the Celestial City. You will need a helmet, a breastplate, a sword, a shield, a belt and some special shoes. All these will help to protect you as you fight against the wicked prince and his followers."

Pilgrim continued his journey, and it wasn't long before he met one of the followers of the wicked prince. The first one he met was Apollyan.

"Draw your sword, Pilgrim. Get ready to fight. Surely you don't think you can travel on this path! That bright shiny armour will not protect you against ME!"

Pilgrim won the fight, but the battle left him feeling tired. He was almost ready to give up when along came someone else who was travelling to the Celestial City. His name was Hopeful.

"Do not give up," said Hopeful. "I will walk with you to the Celestial City." So the two friends travelled together.

The path was getting a bit stony so the two decided to jump the fence and walk in the nice green meadow on the other side. They didn't know that the meadow belonged to Giant Despair.

"What are you doing in my meadow!" thundered Giant Despair. "I put pilgrims like you in my dungeon!"

The giant grabbed the pilgrims and threw them in the dungeon. There they lay for days. It seemed that they would be there forever. Then one day, Pilgrim remembered something. He had been given a key by the princess. On the key was some tiny writing which said, 'Trust in God'. Pilgrim remembered that God was stronger than any enemy. He tried the key, and to his surprise, it fitted the lock. The door creaked as the two pilgrims crept out of the dungeon.

"Hurry!" said Hopeful, "before Giant Despair hears us!"

The two pilgrims were safely on the path again now, and soon they saw the Celestial City in the distance. As they got closer they could hear singing. They came to a river and they saw an angel waiting on the other side.

"Before you can enter the Celestial City," said the angel, "you must cross the river. Do not worry about the waves. Just keep your eyes on the Celestial City."

Pilgrim and Hopeful crossed the river safely. Then they were called, one by one, to enter the city. There they were welcomed by more angels. Pilgrim and hopeful no longer needed their armour, because in the Celestial City there were no enemies. There was no sadness, no wickedness and no despair. Everyone was happy, worshipping the King.

Activities – Pilgrim’s Armour

PART A

1. Where was Pilgrim going?
2. What did he have on his back?
3. How did he get rid of it?
4. Draw Pilgrim wearing the special things given to him at the palace.
5. Who helped Pilgrim to feel better after his fight with Apollyan?
6. How did the two friends get out of the dungeon?
7. What did they have to do before they could enter the Celestial City?

PART B - God is Protector

Read:

God has given us special armour to protect us against the attacks of our enemy, Satan. Just as Pilgrim needed to wear the armour to get to the Celestial City, we need the armour as we travel through life. The armour of God is invisible armour that God gives you. You just have to remember to put it on every day.

Copy and fill in the missing words: How can I wear the armour of God?

I must put on:

1. The belt of _____.
2. The breastplate of _____.
3. The shoes of _____.
4. The shield of _____.
5. The helmet of _____.
6. The sword of the _____.

Missing words: You can find them from the Bible in Ephesians 6:10-8.

God is Protector – Themes for Christian Studies 3



God Protects David Again

David had killed the Philistine giant, Goliath. After that, King Saul became very jealous of David because everyone thought David was so great. King Saul thought that the people might want David for their king instead of himself. The thought of this made him so angry that an evil spirit came into his heart.

David played music to Saul, to make him feel better, but as he was playing one day, King Saul took his spear and threw it at David. David moved quickly and the spear missed him.

David wanted to marry King Saul's daughter, Michal. King Saul told David that he could have Michal as his wife if he won another battle against the Philistines. King Saul secretly hoped that David would be killed in the battle. But David was not killed. Saul had to give his daughter, Michal, to be David's wife.

Another time, King Saul tried to kill David with his spear, but he missed again. Then Saul said to his servants, "Bring David to me."

"He can't come," said Michal. "He's sick in bed."

"Bring him anyway," said Saul.

Michal played a trick on her father. She placed a stone statue on a stretcher bed and covered it with blankets. The servants took the bed to King Saul. In the mean time, David had run away. The king could not find him. God always protected David because David loved and obeyed God.

God is Protector – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – God Protects David Again

PART A

1. Why was King Saul jealous of David?
2. What came into King Saul's heart?
3. How did David make King Saul feel better?
4. Did King Saul want God to protect David in battle?
5. How many times was David protected from King Saul's spear?
6. What trick did Michal play on her father?
7. Why did God protect David?

PART B

Read:

God is Protector

God protects those who love and obey Him. He has given us special armour to protect us. The Bible tells us about it in Ephesians 6. God gives us armour to fight against the enemy. Our enemy is Satan. He has no power over those who wear the armour of God.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I win the fight against Satan?

I can ask Jesus to forgive me for my _____.

I can _____ Jesus to live in my life.

I can believe the truth... that is God's word, the _____.

I can _____ the right thing. (That is righteousness.)

I can tell others _____ Jesus.

I can have faith _____ God.

I can pray.

(Missing words: Bible ask in sins do about)

The Day the Sun Stood Still

This is a true story from the Old Testament. It happened not long after the defeat of Jericho, when Joshua and his army marched around the city and the walls came tumbling down. Joshua was the leader of God's people, the Israelites.

All the kings in the land of Canaan knew how powerful the Israelites were in battle. One of the kings, the king of Gibeon decided that he wanted to be on Joshua's side because it would be safer. However, five other kings in Canaan did not like this. They joined together and formed one big army to fight the Gibeonites.

Joshua and his soldiers joined with the Gibeonites.
"Don't be afraid," Joshua told his army. "God is with us."

Joshua and his army marched all night until they met the five kings and their army. There was a big battle. God helped Joshua win the battle. Soon the enemies were running away. God sent huge hail stones from heaven. The hail stones fell on the enemy.

