

Themes for Christian Studies Level 3 Age 7

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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 3 (age 7)

Biblical overview

God is Creator

God provides through His creation

The Creation (Gen. 1 & 2)

The Fall (Gen. 2 & 3)

Saying thank you (Luke 17:11-19)

God is Love

Jesus is a friend

Jesus, friend of children (Mark 10:13-16)

Jesus calls us by name (John 1:43; Matt. 4:18-22; John 10:14-15)

Jesus helped his friends (John 11)

We can talk to Jesus as a friend (Matt. 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13)

God is Wise

When things go wrong, God understands

In all things, God works for good (Rom. 8:28)

God turned a bad situation to good in the life of Joseph (Gen. 27-46)

God worked for Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16:16-40)

God is Protector

God protects His people when they fight for Him

The armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18)

God protected David against Saul (1 Sam. 18-19)

God is a strong tower, a fortress and a shield (Ps.18:2; Prov. 18:10; Prov. 30:5)

God is Powerful

God is great, strong and mighty

The walls of Jericho (Joshua 6)

The day the sun stood still (Joshua 10)

Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41)

God is Truth

God's truth doesn't change

Honesty in word and character (Prov. 20:23; Prov 21:22)

Faithfulness to the God of truth: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3)

The golden calf (Ex. 32)

God is Pure

As God forgives us, so we should forgive others

The Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:12)

Forgive one another (Eph. 4:32; Luke 6:37)

The son who left home (Luke 15:11-32)

The parable of the king's servant (Matt. 18:23-35)

God is Patient

Patience is showing kindness and care

Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10; Ps.23)

King David's kindness to the lame prince Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 4 & 9)

God is a Servant

Jesus, the healing servant

The man born blind (John 9:1-34)

Jesus heals many people (Matt. 18:14-17)

The man at the pool (John 5:1-18)

God is Life

God is the sustainer of life

The loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-44)

Jesus, the Word (John 1:2 & 14)

God's word as our spiritual food (1 Peter 2:2)

God is Provider

God provides the things we need

God provided for Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1-4)

Do not worry about food or clothes (Matt. 6:25-34)

God is Peace

Peace comes from trusting God

Peter walks on water (Matt. 14:22-32)

Trust in Jesus (1 Cor.1:9; Ps. 23; Prov. 18:24)

Other Stories

Jonathan and the missing pencils (*Wise 3.1*)

Pilgrim's Armour (*Protector 3.2*)

The Goats and the Wolf (*Truth 3.1*)

The T.V. Thief (*Truth 3.1*)

The Gymkhana (*Pure 3.1*)

The Drawings - play (*Pure 3.3*)

When we were Young (*Patient 3.1*)

Florence Nightingale (*Servant 3.3*)

Billy Goes Shopping (*Provider 3.1*)

What Shall I Wear? -play (*Provider 3.2*)

Lucy's Garden (*Provider 3.2*)

Jump, Emily, Jump (*Peace 3.1*)

God is Creator

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

God provides through His creation

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



Integrated topics for Christian Education

Plants; plant foods

Other

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

Character development *(see Jesus First)*

- confidence
- creativity
- flexibility
- resourcefulness

Christian Life

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 3.1

Subtheme

God provides through His creation.

Focus

Thank You God for food.

Bible references

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

...Then He commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit."...Evening passed and morning came. That was the third day. (verse 11) GNB

..."I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat...for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food..." (verses 29-30) GNB

Songs

All Creation Sings (*All Creation Sings*)

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

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

Story

Tell the Creation story from Genesis 1 & 2

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

Discussion

Focus on the special things God created for us...especially the plants He created for our food. Think about food plants, seeds, fruits and vegetables. Think about tastes and colours. God shows that He loves us by not just providing food that is good for us, but food that tastes good too.

Brainstorm

Make two lists:

- 1) Natural plant foods
- 2) Processed plant foods

Prayer

Thank God for providing our food.

Art/Craft

Join with other age-groups to make a creation mural. This group could contribute plants.

or Make a diorama, (a creation scene in a shoe-box, open section facing the front)
or depict the six days of creation, each day on a separate piece of paper.

God is Creator 3.2

Subtheme

God provides through His creation

Focus

God's beautiful world destroyed by disobedience

Bible references

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

Songs

All Creation Sings (*All Creation Sings*)

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

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

Story

Tell the story of Adam and Eve's sin, which destroyed God's beautiful world

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

Discussion

One of the consequences of the fall was the fact that some animals changed from being plant eaters to meat eaters. This meant that some animals killed other animals.

In the beginning God had provided...'for ALL the wild animals and for ALL the birds, grass and leafy plants for food'. (Genesis 1:30) GNB

Imagine lions and crows eating grass and leafy plants! This was God's original plan, but Adam and Eve's disobedience brought fighting and killing into the world.

When sin entered the world many people became greedy. Today there is plenty of food in the world to feed everyone, but many do not have enough to eat because of wars. Wars are caused by greed and selfishness.

God is Creator 3.3

Subtheme

God provides through His creation

Focus

Giving thanks

Bible references

Genesis 1 The Creation

Luke 17:11-19 The leper who said 'Thank You'

Matthew 6:28-29 The lilies of the field

Songs

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

Thankyou For All The Good Things (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

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

Introduction

We can say 'thank you' to God before our meals.

How many different 'thank you' prayers or songs are known within the group?

What are some of the things we can say 'thank you' for?

Story

Tell the story of the healing of the ten lepers, one of which returned to say 'thank you' (Luke 17:11-19).

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

Why is it important to say 'thank you' to God for all His good gifts to us?

Classification game

Prepare for the game by making some flashcards. Print names of foods on the flashcards. Also, make four flashcards for the food categories: fruit; seed; leafy vegetable; underground vegetable. Place the 'food' cards in a stack, and set out the four 'category' cards as shown.

To play the game, each child takes a turn to select a card from the top of the stack. He/she must place the card under the correct heading: fruit; seed; leafy vegetable; underground vegetable.

Art/Craft

Make a plant-food collage by gluing dried lentils and pasta to card in a decorative pattern.

OR

Collect leaves, flowers and grasses and make prints. Apply paint to the reverse side of leaves/blades of grass. Place wet side down on to paper, and apply pressure. A rolling pin is useful for this.

OR

Make stamped vegetable prints. Cut sections of carrot, celery, potato etc. Dip into paint-soaked sponge, then stamp on to paper.



God is Love

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

Jesus is a friend

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



Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Related topics for Christian Schools

Jesus is a friend to all people...

A study of different cultural groups: different lifestyles and traditions, food, dress, games; being a friend to people from other cultures

Other

- myself: God loves me just the way I am
- my family: God's plan for love and protection
- understanding different cultural groups
- understanding the aged and disabled
- professions which show care e.g. nursing
- caring for animals
- God's kindness to us in providing the things we need
- 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 3.1

Subtheme

Jesus is a friend

Focus

Jesus is a person whom we can love and trust.

Bible references

Mark 10:13-16 Jesus, special friend of children.

Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5 I will never leave you.

John 15:12-14 Love one another; You are my friends if you do what I command.

Songs

God Loves You (*All Creation Sings*)

Jesus Is A Friend (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

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

Introduction

Discuss 'best friends':

What things do you do together?

What things do you like about your best friend?

Jesus wants to be our best friend too. He especially wants to be friends with children.

Story

Tell the story from Mark 10:13-16

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

Discussion

How do we know that Jesus is a person?

What kind of person is He?

Read the words of Jesus in Luke 18:17.

Why do you think He said this?

What does it mean to trust a friend?

Which friend can we trust the most?

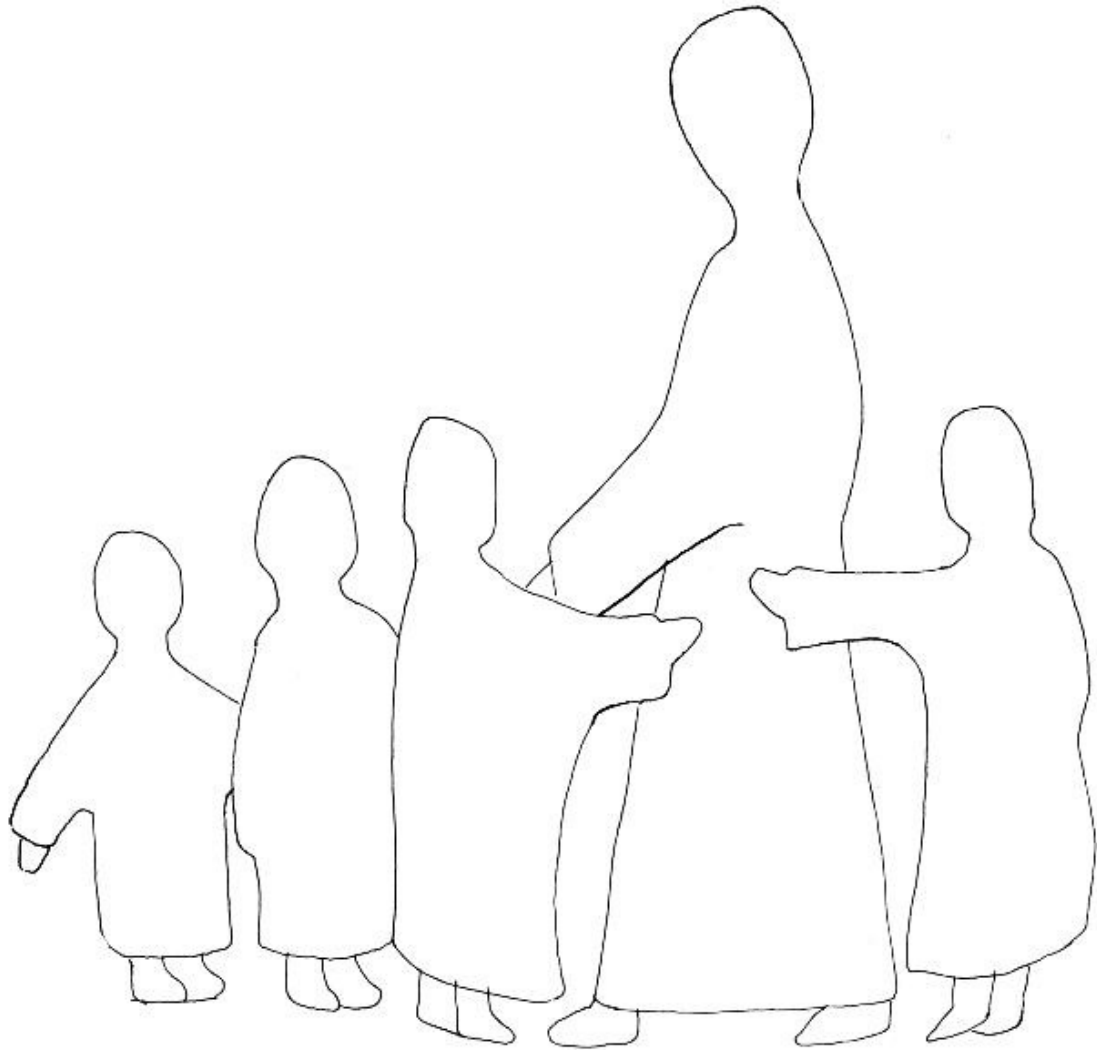
How do we ask Jesus to be our friend?

Activity 1

Make a card for Jesus. Think of something you would like to tell Jesus. Write it on the card. Decorate the card and place it in a special place at home, where you can see it every day.

Activity 2

Finish the following drawing. (The teacher could draw this on to a large sheet of paper and the children can copy it, then fill in the details of Jesus and the children.)



God is Love 3.2

Subtheme

Jesus is a friend

Focus

Jesus calls us personally by name.

