

**JUNIOR
PROGRAMME BOOK
VOLUME 3**



CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

JUNIOR PROGRAMME BOOK

VOLUME 3

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SCRIPTURE VERSION

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CONTENTS

Page

HISTORY OF ISRAEL - JOSEPH

Joseph – the favourite	1
Joseph - the trustworthy	5
Joseph trusted God	9
Joseph – the Prime Minister	13
Joseph – the loving son	18

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Saul disobeying God - unlawful sacrifice and rejected as king	22
David anointed by Samuel	26
David defeats Goliath	30
Jonathan's loyalty to David	34
David becomes king	39
David spares Saul's life	44
David and Bathsheba	48
Solomon made king and asks God for wisdom	53
Queen of Sheba	57
Building the Temple	61
Hezekiah facing up to Assyria	65
Hezekiah's sickness and failure	70
The King who turned the Sword on his people - Josiah	74

PARABLES OF JESUS

The Loving Father / The Lost Son	79
The Good Samaritan	83
The Wise and Foolish Builders	87
The Sower	91
The Talents	95
The Rich Fool	99
The Unmerciful Servant	104
The Tenants	108
The Workers in the Vineyard	113
The Withered Fig-Tree	117
The Two Sons	121

EARLY CHRISTIANS - PETER

Preaches at Pentecost	126
Crippled beggar healed	130
Cornelius	134
Escapes from prison	138



THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

1. JOSEPH – THE FAVOURITE

SPOILT!

GENESIS 37:1-36; PSALM 139:17-24; PROVERBS 13:1-25

TEACHING AIM

To help the group realise that to have everything they want is not a good thing.

SETTING THE SCENE

Joseph was his father's favourite son. He was given a 'coat of many colours' which meant that he was especially favoured. His mother, Rachel, died whilst he was still young and his father, Jacob, tried to make it up to him. It's easy to understand why Joseph was spoilt, but it didn't do him any good. His ten older brothers had to work hard as shepherds, whilst Joseph stayed at home and lived a sheltered life. Hence his brothers were jealous of Joseph. This led to hatred.

THE DREAMS

Genesis 37:1-11.

Dreams were important in those days and were taken very seriously. Joseph's first dream, about the sheaves of corn in the field that all stood up and his brothers' sheaves bowed down to his sheaf, meant that one day his brothers would bow down to him. Joseph didn't keep the dream to himself but boasted about it! He was his father's favourite now and, in the future, he would be so important that his brothers would bow down to him. What a self-centred spoilt child!

PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL

Read Genesis 37:12-22.

The jealousy that his brothers had for Joseph soon turned into hatred. They couldn't stand his self-centred boasting. When the brothers had been away from home for quite a while, looking after the sheep, his father sent Joseph with some food for them. When his brothers saw Joseph coming, their hatred boiled up and they agreed to kill him. Reuben, the eldest brother, persuaded them not to do that, but to put him into a pit. He wanted to rescue him later.

SOLD AS A SLAVE

Read Genesis 37:23-36.

In those days people were bought and sold as slaves. Much as we have cattle markets today, they had slave markets. So, when a 'camel train' of merchants came by, the brothers took Joseph out of the pit and sold him as a slave. In Egypt he was bought by Potiphar, an officer in Pharaoh's guard, to work in his house.

VICTIM ... OF BEING SPOILT.

It didn't help Joseph for his father to let him have all he wanted. To be the favourite is not always a good thing. Joseph wouldn't have realised it at the time, but he was becoming an objectionable young man!

VICTIM ... OF BEING HATED.

We all want to be loved and accepted by others, especially our family. Because of his special treatment by his father, his brothers hated him. It had spoilt the whole atmosphere in the family. It resulted in him being sold as a slave.

VICTIM ... OF BEING A SLAVE.

Would you like to be sold as a slave, to the highest bidder in the market place? Poked and prodded to see how fit you were, then carted off to do all the nasty jobs!

SUMMING UP

Joseph was brought down to the realities of life. Although he was the victim of being spoilt, God was with him!

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." 1 Cor. 13:4

ACTIVITIES

- Activity Sheet "Joseph – the favourite -1"
- Activity Sheet "Joseph – the favourite -2"
- See how many words you can find from the letters of the word SPOILT.
- Talk about 'being spoilt'
- Look through Proverbs 13 and pick out the verse you think is the best advice.
- Make up a play about a spoilt child and act it out.

PRAYER POINTS

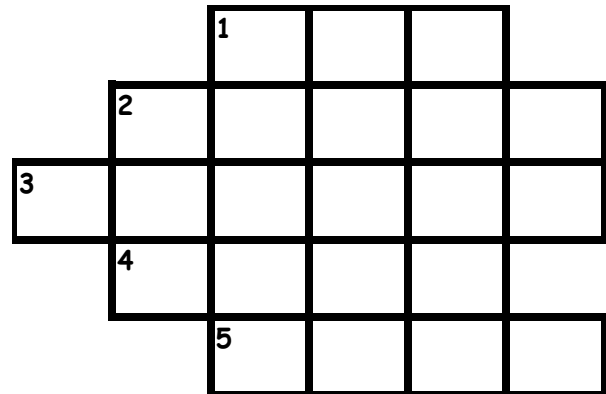
Pray for:

- A child you know who is going through a tough time.
- Those that are bullied and those that bully them, that love may replace hatred.
- Your parents, that they may be wise in dealing with their children, treating each one fairly.

Joseph - the favourite

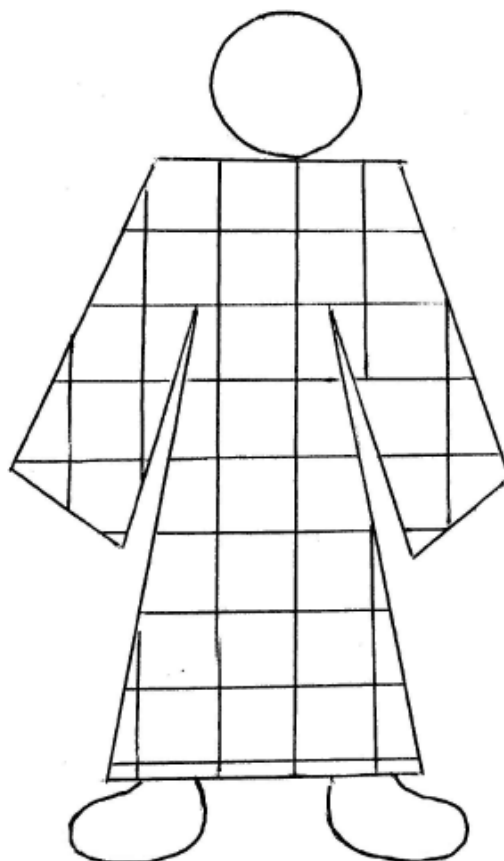
Use the code below to find the answers and place the words in the grid.

1. That which separates us from God.
(1-6-11)
2. To think too highly of yourself.
(2-7-12-16-20)
3. To think you are better than you are.
(3-8-13-17-21-22)
4. The devil with his head chopped off.
(4-9-14-18)
5. Rearranged evil, but just as evil.
(5-10-15-19)



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
S	P	V	E	V	I	R	A	V	I	N	I	N	I	L	D	I	L	E	E	T	Y

Colour the squares in different colours and put a smile on Joseph's face.



Joseph - the favourite

Make five words out of the ten parts and then link them with the meanings given.

RED	AMS	DRE	LOUSY
FAV	JEA	FAM	
ILY	OUR	HAT	

It's not fair
I'll kill him
Brothers and sisters
They come when asleep
To make special

Word	
Meaning	
Word	
Meaning	
Word	
Meaning	
Word	
Meaning	
Word	
Meaning	

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not impatient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Find the verse and learn it.

-----, .

 -----,
 -----,



THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

2. JOSEPH - THE TRUSTWORTHY

DO YOUR BEST

GENESIS 39:1-23; PSALM 37:17; PROVERBS 15:16-33

TEACHING AIM

To show that God honours those who do what is right at all times.

SETTING THE SCENE

Joseph was bought by Potiphar, the captain of the king's guard, and set to work in his house. Now Joseph wouldn't be spoilt, he would have to work hard for his living. One thing that Joseph had learnt was that he should do whatever he was told to do, to the best of his ability. Not all slaves were like that, some tried to escape or to do as little as they possibly could. Joseph was noticed and after a while was put in charge of the other slaves. He was trusted. Because Joseph refused to sleep with Potiphar's wife, she told lies about him and he was thrown into prison. Here again Joseph became trusted and was put in charge of the other prisoners.

What does it mean to be trusted?

TO BE TRUTHFUL.

This means that in word and deed he always said what he meant and what he said he did. That is what God wants all of us to do, in whatever situation we are! When we are lied about we do not resort to lies. When we are asked to do things that are wrong we say 'no', and mean it. Other people can trust our word. An example of lying and acting a lie can be found in Genesis 27:1-29. Jacob, Joseph's father, could not be trusted!

TO BE HONEST.

There must have been many things in Potiphar's house that Joseph would have liked for himself, but he didn't steal them. There must have been many occasions when Joseph could have been lazy and not do his work properly. He didn't steal his master's time! Honesty is always the best policy because, whether you are falsely accused or not, you know the truth in your heart. If you are dishonest it will worry you. Your happiness will be undermined and you will become fearful. An example of this can be found in Joshua 7:10-26.

TO BE RELIABLE.

In two very different situations Joseph proved to be reliable. We read in Genesis 39:6, ***"So he left in Joseph's care all that he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself about anything except the food he ate."*** In Genesis 39:22, ***"So the warder put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there"***. What a report! You may not be good at your school work, but you can always be reliable. Another example of this can be found in Daniel 6:10-23.

That's what it means to be trusted. Do what is right at all times. It is easy to be happy and good when things are going well. Joseph could be happy at home, because he got everything he wanted. When he was sold as a slave by his brothers, auctioned in the market place and worked as a slave, it wasn't as easy. We read that Joseph rose above these circumstances and always gave of his best. That's the test. When things are not going your way, can you still be happy and trustworthy? That's what it means to be trusted to do what is right in all circumstances. Image yourself as a slave. Having to do what you are told, given the worst jobs, spoken to harshly or even beaten. Could you still react as Joseph did? Image yourself accused of something that you hadn't done and were punished severely for it. Could you react as Joseph did? Imagine yourself put in prison for something you hadn't done, put into a cell, spoken to roughly and given little food. Could you react as Joseph did?

SUMMING UP

Your true character is seen most in the difficult times of life when you are tested. This is when people notice your reactions. If you have a clear conscience and are right with God, then you can stand up to any test. Joseph, although spoilt to begin with, had learnt a hard lesson of life.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"... the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained.'" 1 Samuel 2:30b

ACTIVITIES

- Activity Sheet "Joseph – the trustworthy -1"
- Activity Sheet "Joseph – the trustworthy -2"
- Choose a proverb from Proverbs 15:16-33 and learn it. Recite the one you have learnt to the rest of the group.
- Act out Genesis 39:1-23 by using the Bible or using the Dramatised Bible (pages 49 & 50).
- Get as many words out of TRUSTED as you can, either individually or as a group.
- Talk about those whom you can trust and what it is like to be let down.

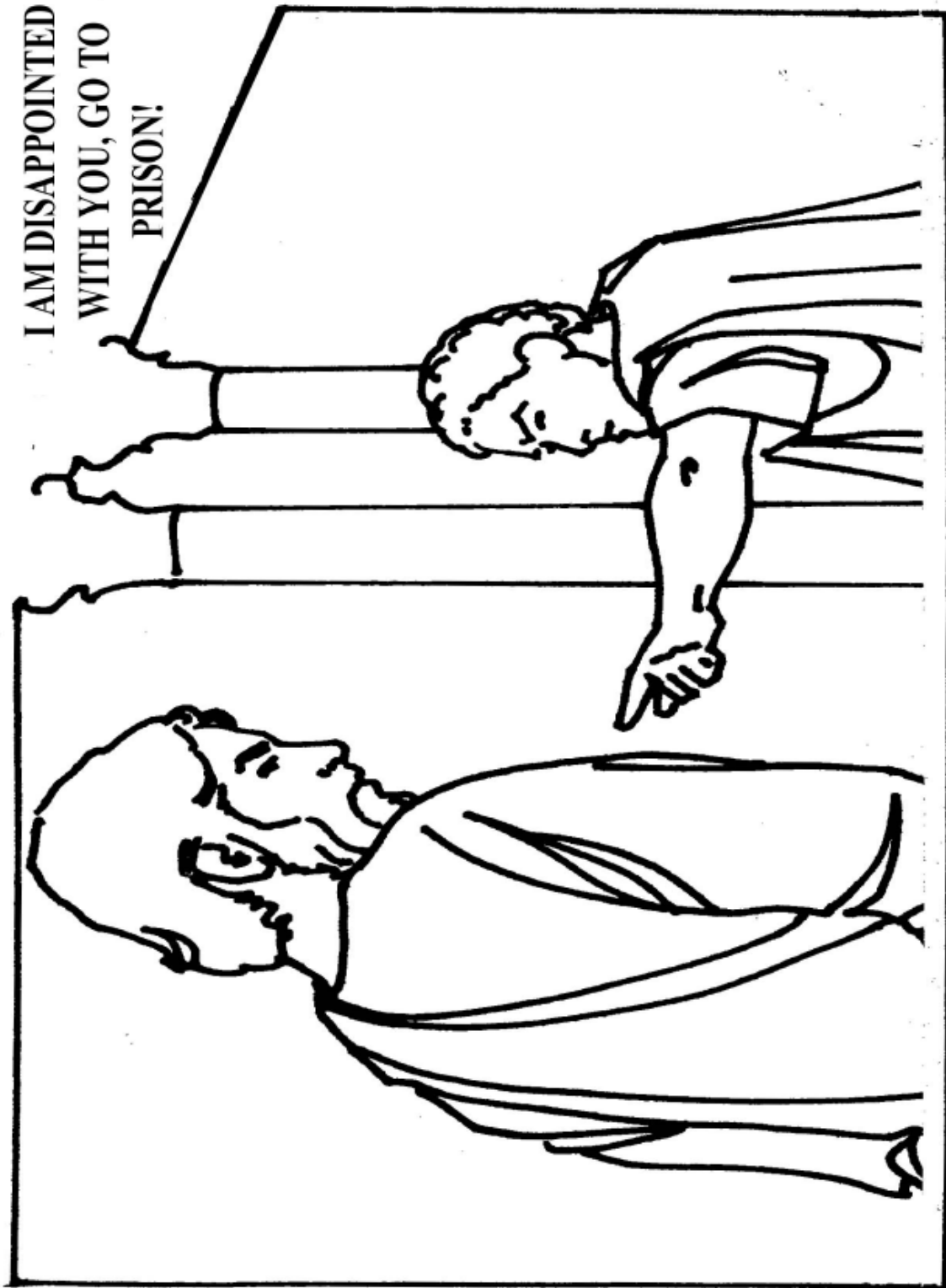
PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Those who are trying to help those who are in prison.
- God to help you to be trustworthy at all times.
- Refugees who are away from their home and country.