The battle went on all day. It would soon be night. Joshua knew they could not fight in the dark so he commanded the sun to stand still until the battle was over. God caused the sun to stand still. Night did not come until the battle was over. God worked a miracle because Joshua trusted in Him. God has power over everything He has made.

The Bible says, "You created the moon to mark the months, and the sun knows the time to set." (Psalm 104:19)

God is in charge of everything! This miracle shows us that God is powerful and sometimes does unusual things. The earth is always spinning around in space. God made it that way. And yet, if He needs to, God can even change the patterns in nature. God has power to do anything!

God is Powerful – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – The Day the Sun Stood Still

PART A

1. What fell from the sky?
2. How did God give Joshua's army more time to win the battle?
3. God does not like war, but He protected His people, the Israelites from their enemies. Today God still fights for His people. He fights for us against one enemy. Who is the enemy of Christians?
4. This story shows us that God has p ____ to do anything!

PART B

Read:

God is Powerful

God is great, strong and mighty. He has power to do anything. This means that nothing is impossible with God. Many people would not believe that God could stop the movement of the solar system for a day, but Christians know that if God could create the solar system out of nothing, then He could also stop it's movement. The whole universe is in God's hands.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I trust in God?

I can believe that He is the most powerful being in the whole _____.

I can believe that He can do _____ things.

I can believe that nothing is too _____ for Him.

I can believe that God _____ do great things for me!

(Missing words: great universe hard can)

The Goats and the Wolf

Once upon a time there were seven little goats. Sometimes mother goat had to go out and collect juicy thistles and dandelions for her kids. Before she left she would say, "Beware of the big bad wolf. Don't open the door to anyone while I am away. When I return I will say, "Open the door children. It's your mother," and I will show my paw at the window.

One day as mother goat was returning with her basket of thistles and dandelions, the big bad wolf was hiding in the bushes. He watched her show her white paw at the window and say, "Open the door children. It's your mother."

The next time the goat went away, the wolf was prepared. He had dipped his big brown paw in a sack full of flour so that it looked just like the mother goat's white paw. Then he called out in a high voice, just like the mother goat, "Open the door children. It's your mother."

The wolf had tricked the kids. They opened the door and the wolf rushed in. He ate two of the little goats. The wolf was so greedy that he swallowed them whole. The rest of the goats hid under the bed. The wolf couldn't find them so he went to sleep. While he was asleep, mother goat came home. The kids told her what had happened.

Mother goat took the rest of the goats down to the river. They all brought back some heavy stones. While the wolf was still asleep, mother goat took out her sewing basket. She carefully snipped open the wolf's stomach, and took out the kids. They were not hurt at all. Then all the kids filled the wolf's stomach with heavy stones and mother sewed him up again. When the wolf woke up he rushed to the river for a drink, but his stomach was so heavy that he fell in the water and drowned.

This story of course is only make-believe, but it does remind us that although something looks real and true, it may very well not be.

God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 3

The Goat and the Wolf – Activities

PART A

1. What do goats like to eat? Include two plants from the story.
2. What foolish thing did the kids do?
3. How do we know that the wolf was greedy?
4. How is this story similar to the “Three Little Pigs”?

PART B - God is Truth

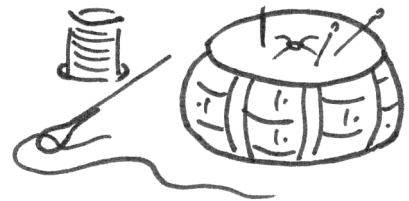
Read the Bible story of “The Good Shepherd” from John 10:1-18.

Now read the following and answer the question at the end of each paragraph:

1. In the story of the Goats and the Wolf, the kids didn’t take notice of their mother’s words. Maybe she didn’t think she was telling the truth about the danger of opening the door to strangers. We are like sheep and we should listen to someone who knows what’s best for us. That person is Jesus. How do we find out what Jesus is saying to us?
2. In the story of the Goats and the Wolf, the stranger was dangerous. Jesus says that thieves and robbers can come and take sheep from the sheepfold. Who might the thief or robber be?
3. The best way to know what Jesus is saying to us is to get to know His voice. We can do that by praying to Him, reading the Bible and learning about Jesus from people who know Him well. Who can help you learn about Jesus?

Copy and fill in the missing words from the Bible:

I am the Good Shepherd, I _____ my sheep and my _____ know me (John 10:14).



The TV Thief

(A true story)

Mrs. Herbert had a T.V. that she wanted to sell. She placed an advertisement in the 'for sale' section of the local paper.

About that time, a thief who lived in the area, thought up a very unusual way to get into people's houses. He decided that he would pretend to be interested in buying something second-hand from a person's home. Then he could go to the house and look around for things to steal. He could also work out how to break into the house at another time.

The thief looked up the 'for sale' section of the newspaper and found a T.V. listed. He rang the telephone number and arranged to visit the home of Mrs. Herbert. Mrs. Herbert answered the door and invited the thief inside. (She did not know that he was a thief!)

"All my things really belong to the Lord," she told him. "I'm a Christian, you see."

As the thief looked around the room for things to steal, he suddenly felt very sorry about the life he was living. God started speaking to his heart. He decided that he must tell the truth.

"I'm not really interested in your T.V.," he said. "I'm a thief. I really came to see what I could steal."

"Can I pray for you?" asked Mrs. Herbert.

"Yes, please do," said the thief. "I don't want to live my life this way any longer."

We don't know whether the thief became a Christian or not, but from that moment on, he knew that God was real. He knew that God was asking him to live a truthful and honest life. Mrs. Herbert thanked God, not only for speaking to the thief, but also for protecting her things.