Bible references

John 1:43 Nathanael.

Matthew 4:18-22 Jesus calls four fishermen.

Revelation 21:27 Names in the book of life

Isaiah 49:16 Names inscribed upon His hands.

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

John 10:14-15 Jesus knows His sheep by name.

Songs

God Loves You (*All Creation Sings*)

Wide Wide as The Ocean (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't be Finer*)

Introduction

Discuss the importance of names.

Why do we have names?

When do we use names?

How many names do we have? (Christian names/sir name)

Do you know anyone who has exactly the same full name as you?

Do you know the meaning of your name?

Do you know the meaning of your best friend's name?

(Use a dictionary of names)

How many in the group have names from the Bible?

Does Jesus know your name?

Story 1: Jesus calls His disciples

Read about the calling of the first disciples, (Matthew 4: 18-22), Or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Story 2: 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."

Discussion

Does Jesus know about you too? How well does He know you?

Jesus not only knows your name, and the colour of your eyes and hair. He also knows when you are feeling happy, sad or afraid. When you ask Him to be your friend, He is there with you all the time.

Activity 1

Make a wall story. Tell the story of Nathanael in a picture sequence.

EXAMPLE:

1. Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus.
2. Philip brings Nathanael to meet Jesus.
3. Jesus said, "I know all about you, Nathanael."
4. Nathanael said, "Jesus, you really are the Son of God."

Activity 2

Make a card showing the meaning of your name. Decorate the card and include pictures of things special to you.

Examples: favourite toys, pets.

God is Love 3.3

Subtheme

Jesus is a friend

Focus

Friendship and loyalty

Bible references

John 11 Jesus helped His friends, Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

1 Samuel 18-20 Jonathan and David

Ephesians 5:22 Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Proverbs 18:24 Jesus is a friend who is closer than a brother.

Songs

God Loves You (*All Creation Sings*)

Jesus Is A Friend (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

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

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Discussion

How can you be a good friend to someone?

Friends are not ALWAYS good to one another. Sometimes friends can make each other sad. However there is one friend who is ALWAYS a good friend. That is Jesus.

Here is a true story which shows how much Jesus loves and cares about His friends.

Story 1: Special help for special friends

Jesus had three good friends called Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mary and Martha were sisters and Lazarus was their brother. They did not follow Jesus everywhere as the twelve disciples did. They lived in a house in Bethany, and Jesus would often visit them.

One day, while Jesus was away on a trip, Lazarus became very sick. Mary and Martha wished that Jesus was there to help Lazarus. They believed that Jesus could heal their brother, so they sent a message to Jesus. The message said, "Jesus, please come and help us. Lazarus is sick."

Jesus did not come straight away. He planned to heal Lazarus in a special way. Lazarus became worse, and died. Mary and Martha were very sad. 'If only Jesus could have got here sooner,' they thought.

The body of Lazarus was wrapped in white bandages and buried in a cave called a tomb. After a few days Jesus and his disciples arrived. Mary and Martha were crying. Jesus knew how sad they felt. He cried with them.

"If only You could have been here sooner," they said to Jesus, "Lazarus would not have died." Mary and Martha knew that Jesus had power to heal people. They had seen Him heal people before. However they did not know that Jesus could do another special miracle.

"Don't worry," said Jesus. "Lazarus will live again."

Jesus went to the place where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a big stone in front of the entrance.

"Roll away the stone," said Jesus.
Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father, and then said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus came out of the grave wrapped from head to foot in white bandages. Quickly they took off the bandages. Lazarus was alive again!

Discussion

Jesus loved his three friends very much. He felt sad when Mary and Martha were sad. He wanted to help them in a special way. Jesus knows when we are sad too, and wants to help us.

A good friend feels sad when you are sad, and wants to help. What else does a good friend do?

Write your ideas down on a big sheet of paper.

What is a friend?

A friend is...

- someone to have fun with
- someone you can share with etc

Story 2: David and Jonathan

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

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

Puzzle

Who were Jesus' friends?

Here are just some of them. Not all of them were disciples. Fill in the missing letters with A E I O U.

M _ T T H _ W

M _ R T H _

Z _ C C H _ _ S

_ N D R _ W

P _ T _ R

N _ T H _ N _ _ L

Find out all the names of the twelve disciples.

God is Love 4.4

Subtheme

Jesus is a friend

Focus

Jesus is a friend who understands. We can talk to him about our problems.

Bible references

Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13 Teaching about prayer

Hebrews 4:14-16 Jesus knows how we feel.

Matthew 26 Jesus was betrayed by a friend.

Songs

God Loves You (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

|

Introduction

How would you feel if your best friend did something really awful to you, or if they decided that they didn't want to be your friend any more?

That's what happened to Jesus. The friend's name was Judas.

Story: Judas

Judas had been one of Jesus' close friends. However he 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.

Activity

Make a card of gift for a friend.

God is Wise

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

When things go wrong, God understands

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



Integrated topics for Christian Education

Safety: wisdom in taking safety precautions.

Examples: road safety; bike safety; safety around the home; safety precautions in preparation for possible natural disasters

Other

- civil laws
- environmental responsibility; recycling; wise use of environment
- stranger danger
- money; banking; shopping
- 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: choosing friends; 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 3.1

Subtheme

When things go wrong, God understands

Focus

Sometimes we don't understand why things happen, but God does.

Bible references

Romans 8:28 In all things, God works for good with those who love Him. (GNB)
Genesis 37-46 The story of Joseph who was sold as a slave - God turned this to good.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks.

Songs

He's Wiser (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Come and Listen (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Definition

Discuss the meanings of 'wise' and 'wisdom'. (*Knowing the right thing to do and doing it!*)

Discussion

As we grow older, we should grow wiser, because we learn by the things we do. Children often don't understand why parents don't allow them to do certain things. However, because parents are older and wiser, children should obey.

It's a bit like that with God. Sometimes we can't understand certain things that happen to us. However, God can even bring good out of bad times. When we don't understand, God does. We should never stop trusting and loving God when things go wrong. In fact we can use the bad times to love and trust God even more. God wants us to keep thanking Him for all the good things we can think of. He wants us to praise Him, just for being God.

Story 1: 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. Jonathan explained.

"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 the teacher 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, the teacher 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, the teacher said 'thankyou' for returning the pencils. She also told Timothy about a special friend of hers who wanted to be a friend of Timothy's too. The friend was Jesus. Jesus could help Timothy. 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 his teacher 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.

Story 2: Joseph

Tell the story of Joseph, focusing on the wisdom that God gave him, and God's wisdom in being able to turn a bad situation into a good one, as the drought in the land caused the family to be reunited.

Alternatively read from *The Beginner's Bible*, 'Timeless Children's Stories', (Zondervan)

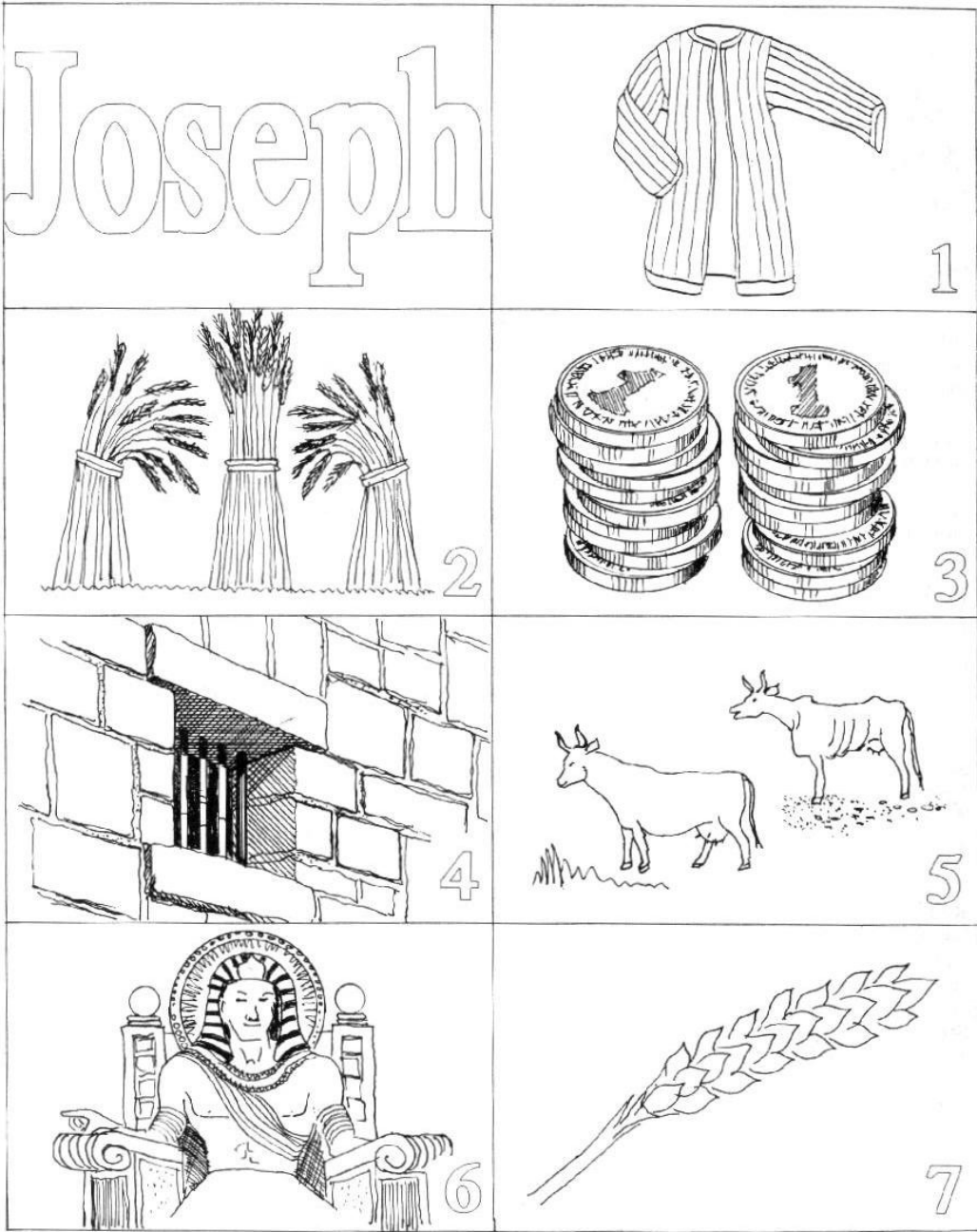
Discussion

Discuss the difficult times Joseph experiences and show how God turned the difficult times into good.

Activities

- Draw Joseph in his coat of many colours.

- Use the picture on the next page to make a book or wall story that tells about these seven events:
 1. Joseph is given a coat of many colours.
 2. Joseph has a dream. His brother's sheaves bow down to Joseph's sheaves.
 3. Joseph is sold as a slave for 20 pieces of silver.
 4. Joseph is thrown into prison, even though he didn't do anything wrong.
 5. God tells the meaning of two dreams. Joseph tells the Pharaoh.
 6. Joseph is made a ruler and is in charge of giving out grain.
 7. Joseph's family come to get grain from Joseph.



God is Wise 3.2

Subtheme

When things go wrong, God understands.

Focus

Giving thanks to God when things are difficult

Bible references

Acts 16:16-40 Paul and Silas in prison

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks.

Romans 8:28 God works for good with those who love Him (GNB)

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has set the right time for everything. (GNB)

Songs

He's Wiser (*All Creation Sings*)

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

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

Story: 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 realized 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.

Discussion

Next time you are having a bad time, what can you do?