Joseph - the trustworthy

Colour the picture



Joseph - the trustworthy

Can you read this message? (It is written in mirror writing)

'mɒzɪw nɑm ɔ zəʊtɪst brɔd sɪt fɔ nɔst sɪt'

Write in mirror writing

'Love is patient, love is kind'

Word Grid

Place the words below in their correct places in the grid.

HONEST

KINDNESS

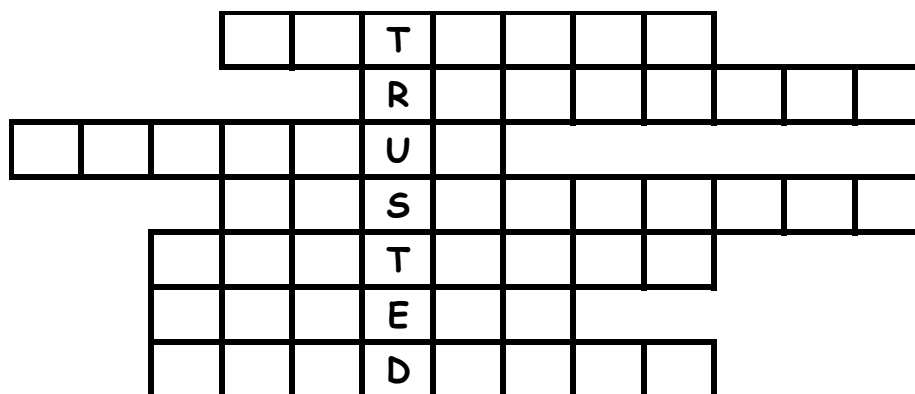
PATIENT

RELIABLE

HELPFUL

RESPECTFUL

TRUTHFUL



Fill the Gaps

Fill in the missing words from the list below:

Joseph, blessing, Potiphar, lived, care, left, everything, bought, Egypt

When Joseph had been taken down to __ __ __ __ __, Potiphar, who was one of Pharaoh's officials, __ __ __ __ __ him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. The Lord was with __ __ __ __ __ and he prospered, and he __ __ __ __ __ in the house of his Egyptian master. When __ __ __ __ __ saw that the Lord gave Joseph success in __ __ __ __ __ he did, he put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his __ __ __ __ everything he owned. The Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The __ __ __ __ __ of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So he __ __ __ __ in Joseph's care everything he had.



THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

3. JOSEPH TRUSTED GOD

I CAN'T, BUT GOD CAN

GENESIS 37:5-11 GENESIS 40:1-23 GENESIS 41:1-16

TEACHING AIM

To show that, if we open ourselves to God, he can enable us to do more than we think we are capable of.

SETTING THE SCENE

Joseph was from a divided family in that his ten older brothers were really his stepbrothers, and they hated him. Joseph was very self-centred and the favourite of his father, Jacob. Before God could use him he had to endure great hardships. He was sold as a slave and falsely accused and thrown into prison. Joseph began to realise that he was not the world's best interpreter of dreams but that he had a gift which he should use for the glory of God. He had learned not to be self-centred but to become God-centred.

ADORED BY HIS FATHER

Rachel, Joseph's mother, was Jacob's favourite wife. So Rachel's first born son was special. Joseph took advantage of this and taunted his brothers, knowing that his father would always take his side. His father gave him a very special gift, a coat of many colours, showing his special love for Joseph. He showed off with this before his brothers. He was spoilt! When Joseph had two dreams he delighted in telling his brothers about them because they showed that he would become more important than they would (Genesis 37:1-11). Because of the way his father treated him, he grew up thinking he could do anything he liked. It is not a good thing to be given everything you want by your parents. It does not prepare you to live in the real world. It makes you self-centred and not God-centred.

THE REAL WORLD

Joseph entered a very harsh and cruel world, when he was sold as a slave by his brothers. He had been sent to take food to his brothers, who were looking after their father's sheep. They seized the opportunity to get rid of Joseph. Their first thought was to kill him but in the end they sold him to some traders on their way to Egypt. From being the favourite son of his father, he became the slave of a man in the Egyptian army, called Potiphar. Although he worked well, he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison. It was a hard lesson to learn, but Joseph began to realise that he could not do what he wanted. He had to do what he was told. He began to rely on God. So, when Pharaoh's butler and baker who were in prison with Joseph both had dreams, Joseph said, ***'Do not interpretations belong to God'*** (Genesis 40:8). Joseph asked them to tell him their dreams, and was able to interpret them. The butler would be restored to his previous job, but the baker would be executed. When the butler left the prison, Joseph asked him to speak to Pharaoh about his position. But the butler forgot! He only remembered when Pharaoh had some dreams.

I CAN'T BUT GOD CAN

When Pharaoh's magicians could not interpret his dreams, the butler remembered Joseph. So Joseph was sent for and asked to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph said to Pharaoh, ***"I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires"*** (Genesis 41:16). The dreams told of a severe famine that would hit Egypt in seven years' time. Before that there would be plenty of food. Joseph suggested that Pharaoh appoint someone to organise the storing of some of the grain, during the time of plenty, so that in the time of famine the people wouldn't starve. Pharaoh appointed Joseph to undertake the task! From prison to Prime Minister in a few hours! Why? Because he trusted in God and not in himself. He had learned the hard way, but he had learned the lesson.

SUMMING UP

We do not know what the future holds for us, but we do know that God will be with us in the future. He will use us, if we let Him. At present we are sheltered, to some extent, by our family. Maybe things are easy. When we get older and leave home we will be 'on our own'. But we must always remember that God is with us and His power is available to us, if we ask!

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'" 1 Samuel 3:10

ACTIVITIES

- Activity Sheet "Joseph trusted God -1"
- Activity Sheet "Joseph trusted God -2"
- Make a banner using the memory verse.
- Ask a person from the church to come and tell you how God has used them in their Christian life.
- With your leader, visit a person you know and tell them the story of Joseph.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- People who suffer nightmares and are afraid of going to sleep.
- The leaders of our nation that they might be wise in their decisions, asking God for guidance.
- Prison Chaplains and those who seek to help those in prison, especially those falsely accused.

Joseph trusted God

Using this code work out the Memory Verse and learn it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

18		24	26	13		23	12		26	15	15		7	19	18	13	20	8		7	19	9	12	6	20	19
24	19	9	18	8	7		4	19	12		8	7	9	22	13	20	7	19	22	13	8		14	22		

Wordsearch

Find these words in the Wordsearch below:

PHARAOH

DREAMS

PRISON

EGYPT

JOSEPH

BAKER

BUTLER

NILE

R	J	E	L	I	N	H	S
S	O	L	D	X	O	R	N
E	S	A	U	A	A	Y	O
E	E	D	R	E	A	M	S
G	P	A	N	R	O	C	I
Y	H	B	U	T	L	E	R
P	S	L	A	V	E	A	P
T	J	E	R	E	K	A	B

SLAVE

ABLE

EARS

CORN

SOLD

ESAU

ROAR

COLOUR AND CUT OUT. USE IT AS A BOOKMARK IN YOUR BIBLE.

I am with you

Joseph trusted God

Fill a Gap

Replace the missing words with words from the list below:

colours, answer, God, dreams, sheep, Jacob, Potiphar, Pharaoh, storing, told, brothers, kill

Joseph was the favourite of his father _____. His father gave him a very special gift, a coat of many _____, showing his special love for Joseph. Joseph showed off with this before his brothers. He was spoilt!

Joseph was sent with food to his _____ who were looking after their father's _____. They seized the opportunity to get rid of Joseph. At first they were going to _____ him but in the end they sold him to some traders on their way to Egypt and he became the slave of a man in the Egyptian army, called _____. Although he worked well, he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison. Joseph began to realise that he could not do what he wanted. He had to do what he was _____. He began to rely on God.

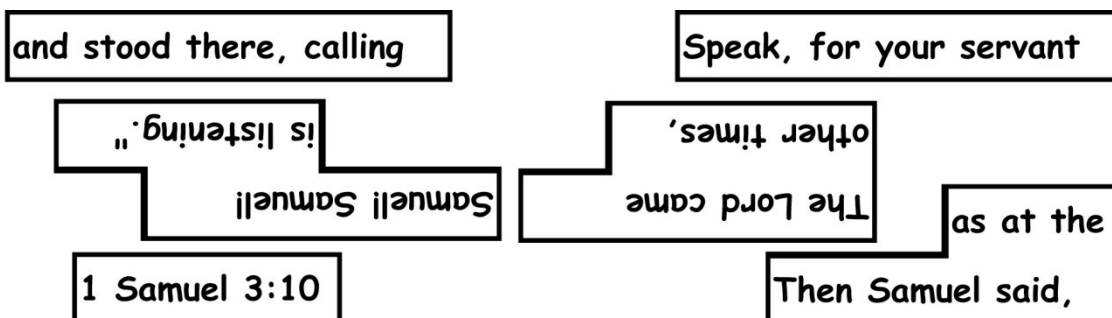
When Pharaoh's butler and baker who were in prison with Joseph both had _____. Joseph said, 'Do not interpretations belong to God'. Joseph asked them to tell him their dreams, and was able to interpret them. The butler was restored to his previous job, but the baker was executed. When the butler left the prison, Joseph asked him to speak to _____ about his position. But the butler forgot! He only remembered when Pharaoh had some dreams.

When Pharaoh's magicians could not interpret his dreams, the butler remembered Joseph. So Joseph was sent for and asked to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the _____ he desires'. The dreams told of a severe famine that would hit Egypt in seven years time. Before that there would be plenty of food. Joseph suggested that Pharaoh appoint someone to organise the _____ of some of the grain, during the time of plenty, so that in the time of famine the people wouldn't starve. Pharaoh appointed Joseph to undertake the task!

Joseph was promoted because he trusted _____ and not himself.

Jig Saw Puzzle

Cut out the pieces below and piece them together to find the memory verse.





THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

4. JOSEPH – THE PRIME MINISTER

I CAN DO WHAT I LIKE NOW!

GENESIS 43:1-14; GENESIS 44:1-13; PSALM 46:1-11

TEACHING AIM

To show that 'Being in Charge' brings responsibilities.

SETTING THE SCENE

It's great to be able to tell other people what to do! You may be captain of a team, house captain or even head boy/girl of your school. You have a position of authority, but you have the responsibility of doing the job well. You also have the responsibility of treating those 'under you' with respect. A position of power brings the burden of responsibility. Joseph was given, straight from prison, the second most responsible job in Egypt. He could order people to do just what he wanted them to do, but he also had the responsibility of seeing that plans were made to prevent people starving during the coming famine. To do this he was given Pharaoh's signet ring (Genesis 41:42). This ring could be used to make an impression on the sealing wax, so that it was as if the order came from Pharaoh himself. This was a stamp of authority!

TO SEE WHAT WAS NEEDED

"Joseph went from Pharaoh's presence and travelled throughout Egypt" (Genesis 41:46). As a leader, don't think you 'know it all'. Find out what the job requires! The only way that this ex-prisoner could see the size of the task he had been given was to see for himself. As he journeyed, he came to the realisation that most of the people lived in or near to the large cities. For food they relied on the farm workers who went out every day to their farms. Joseph would also have to work out what fraction of the present crop would have to be saved, so that the people would not starve in the time of famine. The Bible tells us that, when talking to Pharaoh before he was given the appointment, Joseph suggested one fifth of each year's crop should be stored (Genesis 41:34). We are not told whether this was the actual amount they stored, but this was the practice continued after the famine (Genesis 47:24&26). What fraction would you have suggested? Joseph had realised that his ability to interpret dreams had come from God. It is, therefore, likely that whilst working out the way the task should be done, he prayed to God. That's always a good idea!

HOW COULD IT BE DONE?

Since Joseph saw that the cities were the focal points for the majority of the people of Egypt, he decided that each city should administer its own storage scheme. This not only meant that the corn didn't have to be transported long distances, but that the people would 'own' the scheme, because they would benefit from it. It is always a good idea, when you are in a

position of authority, to involve those whom you are leading. The Bible doesn't tell us of the reaction of the people to Joseph's orders, but they appear to have cooperated. The countries around Egypt do not seem to have undertaken similar schemes for we read that when the famine came ***"all the countries came to Egypt to buy corn from Joseph"*** (Genesis 41:57). This included his own family from Canaan.

WAS JOSEPH TEASING OR TESTING?

When Joseph's brothers arrived to buy food, he was first of all surprised to see his brothers, but decided not to say who he was, at least not at present. By various means Joseph teased or tested his brothers.