God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – The TV Thief

PART A

1. Why did the thief look in the local paper?
2. What did Mrs. Herbert say to the thief?
3. Why did the thief change his mind about stealing the T.V.
4. How did God speak to the thief?

PART B - God is truth

Read:

Because God is truth, He wants us to live a life of truth. This means that we have to be honest. The T.V. thief was not being honest. He had not really come to buy the T.V. He had come to steal. When Mrs. Herbert told him about God, the T.V. thief could no longer be dishonest. He suddenly knew that God was true.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I know that God is true?

I can _____ in God's word.

I can listen to the _____ of the Good Shepherd.

Missing words: voice believe

The Golden Calf

God had told Moses to go up on the mountain top. Moses was told to bring with him two pieces of flat stone. There on the mountain top, God gave Moses ten special rules for His people to obey. The rules were called the Ten Commandments. God wrote the rules on the two pieces of flat stone.

Moses was up on the mountain a long, long time. The people were getting tired of waiting for him to come down. They could not move on without him and they were getting angry and impatient.

Then someone said, "How can we really believe in the God that Moses talks about. We can't see this God. Why don't we make a god that we can see?"

"What a good idea," said the others.

The people took off their gold rings and necklaces. They melted the gold over a very hot fire and used it to make a statue of a calf. Then they prepared a big feast. During the feast they danced around the golden calf and worshipped it.

God saw what the people were doing and He was very angry. He told Moses to go down from the mountain. Moses came down carrying the two pieces of stone upon which the Ten Commandments were written. He could hear the people singing and shouting. He looked closely and saw that the people were dancing around a golden calf. Moses was so angry that he threw down the pieces of stone. They broke into pieces. Then he went to the golden calf and threw it into the fire.

Moses then gathered the people before him. He told them about his time on the mountain with God. He told them about God's rules for His people. One of these rules was to never, never worship a statue. The people already knew that what they had done was wrong. They told Moses that they were sorry.

Moses then told God how sorry the people were. God asked Moses to bring two more pieces of stone to the mountain top. Once again God wrote the Ten Commandments for His people. He told Moses that if His people always followed these commandments, then He would be with them.

Activities – The Golden Calf

PART A

1. Why did the people want to make a statue?
2. What did they do after they made the statue?
3. Who saw them?
4. What was Moses carrying when he came down from the mountain?
5. What is the third commandment? (Exodus 20:3)
6. What is the fourth commandment? (Exodus 20:4)
7. What did Moses do when he saw what the people were doing?
8. What did God say His people must do from now on?
9. The people of Israel worshipped the golden calf. Worshipping anything or anyone other than God, is worshipping an idol. What are some idols that people could worship today?

PART B - God is truth

Read:

When we know God is true, then we must never change our mind. That's what happened to the people who worshipped the golden calf. They turned their back on the true God.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I stay with Jesus?

I can remember that God is the _____ true God.

I can remember that nothing else in this life is better _____ Jesus.

I can be _____ friend.

I can pray to Him and _____ His word.

Missing words: His only than read

God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 3



The Gymkhana

Sarah and Madeline were best friends.

"Can I go to Sarah's house please Mum?" asked Madeline as her mother arrived to meet her after school.

"As long as it's O.K. with Sarah's Mum," replied Mrs. Banks. "You almost live at Sarah's house."

Sarah and Madeline lived in the country. Sarah lived on a farm. She had several animals, but the one she loved best was her horse, Princess. Princess was a chestnut pony, just the right size for Sarah. Madeline, who did not have a horse of her own, loved to visit Sarah. Together they would groom Princess, feed her some oats and occasionally an apple for a treat. Madeline was sometimes allowed to ride Princess, although only under the careful supervision of Mrs. Roberts, Sarah's mother, since Madeline was not an experienced rider.

Sarah, however, was quite a good rider. She could make Princess do just as she wanted. Madeline wished she could ride like Sarah.

"Why don't you enter for the gymkhana, Sarah?" suggested Mrs. Roberts. "You are really quite confident with Princess now. I'm sure there would be some events that you could manage."

"Do you really think I could, Mum?"

"Of course," said Mrs. Roberts. "Let's find out what the events are so that you can practise."

Sarah and Princess worked hard for the next fortnight. Sarah trained Princess to walk around obstacles, and Sarah practised throwing potatoes into a bucket from Princess's back.

"Coming to watch me ride Princess in the gymkhana?" Sarah asked Madeline. "It's in two weeks."

"I'd love to," said Madeline.

However, during the two weeks that followed, something happened between Sarah and Madeline. It was a silly thing really...something that should not have divided best friends, but nevertheless, it did.

One afternoon, Madeline was visiting Sarah's place as she often did. Sarah was feeling rather proud of her riding ability these days. She was also starting to feel that Princess was her very own horse, and not for sharing with anyone else...not even Madeline.

"I've brought an apple for Princess," said Madeline.

"Oh, it's alright," said Sarah. "She really doesn't need any more today."

"Can I have a ride on Princess?" asked Madeline.

"No, not today," replied Sarah.

"Oh please, Sarah!"

"Why don't you ask your parents to buy you a horse of your own!" was the reply.

Madeline's face became tearful.

"I think I'd better ring my Mum," was all she could say.

Madeline went inside leaving Sarah and Princess alone. Mrs. Banks came to collect Madeline.

"What happened to Madeline's ride this afternoon?" asked Mrs. Roberts. "I was expecting you to ask me to supervise as usual."

"Madeline didn't want a ride today," was Sarah's reply.