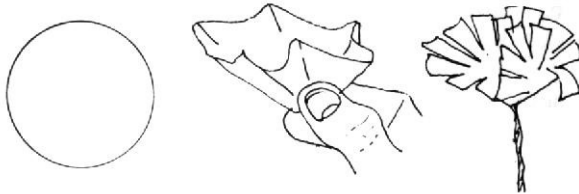
Remember that God can turn bad times into good times. He even shows us this in the creation. Have you ever seen what the bush looks like immediately after a fire? It looks like one big black disaster. However, if you take another look at it the next year, you will see everything bursting into life. The heat of the fire causes little seeds and seed pods to burst open. Next year there will be more green shoots and flowers than ever before.

Art/Craft

Make a happy face on a balloon.

OR

Make some paper flowers.



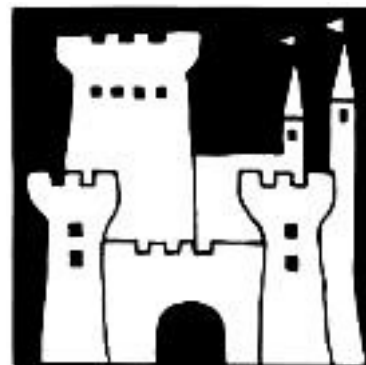
God is Protector

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

God protects His people when they fight for Him

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

castles; fortresses; shelter; the armour of God

Other

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

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 3.1

Subtheme

God protects His people when they fight for Him

Focus

God protects us against the enemy.

Bible references

Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God

Songs

I Don't Have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Introduction

Explain that in the land where Jesus lived, the people were under the rule of Roman soldiers. Look at a picture of Roman soldier or a knight wearing armour. How many separate pieces of armour are there? (If you don't have a picture you can prepare the soldier on the activity sheet on the next page as a demonstration model.)

Bible research

God has told us that we should put on armour too because Christians fight against an enemy. The enemy's name is Satan. He does not attack us with real swords or arrows, but He does try to give us bad thoughts. He tries to make us do the wrong thing. That is how he fights Christians.

So that we will be strong when Satan comes to us with bad thoughts, God tell us to wear armour. It is not made of metal like knights' armour. You cannot see this special armour. God gives it to us when we ask for it. Here is the armour:

Look up Ephesians 6:10-18 in your Bible. Make a list of the armour and think about how you can have each piece of armour for yourself.

1. The belt of truth
2. The breastplate of righteousness (also called the protection of right living)
3. Shoes for announcing the Good News of peace
4. The shield of faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation
6. The sword of the Spirit

Why do we need to PUT ON God's armour? (Verse 11)

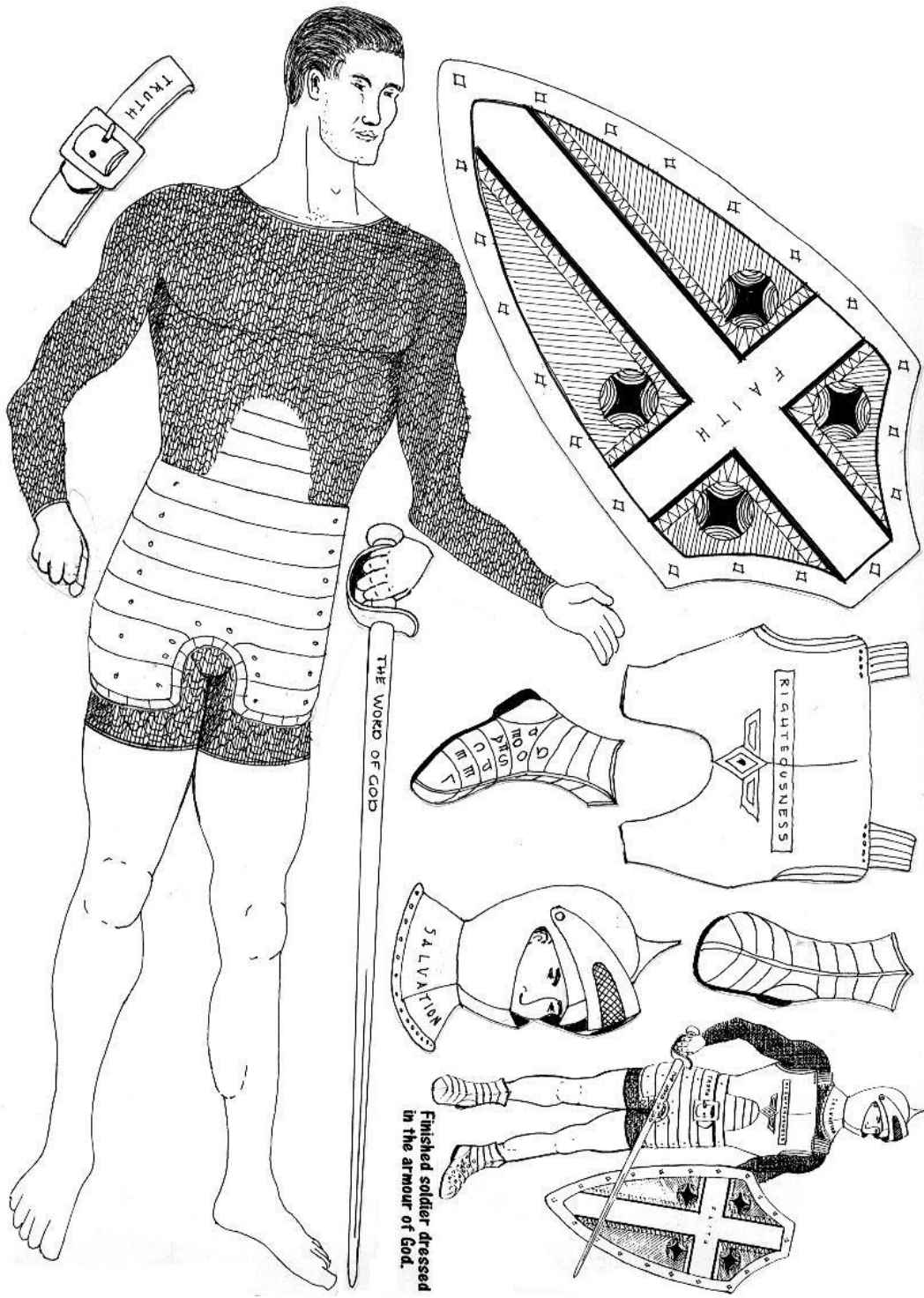
How do we do it?

Why do God's people need to keep on the alert? (verse 18)

What else should we do in addition to putting on the armour? (verse 18)

Art/Craft

Use the following activity sheet to make a figure wearing the armour of God.
Or draw a soldier wearing the armour.



Finished soldier dressed in the armour of God.

God is Protector 3.2

Subtheme

God protects His people when they fight for Him.

Focus

The importance of the helmet of salvation; the need to use our armour every day

Bible references

Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God.

Songs

I Don't Have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Story: 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. When 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. The princess had given him a key. 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, more angels welcomed them. 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.

Adapted from 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan, 1678

Use the following play reading to retell the story as a play or puppet play. Children can make character puppets. They can also make props and background scenery. The teacher could take the role of narrator and children can read or memorize the lines for the other characters.

Play reading: Pilgrim's Armour

Narrator:

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.

Pilgrim:

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

Evangelist:

See that light in the distance? 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.

Narrator:

Pilgrim followed the path, and there, as Evangelist had said, was the wooden cross. When 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.

Princess:

I am the princess of the King. 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.

Narrator:

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.

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!"

Narrator:

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.

Hopeful:

Do not give up. I will walk with you to the Celestial City.

Narrator:

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.

Giant Despair:

What are you doing in my meadow! I put pilgrims like you in my dungeon!

Narrator:

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. The princess had given him a key. 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.

Hopeful:

Hurry, before Giant Despair hears us!

Narrator:

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.

Angel:

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

Narrator:

Pilgrim and Hopeful crossed the river safely. Then they were called, one by one, to enter the city. There, more angels welcomed them. 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

Make a book about 'Pilgrim's Armour'. Draw pictures for key events.

A true story of protection

One day a five-year-old boy called Bobbie was playing with his ball. It rolled into the sewer and right down inside a huge storm drain. He loved his big blue ball and didn't want to lose it, so he started to climb down into the sewer after it. But at the entrance, an enormous white angel was standing, blocking the way. The angel simply shook his head back and forth saying, "no." Bobbie grew up to be a successful businessman. He never forgot about his guardian angel experience and thanked God for His protection.

From *When Angels Appear*, by Hope MacDonald (Zondervan 1982)

God is Protector 3.3

Subtheme

God protects His people when they fight for Him.

Focus

God is our shield.

Bible references

1 Samuel 18-19 God protected David against Saul.

Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 18:2 God is a strong tower; a fortress.

Proverbs 30:5 God is our shield.

Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 61:3 God is our protector.

Psalm 66:3 God is great.

Songs

What A Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

I Don't Have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

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

Introduction

Think about the purpose of a shield. A shield is something that stands between you and danger. It stops the dangerous thing from harming you. We can ask God to be our shield. He will protect us from danger.

This true story tells us about the time when God protected one of His servants from danger. The servant's name was David, the shepherd boy who had killed Goliath.

Story: God protects David again

David had killed the Philistine giant, Goliath. After that, King Saul became extremely 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 dodged 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. The 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.

Bible research

Look up some of verse from Psalms and Proverbs which tell us about God's protection. Here are some words that the Bible uses to explain what God's protection is like.

Word Search 1

STRONG TOWER; SHIELD; REFUGE; FORTRESS; DEFENCE

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | F | J | K | M | O | P | S | Z | D | H | S |
| R | X | W | A | Y | L | T | F | T | E | M | H |
| E | F | R | N | B | D | W | R | G | F | J | I |
| F | O | R | T | R | E | S | S | U | E | G | E |
| U | K | S | W | I | X | N | T | V | N | J | L |
| G | P | A | H | R | I | K | B | M | C | L | D |
| E | Q | Z | Y | L | Y | D | M | P | E | E | F |
| O | S | T | R | O | N | G | T | O | W | E | R |

Word Search 2

Find this Bible verse:

PUT ON: THE WHOLE: ARMOUR: OF GOD.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | R | W | I | J | A | N | B |
| P | J | G | F | E | R | L | J |
| U | J | G | F | L | M | I | Y |
| T | H | E | W | H | O | L | E |
| O | F | G | O | D | U | D | P |
| N | G | F | D | S | R | N | J |

Art/Craft

Make a shield of faith.

God is Powerful

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

God is great, strong and mighty

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

God's power over earth, sea and sky:

The solar system; the earth in space; effects of the sun and moon on the earth; time; seasons

Other

- God's power seen in the 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 3.1

Subtheme

God is great, strong and mighty.

Focus

God is in charge of everything.

Bible references

Matthew 17:20 Nothing will be impossible.

2 Samuel 22:2-3 God is a rock. He gives His people strength.

2 Samuel 22:33 It is God who arms me with strength.

Joshua 6 The walls of Jericho.

Songs

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Introduction

Think of some of the great and mighty things in God's creation. Discuss the Bible verse, Matthew 17:20. If God can move mountains, what can He do for us when we trust Him?

Background to the story

God's people, the Israelites had been travelling through the desert for many years. They had finally reached the beautiful land that God had promised to them. Moses was not their leader any more. He had become very old. The new leader was Joshua.

When the Israelites got to the river, and looked across to the Promised Land on the other side, they saw a city that was occupied by enemies. The city was called Jericho. The people of Jericho worshipped false gods. The people of Jericho had built a huge wall around the city to protect themselves from attacks.