- Firstly, by accusing them of being spies (Genesis 42:9).
- Secondly, by putting them all in prison for three days (Genesis 42:17).
- Finally, he said that, if they left one of them in prison, as a hostage, the others could go and fetch their younger brother. He dearly wanted to see Benjamin (Genesis 42:18-20).

To further worry his brothers, he had their money put back into their sacks (Genesis 42:27-28). After a while Joseph's brothers had to return to Egypt, because they were running out of food. This time they had to take Benjamin! When Joseph saw Benjamin he was so upset that he had to leave the room so that he could cry (Genesis 43:29-30). This time of testing or teasing was getting too much for Joseph.

SUMMING UP

To be in a position of authority is not as easy as it seems. Although you can do what you like, there are other things to think of which influence your decisions. Joseph not only wanted to 'punish' his brothers, he wanted to see Benjamin and Jacob, his father. Although you can do 'what you like', it doesn't always work out that easy. Joseph was also beginning to realise that God had sent him ahead, so that he could save the people of Canaan from dying of starvation. There was always a greater authority, God's authority!

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“... From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48

ACTIVITIES

- Activity Sheets “Joseph – the Prime Minister – 1”
- Activity Sheets “Joseph – the Prime Minister – 2”
- Each member of the group says what ‘order’ they would give if they were in charge of the country. Discuss your findings.
- As a group try to explain what is meant by ‘teasing’ and what is meant by ‘bullying’. When does teasing become bullying?

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for those:

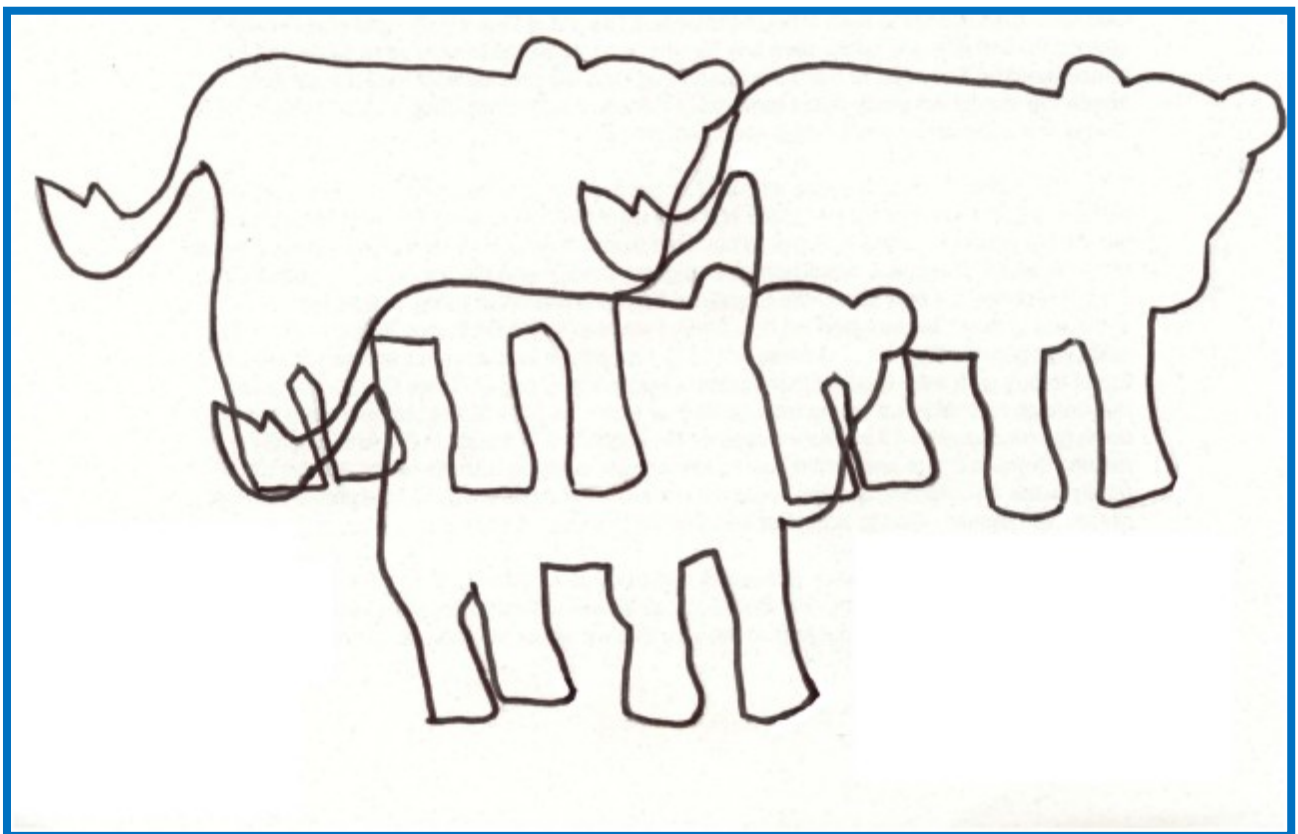
- In authority over us - the Queen, Parliament, Police, Teachers, Parents.
- In prison, even though they have not done anything wrong.
- Passing through difficult times and feel that everybody is against them.
- Being bullied.

Right or wrong

Cross out the wrong answer

1. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to **buy / sell** corn.
2. Joseph's youngest brother was **Simeon / Benjamin**.
3. Pharaoh gave Joseph his **ring / sword**.
4. The famine was to last for **five / seven** years.
5. Everyone came to **Egypt / Canaan** to buy corn.
6. During the good year, Joseph stored **one fifth / one tenth** of the corn in barns.

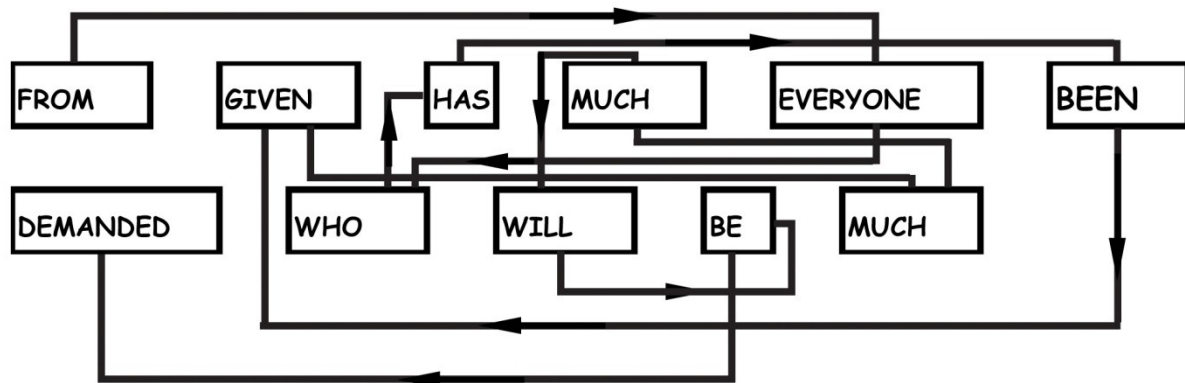
Colour each shape a different colour.



How many cows are there _____?

Follow the arrows

From the chart fill in the words in order. This is your memory verse.



--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

Unscramble

UNSCRAMBLE THESE LETTERS TO FORM WORDS.

ALL THE WORDS ARE FOUND IN GENESIS 41:1-4

AAHHOPR		EENSV	
EILN		EEKLS	
ABEIKNRRV		ADEMR	
AGNTU		COSW	
ADEGRZ		AERSY	



THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

5. JOSEPH – THE LOVING SON

TEARS OF JOY

GENESIS 43:26-34; GENESIS 45:25-28 AND LUKE 15:11-32

TEACHING AIM

To show that our family relationships are precious.

SETTING THE SCENE

Jacob thought that his favourite son, Joseph, had been killed by a wild beast (Genesis 37:31-35). Now many years later they are to be reunited. Such a reunion will be an emotional time, accompanied by tears of joy. Joseph's brothers had returned for a second time, to buy food. This time they had brought Benjamin with them, much to the distress of their father, Jacob. Joseph was extremely happy to have seen his brother Benjamin, but he was very anxious to see his father again.

REVELATION

Joseph had tested or teased his brothers for some time, now was the time for all that to end. He must declare who he really was. Not just the harsh ruler of Egypt, but their brother whom they had sold as a slave. Joseph had had to leave the room when he had seen his brother Benjamin (Genesis 43:30-31). Now he was about to reveal his true identity. He ordered all his attendants to leave and then, with tears streaming down his face, he said, **"I am Joseph! Is my father still living?"** (Genesis 45:3). His brothers were shocked and fearful, but Joseph tried to reassure them by saying **"Don't be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you"** (Genesis 45:5). Then Joseph threw his arms around Benjamin and they wept together. He also embraced his other brothers and they were reunited.

WHAT ABOUT DAD?

Joseph's greatest desire was to see his father again, after all he was his father's favourite son! Pharaoh encouraged Joseph to bring his whole family down to Egypt (Genesis 45:16-18). He provided carts for them to bring all the family and their possessions. When Joseph's brothers arrived back in Canaan, they broke the news to their father, **"Joseph is still alive"** (Genesis 45:26). Although Jacob was disbelieving, in the end he believed and was willing to journey to see Joseph. Jacob and all the family were directed to an area of Egypt called Goshen. Joseph had arranged that they should live there. When he heard that they had arrived, Joseph travelled to the area and was reunited with his father. What a reunion! (Genesis 46:29). Finally Joseph introduced his father to Pharaoh, who welcomed him.

THE END

Jacob was one hundred and thirty years old when he travelled to Egypt and he lived seventeen years in Egypt, (Genesis 47:28). As he was about to die, Jacob got Joseph to promise that his body would eventually be taken back to Canaan to be buried. Before Jacob died he asked that Joseph's sons be brought to him, so that he could bless them. Jacob said to Joseph, ***"I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children"*** (Genesis 48:11). When Israel (Jacob) was dead Joseph gave instructions for his body to be embalmed and asked Pharaoh's permission to leave the country to bury his father with his ancestors, in a cave near Mamre in Canaan.

SUMMING UP

Jacob's family was not a very united family and they didn't always get on. But they were a family! This meant a great deal to them in the ups and downs of life, in the good times and the bad times they were still family. Jesus told a story of a family that was split up, but was finally reunited. We call it the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus told this story to show that all will be welcomed home, if they repent of their sin and want to rejoin the family of God. In the story the father welcomed the 'runaway' son home with a hug and I am sure with tears of joy!

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

ACTIVITIES

- Activity Sheets "Joseph – the loving son – 1"
- Activity Sheets "Joseph – the loving son – 2"
- Get an older member of the church to come and talk about their family and the sort of things they did when they were children.
- Why do we cry at times of great joy and times of great sadness? Talk about this amongst yourselves. Give each other examples.
- Get a good reader to read Genesis 42:1 to 46:7 as one story (it will take quite a while, but it will be worth it). Why not record it?

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Your own family. Thank God for them.
- Those who have been adopted into another family.

Thank God for:

- Those who are willing to take them in.
- His provision for Jacob and his family.
- Your food and all the good things of life.

Joseph - the loving son

Below is the name CLEOPATRA written in code.

C L E O P A T R A
👍 😞 📌 📌 📌 ❄️ ☀️ 📌

Try to write these words in the same code -

P E A C E T O T A L R O P E

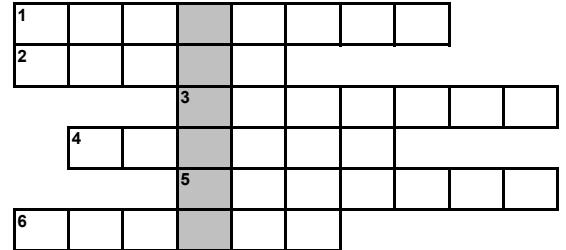
Colour, cut off and frame. (Joseph could have dressed in this)



Joseph - the loving son

Crossword

1. Joseph threw his arms around _____.
2. Joseph's father
3. Joseph brothers were _____ when they discovered who Joseph was.
4. Joseph had _____ brothers.
5. Joseph introduced his father to _____.
6. Pharaoh provided homes for Joseph's family in _____.



Memory Verse

Using the code below find the memory verse.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 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THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

1. THE KING WHO FAILED THE TEST

SAUL REJECTED AS KING

1SAMUEL 12:13-14 AND 1SAMUEL 15

TEACHING AIM

To understand that obeying God is important, no matter what position you hold or how powerful you may be.

SETTING THE SCENE

From the time when Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel (c.1020BC) until Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians and many people were taken away into Exile (c.587BC), the Jews were ruled by kings. Some kings were good and some were bad, some were a bit of both. This series mainly concentrates on the earlier and more famous kings, before the kingdom was divided into 2 parts in 931BC.

THE TRUSTED KING

Read 1Samuel 12:13.

King Saul was the very first king of Israel. The Israelites wanted a king to rule them so they could be like other nations. Though it is not always right to do things just because others are doing them, the Lord God allowed them to choose a king. They chose Saul who was the biggest man they could find. He was rather reluctant to become king (see 1Sam 9:21 and 10:19-22) but the people thought he was the best man for the job and were prepared to trust him as their king. God accepted their choice and trusted that Saul would follow the advice of the prophet Samuel to always honour and obey God (1Samuel 12:13-14). It is important that people can trust you.

THE TESTED KING

Read 1Samuel 15:1-9.

There are all sorts of tests in life. We are tested in school to see how much we have learned and what skills we have. Later, people will look to see what our character is like and how well we complete the work we are given. Saul did quite well as a king to begin with. He had to fight some battles to protect the people of Israel, and God helped him.

But Saul's big test came when God gave him a task to do (1Samuel 15:3). Instead of doing all God said, he only did half of it. He disobeyed God and took it upon himself to change God's orders. What did he do and what did he fail to do (vv8-9)? As king, Saul would have expected everyone to obey his orders. Anyone not doing so would be looked on as a traitor and a rebel. Now, he had rebelled against God and failed the test of obedience.