Sarah had a sick feeling inside. It would not go away, and made her feel miserable.

At school the girls did not talk to one another. They played at opposite ends of the playground and tried to avoid each other as much as possible. While Sarah was feeling so miserable on the inside, Madeline was feeling angry. The more she thought about Sarah, the more she hated her. Then Madeline had an idea.

'The gymkhana is on Saturday,' she thought. 'I'll go and watch Sarah after all.'

Saturday came. Sarah groomed Princess. She brushed her coat, and Mum helped to plait the mane. How beautiful Princess looked. Sarah however, was not feeling very beautiful on the inside. She knew that if she had not been so selfish, Madeline could have been there helping to groom Princess.

Today was Sarah's big day. It was her first gymkhana. But she didn't feel the happiness that she should have felt. Sarah and Princess took their places for the first event. Princess performed perfectly around the obstacle course. Sarah hoped for a blue ribbon. Then came the potato race. As Sarah started to ride princess down the track, something caused Princess to rear up suddenly. Princess had been struck by a stone. It was no accident. The stone had been thrown deliberately.

No one knew it was Madeline. She was out of sight now. Everyone was too concerned about Sarah who was lying on the ground. The ambulance attendants placed her on a stretcher and rushed her to the hospital. Sarah was checked thoroughly. Her arm was badly broken. The doctor set the broken bone and put the arm in plaster. On the way home Sarah fell asleep. It had been quite an ordeal. She woke up to find herself in her own bed.

"How's Princess?" she asked her mother.

"Princess is fine," said Mrs. Roberts, "and you're going to be fine too."

Meanwhile, Madeline was not feeling at all happy. She was afraid of getting into trouble, and she was also feeling very guilty about what she had done.

On Sunday, Madeline's Mum and Dad had to go out, so Madeline had to stay with Grandma. She liked visiting Grandma. Grandma always had time to listen. But this weekend Madeline didn't really want to talk.

"Is something the matter Madeline?" asked Grandma.

Madeline was afraid to tell Grandma the truth, and yet she wanted to relieve the pain in her troubled heart. Tearfully, Madeline told Grandma everything. Grandma thought carefully for a moment.

"What do you want most of all, Madeline?" she asked.

"I want to be happy again," said Madeline. "But I can't be happy when I am feeling so awful on the inside."

"Well, there's an answer to that," said Grandma. "First you need to ask Jesus to forgive you for what you did. No matter how bad you've been, He will still forgive you if you are truly sorry."

Together Grandma and Madeline prayed.

"Lord Jesus, I'm truly sorry for throwing the stone at Princess," Madeline prayed, "and I'm sorry for having all that hate in my heart for Sarah."

"Now you must ask Sarah to forgive you too," said Grandma. Madeline's heart started beating faster. She was afraid to even think about Sarah.

"Why don't you ring Sarah's place now," suggested Grandma.

Although it would be difficult, Madeline knew that she must. If she really wanted to be free from the guilty feeling inside, then she must say sorry to Sarah too. Madeline slowly dialled the number.

"Hello," answered Mrs. Roberts.

"This is Madeline, Mrs. Roberts." "How is Sarah?"

"Sarah broke her arm at the gymkhana. She has to have her arm in plaster for some time, but she's going to be fine," said Mrs. Roberts.

"May I speak to her?" asked Madeline.

Mrs. Roberts went to get Sarah while Madeline sat wondering whether Sarah would speak to her at all.

"Hello Madeline," said Sarah.

"Hello Sarah. I wanted to tell you that I threw the stone at Princess, and I want to say that I'm sorry."

"That's alright," said Sarah. "My arm will be O.K. in a few weeks. Do you think we could be friends again?"

"Of course," answered Madeline. "I'll come over as soon as I can."

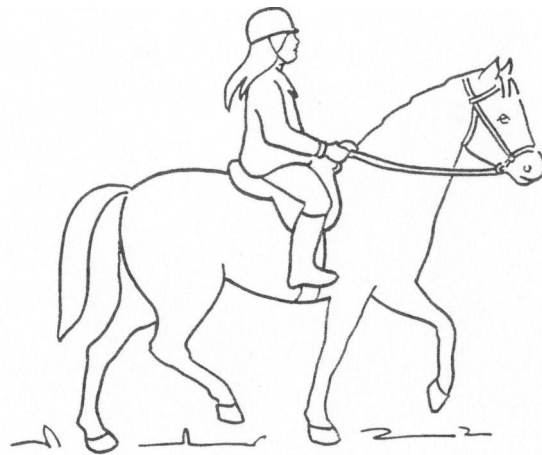
So the two girls were best friends again.

"I asked Jesus to forgive me," Madeline explained to Sarah. "I'm so glad that you've forgiven me too," she said as she gave Princess a juicy red apple.

"Would you like a ride on Princess?" asked Sarah. "I'll get Mum to watch you. I can't ride until my arm's better, but I'd love to see you ride."

"Thanks Sarah," said Madeline.

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 3



Activities – The Gymkhana

PART A

1. What is a gymkhana? (use your dictionary)
2. How did Sarah practise for the gymkhana?
3. What happened when Sarah started becoming proud?
4. How did Madeline pay Sarah back for being unkind?
5. Do you think we should pay back for wrong things done to us?
6. How did Grandma help?
7. How did Sarah and Madeline become good friends again?
8. What would have happened if they refused to forgive one another?

PART B - God is pure

Read:

God is good. He has no sin. But people do sin. God does not keep count of our sins. Instead He forgives us. The Bible says that we must be kind to one another and forgive one another as God has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32). To have a good friendship with someone, we must not keep on thinking about the wrong things that person has done to us. We must forgive one another.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I forgive others as God has forgiven me?