In the days of the Old Testament, God's people had to fight many enemies. However, when Jesus came to live on earth, He made it possible for everyone to become a child of God. God's people do not have to fight battles any more. However there is still one enemy that God helps us to fight. That is Satan. We fight him by putting on the armour of God. (Ephesians 6)

Story: Joshua and the walls of Jericho

Tell the story of the Joshua and the battle of Jericho, or use *The Beginner's Bible*, 'Timeless Children's Stories', (Zondervan)

Discussion

Joshua's army could never have taken the city without a powerful miracle. No one could normally win a battle by just marching and blowing trumpets. It was really God's great power that caused the walls to fall. God is just as powerful today. If we trust in God He will help us to fight different sorts of battles.

Here are some of the battles we might have to fight against the enemy, Satan:

- getting angry
- wanting to do wrong things
- being afraid
- hating others
- other people hating us
- forgetting about God

Art/Craft

- Make a clay or salt dough model of the wall of Jericho. Make cardboard cut-outs of people blowing trumpets and mount them on top of the wall. Make a banner to put on top of the wall: 'God has power over the enemy'
- OR draw a picture for the story.

God is Powerful 3.2

Subtheme

God is great, strong and mighty.

Focus

With God, nothing is impossible.

Bible references

Joshua 10 The day the sun stood still.

Jeremiah 10:12-13 God made the earth by His power.

Isaiah 40:25-26 The greatness of the stars.

Luke 1:37; Luke 18:27 Nothing is impossible.

Songs

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Revision

God's special people, the Israelites, had to fight many battles in Old Testament times. They had to fight enemies in order to survive. The Israelites were important to God, because from this group of people, Jesus would come. Once Jesus was born, all people had the chance to know God, and there was no longer need for these kinds of battles.

Story: The day the sun stood still

Not long after Jericho was defeated the Israelites defeated another city. 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 GNB). God is in charge of everything.

Discussion

This miracle shows us God's power to do 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 can do unusual things for people today too. There are some people who are so sick that the doctor said they could never become well again. There are some people who are born blind or deaf, with no chance of ever getting better. However, God can do unusual things for people like this. He can heal them through His great power, even though doctors say that they cannot be cured.

Activity 1

In the olden days, people did not have clocks like the ones we have today. They measured time by the sun. They could tell the time by the length of the shadow made by a shadow stick. (These were also called sun-dials)

You can make one of these by placing a stick in the ground, or mounting it on a piece of cardboard, then drawing along the line made by the shadow every hour. The shadow will move as the sun moves across the sky.

What would have happened to the sun-dials on the day that the sun stood still?

Activity 2

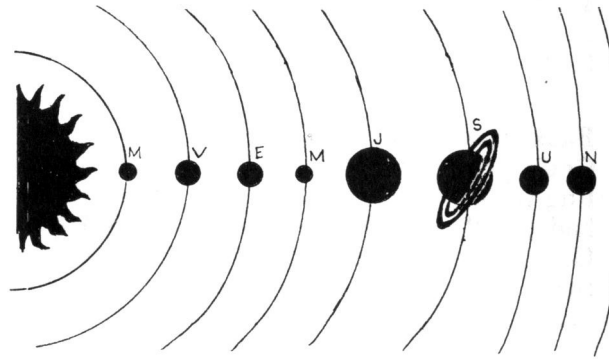
Find a diagram of our solar system. Look at the names of the planets, their sizes and distance from the sun. Look at the sun.

What is the sun made of? Is it a star? Are the planets really stars? Does the sun move? How do the Planets move?

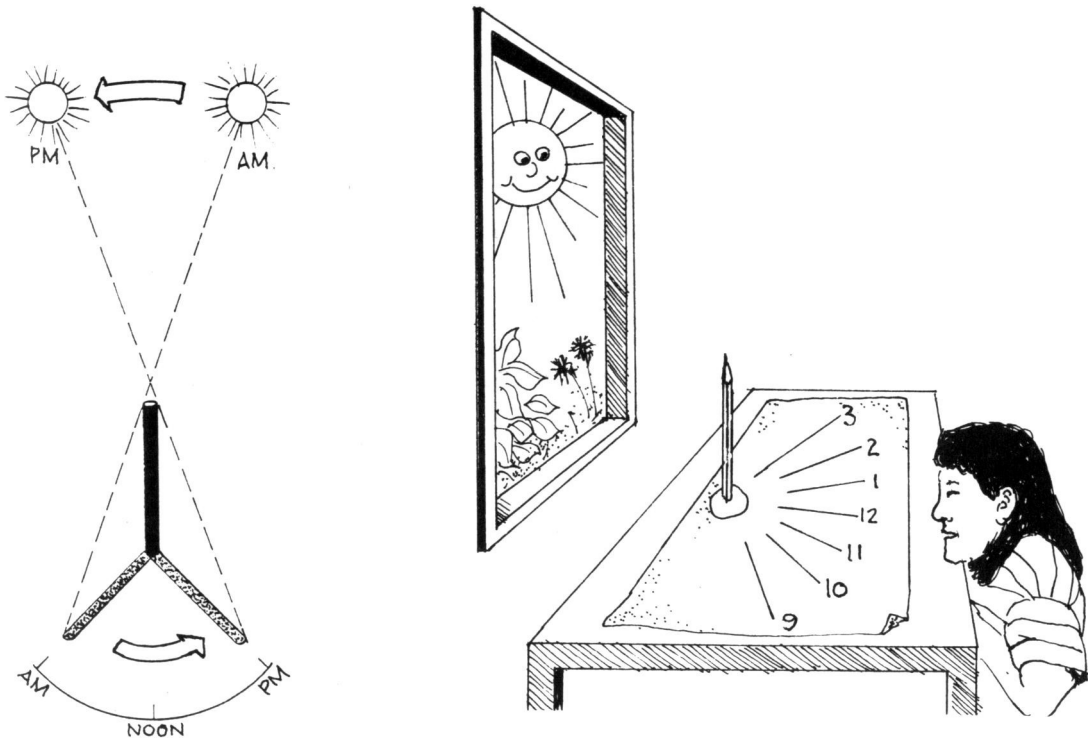
Think

Was it really the sun that stood still when Joshua prayed, or was it the earth?
(When we see the sunrise and set, it is really the earth that is moving, not the sun.)

Draw a picture of the solar system.



Can you name the planets?



A sun dial

God is Powerful 3.3

Subtheme

God is great, strong and mighty

Focus

We can trust in God because he is so great.

Bible references

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus calms the storm.

Zechariah 4:6; Psalm 62:11; Psalm 147:5 God's power and might.

Songs

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

God is Greater (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Revision

God has power to do unusual things. What unusual thing did he do for Joshua?

God is a ruler of all He created. If He needs to, He can make unusual things happen in nature.

Story: Jesus calms the storm

Tell the story of Jesus calming the storm, from Mark 4:35-41,

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

Discussion

What unusual thing happened in this story?

What did the disciples say in Mark 4:41?

Why were the disciples so afraid, even though Jesus was with them?

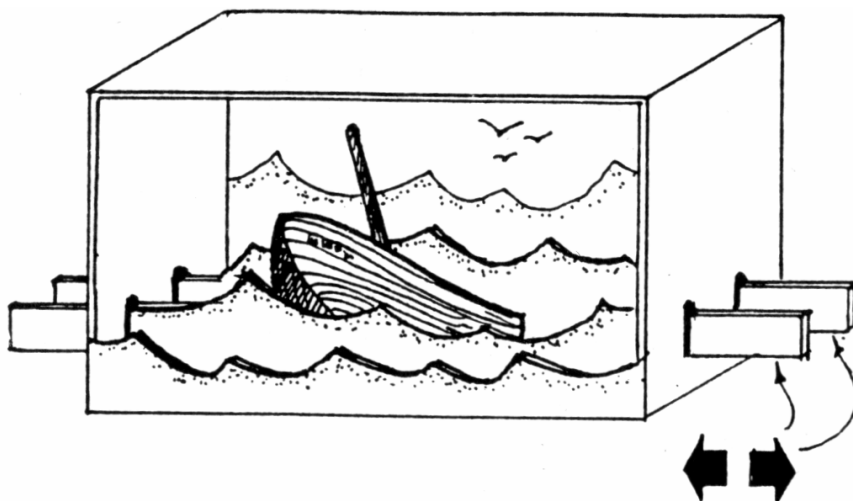
Are we sometimes afraid?

Does God have enough power to help us when we are in trouble?

Art/Craft

Make a storm scene inside a shallow, open box. Either use a shoe box or make your own box from cardboard.

1. Create the background scenery: sky and clouds.
2. Make moving panel as shown and place tabs through slots.
3. Make the front panel and do the same.
4. Move the tabs in the second panel up and down to simulate motion of waves.



God is Truth

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

God's truth doesn't change

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



Integrated topics for Christian Education

Real or substitute?

Test properties of matter; use of magnets to detect iron/steel from other metals; determine properties of genuine items and their counterfeits, e.g. real flowers/artificial flowers; glass/plastic; wool/synthetic; gold/imitation jewellery.

Literature studies: Which stories are factual and which are fantasy? Children need to discern the difference between stories that are true and stories that are made up. Note that the Parables that Jesus told were made up, but they are stories that *could* be true and they teach us something very important.

Other

- friendship: faithfulness and honesty
- discovering truth through the scientific method
- 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 God's Word

God is Truth 3.1

Subtheme

God's truth doesn't change

Bible references

Malachi 3:6 God doesn't change.

Ephesians 6:14 Put on the belt of truth.

Proverbs 20:23; Proverbs 21:22 Honesty in word and character.

Focus

Living a life of truth and honesty

The Truth Game

This game helps to give an understanding of 'true' and 'false'.

Collect items that are an imitation of real items.

EXAMPLES:

- imitation jewellery
- imitation fruit or flowers
- imitation vanilla essence / other artificial flavourings
- fridge magnets or plastic objects which imitate food items
- play money

Activity

Try to make some imitation food. An imitation parfait (dessert), is a good example. Find a parfait glass. Scrunch up some coloured cellophane to represent jelly. Place it in the glass. Then add cotton wool for cream. Place a red button on top for a cherry.

Discussion

Compare imitation items with real items.

Discuss the fact that it is not always easy to distinguish between the true object and its imitation. Sometimes things look real, but they are not.

In order to find out whether something is real or not, we need to test the object. We can examine it closely. We can feel it. We can drop it. In the case of a metal, we can test it with a magnet. A ring made from pure gold would not be attracted to a magnet, but a ring made from steel would be attracted.

Sometimes people can pretend to be telling the truth, when they are really lying. Here is a made up story about an animal which pretended to be someone else.

Story 1: 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.

Traditional folk tale

Story 2: The TV thief

Unlike the last story, this story is a true one.

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.

Story told by Betty Herbert (U.K.) Used by permission

Discussion

What is dishonesty?

a) People can sometimes say things that sound true, but really are not true at all.

EXAMPLE:

Mum asks, "Did you brush your teeth?"

Billy answers, "Yes".

(Billy has given his teeth a two-second brush and has not used tooth-paste.)

b) People can also say that they will do something, but really they have no intention of doing it.

EXAMPLE:

Teacher asks the children to pick up papers. The children say, "Yes". However they deliberately do not do it.

Story 3: Free ride

Sam and Mark were bored. School holidays were half way through and already they had nothing to do.

"I know," said Sam. "Let's take the bus to the city."

"We can't," said Mark. "We don't have any money. We spent the last of our money on those sweets yesterday."

"That's alright," said Sam. Just leave it to me. Come on."

The boys ran to the bus stop and waited in line. The bus arrived and they climbed aboard.

"Now," said Sam. "We'll sneak past the conductor so that he doesn't know we're on board. Just try to look as inconspicuous as possible."

Soon Bus 96 pulled up at a stop. The people getting off pushed their way through the crowd of people. More people got on. The two boys merged with the crowd.

"One stop to go," whispered Sam.