THE TRAGIC KING

Read 1Samuel 15:10-35.

What was worse, Saul didn't realise he had failed. Look what he said when Samuel came to see him (v13). And when he realised he had been found out (v14), he began to make excuses. How many can you find (vv15, 24)? Do you think they really made things right (see memory verse)? Are the excuses we give to others or to God any better?

What a poor and tragic king Saul had become! His failure to do what God had asked made God sad (v10-11) and Samuel had to tell him the results of the test – which were not very good (v26). God allowed Saul to continue as king for some years but He was no longer with him and even Samuel was no longer there to give him advice (v35). He became a very troubled man.

SUMMING UP

No matter who we are, how important we are, or how much power and authority we have, we should follow God's commands and live by the standards Jesus taught.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." 1Sam 15:22(b)

ACTIVITIES

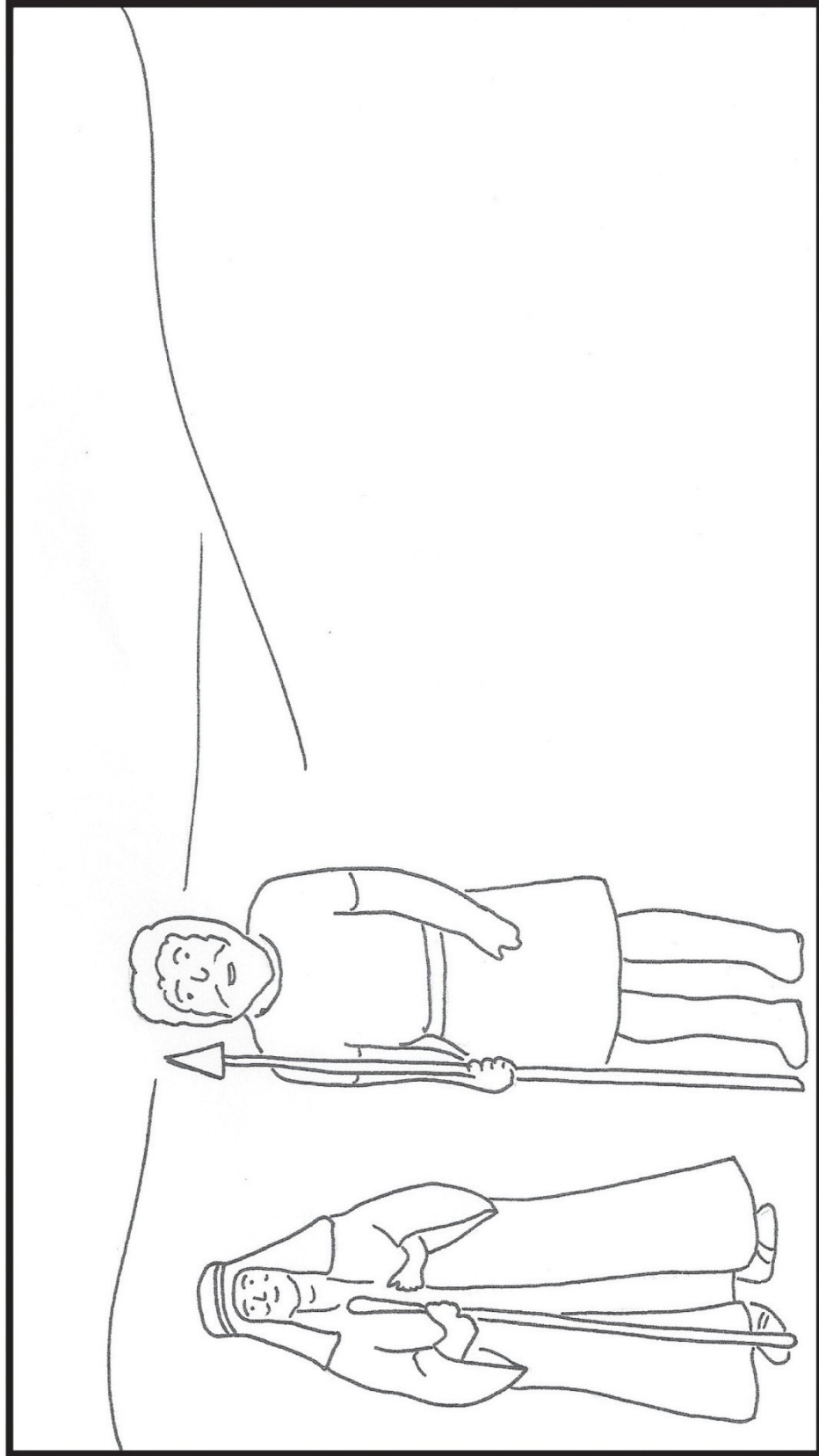
- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The King who failed the test - 1"
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The King who failed the test - 2"
- The Lion Handbook of the Bible pages 284-285.
- Junior Programme Book 2: People with Problems series – the Big Man with Little Confidence.
- The Dramatised Bible (Marshall & Pickering) pages 233 - 234.
- For all the topics in this series, the Bible reading can be presented as a dramatic reading.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for

- All leaders who have difficult decisions to make that they may be guided to choose well.
- People who have power and authority that they may use that power for the benefit of all and not for selfish ends.

Saul and Samuel



Draw what Samuel saw and heard which told him that King Saul had disobeyed the command of God.

Saul and Samuel

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

SAMUEL DESTROY INFANTS DONKEY SAUL
EVERYTHING CATTLE AGAG LORD CAMELS
AMALEKITES MEN AND WOMEN SHEEP
HAVILAH SHUR CHILDREN TOTALLY

M	E	N	A	N	D	W	O	M	E	N
S	D	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	T
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M	A	S	N	S	O	S	H	E	E	P
A	G	N	I	H	T	Y	R	E	V	E

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below as far as you can to find Samuel's advice to Saul.

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Can you complete the last word? (1Samuel 15:22)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

2. THE 'CINDERELLA' WHO WAS TO BE KING

DAVID ANOINTED BY SAMUEL

1SAMUEL 16:1-13

TEACHING AIM

To understand that God has different standards so no one should think they are excluded from serving Him and doing His work.

SETTING THE SCENE

When King Saul failed to live up to the standards set by God for the kings of Israel, God needed to choose someone to become the king after him. The only person capable of knowing who that person could be was the prophet Samuel, who had served God all his life.

THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN

Read 1Samuel 16:1-3.

Soon after God had rejected Saul as king, Samuel was instructed by God to find the person to be the next king. Now that was not easy. There were a lot of Israelites to choose from and, if Saul found out, he would be very angry and both the life of Samuel and the life of the next king could be in danger (v2). The Lord helped Samuel by narrowing down the search to one family – which one? (v1) – and by giving Samuel a reason to journey to Bethlehem – what was the reason? (v2).

THE IDENTITY PARADE

Read 1Samuel 16:4-10.

Samuel had been the top man in the country until King Saul had been appointed as ruler. He was still an important and influential man so the chief men in the town were worried when they heard he was coming. Samuel assured them that they had nothing to worry about and his visit was a peaceful one (vv4-5).

When everything had been made ready for the special service of sacrifice and the celebration meal that went with it, Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the celebration. This was the chance for Samuel to see all of Jesse's sons before he made the choice. He did not tell them why he wanted to see them. One by one, seven sons passed before Samuel, starting with the eldest. As the biggest and the strongest, Samuel thought he looked just the right man to succeed Saul as king (v6), but before Samuel could say anything, God spoke to him. What did God say to Samuel to make him change his mind? (v7). It was the same with the other sons – can you name them? (1Chr 2:13-16a; leave out David and add Elihu) Each one looked as if he would be a good king but Samuel knew that they were not God's choice.

THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS LEFT OUT

Read 1Samuel 16:11-13.

It must have puzzled Samuel when the last son had passed before him and still God had not told him who to choose. There was no sign of any more sons and Samuel had to ask about it (v11). Oh yes! There was another son, the youngest, but, just like Cinderella in the pantomime, he was considered too unimportant to be invited to the celebration and had been given the routine job of looking after the sheep. His brothers had probably told him such celebrations were for important people, not for the likes of him (as the Ugly Sisters did to Cinderella), and sent him off to the hillside with the sheep.

Samuel insisted that he would not start the sacrifice and celebration without the youngest son being there (v11), so everyone had to wait until the little lad arrived. What was his name? Can you imagine what the older brothers were saying to one another? Immediately he saw him, Samuel knew that he was the one chosen by God to be the next king (v12) and he anointed him with oil as a sign (v13). What do you think Samuel saw in David – not how he looked, but the inner qualities of David's character - that made him so sure David was God's choice? What would you look for?

SUMMING UP

It was to be a long time before David became king and, in the meantime, his brothers didn't treat him much better (see 1Samuel 17:28-29), but God's choice of the smallest, weakest and least important son of Jesse to do the biggest job in the land of Israel shows that He can, and often does, choose the most unlikely people to do His work and His will. It is the heart which counts and, in David, God could see what He wanted, 'a man after my own heart' (1Samuel 13:14). God can do great things with a person like that.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1Sam 16:7b

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The 'Cinderella' who was to be King - 1"
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The 'Cinderella' who was to be King - 2"
- The Dramatised Bible pages 235-236 - David is anointed as king.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for

- Children who feel that they are ignored or not loved.
- Children who have no homes or live in poverty.

Pray that

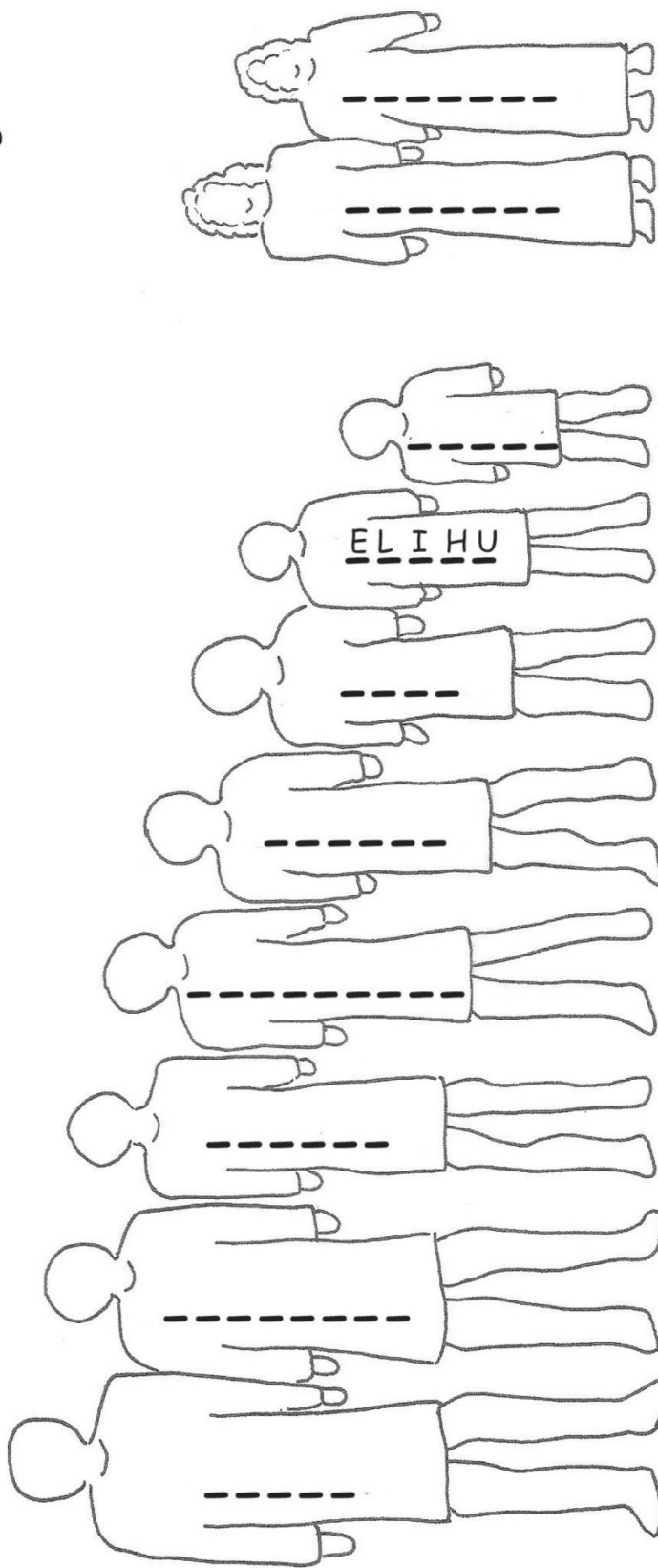
- You may be like David and have a heart which wants to do God's will.

Jesse of Bethlehem had

8 sons

and

2 daughters



Draw in the faces and, using the list in 1Chronicles 2:13-16b, put on the names of Jesse's sons and daughters.

One son is missing from the list and he has been named for you.

Which one did God tell Samuel to choose as the future king? _ _ _ _ _

Samuel and David

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

SAMUEL

SACRIFICE

SEVEN

SHEEP

SAUL

ELIAB

SONS

ANOINT HIM

JESSE

ABINADAB

YOUNGEST

HORN OF OIL

BETHLEHEM

SHAMMAH

TENDING

BROTHERS

HEIFER

DAVID

S	A	M	U	E	L	E	S	S	E	J
A	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	A
U	S	P	I	E	L	I	A	B	R	B
L	S	I	D	I	V	A	D	T	T	I
H	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	N
A	V	O	P	E	E	H	S	F	E	A
M	E	T	H	R	S	N	O	S	G	D
M	N	M	I	H	T	N	I	O	N	A
A	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	U	B
H	E	L	I	O	F	O	N	R	O	H
S	L	G	N	I	D	N	E	T	Y	O

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below as far as you can to find out who was with David after he had been anointed.

The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Can you complete the last word? (1Samuel 16:13)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

3. THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17

TEACHING AIM

If we trust God fully, He will use us to bring glory to Himself.