I can tell the person I am not _____ with them any more.

I can _____, "Let's be friends."

I can treat that person _____.

Missing words: kindly angry say

The Drawings

SCENE 1

(Betty is busy drawing. Billy comes in pretending to be an aeroplane, with arms outstretched, making aeroplane noises.)

Billy

Look Betty! I'm an aeroplane! Ee-ee-rr-rr.
(Billy crashes into Betty while she is drawing.)

Betty

Oh, look what you've made me do Billy. You made me put a big line across the page when you bumped into me. Now my drawing is ruined!

Billy

Sorry Betty.

Betty

That's O.K. I can do another one.

SCENE 2

(Billy has just finished a drawing. He sits admiring it. Betty enters carrying two paper/plastic cups.)

Billy

Like my drawing Betty? It's a tyrannosaurus rex.

Betty

That's great Billy. Look. I've brought two cups of lemonade. One for you and one for me.

(Betty puts the lemonade down and spills it all over Billy's drawing.)

Billy

Now look what you've done! You've spilt lemonade all over my drawing and all the colours are running. You've ruined it Betty! You make me so angry!

Betty

Sorry Billy. I didn't mean to.

Billy

You should be more careful. You're a great big clumsy elephant! Just clean up this mess and go away!
Mum! Betty just ruined my drawing!

Betty

It was an accident, Mum.

Mum

Billy, Jesus said, "Forgive others, just as they have forgiven you."

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities

1. Who was the forgiving person in scene 1?
2. Who didn't forgive in scene 2?
3. What should Billy have said to Betty when she spilt the lemonade?

The King's Servant

One day Jesus was asked this question:

"How many times should I forgive a person when he does something wrong to me?"

How do you think Jesus would have answered that question?

Jesus said, "Not one time, not ten times, but seventy-seven times."

Can you imagine forgiving someone seventy-seven times? What Jesus meant was this: we should never stop forgiving a person, even if they keep on doing unkind things to us.

Do your brothers or sisters sometimes do unkind things to you? In most families there are times when brothers and sisters fight and argue. The amount of times brothers and sisters treat each other unkindly might add up to even more than seventy-seven. No matter how many times your brothers or sisters have been unkind to you, God wants you to forgive them. When you truly forgive someone, you do not keep remembering all the wrong things they have done to you. You just forgive them, then forget about it. After all, Jesus has forgiven us for EVERYTHING we have done wrong.

Jesus told a story to explain about forgiving. In the days when Jesus lived on earth, kings had great power over their people. The king could throw a person into prison for not doing the right thing.

There was once a king who had a servant. This servant owed the king a lot of money. Let's say it was about \$500. The poor servant had no money and could not pay the king.

"Pay me," said the king, "or I'll sell you as a slave."

The poor servant fell on his knees.

"Please king," he said, "I have no money. Give me a bit more time to earn some."

The king felt sorry for the servant.

"All right," said the king. "I will let you go, and you don't have to pay me."

"Thank you," said the servant, who was very happy to be set free.

Not long after this, the servant was owed some money by one of the other servants. It wasn't so much money. Only about \$50.

"Pay me or else I'll punish you," he said.

"Please," said the other servant, "I cannot pay you. I have no money. Just give me a bit more time to earn some."

"No," said the first servant. "You can go to prison until you can pay everything!"

When the king heard about this he was extremely angry with the first servant.

"You wicked servant," said the king. "I forgave you when you couldn't pay the money you owed me. You should have forgiven the other servant as I forgave you!"

Then the king sent the wicked servant to prison until he could pay all that he owed.

God is Pure – Themes for Christian Studies 3



Activities – The King’s Servant

PART A

1. How many times should we forgive our brothers and sisters when they do wrong things to us?
2. Why was the first servant king a kind king?
3. Would you expect the servant to forgive, just as he had been forgiven?
4. Who has forgiven us more than anyone else?
5. We could say Jesus is like the king in the story. He has forgiven us, so what should we do?

PART B - God is pure

Read:

God has never done anything wrong. People do wrong things to each other. God wants us to forgive one another, just as He has forgiven us.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I forgive someone who has hurt me?

I can ask God to _____ me.

I can ask God to help me love _____ person.

I can think about any wrong thing that I have done, and _____ God to forgive me.

Missing words: help ask that

When We Were Young

If you have a young brother or sister, you will know that they are still learning to do many things. A new born baby can't do much at all except cry, eat and drink. At four weeks old the baby learns to smile and to make different sounds. Soon the baby will be saying words like 'mamma' or 'dadda'.

Imagine that you have a baby sister. By the time the baby is two years old, she is starting to get into lots of mischief. She will grab anything within reach. The rest of the family have to be patient with the baby and move things out of the way. Mum and Dad are always saying 'no' or 'you can't have that.' The baby doesn't understand why. She just wants everything.

Older people understand. The baby is too young to know how to treat things. She might break a cup or glass. She might chew on the newspaper which contains nasty black ink.

Jane had a baby sister. One year old Zoe stood on her feet, holding on to Dad's hand. Zoe was looking at Mum.

"Come on," said Mum, holding out her arms.

The baby was afraid at first, to let go of Dad's hand. Then suddenly she pushed herself forward and took her first four steps. Now she was safely in her mother's arms.

That night, Jane thought about her baby sister's first steps. Mum and Dad had helped Zoe to walk because they were so kind and patient with her.

"Mothers and father help their children walk and talk and learn about things every day," thought Jane. "And they are patient with me too, when I can't do things...like tying shoe laces, and reading big words."