As the bus pulled into the city the boys breathed a sigh of relief. They quickly headed for the door, but in their rush, Mark tripped and fell down the steps. All eyes were now upon the boys.

"May I see your tickets please?" said the conductor.

How do you think the story ended?

Which of these ways could the boys have used to get to the city, without being dishonest?

a) asked their parents for the money

b) stolen the money

c) earned the money by doing jobs

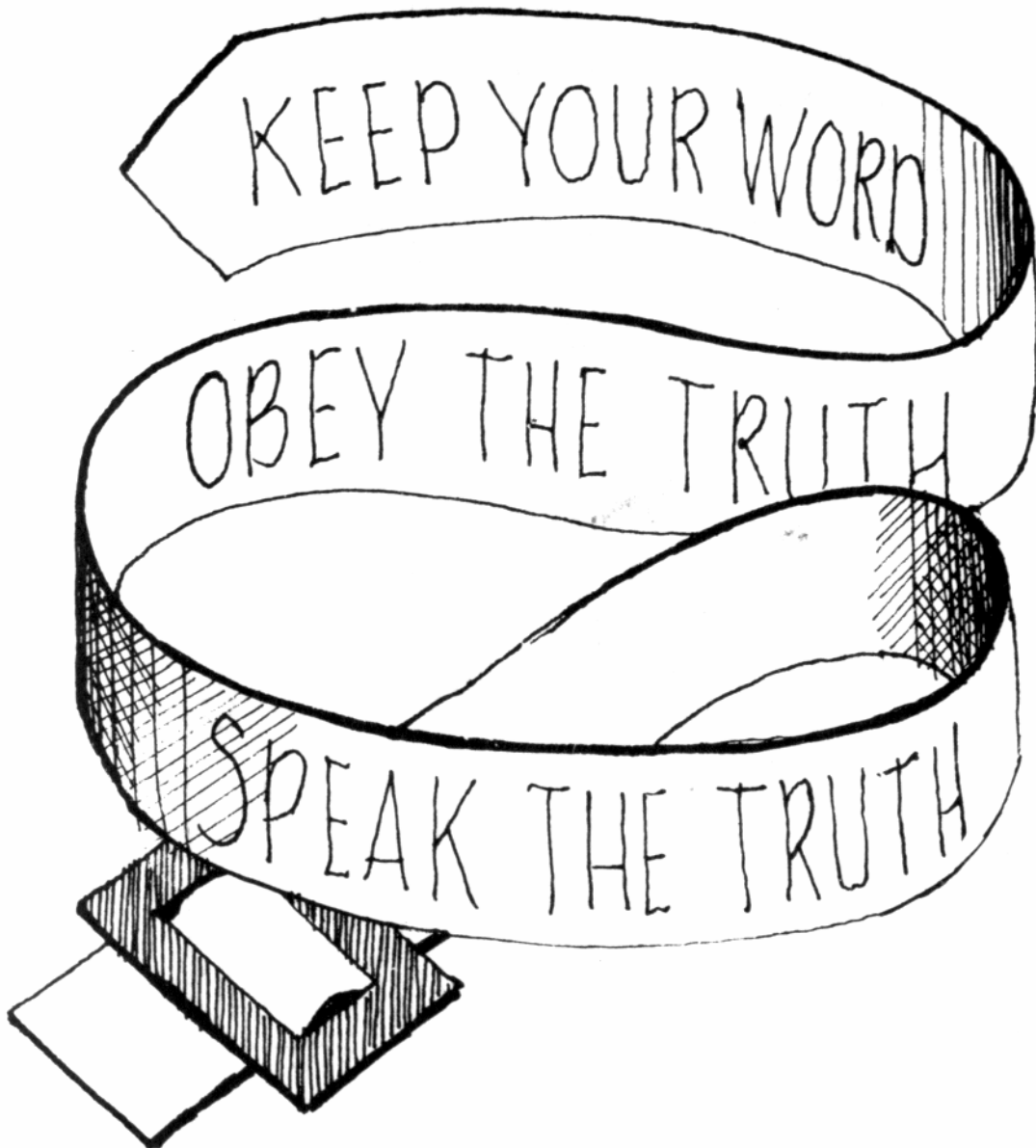
Which of the boys planned the mischief?

Was the other boy still to blame?

Activity

Read about the belt of truth in Ephesians 6. Make a belt of truth from a long strip of paper and write on it some instructions for wearing a belt of truth:

- Keep your word
- Obey the truth
- Speak the truth



God is Truth 3.2

Subtheme

God's truth doesn't change

Focus

We should never change our mind about believing in God.

Bible references

Daniel 3 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not give up serving the true God.
Psalm 119:86 All God's commandments are faithful.

Songs

Sunrise sunset (*All Creation Sings*)
Whatever is good (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Story

Tell the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from Daniel 3,
Or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

Discussion

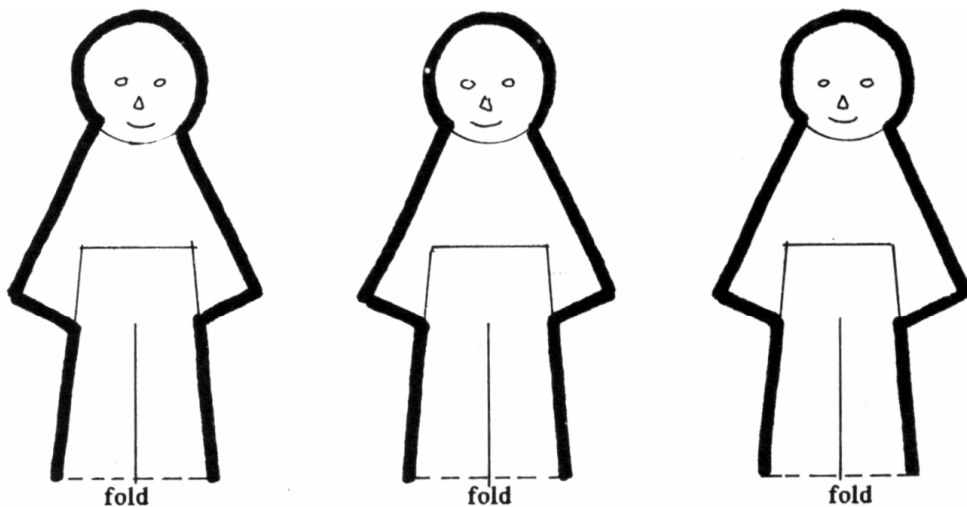
Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego bow down and worship the statue?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were being faithful to God. When we are faithful to someone, we never give up being their friend. God wants us to be faithful to Him. That means we must never give up being His friend.

What if someone says that God isn't true. Would you stand up for God and say that He IS true?

Art/Craft

Make three men who 'stand up' for God.



We will stand up for God

God is Truth 3.3

Subtheme

God's truth doesn't change

Focus

Never worship other gods.

Bible references

Exodus 32; Psalm 106:19-21 The golden calf

Songs

Sunrise sunset (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Game: Don't change your mind!

One child sits in the centre and has to think of a favourite toy. e.g. an electric train set.

The other children take turns to ask the question:

Would you prefer... (e.g. a skateboard)?

The child in the centre must answer truthfully, yes or no. The aim of the game is try to make the child in the centre change his mind.

(Favourite foods or holidays may be chosen instead of toys.)

Although we can change our mind about some things, we should never change our mind about believing in God. Here is a sad but true story about some people who did change their mind about the true God.

Story: 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.

Discussion

Why did the Israelites change their minds about believing in the true God?

Sometimes people today change their minds about believing in the true God. Why do you think this happens?

The people of Israel worshipped the golden calf. Worshipping anything else instead of God is worshipping an idol. Could people today worship idols?

Fill in the missing words

1. Moses went up the _____ to talk with God.
2. God became very _____ with the people.
3. The people _____ around the statue.
4. They made the statue in the shape of a _____.
5. God gave Moses _____ rules.
6. The statue was made of _____.
7. An _____ is something people worship instead of God.

angry, ten, idol, gold, mountain, danced, calf

Note: If children can not yet read these sentences, the teacher can draw a picture for each of the missing words on a large sheet of paper. The teacher can read the sentences and the children can choose the right picture.

e.g. teacher reads: Moses went up the *something* to talk with God.

God is Pure

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

As God forgives us, so we should forgive others.

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



Related topics for Christian schools

Human relationships: forgiving one another.

Other

- cleaning in the home
- 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 1.1

Subtheme

As God forgives us, so we should forgive others

Focus

Right relationships with others

Bible references

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us. (GNB)

1 John 1:9

If we tell God that we have sinned, He will forgive us and make us clean.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ. (GNB)

Songs

White as Snowflakes (*All Creation Sings*)

I want to be more like Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Introduction

Discuss 'best friends'.

What if your best friend did something bad to you. How would you feel? What would you do? What would God want you to do?

Here is a story about two best friends.

Story: The Horse carnival

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 horse carnival, 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 horse carnival?" 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 horse carnival 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 time to be in a horse carnival. 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 horse carnival. 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.

Discussion

Why were Sarah and Madeline able to become good friends again?

What would have happened if they didn't forgive one another?

Activity

Read the Lord's prayer, and find the verses that speak about forgiveness. Write these verses on a card and decorate it.

God is Pure 3.2

Subtheme

As God forgives us, so we should forgive others.

Focus

Right relationships with others

Bible references

Luke 15:11-32 The son who left home

Matthew 6:12-14 Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us. (GNB)

1 John 4:11 If this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. (GNB)

Ephesians 4:26b Do not stay angry all day. (GNB)

Songs

I want to be more like Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

The Waiting Father (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

White as Snowflakes (*All Creation Sings*)

Discussion

Is it sometimes difficult to forgive others?

Should we forgive a person who does not say 'sorry'?

In this story, someone had to say 'sorry' and someone had to forgive. At the end of the story, say who these people were.

Story: The Lost Son

Tell the story of the Lost Son from Luke 15: 11-32

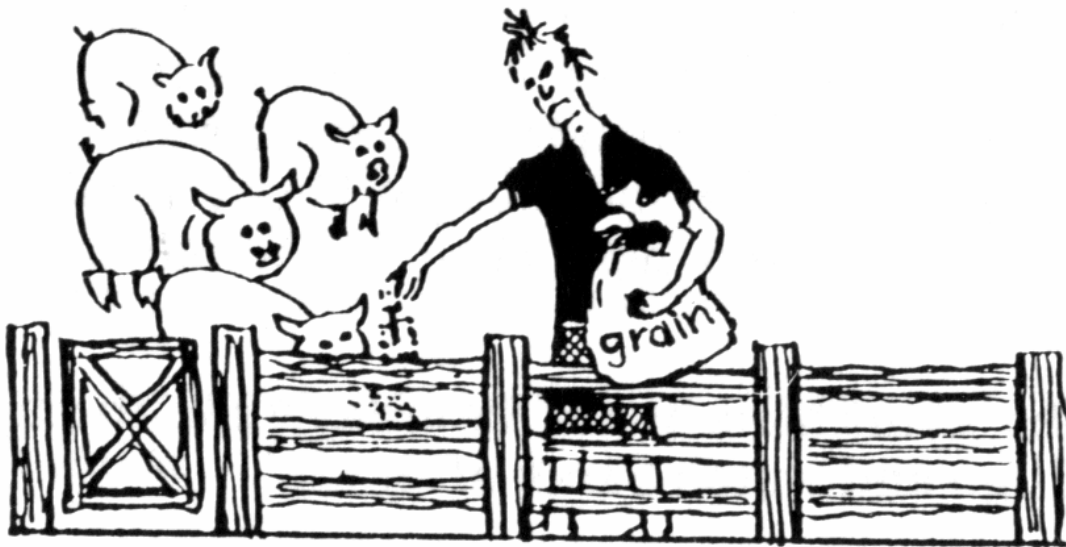
Or read from the children's story Bible - *The Beginners Bible – Timeless Children's Stories* (Zondervan)

What did the son do against his father?