SETTING THE SCENE

God had rejected Saul as king of Israel because of his disobedience and had chosen David to replace him although this was not to happen for many years. While he was still a teenager, David took up the challenge to defend his country and bring glory to the Living God. Let's find out more

THE CHALLENGE

Read verses 1 – 32.

The Philistines were the enemies of the Israelites. Goliath, their champion, challenged King Saul's army to choose a man to fight him. Whoever won would bring victory to his army.

Q. Why did the Israelites not take up the challenge? - *They were all very afraid because Goliath was much bigger and seemed much stronger than any of them.*

You see, they looked on the outward appearance. It was then that David appeared on the scene.

Q. Why had David come? - *His father had sent him with food to his three brothers who were in Saul's army.*

David was shocked to learn that the Israelites didn't trust in God to deliver them. He decided that he would fight this man rather than allow him to bring dishonour to God. Do you stand up for Jesus when people mock Him?

THE CONFIDENCE

Read verses 33 – 48.

Q. How did Saul try to discourage David? - *He told him he lacked experience.*

Q. Why did David refuse to wear the armour Saul offered him? - *He wasn't trained in using it.*

David pointed out that he was trained in using his sling to fend off wild animals out on the hill side. He had practised his aim for hours and prayed to God to help him overcome his difficulties. David went to fight Goliath, therefore, with only his sling and five stones.

Q. Why was David not afraid? - *He was not trusting in his own strength or abilities but trusting in God.*

God had protected David in the past so he could say, **"... I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied"** - verse 45.

Q. Do you think David was being big headed? - *No! David knew that God didn't look on the outward appearance but on the heart, so Goliath's size didn't matter - 1Samuel 16:7.*

In CE you're being taught about the Lord Jesus Christ and your need to accept Him as your Saviour. You're being trained to serve Him by reading your Bible, praying and taking part in the meetings. When God calls you to serve Him, you can be confident that He'll give you all the strength you need.

THE CONQUEROR

Read verses 49-54.

David won hands down. With just one stone from David's sling, the mighty giant fell down dead.

David had been keeping close to God and, when the day came that God needed someone to fight and kill the enemy, David was willing to say, "Lord, I will do this". Are you willing to give your whole life over to the Lord Jesus now, to give Him the very best? Are you willing to be trained to serve Him? You can start now by telling your friends about the Lord Jesus Christ and by setting a good example - read 1Timothy 4:12. Will you, like David, say to the Lord, "Here I am Lord, use me to bring glory to You"? If you do, you will be a Conqueror of Evil.

SUMMING UP

The Lord was able to use David even as a young man because he trusted fully in Him. Have you trusted in Jesus to have your sins forgiven? If so, are you willing to serve Him?

RESOURCES

The Dramatised Bible (Marshall & Pickering) pages 236 - 239

MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" Phil 4:13.

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet - "The Battle is the Lords - 1"
- Over 8s Activity Sheet - "The Battle is the Lords - 2"
- Imagine you're David. Write an account of the battle in your own words. Tell how God helped you.
- Draw a picture to show how David and Goliath were equipped for the battle.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray:

- For anyone being bullied at school.
- That God will help you choose the right friends.
- For Christians who find it hard to tell others about Jesus.

The Battle is the Lords

CROSS OUT THE WRONG WORDS

1. David took **five** / **four** stones from the brook.
2. David had come to the battle to **bring food to his brothers** / **see the army**.
3. Goliath was **a Philistine** / **an Israelite**.
4. David was trusting in **his own strength** / **God** to defeat Goliath.
5. David **wore** / **did not wear** King Saul's armour.
6. David killed Goliath with **one stone** / **two stones** from his sling.

Fill in the gaps using the words below:

David afraid trusting stronger Goliath Israelites

The _____ were all very _____ because Goliath was much bigger and seemed much _____ than any of them. _____ was not afraid of _____ because he was _____ in God.

Colour in the words you need to find the memory verse.

I **can** **do** somethings
everything through him if I
who makes gives you me
strength help.

Philippians 4:3

The Battle is the Lords

Wordsearch

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

1. (a) Find the following words in the wordsearch above. You may use the same letter more than once. The words all refer to David's battle with Goliath.

DAVID	SAUL	PHILISTINE	ARMOUR
GOD	BIG	LORD	SWORD
BATTLE	HEAD	ARMY	STONE
FIVE	SLING	AFRAID	

(b) Take the remaining letters and write them in the space below to find why David was sure he would win the battle with Goliath which we read of in 1 Samuel 17.

2. Imagine that you're David and write an account of the battle in your own words. Be sure to tell how God helped you.

3. Draw a picture to show how David and Goliath were equipped for the battle.



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

4. THE KING WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN

JONATHAN'S LOYALTY TO DAVID

1SAMUEL 18:1-4; 20:1-42

TEACHING AIM

To understand the true meaning of friendship and find the greatest Friend.

SETTING THE SCENE

After David had killed Goliath, King Saul wanted to know more about him (1Samuel 17:55-58) and insisted that he remained in the royal household (1Samuel 18:2). As a result, David met the king's son, Jonathan.

A GOOD FRIEND

Read 1Samuel 18:1-4.

As soon as they met, they both realised that they would be good friends. There was an instant bond of affection between them. Jonathan liked David so much that he promised him his friendship come what may (the covenant of 1Samuel 18:3), and, to show that he really meant it and regarded David as highly as himself, he gave to David those personal items which identified himself as a prince (v4). Remember that, when David had come into the royal court, he had come as a shepherd boy. The friendship of Jonathan helped David to learn how to behave in the presence of the king and to dress appropriately so that he would not feel too out of place or too homesick in the royal court.

A GREAT FRIEND

Read 1Samuel 20:1-42.

Jonathan could have been very jealous of David, as his father became. Think football! You have been brought up to be the next centre-forward for your country. You are good and the manager is your dad, so it is a certainty that you will play, and captain the side. Then you discover your best pal is a little bit better and is more popular with the supporters. What do you do? Do you tell him not to expect any more help from you, get him sent off or hurt (seriously) to ruin his chances of playing, or accept that his friendship is worth more than playing for your country and you could at least be his substitute? What would you do?

Jonathan was next in line to be king, and he would have made a good king – probably a better king than his father. He could have ended his friendship with David and, when his father wanted to get rid of David (1Samuel 20:31), helped him to do so. But he didn't. Instead, when Saul was threatening David, Jonathan met him and repeated the covenant they had made when they first met to show that it was a lasting friendship between them.

Jonathan was prepared to:

- i. Stand up for his friend – he spoke up for David when Saul was angry with David for not coming to the special celebration (vv27-32), even though it put Jonathan’s life in danger (v33).
- ii. Stand alongside his friend – he found a way of telling David of the danger he was in by using his time of archery practice (vv20-22 and vv35-40) and helping him to escape from Saul. This was almost the last time they met so it was an emotional parting for the two friends (v41).
- iii. Stand aside for his friend – he told David this on their very last meeting (1Samuel 23:17) although David probably already knew from the time that Jonathan had given him his royal robe at their first meeting.

THE GREATEST FRIEND

Read John 15:12-15.

Jonathan’s loyalty to David is often regarded as an example of true friendship. Jonathan was a true friend but his example points to another Friend. Jonathan gave up a lot for David – his position as heir to the throne and even the respect of his father – but Jesus gave up much more. He gave up the glories of heaven to come to earth and live like us, and then He gave up His life on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He said, ***“Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*** Then He went on to say ***“You are my friends if you do what I command you”***.

SUMMING UP

How good a friend are you? Are you as good as Jonathan? He gave David an immediate and lasting friendship. He could have been a very good king but he didn’t mind giving up his chance to be king to his best friend. Jesus invites us to be His friend in an eternal friendship. Will you be a friend of Jesus?

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord’” (1Samuel 20:42a)

ACTIVITIES

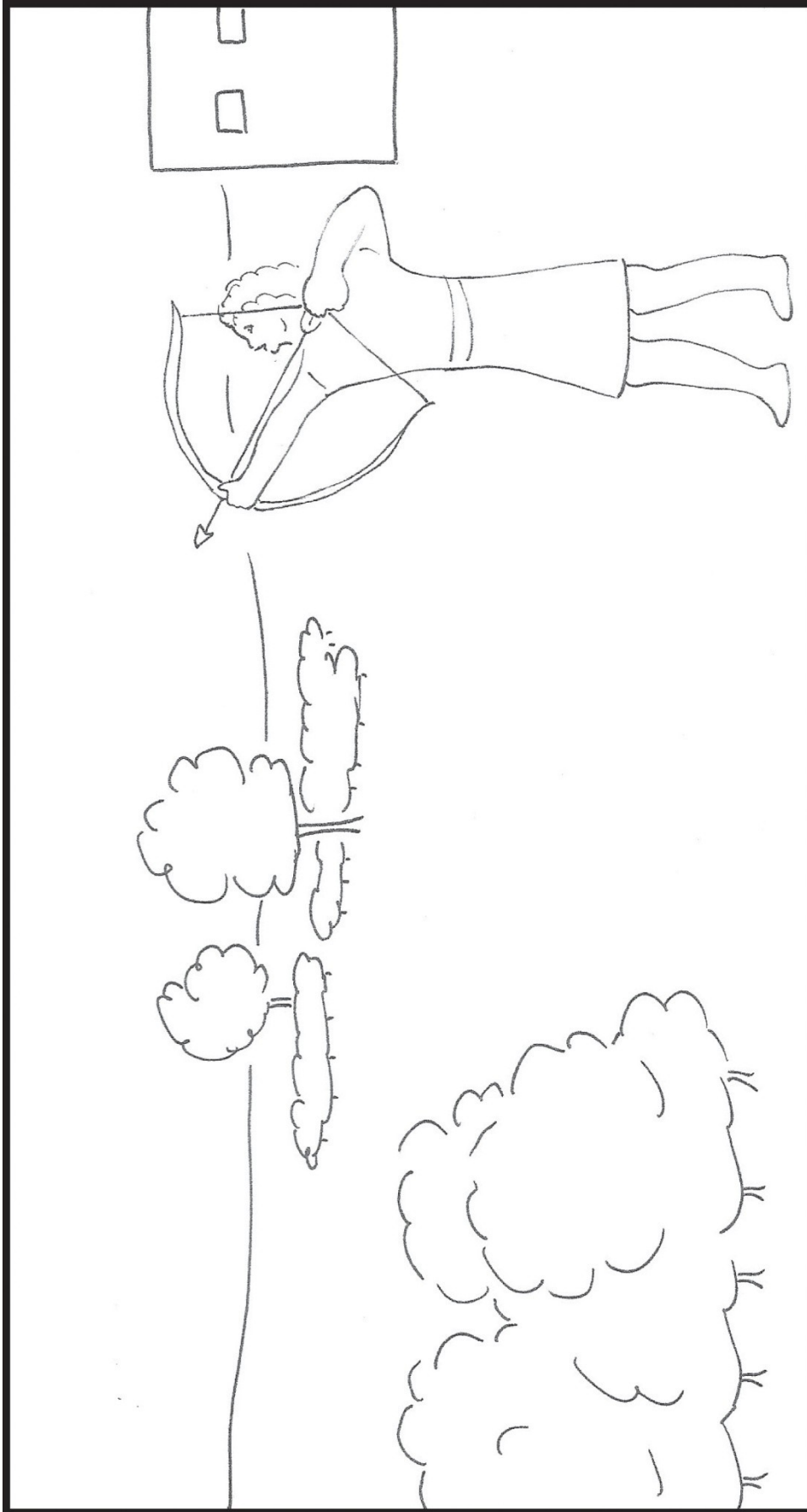
- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The King who Might Have Been – 1”
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The King who Might Have Been – 2”
- Everyone:
 - a. On a piece of paper, write down the name of your best friend. Then write down the reasons why they are your best friend. Underneath put down what makes you their best friend.
 - b. Make a list of those you know who have no friends and then see if you can help them to be friends with you and others.
 - c. Prepare 1 Samuel 20 as a dramatised reading of Scripture for your meeting.
- The Dramatised Bible pages 243-246 - Jonathan helps David.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Your friends and that you will be a good friend to them.
- Those who have no friends.

David and Jonathan



Jonathan helped David to escape from King Saul.
To complete the picture draw in David hiding, the arrows flying and the boy running to collect them.

David and Jonathan

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

JONATHAN HIDE EMPTY SEAT KILL BOY
DIE FIELD LOVE SAUL FIND
NEW MOON BETHLEHEM STONE ANGER BOWED
FESTIVAL KINDNESS THREE ARROWS LORD
FRIENDSHIP ABNER DIE

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

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below as far as you can to find out why Jonathan and David regarded their promise as special.

Can you complete the last word? (1Samuel 20:42)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

5. THE KING AND THE OUTLAW

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

1 SAMUEL 24 AND 26

TEACHING AIM

To understand that two wrongs don't make a right.

SETTING THE SCENE

David was on the run. King Saul had been threatening to kill him so he was now an outlaw with a price on his head. A small group of loyal men were in hiding with him. [Think of the Sheriff of Nottingham and Robin Hood - but in the wilderness of Judea not Sherwood Forest.] On two occasions when they were being hunted, David was in a position to get his own back on the king. Although the two incidents are different, they both tell the same underlying story.

THE KING'S ATTITUDE

Read 1Samuel 20:30-31.

Each incident was the result of the terrible effects of jealousy. King Saul had become very jealous of David because David's victory over Goliath had made him more popular than the king. He was also aware that David was likely to take over from him as king. Saul desperately wanted his son Jonathan to be the next king, so he regarded David as a traitor who might try to kill him to become king. He was so jealous that he tried to capture David in order to get rid of him.

In both these stories, Saul was told where David could be found and set out with a large number of soldiers (3,000) to capture David and his small band of men.

THE GANG'S ADVICE

Read 1Samuel 24:1-4a; 1Samuel 26:1-8.