God is Patient – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – When we were young

1. What are some things that babies can't do well?
2. What dangerous things might happen if they didn't have older people to look after them?
3. Think of some things that others can't do as well as you. How could you help a young person?
4. How could you help an old person?
5. What do we call it when we spend time with people who need help? Fill in the missing letters:

P _ T _ E _ N _ C _



Mephibosheth

In the Old Testament we can read about a king called Saul. He was chosen by God to be king over God's people, the Israelites. King Saul had a grandson called Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was a little lame prince. He could not walk because he had been injured as a baby. His nurse had accidentally dropped him while carrying him.

When king Saul became too old to be king, David, who had once killed the giant Goliath, became king of Israel. David had been a good friend of King Saul's son, Jonathan. Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son, but Jonathan had died in battle. The little lame prince no longer had a father. King David felt sad for Mephibosheth. He wanted to help him. He asked for Mephibosheth to be brought to the palace.

"Don't be afraid," King David said to him. "I will be kind to you seeing that I was such a good friend of your father. You shall live in my palace and eat at my table every day, just as if you were my own son. When you grow up I will give to you the land that belonged to your grandfather, King Saul."

Mephibosheth lived very happily in the king's palace. Even though he could not walk, he was happy because of King David's kindness.

God is Patient – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities - Mephibosheth

PART A

1. Who was Mephibosheth?
2. Why was King David especially kind to him?
3. Where did Mephibosheth live?
4. How was he treated?
5. How could you show patience and kindness to someone who could not walk?

PART B - God is patient

Read:

God is like a shepherd who is patient with His sheep. We are the sheep. Sheep often go the wrong way. God patiently shows us the right way to go.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be patient with others?

I can remember not to get angry with people who can't do things as _____ as I can.

I can be especially _____ to people who have troubles.

Missing words: well kind

Something to do later...

Think of someone who needs special kindness because they cannot do things as well as you can. It may be someone very old, or very young. It may be someone who is sick. It may be someone who cannot walk properly. Make a card or a gift for this person, do something for them to make them happy.

A Broken Friendship

We all know the true story about Adam and Eve. God created them because He wanted someone to love and be friends with. Just as a toymaker makes toys to be perfect, God made Adam and Eve to be perfect too. They were never sick. They were never sad. They didn't fight or get angry or do anything wrong.

Then one day, along came the wicked old serpent. He tried to make Adam and Eve disobey God. Adam and Eve did disobey. Once they had disobeyed they were no longer perfect. Just as a perfect toy can become broken, Adam and Eve's special friendship with God became broken.

Adam and Eve now had three main problems. They now had sin in their life. This meant that they did things that displeased God. Before they disobeyed God, they had only known happiness, but now they were often sad. There was another problem too. Before they disobeyed God they had never been sick, but now they were often sick and in pain.

Actually it was not just Adam and Eve who had the problems. Every single person born into the world after them had the same problems. God, who is a wonderful loving Father, could not bear to see His people suffer. He decided upon a plan that would free the people of the world from their problems. He decided that He would send His Son, Jesus. Jesus would come into the world as a servant, to heal hearts and lives. Jesus would be able to forgive people for their sin, take away their sadness and heal their sick bodies.

Not everyone accepted Jesus. Not everyone wanted His forgiveness. Not everyone wanted healing. However, those who did had joy inside their hearts. They felt the special love of God, knowing that they were His child. Just as Adam and Eve had a special friendship with God, so did all the people who accepted Jesus.

When Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, He offered healing to the whole world. Jesus became a servant by obeying His heavenly Father. Because of what Jesus has done, we can all be healed from our sin, sickness and sadness and have the same friendship with God that Adam and Eve once had. However there is one thing we must do. We must ASK Jesus to forgive us and heal us, and ask Him to live in our life.

Activities – A Broken Friendship

PART A

1. What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God?
2. What was the world like before they disobeyed?
3. What was God's plan for making the world a better place to live?
4. Did all the people of the world want to be set free from their problems?
5. Who can be set free?
6. Fill in three letters to find out God's about plan for his world:
God's world was ruined by a _ _ _ pent, but set free again by a _ _ _ vant.
7. Who was the servant?

PART B - God is a servant

Read:

Jesus came to earth to live as a man, and later to die on the cross. He died so that we could be forgiven. When we are forgiven for our sins we can live a new life with Jesus. Jesus can heal us when we are sick, but he can also heal us when we are sad. He can help us when we have troubles.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be a servant?

I can tell others that Jesus can help them when they are _____.

I can tell others that Jesus can help them when they are in _____.

Missing words: trouble sad

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Jesus helps His friends

Jesus was feeling tired from His busy day. Crowds had followed Him as usual, wanting to hear more about God's kingdom, and bringing the sick to be healed.

Jesus went to the home of His friend, Peter, hoping that He could rest a bit and perhaps get a bite to eat. As Jesus entered the house He could see that something was wrong. Where was Peter?

Peter and his wife were at the bed of Peter's mother-in-law.

"We're so glad you're here," said Peter's wife. "Won't you pray for my mother? She's very sick with a fever."

When you have a fever you feel very hot. Have you ever had your temperature taken? A person with a fever has a very high temperature.

Although Jesus was feeling very tired, He immediately went to the bedside of Peter's mother-in-law. He touched her hand, and at once she was healed. Peter felt her forehead. Her temperature was normal! The fever had left her. Not only that, she felt well enough to get out of bed and prepare a meal for Jesus. I'm sure He was glad of that!

After the evening meal there was more work for Jesus to do. People started coming to the house. Some were sick. Some people were sad because they were troubled by evil spirits. But Jesus healed them all.