Why would the father have been so disappointed in his son?

Do you think the father would have found it difficult to forgive his son?

Why is God like the father in this story?



God is Pure 3.3

Subtheme

As God forgives us, so we should forgive others

Focus

Keep on forgiving.

Bible references

Matthew 18:23-35 The parable of the king's servant

Luke 6:37 Forgive others, and God will forgive you.(GNB)

1 John 4:7-8; John 15:12 Love one another.

Songs

White as Snowflakes (*All Creation Sings*)

I want to be more like Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Puppet play: 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!

Discussion

Discuss the reactions of Billy and Betty.

Why would we expect Billy to have forgiven Betty?

Story: 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 times seven."

Can you imagine forgiving someone 490 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.

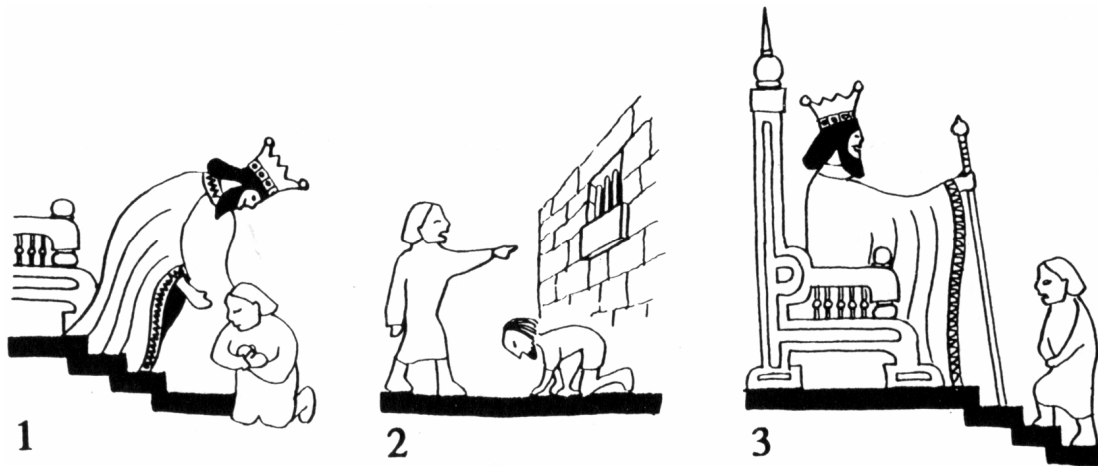
Discussion

What does this story teach us about forgiveness?

Who has forgiven us more than anyone else?

Activity

Place these pictures in the correct order. Say what is happening in each picture.



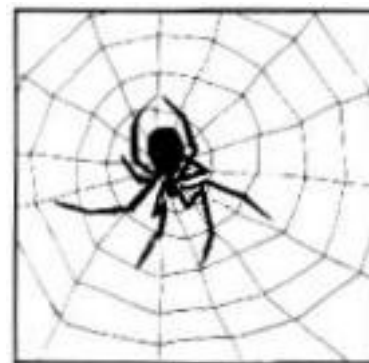
God is Patient

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

Patience is showing kindness and care

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



Integrated Topics for Christian education

Showing patience and kindness to those who cannot do things as well as we can, e.g. those who are very old, very young or disabled.

Other

- waiting for seeds to grow
- measuring time
- listening to others patiently
- listening, sound and the ear
- patience with people
- tolerance
- patience in hobbies and occupations
- life 100 years ago or more: 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 3.1

Subtheme

Patience is showing kindness and care

Focus

We need to have patience with those who cannot do things as well as we can.

Bible references

John 10; Psalm 23 Jesus, the Good Shepherd is patient with us.

Isaiah 40:11 He will take care of His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs together and carry them in His arms; He will gently lead their mothers. (GNB)

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another.

Songs

The Good Shepherd (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

God Loves You (*All Creation Sings*)

A servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

Discussion

What do you miss about being younger?

In what ways have you changed?

Think of the most exciting thing that happened to you before you were five.

Think of the funniest thing that happened to you before you were five.

Story: 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 and drink milk. 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 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 named Zoe. One year old Zoe stood to her feet, holding on to Dad's hand. At the same time, Zoe was looking at Mum.

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

At first the baby was afraid 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."

Discussion

Think of some things that others can't do as well as you.

- a) at home
- b) at school

How could you help?

What can happen when people are NOT patient?

They might...

- a) Become cross with the other person.
- b) Boast about being able to do something better.
- c) Make the other person feel stupid.

Act it out

Imagine that there is someone in a team game who cannot catch the ball properly. How should the other team members act? Show the right way of acting towards that person.

Bible research: Jesus, the Shepherd

Sheep are silly animals because they have no sense of direction. They often don't know the way to go. A good shepherd has to be very patient with them. Jesus is like a loving, patient shepherd, and we are His sheep. People sometimes do silly things too. People do things that are wrong. But Jesus is patient when we do wrong. He is always ready to forgive us for the wrong things we do. Find out what these verses say about Jesus the Shepherd:

John 10:14-15; Isaiah 40:11; Psalm 23

Art/Craft

Through drawing and writing, record the things you enjoyed when you were one year old, e.g. toys, songs, stories, games and activities. Also record the things you learned to do that year. Now do the same for your present age. See how you have changed.

Discuss the drawings:

- We are always learning to do new things.
- Things that are easy for older children are not always easy for young children.
- Learning a new thing is usually difficult.
- We need to have patience with others who are learning new things. We also need to be patient with ourselves when we are learning something new.

Patience project

Choose something to make for a 'patience project', e.g. cardboard, pop-stick or peg construction; table-mat with decorative stitching; an origami model (paper folding); a collage picture using natural materials such as leaves, bark, feathers.

(If some children have a special skill in making something, they can help others.)

God is Patient 3.2

Subtheme

Patience is showing kindness and care

Focus

Patience with people who cannot do things as well as we can.

Bible references

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient and kind.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 Be kind to each other.

2 Corinthians 6:6; 2 Timothy 2:14 Patience and kindness.

2 Samuel 4 & 9 King David's kindness to the lame prince Mephibosheth

Songs

God Loves You (*All Creation Sings*)

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

Introduction

Think about people who may not be able to do things as well as we can. How could we show kindness to these people?

- e.g. people who are very young, very old, sick or disabled.

Story: 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.

Questions

Who was Mephibosheth?

Why was King David especially kind to him?

How would you show patience and kindness to someone who could not walk?

Activity

Make a card or gift for a person who needs special kindness and care.

God is a Servant

Level 3 (age 7)



Subtheme

Jesus, the healing servant

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

Integrated topics for Christian Education

The medical profession; human biology; healing ability of bones and skin

Other

- serving in the home
- people who serve in the community
- 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 3.1

Subtheme

Jesus, the healing servant

Focus

God has provided healing for the whole person.

Bible references

John 9:1-34 The man born blind.

Matthew 4:23 Jesus healed all kinds of diseases.

Psalms 103:2-3 He heals all of my diseases.

Luke 4:18 He has chosen Me ...to bring good news to the poor...recovery of sight to the blind...to set free the oppressed. (GNB)

Songs

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

No Man was like Him (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

Introduction

Use a broken toy as a visual aid.

What do we do when a toy gets broken?

Who usually fixes the toys in your family?

Story 1: 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 that 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 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 often experienced sickness and 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 Him to heal them. However, those who did had joy inside their hearts. They felt the special love of God, knowing that they were one of His children. 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.

Act it out

The Broken Toys

Choose some instrumental music to play as background music.

Scene 1

1. Toys are lying on the floor, broken.
2. They come to life, but have difficulty moving because one part is broken. (*Toys move around indicating part that is broken. Some toys have broken hearts.*)
3. The music fades away and children freeze, holding hand over the part that is broken.

Scene 2

(Music begins once again.)

1. One person has been chosen to be the toymaker. This person moves around the room, placing his hand, one by one, on the broken toys.
2. As the toys are mended they move around freely.

Bible research

Read Luke 4:16-19

This passage tells us about the kind of servant Jesus was. What are the different kinds of healing would He came to bring to people who believed?

Brainstorm

Jesus came to...

- heal the sick
- heal blind eyes and deaf ears
- heal sad hearts
- heal people from sin

Story 2: Jesus heals a blind man

Tell the story of the healing of the blind man from John 9: 1-34

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

Jesus asked the blind man to do something very unusual. Because the blind man did just as Jesus said, we know that he believed and trusted in Jesus.

What must people do if they want to be healed by Jesus?

What are some of the different kinds of healing that people may need?

How does Jesus heal?

Art/Craft

Make a prayer chart to remind us to pray for people who are sick or sad. Pray for these people every day. (Decorate the chart and stick it on the fridge.)

God is a Servant 3.2

Subtheme

Jesus, the healing servant

Focus

Following the example of Jesus: thinking of others more than ourselves

Bible references

Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus heals many people including Peter's mother-in-law.

Luke 6:17-19 They had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases.

...power was going out from Him and healing them all. (GNB)

Songs

No Man was like Him (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Story

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.

Discussion

How does this story show us that Jesus was always willing to put the needs of others before His own?

Would Jesus want us to do the same?

Think of times when you may be asked to put others first.

EXAMPLES:

- * helping Mum in your own free time
- * picking up toys when you feel too tired to do it
- * going to visit a sick person instead of play with a friend

Art/Craft and Puppet Play

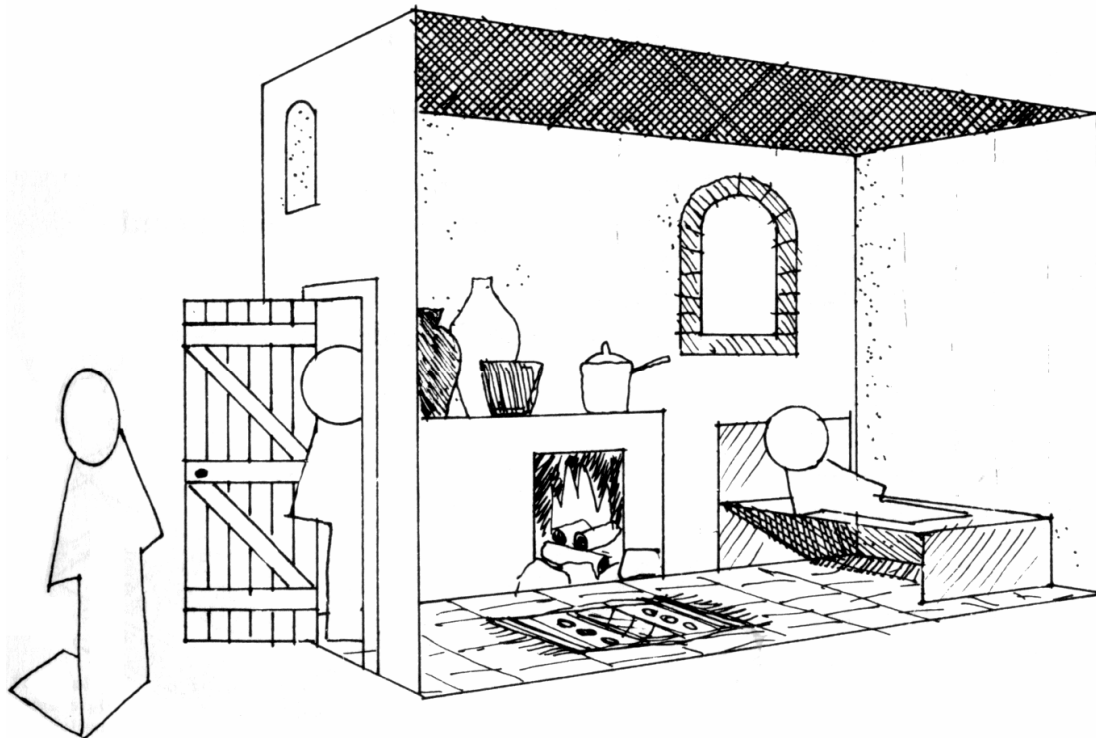
Make a play box to re-tell the story.

a) Take a cardboard box such as a shoe box or tissue box. Make one side open and turn this to the front. Create the background scenery on the back panel.

b) Cut out figures from card and make them stand up as shown. (Fold the bottom section of the card and use it as a base. Figures may also be attached to wooden building blocks for more support.)

c) Use the figures to re-tell the story:

1. Jesus comes to the house.
2. Peter meets Jesus at the door.
3. Peter takes Jesus to his mother-in-law who is sick in bed.
4. Jesus touches her and she is healed.
5. Peter's mother-in-law goes to the kitchen and prepares food for Jesus.