The gang's advice was 'Get your own back!', 'Let him have it!', 'Kill him!'

On the first occasion (1Samuel 24), David and his band of men were hiding in a cave into which Saul came. As he was on his own, Saul would not have gone very far into the cave because bears or other large animals might be there, so he didn't notice David and his men at the back of the cave. But he did go in far enough to be out of sight of his own soldiers. David's men urged him to take advantage of the situation. They thought it was a great opportunity to kill Saul. They said to David, ***'The Lord has given your enemy into your hands to deal with as you wish'*** (v4a).

On the second occasion (1Samuel 26), David had found out where Saul and his men were camping (vv2-4). During the night, David and Abishai crept into Saul's camp, avoided all the guards, including Abner the commander of the army, and came right up to where the king was sleeping. The king's spear was stuck in the ground by him and Abishai wanted to take it and kill Saul with it (v8).

It is difficult not to do what your friends tell you to do, even if you know it is wrong. It would have been very easy, on both occasions, for David to have taken the advice of his men and killed Saul. It looked a good thing to do. It would have ended David's life on the run as an outlaw. He and his men could have gone back home and he would have become king. The advice given by his men was hasty advice. Their motive was revenge and retaliation because Saul hated David and had made him an outlaw. They wanted him to 'get even' with the king. David knew the dangers of following such hasty advice.

THE OUTLAW'S ACTION

Read 1Samuel 24:4b-22; 1Samuel 26:9-25.

What did David do? He was conscious that Saul was the legitimate king, approved by God (1Samuel 24:6; 26:9), so to do anything to hurt him was not right. Instead, he chose to do 2 simple and nonviolent things. Look up what he did (1Samuel 24:4 and 1Samuel 26:12).

These actions may have seemed silly to David's men, but they were important actions for they were evidence that David had been close enough to the king to harm him but that he had not done so. They made it possible, on both occasions, for David to speak to the king and persuade him that he was no threat to the king's life (1Samuel 24:8-22; 26:13-25).

David's actions showed some of the qualities which would make him a good king. It also showed how much he now understood about living the way God wanted.

SUMMING UP

David knew that God does not approve of actions taken for revenge or to get even. A wrong action in retaliation does not make things right. How do you react when someone hurts you or does something wrong to you? Even when he had opportunities to 'get his own back', David chose actions which, each time, were the first step in bringing about peace between him and the king. The outlaw had learned that two wrongs don't make a right. He did not take the law into his own hands but trusted God. He had learned not to react in haste but to do what Jesus was to say, '**Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you**' (Luke 6:27).

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness." 1Samuel 26:23.

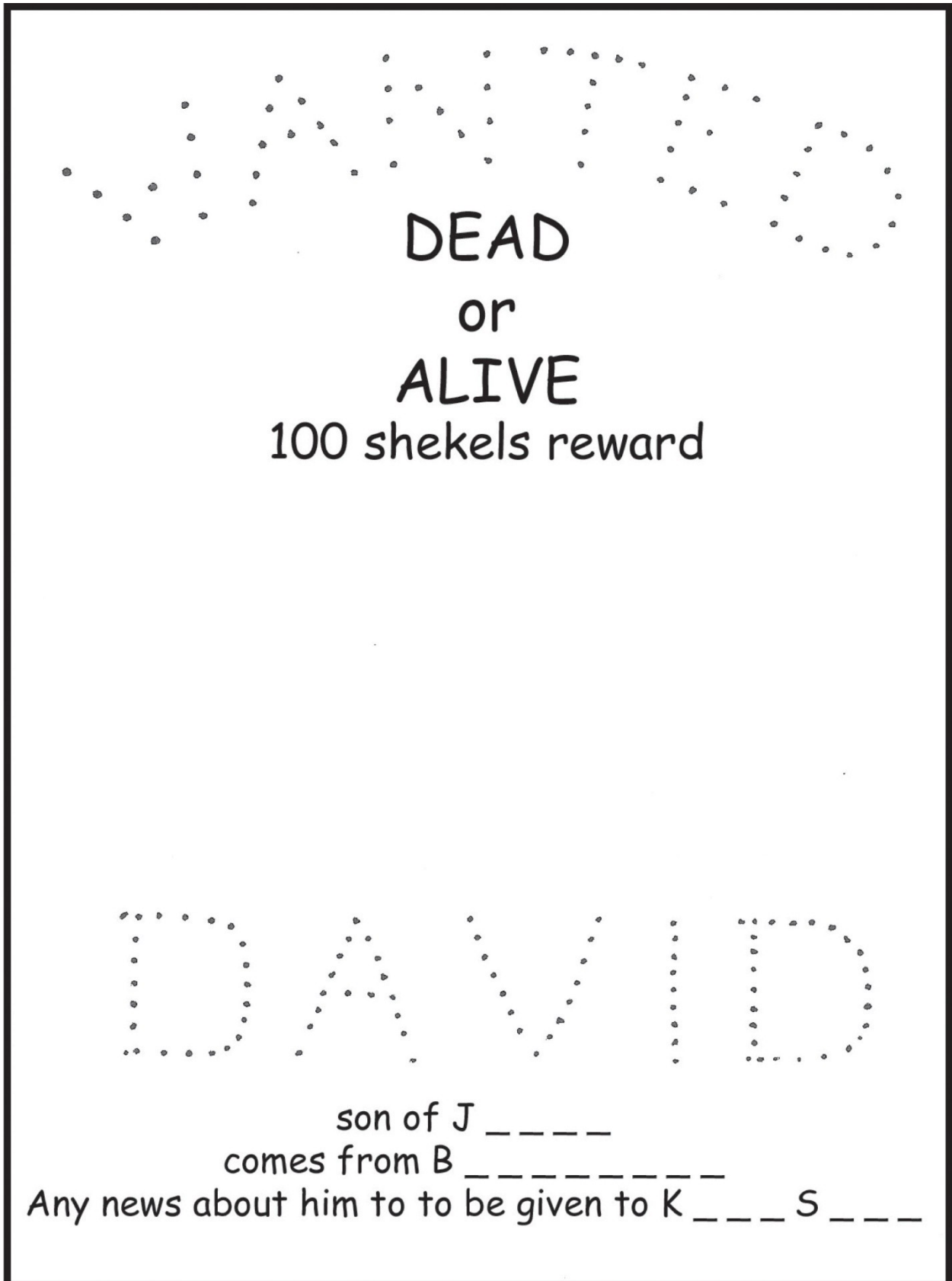
ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The King and the Outlaw - 1"
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The King and the Outlaw - 2"
- The Dramatised Bible pages 251-252 and pages 255-256

PRAYER POINTS

Pray:

- For those who do not like you and for those you do not like.
- That God will help you not to 'get your own back' on someone.



To complete the Wanted Poster for the outlaw David join up the dots to finish the words, draw a picture of David's face and fill in the missing information at the bottom.

The King and the Outlaw

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

DAVID CREPT UP SAUL'S ROBE ABISHAI

WILDERNESS CUT HAKILAH SPEAR

ENGEDI OFF DESERT HEAD

CAVE CORNER ZIPH WATER JUG

ABNER CRAGS OF THE WILD GOATS

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

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below to find out David's instructions to Abishai.

_____ (1 Samuel 26:9)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

6. THE KING WHO HAD TRAINING

DAVID BECOMES KING

2 SAMUEL 2:1-7

TEACHING AIM

To understand the importance of learning and training

SETTING THE SCENE

It is usual that, when the king or queen of a country dies, their son succeeds to the throne. He will have spent his life in the royal court and so know all the court procedures and what he is expected to do. But imagine if someone of your own age, one of your friends, was told that he would be the next king. How would he feel? How would he know what to do?

This was the situation which David faced. When he was just a young shepherd boy, perhaps not even a teenager, the prophet Samuel had anointed him as king, but he had to wait a long time, probably twenty-five years, for his coronation. Saul was the king at that time and the long years when David had to be patient and wait for his turn as king provided opportunities for him to be trained so he could do the job properly. Now that Saul and his sons had been killed in a great battle (1Samuel 31), David could become king.

THE TUTOR

The Bible has little to say about who helped David. But, as he was growing up, there was always someone in the background to whom David could turn. Every student needs a person who will help him with problems, encourage him and give him advice during his course of studies. Such a person is often called a tutor. There were a number of people to whom David turned for advice, but his most important tutor had to be the great prophet, Samuel. Although Samuel was getting old, he was very wise and, above all, was a man of God. He had been the leader of Israel until they had chosen a king and he had been there to advise King Saul, so he knew all about what made a good leader and king. David went to see Samuel when he needed advice.

THE TRAINING

There was no school to which David could go in order to learn how to be a good king. However, God arranged for David to have all the training he needed. If you have heard stories about David, you may already know of some of this training.

David was brought to the royal court to play the harp for Saul, and he also became his armour-bearer (1Samuel 16:15-23). This meant that David was able to learn about life in the royal palace and how to behave properly before the king. Notice that it was not David's bravery but his musical skills which got him a position in the royal court. It shows us that we should develop all our talents as we do not know which ones God might wish to use in His service. David was to be well-known not only as a king but as a writer of songs (the Psalms), which are still used today (though we often say them rather than singing them).

David was brave but he learned when it was necessary to stand up to an enemy and when it was necessary to retreat. He faced up to Goliath but he chose not to fight Saul when the king wanted to kill him. He escaped and went into hiding (1Samuel 19:11-12). So he became an outlaw. Other men came to join him until he had about four hundred men (1Samuel 22:1-2). They were not the easiest of men to deal with as they all had problems, but David learned how to be their leader and how to organise such things as where they could camp and how they would get enough food.

Often living near or beyond the borders of Saul's territory to be as far away from the king as they could, they would come into conflict with people who were enemies of Israel, so David had to learn to be a good military commander to win any battles they had to fight (1Samuel 23:1-5; 1Samuel 30:1-20). He learned to know right from wrong, twice refusing to kill King Saul (1Samuel 24:1-7; 1Samuel 26:5-11), though that would have made him king much sooner. He learned to treat people fairly, for example, he shared out the plunder of battle to all involved whether they had been engaged in the fighting or not (1Samuel 30:21-25).

THE TRIUMPH

Having to stay at school until you are sixteen or eighteen may seem a long time. David had twenty-five years of training in order to be a good king. Now, at last, was the time for the men of Judah to come and make him their king (2Samuel 2:4a).

David was a good king, the best king that Israel ever had. He reunited the country (2Samuel 5:1-5), though it took him nearly another eight years. He captured Jerusalem and made it his capital (2Samuel 5:6-10) and he defeated the enemies of Israel (2Samuel 5:17-25). He is commended in the Bible for his qualities as a king for it says that he ***'reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people'*** (2Samuel 8:15).

SUMMING UP

King David shows us that it is important to have all the training we can so that we are prepared, not just for the work and employment we may wish to do, but also for any work the Lord may wish us to undertake. Our training may be of many kinds, as was David's, but if we learn well we shall be able to serve the Lord to the very best of our ability in whatever we do. David started as a shepherd boy who could also play the harp but he ended up as a great and good king because he learned all he could from those who could teach him, guide and advise him and from the experiences of his life.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.” 2 Samuel 2:4a

ACTIVITIES

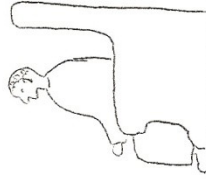
- Under 8s Activity Sheet - The King who had Training - 1
- Over 8s Activity Sheet - The King who had Training - 2
- Dramatised Bible page 265 – David is made king of Judah

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Teachers that they may make learning a happy experience
- All who are learners – in schools, colleges and on training courses – that they may have understanding of what they are being taught

The King who had training



Draw the elders of Israel who came to anoint David as king.
Behind the throne draw in some of David's family and friends.
Write in what the elders would have said to David as they anointed him as king.

The King who had Training

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

ADVICE LEARNER SAMUEL MEN OF JUDAH DAVID
SAUL HARP OUTLAW SHEPHERD BOY HEBRON
PSALMS TRAINING KING TWENTY FIVE PROPHET
LEADER OF MEN ROYAL COURT

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

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below to give the position which David finally had.



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

7. THE KING WHO LET EVERYONE DOWN

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

2 SAMUEL CHAPTERS 11 AND 12

TEACHING AIM

To learn that doing wrong may hurt many people and has its consequences

SETTING THE SCENE

Everything was going well for King David. The people were happy that he was king and, like the kings in the lands round about Israel, he was all-powerful. What he had to remember was that it was God who had made him king and the kings of Israel were to follow to God's laws. They couldn't have all they wanted just because they said so.

THE PROBLEMS DAVID FACED (2 SAMUEL 11)

It started as one problem. Although he already had six wives (at that time there was no legal limit to the number of wives you could have), David saw a beautiful women and was attracted to her. He was on the flat roof of his palace, enjoying the cool evening breeze. The palace would be taller than all the other buildings around so he could see onto all the other roofs and down into some of the courtyards, and he saw a beautiful women bathing (v2). He couldn't resist finding out who she was. He discovered that she was a married woman and her husband was Uriah the Hittite, one of the best men in his army. Unfortunately this made no difference to David and he invited her to the palace and began an affair with her (v4).

Deliberately doing wrong usually leads to other problems and we also often want to cover up our wrong doing. Bathsheba became pregnant (v5) so David wanted to cover up his affair, not least because women accused of adultery could be stoned to death. To try to cover it up, he recalled Uriah from the army (vv6-7) on the pretext of wanting some news about how the fighting was going. But Uriah didn't go home to Bathsheba so David's plan to make it appear that Uriah was the father of the baby failed.

That gave David a third problem. How could he get rid of Uriah so he could make Bathsheba his wife and so protect her from any consequences of his adultery with her? He came up with a terrible plan. He decided to arrange for Uriah to be killed in battle. He sent instructions to Joab, the commander of the army, telling him what to do (vv14-17).