Some of the people who watched Jesus heal remembered something that was written in the book of Isaiah. It said that a Saviour would come to take away people's sicknesses and diseases. Jesus was the Saviour that the world had been waiting for.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – Jesus helps His friends

PART A

1. Who was Peter?
2. What did Jesus do for Peter's mother-in-law?
3. How was Jesus feeling when he went to the house?
4. What does this story show us about Jesus?
5. How could we put others first when you are playing with your brothers or sisters?
6. How could you put others first at a birthday party?

PART B - God is a servant

Read:

When Jesus was on earth, He healed many people. Jesus was never selfish. He always helped people even when he was tired. Jesus is still a healing servant. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He will still heal today if we ask and believe.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I help people who are sick?

I can help them even when I don't _____ like it.

I can _____ for them.

I can _____ them about the healing miracles of Jesus.

I can tell them that Jesus can still _____ people today.

Missing words: tell feel pray heal



Florence Nightingale

People who show kindness and care towards the sick are really being God's servants. Here is a true story of a nurse who lived over 150 years ago. She felt God speaking to her heart about being His servant. Her name was Florence Nightingale.

Florence came from a very rich family. Her family loved dances, plays and parties, but Florence preferred the beauty of nature to all these things.

When she was only eleven years old she was very good at caring for small babies. When she grew up, she wanted more than anything else, to help people. In her diary, she wrote, 'On February 7th 1837 God called me to His service'. She was then seventeen.

When she was twenty four years old she decided to become a nurse. This was a very hard decision to make because her family didn't want her to be a nurse. Nurses had to work very hard. They not only bandaged wounds and gave medicine, but they also had to make beds and do lots of cleaning. Florence's parents thought that it wasn't good for rich people to do such jobs.

Not long after Florence started nursing, a war broke out. The British and French together fought a war with Russia. Many people lay wounded and dying in the battle field. There were no bandages, no splints and no anaesthetics. There was lots of disease too.

When Florence read about the wounded people in the 'London Times', she organised small groups of nurses to go to Russia. Florence went too.

When the nurses arrived in Russia they found terrible conditions. There was hardly any water, and hardly any medical equipment. They had to use small tin basins for everything... for eating, drinking and washing.

At first the doctors didn't want the nurses to help, but finally they agreed. Florence turned a building into a hospital. "Clean, clean, clean," Florence told the nurses, because everything was so dirty.

The queen found out about Florence's work and sent her a special message to encourage her.

Every night, just before Florence went to bed she made a trip to visit the patients. With her lamp in her hand she walked up and down the long rows of beds. Her patients called her 'the lady of the lamp'.

Florence always tried to make sure that the patients were as comfortable as possible, washed and well fed. When the war was over she was given a special medal for bravery.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 3



Activities – Florence Nightingale

PART A

1. What kind of family was Florence from?
2. How was Florence different from the rest of her family?
3. What did she like to do when she was 11?
4. What did she write in her diary when she was 17?
5. Why didn't Florence's parents want her to become a nurse?
6. What was it like in Russia, when the nurses first arrived?
7. What did Florence do to improve the conditions?
8. Why is she called the lady with the lamp?
9. How can we tell from the second story that Florence really cared about the people she helped?
10. What do you call a person who is always willing to help others? Fill in the missing letters: **s _ r _ a _ t**

PART B - God is a servant

Read:

Jesus came to forgive us from our sins. He also came to heal us from sickness. Jesus was never too tired to help people. He didn't say to Peter, "I am too tired to heal your mother-in-law." Jesus showed He was a servant by helping those who were sick.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I help those who are sick?

I can ask Jesus to _____ them.

I can be _____ to them.

I do things _____ them.

Missing words: kind for heal

Billy Goes Shopping

Mum

Well Billy, what are we going to buy at the supermarket today. Let's look at my shopping list...

3 loaves of bread

4 litres of milk

weetbix

butter

eggs

fruit and vegetables

Billy

Mum, do we have to buy vegetables? I hate broccoli and you always get it. My friend Tommy doesn't eat vegetables.

Mum

You know that vegetables make you grow to be strong and healthy, Billy. They are one of God's gifts to us.

Billy

Well, I still don't like them.

Mum, can I have some chocolate biscuits?

Mum

No Billy. Too much junk food is not good for us.

Billy

How about some chocolate coated muesli bars?

Mum

No Billy.

Billy

Why not Mum? Tommy's Mum always buys them.

Mum

We have more important things to buy today, Billy. If I buy things we don't really need, then I won't have enough money left to buy the things we do need.

Billy

O.K. Mum. From now on I'll only ask you for the things we really need.

Look Mum! There's a competition on the back of these packets of chocolate dessert mix. You just have to send in the coupon and you might win a trip to Disneyland! Mum, Mum, why don't we buy twenty packets? Then we're sure to win!

(Mum pulls Billy away. Both exit.)

God is Provider – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities

1. What didn't Billy understand about shopping?
2. What things do you sometimes ask for when you are shopping with Mum?
3. When we pray, what are the things should we ask God to give us?
4. How can we show that we are thankful for the things God gives us?
5. How could we help others who don't have enough?

What Shall I Wear?

Mum

Hurry up and get dressed, Betty. We're leaving in ten minutes.

Betty

I like the week-ends because I don't have to wear my school clothes, but trying to decide what to wear is SO difficult. I wish I had more new clothes. My friends have far more clothes than I have...and they have all the latest fashions. I just can't find anything in my wardrobe that I'd like to wear today!

"Mum, what shall I wear?"

Mum

"How about your yellow dress."