God is a Servant 3.3

Subtheme

Jesus, the healing servant

Focus

Jesus healed people because He loved them.

Bible references

John 5:1-18 The man at the pool

Matthew 9:35-36 Jesus healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. His heart was filled with pity for them. (GNB)

Matthew 14:14 ... when He saw the large crowd he was filled with pity for them, and healed those who were ill. (GNB)

Songs

No Man Was like Him (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

A Servant for Jesus (*All Creation Sings*)

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

Discussion

Can you remember a time when you were sick and had to stay in bed, or lie on the sofa all day?

Do your Mum and Dad give you extra love and attention when you are sick?

Why do sick people need lots of love and kindness?

Story 1: The Man at the Pool

Jesus showed a lot of love and kindness towards sick people. Here is a story about a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus knew that he had been sick for this long. No one had told Jesus this. He just knew. Jesus felt sad that the man had been sick for so long.

Tell the story of the healing of the man at the pool, John 5:1-18
or use *The Beginner's Bible*, *'Timeless Children's Stories'*, (Zondervan).

Discussion

Why did Jesus want to heal this man?

How was Jesus able to heal the man?

Story 2: 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 in England 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 battlefield. 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.

Discussion

Jesus used His power to heal people because He loved them and cared about them so much. To really help someone who is sick, we must show the love and care that Jesus did.

How can we tell from the second story that Florence really cared about the people she helped?

Can Jesus heal people today in the same way that He healed the man by the pool?

What must we do if we want Jesus to heal someone?

How could you help someone who was sick?

Prayer

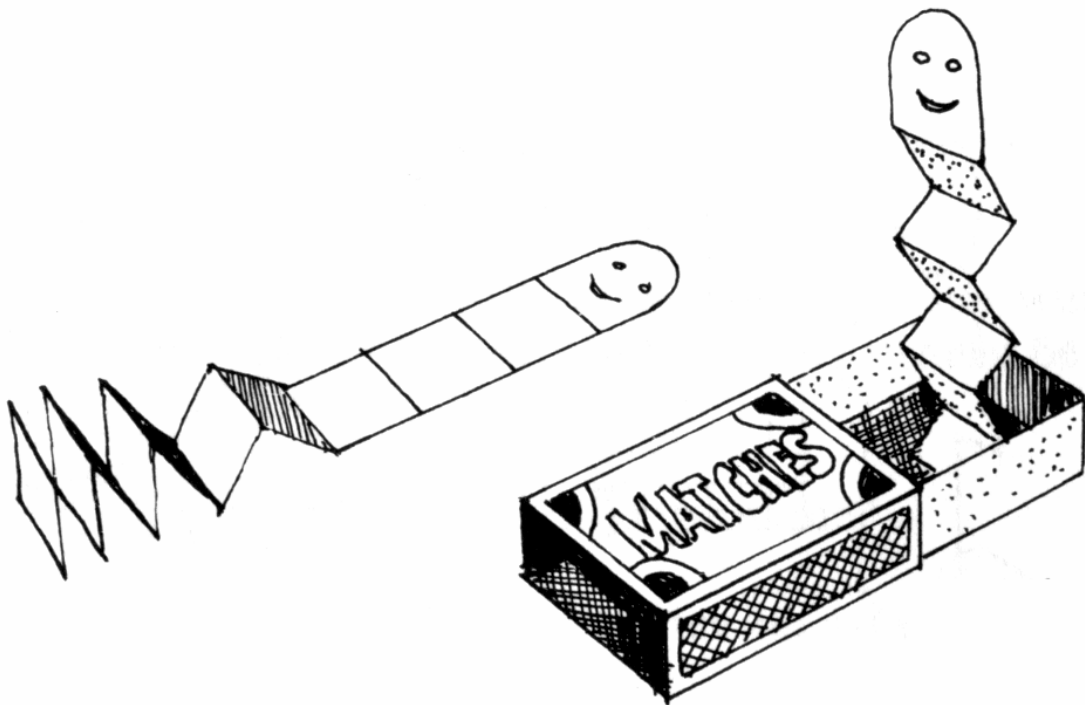
For anyone who is sick

Art/Craft

Make a card or gift for a sick person. (Arrange a visit to a hospital if possible, and give cards / gifts to patients.)

Gifts suggestions

- pressed flowers/leaves glued to card
- mobiles
- cookies
- 'jack-in-a-box' inside a matchbox



God is Life

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

God is the sustainer of life

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



Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Requirements for life-support:

- air; food; water
- ecosystems

Other

- plant life; ecosystems
- animal life
- the cycle of life from birth to old age
- 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 3.1

Subtheme

God is the sustainer of life

Focus

Having Jesus in our life is just as important as having air, food and water.

Bible references

Mark 6:30-44 The loaves and fishes

Matthew 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone.

John 6:47-58 Jesus, the bread of life.

Songs

One Little Lunch (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Down in my heart (*Couldn't be Finer*)

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Introduction

Look at some different types of bread, or pictures of loaves from illustrated cookbooks. Discuss the different types, shapes and sizes.

- Why is bread so important?
- How many slices of bread would you eat in a day? (Record amount for each child and graph the results).

In some countries people depend on bread as their main food. In the country where Jesus lived when He was on earth, bread was very important. Bread would not be bought from a shop, but baked at home. Here is a story about a boy who had five small loaves baked by his mother.

Story: Jesus feeds 5000 people

Tell the story of the Loaves and Fishes

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

Discussion

The people knew how important bread was. Without bread, they would go hungry. People need bread for their bodies, just as they need air and water. But Jesus said that there is another part to us. It's the part of us that you can't see...not even with an X-ray. This part is the spirit. Our spirit can feel things like love and joy.

Jesus said that people should not just give the body the things it needs...things like air, food and water. We should also give the spirit the things it needs. Our spirit needs Jesus. That's why the Bible says that Jesus is the bread of life. Having Jesus in our life is as important as having food. When we have Jesus in our heart we will live forever.

Jesus also said that we should have God's word in our heart. Listening to God's word, and getting to know it, helps us to get to know Jesus better.

Activity

Make some imitation loaves from white salt dough. Place on top of each loaf a flag with this message:

OR share out a loaf of bread for the children to eat,

OR use this recipe to make some small loaves:

Quick and easy potato bread

(makes 10 buns)

Ingredients

1 ½ cups S.R. flour

1 teaspoon of baking powder

1 dessertspoon of butter or olive oil

1/3 cup mashed potato

1/3 cup milk

1 egg

Method

Add potato, butter, milk and egg to dry ingredients. Mix.

Place by dessertspoon-full on to greased tray. Bake in a moderate oven 25 minutes.

God is Life 3.2

Subtheme

God is the sustainer of life.

Focus

The importance of the Bible as our spiritual food

Bible references

1 Peter 2:2 As new-born babies need milk, we need God's word as our spiritual food.

John 1:2 & 14 Jesus is the Word.

Psalms 119:105 God's word is a lamp to our feet.

Songs

One Little Lunch (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

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

Welcome Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Crack the code

A=1 B=2 C=3 D=4 etc.

9. 1.13 20.8.5 2.18.5.1.4 15.6 12.9.6.5.

Answer: I am the bread of life.

Discussion

Who said this?

What does it mean?

Jesus said that if anyone eats this bread, then that person will live forever. Jesus meant that if you ask Him to be in charge of your life, then you can live forever.

Revision

What are the most important things for staying alive?

- a) Our bodies need... (air, water, food)
- b) Our spirits need... (Jesus in our life, God's word)

Activity

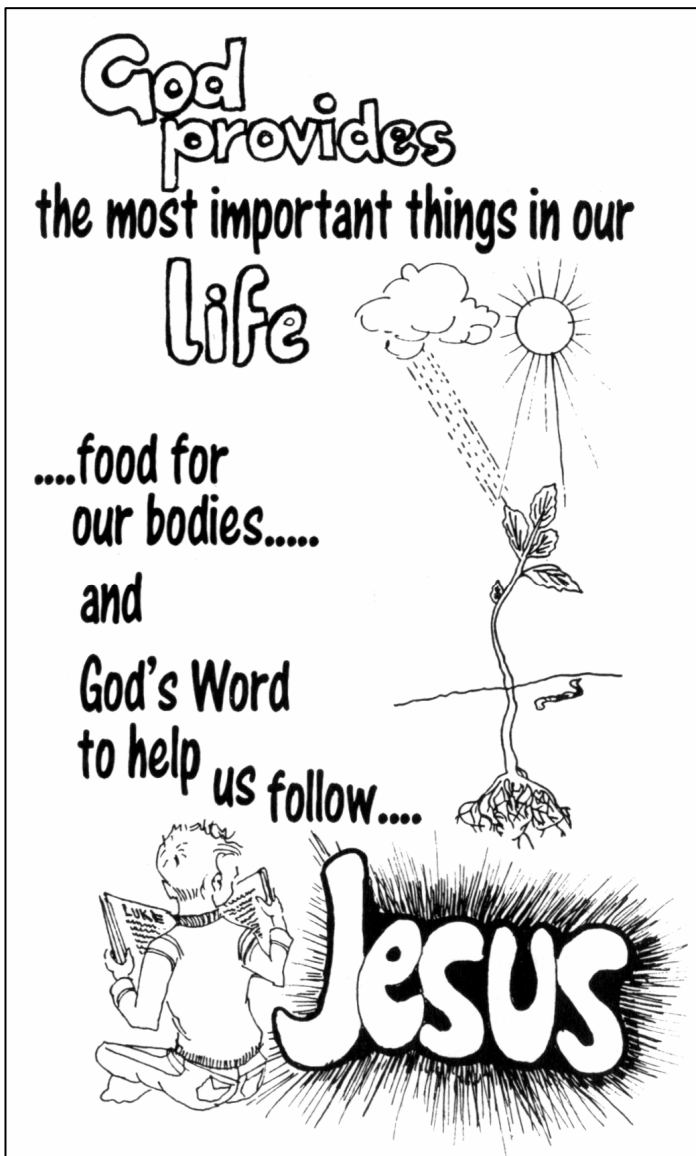
The Bible: God's Word

Take a look at different kinds of Bibles. Look at both picture story Bibles and different translations.

Place a marker in one of the Bibles to divide Old and New Testaments.

The Bible is actually a book of many books. Each book has a name. The Old Testament is about God and His people. It starts from the time of creation and ends just before the birth of Jesus. The New Testament tells us about Jesus and His followers.

(Give the children time to look through Bibles and become familiar with the lay-out.)