THE PEOPLE DAVID LET DOWN

It began with one temptation, which David should have resisted, but it led to pain, distress and betrayal for many people, and the murder of Uriah.

By his actions, David

- let down his family
- betrayed the trust of his army commander and his soldiers, especially Uriah, one of his best soldiers

- caused sorrow and pain for Bathsheba and her family (2Samuel 11:26)
- failed the nation of Israel to whom he should have been setting a good example as their king
- let down himself
- let down God who had made him king

THE PENALTY DAVID SUFFERED (2 SAMUEL 12)

Deliberately doing wrong has consequences. Even marrying Bathsheba did not make things right. David may have thought that he had got away with his wrong-doing, but the prophet Nathan came to him and told him a story about a rich man who took away a poor man's only lamb (vv1-4). It made David very angry because it was about injustice and wrong-doing. When David wanted to know who the wrong-doer was so that he could punish him (vv5-6), Nathan revealed that the story was about David (vv7-10).

David immediately recognised that, in his wrong-doing, he had hurt God and let Him down (v13a) and he was sorry for what he had done and repented. He probably realised he had broken three of the Ten Commandments (commandments 10, 7 and 6 – see Exodus 20:1-17). He expected severe punishment from God, but Nathan told him that God would forgive his sin (v13b).

However, he could not escape the consequences, and there were many:

- the baby born to Bathsheba and David died – but they were to have another son who would be another great king, Solomon;
- Absalom, one of David's sons, rebelled against him and tried to seize the throne and become king in place of his father (2 Samuel 15:1-14);
- one of David's closest advisers, Ahithophel, who was also Bathsheba's grandfather, betrayed David and went to serve Absalom (2Samuel 15:31);
- Joab, the army commander, disobeyed David and killed Absalom (2Samuel 18:9-15).

SUMMING UP

The story of David's wrong-doing tells us:

- even the best-intentioned people can be tempted to do wrong things;
- one deliberate wrong-doing usually leads to other wrongs, especially when we try to cover up what we have done;
- although God forgives those who serve Him and confess their wrong-doings, because Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, we still have to face the consequences of our wrong actions.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“David ... said to Nathan, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die!’ Then Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’” (2Samuel 12:5, 7a)

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s - Activity Sheet – “The King who let everyone down – 1”
- Over 8S - Activity Sheet – “The King who let everyone down – 2”
- Dramatised Bible
 - pages 276-278 – David and Bathsheba
 - pages 278-279 – Nathan’s message and David’s repentance
 - page 279 – David’s son dies

PRAYER POINTS

- Ask God to forgive the wrong things you have done.
- Pray for those who have been hurt by your wrong actions and words.
- Ask Jesus to help you to do the right things.

God's Rules

1. You shall have _ _ _ _ _.
2. You shall not make _ _ _ _ _.
3. You shall not _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _.
4. Remember _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _.
5. Honour your _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _.
6. You shall not _ _ _ _ _.
7. You shall not _ _ _ _ _.
8. You shall not _ _ _ _ _.
9. You shall not _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _.
10. You shall not _ _ _ _ _ anything that
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _.

Using Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV), fill in the spaces to show the rules by which God asked David, and us, to live.

David and Bathsheba

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

ABSALOM EVENING NATHAN BATHSHEBA EWE LAMB
ROOF TOP BEAUTIFUL HITTITE SOLOMON DAVID
JOAB SON URIAH I HAVE SINNED
YOU ARE THE MAN DISPLEASED THE LORD

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

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below to give the names of the town which David's army was attacking when Uriah was killed.



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

8. KING WHO MADE A WISE CHOICE

SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

1 KINGS 3:3-28

TEACHING AIM

To understand we often need help to make the right choices.

SETTING THE SCENE

Just before King David died, he nominated his son Solomon to succeed him as king. Solomon was quite young, probably only in his early teens (v7), so he was taking on a big task, especially if he wanted to be as good a king as his father had been. He realised he needed help so he turned to God.

SOLOMON'S REQUEST

Read 1 Kings 3:3-9.

Because there was yet no extra-special place built for the worship of God, Solomon went to Gibeon. To show he loved God as his father David had done, he made a great sacrifice (v4). During the night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream and said He would give him anything he wanted (v5). What would you ask for if someone was as generous with you?

Young as he was, Solomon knew that asking for wealth or power or long life would not really help him to be a good king. Instead, after he had thanked God (v6), he asked for wisdom. He wanted to be wise enough to do two things well. Find out from verse 9 what they were. Which do you think is the more important?

GOD'S BEQUEST

Read 1 Kings 3:10-15.

God was pleased with Solomon's request (v10) because it meant that Solomon desired to be the kind of king that God wanted him to be. God is a generous God. He not only gave Solomon great wisdom (v11 and 1Kings 4:29) but He also gave him some of the things he might have asked for (vv13, 14). This made Solomon very pleased. How did he thank God? (v15).

Sometimes we forget to thank God for the things He gives us.

WISDOM'S TEST

Read 1Kings 3:16-28.

Wisdom is always tested. Our wisdom is tested when we have to decide what is the right thing to do rather than what is best for us. The Bible doesn't give us many examples of Solomon's wisdom, except in some of his sayings collected in the book of Proverbs and by telling us of his reputation (v28), but this is one example.

One of the things that the king was required to do (as the prophets had done before) was to act as a judge and make decisions in cases too difficult for others to decide. The example given in vv16-27 is what is often called The Judgement of Solomon. He has to decide between two women each claiming to be the mother of a child. Both had babies but one accidentally

smothered hers and swapped her dead child for the one still alive. In days before DNA tests and genetic fingerprinting, it would not be easy to decide which was the real mother. Solomon suggested a solution which seemed horrific, but it was a trick because he knew the real mother would give up her child rather than see it killed. He then could give the child back to the true mother.

SUMMING UP

Solomon asked God to help him make difficult decisions. We are encouraged to ask God to help us in the same way (James 1:5), though He may not make us quite as wise as Solomon was. We need help to know what is good and what is evil. God has already provided us with a way for He sent Jesus to show us how to live. Each of us can show wisdom by praying a prayer like Solomon's – 'Give me the wisdom I need to choose Jesus and follow Him.'

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"So give your servant a discerning heart ... to distinguish between right and wrong." 1 Kings 3:9

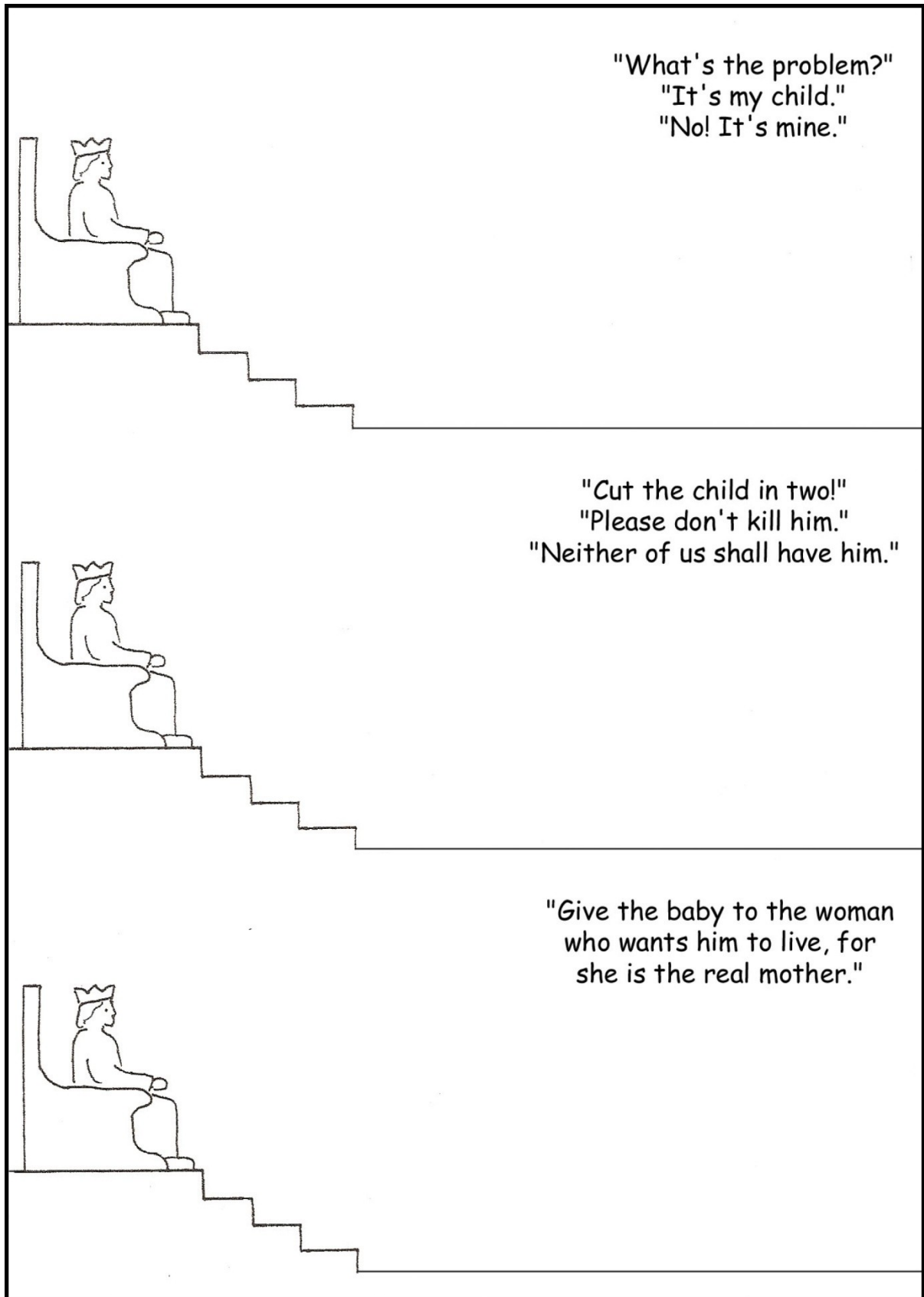
ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet " King who made a wise choice - 1"
- Over 8s Activity Sheet " King who made a wise choice - 2"
- Everyone: Look in a dictionary to see what 'wisdom' is.
- Read Psalm 72:1-4, a psalm of Solomon, to see what kind of a king he wanted to be.
- The Dramatised Bible pages 310-311 – Solomon prays for wisdom and pages 311-312 - Solomon judges a difficult case.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Wisdom to know what is right and wrong.
- The courage and strength to do what is right and avoid doing what is wrong.



In each picture, draw in the two women and the baby to show what happened.

Solomon asks for wisdom

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

SOLOMON DAVID NIGHT LIFE
LOVE FOR THE LORD WRONG RIGHT
GIBEON KING RICHES DEAD SON
DREAM DISCERNING HONOUR SWORD
MY FATHER HEART LONG WISDOM

L	G	R	A	N	O	M	O	L	O	S
O	I	E	S	K	F	W	R	O	N	G
V	B	H	E	A	R	T	O	R	W	N
E	E	T	F	N	I	G	H	T	H	I
F	O	A	I	A	C	M	T	N	E	N
O	N	F	L	V	H	O	N	O	U	R
R	G	Y	D	T	E	D	L	S	S	E
T	N	M	I	H	S	S	O	D	W	C
H	I	E	V	G	R	I	N	A	O	S
E	K	Y	A	I	O	W	G	E	R	I
L	O	R	D	R	E	A	M	D	D	D

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below as far as possible to see what God said to Solomon. Can you complete it?

--- (1Kings 3:5)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

9. THE QUEEN WHO COULDN'T BELIEVE HER EARS

QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON

1 KINGS 10:1-10

TEACHING AIM

To understand that our reputation reflects on Jesus.

SETTING THE SCENE

Solomon had now been king for some years and during this time he had made the country of Israel very important. His reputation for wisdom had become widely known in other countries.

THE QUEEN WHO COULDN'T BELIEVE HER EARS

Read 1Kings 10:1-3.

One of the people who heard about Solomon was the Queen of Sheba. She must have been a remarkable lady for, in those days, few women had any position or power. This lady was wealthy, powerful and important. Her country was in SW Arabia (the area known as Yemen today) and possibly also in NE Africa (the area known as Ethiopia today). It was the major centre in the trade of gold and spices.

She must have heard stories about:

- a. Solomon's wisdom – and couldn't believe them. So she wanted to test him (v1) and talk with him (v2b).
- b. Solomon's wealth – and couldn't believe them. So she wanted to show she was richer than he was. Look up what she brought as gifts to dazzle him (vv2, 10).
- c. Solomon's works – and couldn't believe how good they were. So she had to see the Temple and the royal palace he had built.
- d. Solomon's worship – and couldn't understand or believe the one true God (v1) he worshipped.

All the reports about Solomon said 'He's the Greatest!' The Queen was so intrigued by this that her curiosity made her determined to find out for herself what Solomon was like and if his reputation was true.

THE QUEEN WHO HAD TO BELIEVE HER EYES

Read 1Kings 10:4-8.

The Queen of Sheba set off to travel to Jerusalem to meet Solomon to see if the stories she had heard were true. That was a long journey in those days – about 1,250 miles (2,000kms) [how did she travel? (v2)]. Most of it was across desert areas but she came in style to impress him (v2). No doubt he had also heard stories of her and looked forward to meeting her.

What was her reaction when she met Solomon and had seen everything? She was certainly not disappointed. Verse 5 says ***“she was overwhelmed”***. That’s impressive! Read what she said to Solomon (vv6-8). What she had seen was even greater than what she had been told. She was more than impressed. He was the Greatest!

THE QUEEN WHO NEEDED TO BELIEVE HER HEART

Read 1Kings 10:9-10.

The Queen of Sheba was not just impressed with Solomon. The truth of his reputation also made her impressed with the God whom Solomon worshipped (v9). She recognised that it was God who had given Solomon such great wisdom and enabled him to make the country of Israel so rich and important. So she gave thanks to Solomon’s God.