Betty

No. I can't wear that. I wore that last week. I suppose this blue one with flowers on it will have to do. That reminds me. I read a story about flowers in the Bible last night. Jesus was on a mountain telling the people about the beautiful clothes God gave flowers to wear...all different colours. Flowers don't have to worry about what they wear because God always provides for them. And Jesus said that God cares about me far more than He cares about flowers.

"Sorry for complaining about my clothes, God."

Betty

Mum. I'm ready."

God is Provider – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – What Shall I Wear?

PART A

1. Why did Betty have trouble deciding what to wear?
2. What reminded her to be thankful for the clothes she had?
3. When should we buy new clothes?
4. Think about the way in which God provides for His creation. What kind of 'clothes' do flowers wear? What kind of 'clothes' do animals wear?

PART B - God is provider

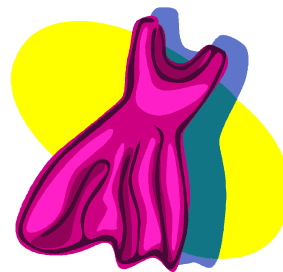
Read:

God promises to provide everything we **need**. He doesn't always provide everything we **want**. People want many things, especially new things. God need, we could give that money to people who are poor.

Copy and fill in the missing word:

What if I am worried about not having enough food or clothes?

I can _____ God to provide the things I need.



Lucy's Garden

"Would you like to have a garden of your own, Lucy?" asked Dad one day.

"Yes please!" answered Lucy enthusiastically.

"You'll have to help me get the garden bed ready then," said Dad.

Together, Dad and Lucy dug and raked, removing sticks and stones until the soil was fine and soft.

"Now for the seeds," said Dad. "What would you like to plant?"

"Something useful and something pretty," answered Lucy.

Dad and Lucy went to the shop to choose some seeds. Lucy looked at the herbs.

"Cress will grow fast," said Dad, "and it is useful for salads."

"I need some vegetables too," said Lucy. She chose carrots and celery. 'They're good for munching on,' thought Lucy. Last of all she chose a packet of colourful mixed flower seeds.

The seeds were soon in the soil. Every day Lucy would water her garden and watch for the seeds to come up. First came the cress seeds, just as Dad had said. It wouldn't be long before the plants were ready for eating. Soon the other seeds had sprouted as well. Lucy continued to water her plants every day. She couldn't wait to see the colours of the flowers.

A few weeks passed by, and the garden became a colourful mass of blue forget-me-nots, purple and yellow pansies, pink and yellow snap-dragons and white daisies.

Lucy was glad that God had given the flowers such beautiful clothes to wear. She was also glad that God had made plants like carrots and celery, to munch and crunch on. That night Lucy lay in bed thinking about her garden. She remembered to say thank you for giving her clothes to wear like the

flowers, and food to eat. She also remembered other children who didn't have as much as she did.

'Just as God provides for the flowers and the animals, God also provides for people,' she thought, 'but sometimes He asks those with a lot to give to those with only a little.'

Lucy wondered whether she could help others who didn't have enough. She prayed a prayer:

"Thank You God for providing so much for me. I want You to use me to help provide for others."

God is Provider – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – Lucy's Garden

PART A

1. What did Lucy plant in her garden?
2. What did her garden teach her about God?
3. How can we help those who don't have very much?
4. Name a country where there are many poor people.

PART B - God is provider

Read:

This means that God provides the things we need. Sometimes we want lots of money. Maybe we don't really need all the things we ask for. Jesus wants us to ask Him for the things we really need. He also wants us to give our money to those who don't have much.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I believe that God will give me the things I need?

I can thank Him each day for my _____ and clothes.

I can tell Mum and Dad not to _____.

I can think about the birds and flowers, and remember that if God provides for _____, He will provide for me!

Missing words: them worry food

"Jump, Emily, Jump!"

No one knew how the fire started, but suddenly there were flames everywhere. Thick smoke filled the house. Mr. Potter woke up.

"Fire!" he called. "Quickly!" he yelled, shaking his wife awake. "Get the children and get outside!"

Mrs. Potter ran into the baby's room, picked up the baby and ran outside. Mr. Potter tried to put out the fire but had to give up. It was so hot and spreading very fast. He grabbed a few things and ran outside.

"Fire!" he yelled. "Ring the fire brigade!"
Lights went on in the neighbours' houses.

"Where's Emily?" asked Mrs. Potter.

"Dad! Help!" cried a voice.

It was Emily. She was at the living room balcony. That was at the high end of the house. Quickly Mr. Potter rushed towards her.

"Jump, Emily!" he called. "I'll catch you!"

The flames were very close now. The thick smoke swirled everywhere.

"Jump, Emily! Jump!" ordered Mr. Potter. "Quickly!"

"But Dad, I can't see you!" sobbed Emily.

"I can see you. That's all that matters," called her father. "Jump!"

Emily jumped into the arms of her waiting father.

God is Peace – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – Jump, Emily, Jump

PART A

1. When did the fire break out?
2. Why was it difficult for Emily to jump?
3. How do you think Emily felt, once she was safely in the arms of her father?
4. For Emily, the only way to safety was trusting in her father.
5. How is this similar to the trust God wants us to have in Him?
6. Why did Emily find it hard at first to trust in her father's ability to catch her?
7. Why do some people find it hard to trust God?
8. What should we do if we are afraid, and finding it hard to trust God?

Part B - God is Peace

Read:

Having peace inside us means that we are not afraid. We can trust God to look after us. He is so great and mighty, He can do anything. When we are in trouble we just have to cry out to God. He can give us peace, and help us not to be afraid.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I stop being afraid?

I can thank God that He is _____ after me.

I can ask Jesus to _____ me.

I can remember that Jesus is the light that takes _____ my fear.

Missing words: help looking away