Art/Craft

1. Make a 6-8 page notebook to represent a Bible. Divide the note-books into two sections: Old and New Testaments. Choose a few favourite Bible stories. Decide where they should go, (Old or New Testament). Illustrate each story and write the name of the book from which the story comes.
2. Make a poster to show the important things that humans need for life.

God is Provider

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

God provides the things we need

*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

Food: buying food; preparing food; kitchen chemistry; heat.

Other

- plants
- forestry
- 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 3.1

Subtheme

God provides the things we need.

Focus

God provides the things we need but not necessarily everything we want.

Bible references

Ruth 1-4 God provides grain for Ruth and Naomi.

Psalm 104:10-18 God provides for all of His creation.

Psalm 145:20 God watches over all who love Him.

Songs

One Little Lunch (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

God is a Provider (*All Creation*)

Thank You for All the Good Things (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Thank You Lord for this Fine Day (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Puppet Sketch: Billy Goes Shopping

Scene: In the supermarket

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

breakfast cereal

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

OK 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.)

Discussion

What didn't Billy understand about shopping?

Do you sometimes ask Mum for things that you don't really need?

What things should we ask God to give us?

How can we show that we are thankful for the things God gives us?

How could we help others who don't have enough?

What things could we give up, so that there's more money for helping others?

Story

Tell the story of Ruth and Naomi, focussing on the way in which the Lord provided for them.

or use The Beginner's Bible

Discussion

Look at the picture at the beginning of the story. Why were Ruth and Naomi sad? Why did Ruth say to Naomi, "Go back to your mother and father?"

Ruth didn't think of herself. She thought of Naomi, who would be lonely if Ruth went back. Ruth was kind to Naomi. God saw her kindness and He provided for her in a special way. He provided food through another kind person, Boaz. God not only provided food, but He provided a new home, a new husband and a baby as well.

God wants us to be kind to others too. If we know of someone who needs food, then God would want us to help that person. Can you think of a way in which you can help to provide food for people who don't have enough?

Activity

God provides plant foods for us through seeds. There are some seeds which we can eat (peas, broad beans, peanuts, sunflower seeds). Sometimes we find the seeds inside the fruit of the plant. These can be planted to produce a new plant.

- Cut open some fruits or vegetables and look at the seeds inside.
- Draw outlines of the fruits or vegetables and glue actual seeds inside the outlines.

God is Provider 3.2

Subtheme

God provides the things we need.

Focus

Do not worry

Bible references

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

Psalm 147:7-9 God gives food to every living creature.

Philippians 4:19 My God shall supply all your needs.

Songs

God is a Provider (*All Creation Sings*)

Old Mother Hubbard (*All Creation Sings*)

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

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

One Little Lunch (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Puppet Sketch: 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."

Story 1

God cares for the birds and flowers. How much more will He care for us. Read the story from Matthew 6:25-34 or read from the Beginner's Bible.

Discussion

Think about the way in which God has provided for His creation. What kind of 'clothes' do flowers wear? What kind of 'clothes' do animals wear?

What should we do if we are feeling worried about not having enough food or clothes?

Story 2: Lucy's Garden

(Note: teacher can choose garden vegetables grown in your local area.)

"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*.

"Green *herbs* will grow fast," said Dad, "and they are 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 *herbs*, 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 beautiful picture of blue, purple, yellow, pink and white flowers.

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."

Discussion

How can we help those who don't have very much?

Should we ever worry about not having enough? What should we do instead?

Activities

1. Make colourful flowers from crepe paper
2. Study different kinds of seeds. Classify them according to types, size etc. Make a seed/lentil collage.
3. Use coloured paper to make a flower collage.
4. *Translucent plant picture...*

Arrange pressed flowers, leaves or dried grasses on to a sheet of waxed paper. Place another piece of waxed paper on top. Cover with cloth and press with moderately hot iron. The waxed paper will stick to the backing and enclose the pressed plants.



God is Peace

Level 3 (age 7)

Subtheme

Peace comes from trusting God

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



Integrated Topics for Christian Education

- Stranger danger; safety houses. Who do we trust? Who don't we trust?
- Trust in the laws of the creation: gravity; balance activities; trust walks.

Other

- security through homes and families
- peaceful play
- 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 3.1

Subtheme

Peace comes from trusting God.

Focus

When we are afraid, trust in God

Bible references

Matthew 14:22-32 Peter walks on water.

Psalm 27:1-3; 5; 14 The Lord is my light...I will not be afraid.

Psalm 56:3 Trust in God when you are afraid.

Psalm 4:8 We can have peace because God will keep us safe.

Isaiah 26:3-4 God gives peace to those who trust Him.

Songs

God is my Peace (*All Creation Sings*)

I Don't have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Do Not Worry (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Introduction

(Each person in the group is given a sheet of paper.)

Fold your piece of paper in half. On the first half of the paper, draw something that makes you feel afraid. On the second half, draw some thing that makes you feel safe.

Discussion

Use the drawings as a discussion starter.

Read some of the verses from Psalms.

What should we do when we are afraid?

Who can we go to for safety?

When we are sure that someone will keep us safe, we say that we TRUST that person. God wants us to trust Him. When we are trusting God, we have a peaceful feeling inside, knowing that God will take care of things. However, if we want God to keep us safe, we must always do the things He wants us to.

Could we expect God to keep us safe if we DELIBERATELY jumped out of a window?

Story 1: "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.

*Story by Janine Stewart, published in 'New Life'
Used by permission*

Discussion

How do you think Emily felt, now safely in the arms of her father?

For Emily, the only way to safety was trusting in her father.

How is this similar to the trust God wants us to have in Him?

Why did Emily find it hard at first to trust in her father's ability to catch her?

Why do some people find it hard to trust God?

What should we do if we are afraid, and finding it hard to trust God?

Story 2: Jesus walks on water

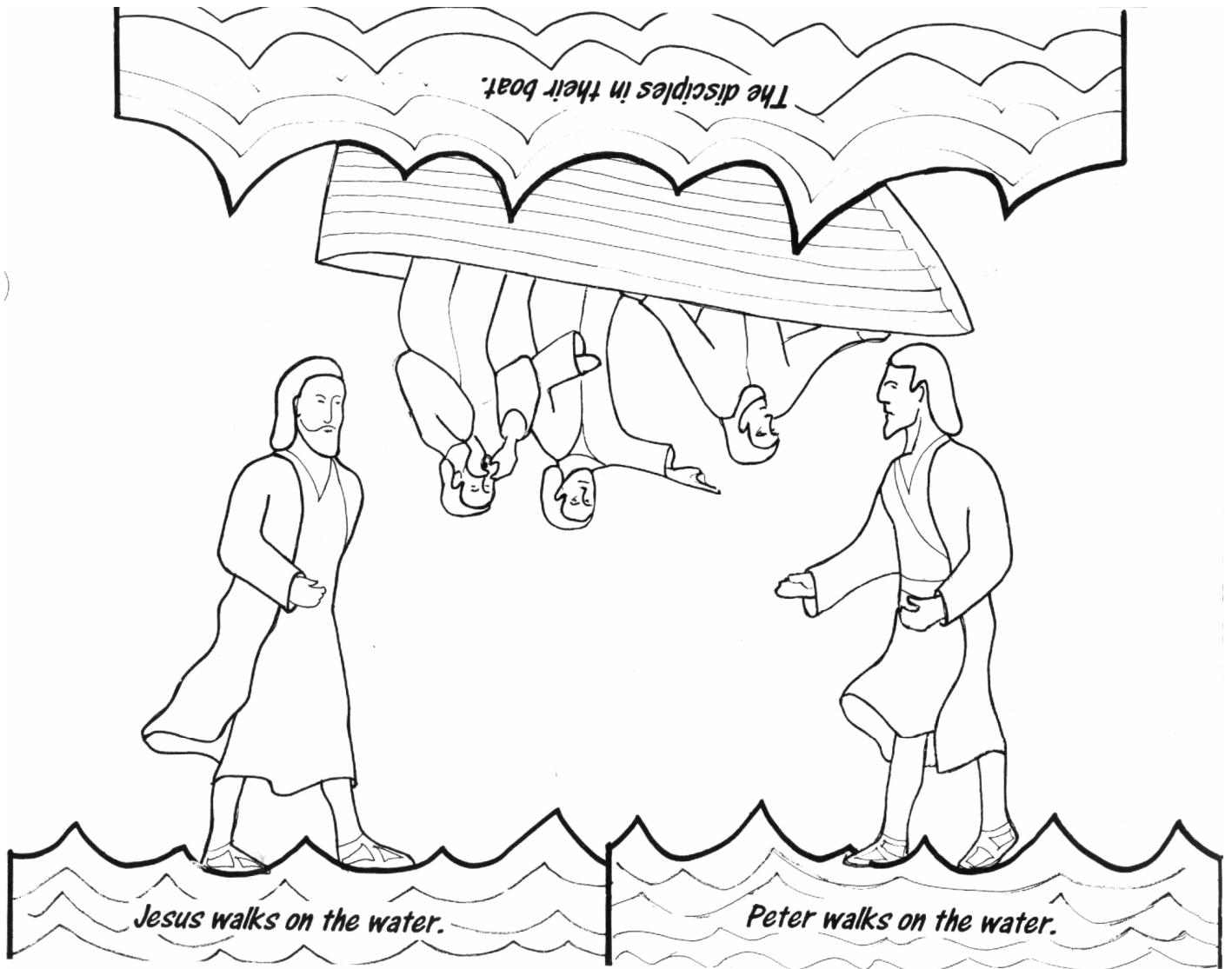
Tell the story of Jesus walking on water

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

Did Peter show trust in Jesus at first? Why did he start sinking?

Art/Craft

Use the cut-outs on the activity sheet to make pop-stick puppets. Back the cut-outs with card and attach pop-sticks. Use the puppets to re-tell the story.



God is Peace 3.2

Subtheme

Peace comes from trusting God

Focus

Jesus is a trustworthy friend.

Bible references

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is to be trusted.

Proverbs 18:24 Some friends are more loyal than brothers. (GNB)

John 14:1 Jesus said, "Do not be worried and upset. Believe in God and believe also in Me." (GNB)

Songs

God is my Peace (*All Creation Sings*)

I Don't have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Do Not Worry (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Trust walk

(*For this activity, children work in pairs.*)

In this activity you are going to put your trust in your friend. Your friend will lead you on a walk while you are blind-folded. You do not need to be afraid because your friend can be trusted. Your friend will make sure that you don't walk into things or trip over things.

Discussion

Who do we trust?

Can we always trust a friend?

Read Proverbs 18:24.

Is Jesus the kind of friend who can be trusted?

(Revise the story, 'Jesus walks on water'.)

When we go on journeys we have to trust things like cars, buses, planes and maps. We trust that the car won't break down and that the map we are following is correct.

If you have ever been on a bush walk with a guide, you trust that the guide knows the way. God is a trustworthy guide as we go through life. He can help us when we have troubles, and He can help us to make decisions. We can trust Him because the Bible tells us how trustworthy He is. The Bible is full of true stories about people who trusted God. God did not let these people down. He always answered their prayers.

Brainstorm

Think of people in the Bible who trusted God.

Bible research: Psalm 23

Why do the sheep trust the shepherd?

Why should we trust God?

How do we feel inside when we trust God?

Activity: People who trusted God

Cut along the lines of the following. Set them out in jumbled order. Children match the segments to make complete sentences.

This can be a game, played in two teams. Each team can have a set. The first team to match cards correctly wins.

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| Abraham trusted God |
| when God told him that he would be the father of many children. |
| Moses trusted God |
| when he lead God's people out of Egypt. |
| David trusted God |
| when he fought Goliath. |
| Daniel trusted God |
| when he was in the lions' den. |
| Ruth trusted God |
| when she went with Naomi to a new land. |
| Peter trusted God |
| when he walked on the water. |