We are not told whether she continued to believe in Solomon’s God and to worship Him when she returned home (v13). It is easy to praise God when we see something amazing that He has done but we are inclined to forget Him at other times. It is interesting that, in the New Testament, we can read of what happened nearly 1,000 years later when an Ethiopian came to Jerusalem to worship God (Acts 8:26-40). It could have been because the Queen of Sheba, or someone in her retinue, really did believe what her heart told her, that Solomon’s God was the Greatest, and told others about Him so that the good news was passed on down the generations.

The Ethiopian in Acts heard more good news, news about God’s gift of Jesus as our Saviour, and he went home as excited as the Queen of Sheba had been (Acts 8:39). He believed and, when he got home, he would have told others that Jesus is the Greatest.

SUMMING UP

We must be careful to see that our reputation is a good one. Just as Solomon’s reputation told the Queen of Sheba about God, so our reputation reflects on Jesus for good or ill. From what you hear and see of Jesus in the Bible and in true Christians, does your heart tell you that He is the Greatest? If so, believe in Him as your Saviour, follow Him as your Lord and gain a reputation which tells others how great He is.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“She said to the king, ‘The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true.’” (1 Kings 10:6)

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s: Activity Sheet “The Queen who couldn’t believe her ears - 1”
- Over 8s: Activity Sheet “The Queen who couldn’t believe her ears - 2”
- The Dramatised Bible pages 316-317 – The visit of the Queen of Sheba

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Those who have a good reputation that they may live up to it.
- Those who have a bad reputation that they may live it down.
- Yourself that your reputation may speak to others about the goodness and love of Jesus.



The Queen of Sheba brought many gifts to King Solomon.
Draw in some of the camels following her with their heavy loads, some of the Queen's attendants and King Solomon coming out of the city to meet her.

Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

QUEEN

JERUSALEM

PALACE

TEMPLE

SHEBA

CARAVAN

SERVANTS

THE LORD

TEST HIM

CAMELS

ROBES

SOLOMON GAVE

HARD

SPICES

BURNT

RETINUE

QUESTIONS

PRECIOUS

OFFERINGS

Q	U	E	E	N	T	A	B	E	H	S
U	T	E	S	T	H	I	M	O	A	O
E	S	U	B	E	E	C	O	F	R	L
S	E	N	U	M	L	A	E	F	D	O
T	C	I	R	P	O	M	C	E	C	M
I	I	T	N	L	R	E	A	R	A	O
O	P	E	T	E	D	L	L	I	R	N
N	S	R	O	B	E	S	A	N	A	G
S	U	O	I	C	E	R	P	G	V	A
S	T	N	A	V	R	E	S	S	A	V
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	N	E

Which letter is left over? _

Turn it into a number to find how much was too hard for Solomon to explain to the Queen of Sheba.

_____ (1Kings 10:3)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

10. THE KING WHO KEPT TO THE PLAN

BUILDING THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 5-6

TEACHING AIM

To learn that planning is important if projects are to be completed successfully, whether they are big or little projects.

SETTING THE SCENE

One of the things that King David did was to capture the city of Jerusalem from the Jebusites. It is sometimes called the City of David as he made it his capital and built a palace for himself (2Samuel 5:6-11). But he became worried because the Ark of the Lord, the symbol of God's presence with the people of Israel, was kept in a tent, even though it was a special tent. He felt that the Ark should be housed in a building, a temple, at least as good as his own palace (2Samuel 7:1-2). However, God gave the prophet Nathan a message for David that he was not to build a temple but God would allow David's son to do it (2Samuel 7:12-13).

THE PREPARED PLANS (1 CHRONICLES 28:1-19)

I'm not sure that David was happy about not being allowed to build the Temple because that was one of his greatest wishes. Nevertheless, if that was what God said, it had to be. But he continued to think and pray about this special building, what it should be like and how it should be organised. Because of his prayerful concern, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to David about the building and David wrote down all the detailed instructions about it (vv12, 19). So David was able to hand on to his son, Solomon, the blueprint for the design of the Temple, plans prepared through God's guidance.

Many people like to do their own thing but Solomon was wise enough to realise that, if the plan had God's approval, it needed to be kept to and not changed. David encouraged Solomon to carry out the work and build the Temple that he had hoped to build.

THE EFFORT NEEDED (1 KINGS 5)

Having a plan was only the beginning. Building the Temple required much organisation and large amounts of materials and all this was costly. Timber had to be bought from King Hiram of Tyre (vv10-11) and brought from Lebanon (vv8-9), and stone had to be quarried. King David knew that the decoration of the Temple had to be special so he donated a large amount of gold and persuaded the people to do the same.

Many men were involved in the work (vv13-16), cutting down the timber, quarrying the stone, moving the materials to Jerusalem and constructing the Temple. Solomon had to organise all this so that his father's plan could be fulfilled. It all required a lot of planning. The project to build the Temple took seven years to complete.

THE TEMPLE COMPLETED (1 KINGS 6)

Finally, after seven years of work, the building was completed and would be spoken of as the Temple as it was the most important place where God would be worshipped. It was not a large building by modern standards but it was one of the most impressive buildings in Jerusalem as it was built of stone and elaborately decorated. This made it very special as King David's palace had only been built of cedar wood. It fulfilled David's desire for a building worthy to house the Ark of the Covenant.

The Temple was probably only about 27 metres long, 13.5 metres wide and 9 metres high, but was inside a much larger area. The details of the carvings and furnishings are described in 1Kings 6; 7:13-51. Inside the Temple was a special room called the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place and in this was placed the Ark of the Covenant which Solomon arranged for the priest to bring into Jerusalem (1Kings 8:1-9)

SUMMING UP

All events require some planning, even just a day out to the country or the seaside. Ask your mother what plans she has to make for these. And we all make plans for what we want to do when we grow up. But we should remember that Jesus also has plans for us. There are things that only we can do for Him. We should try to discover what these may be and, like Solomon, stick to the plan handed on to us by God's grace.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"David also said to Solomon his son, 'Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.'" (1 Chronicles 28:20)

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet - "The King who kept to the Plan – 1"
- Over 8s: Activity Sheet - "The King who kept to the Plan – 2"
- Dramatised Bible pages 312-313 - Solomon prepares to build the Temple

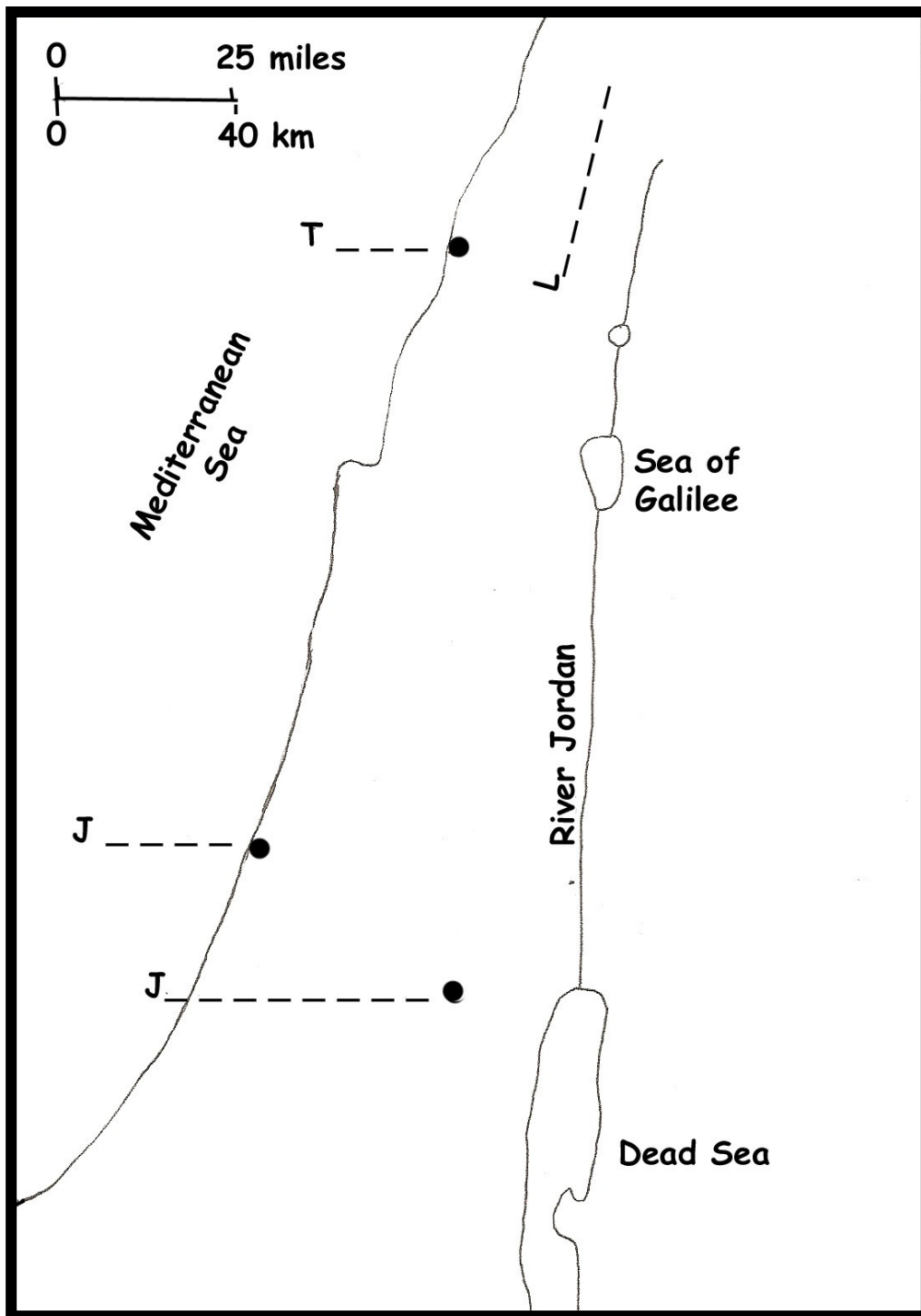
PRAYER POINTS

Pray for those who are involved in planning and for the plans that they make:

- Those in the government making plans for the future of the country.
- Those in your church making plans for services and outreach.
- The leaders of your Society making plans for your meetings.
- Your parents making plans for your family.

The King who kept to the Plan

Map the route



To build the Temple, cedar trees were cut down in Lebanon and taken to the port of **Tyre**. There they were tied together to form rafts and floated down the coast to **Joppa**. Then they were untied and the logs carried to **Jerusalem**.

Fill the names of the places on the map, draw in the route and, using the scale, find out how far the wood had to be moved.

The King who kept to the Plan

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

CARVED

LOGS

SIXTY

CUBITS

CEDAR

OLIVE OIL

STAIRWAYS

CHERUBIMS PALM TREES

STONE

DAVID

PORTICO

TEMPLE

KING SOLOMON

PURE GOLD

TYRE

LABOURERS SEVEN YEARS ZIV

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

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below to discover the area from which King Hiram of Tyre obtained the cedar wood for Solomon.



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

11. THE KING WHO WAS BULLIED

HEZEKIAH FACING UP TO ASSYRIA

2 KINGS 18:13-35; 19:1-20, 32-37

TEACHING AIM

To learn how to handle bullying.

SETTING THE SCENE

Hezekiah was king of Judah about 716-687BC. The Bible tells us he was a good king (2Kings 18:3-5) but his kingdom was quite small. It was only about 3,435 square miles (8,897 square kilometres), that is less than half the size of Wales. But to the east was a very large empire, the Assyrian empire, which had grown to be over 100 times as large as Judah and had conquered the surrounding lands, including Israel, Judah's northern neighbour. Assyria had the largest and best army of all the nations and it was said to be unbeatable. The rulers of Assyria did not think twice about threatening the countries around them and demanding the payment of tribute money from them. If they refused, the Assyrian army would be sent to capture the land, often taking the people away to other parts of the empire. This happened to Israel in 722BC (2Kings 18:11).

GIVE UP (2 KINGS 18:13-16)

It was probably not long afterwards that Assyria demanded payment from Judah as 'protection money.' The king had to give up some of the country's wealth so that Assyria would not attack it. It had to be paid every year and was a sign that the king recognised that Assyria was the great power and that he would obey its king. It seems that Hezekiah, to protect his land and people from invasion, agreed to pay the tribute money. But when the king of Assyria died, Hezekiah and some other small kingdoms on the fringes of Assyria thought it was a good opportunity to stop paying (2Kings 18:7) and they turned to the kingdom of Egypt, the other major power in the area, for support.

It was only a matter of time before the new king of Assyria decided to assert his authority. So, about 701BC, Sennacherib sent his army to capture the fortified cities which defended the borders of Judah (v13). Archaeologists have found a baked clay tablet which records that Sennacherib captured 46 cities in Judah. Hezekiah, fearful that the Assyrians would attack his capital, Jerusalem, and kill all the people, sent an apology to Sennacherib (v14) and agreed to pay whatever sum of money he demanded as a penalty for his rebellion. The fine which Sennacherib imposed was a large one. In today's terms it would be about 10 tons of silver and 1 ton of gold. To get that amount together, Hezekiah had to give up things which were quite special (vv15-16).

GIVE IN (2 KINGS 18:17-35)

Sennacherib was not satisfied with this. He wanted all of Judah under his control so he sent his army to besiege Jerusalem (v17). His top commanders, including the Rabshakeh, came to

persuade the citizens not to listen to King Hezekiah but to give in and surrender to his army. He said he would make life easy for them if they did (vv31-32) but there was the threat of death if they didn't co-operate (v32). To make them understand that they really didn't stand a chance if his army attacked the city, he warned them that they were no match for his forces (vv19-20) and he had come to destroy the city (v25). He reminded them of the terrible conditions they faced if the siege of the city went on for a long time (v27). He told them that Egypt could not help them (v21), that Hezekiah was no use (v29) and that even God was no longer on their side (v25) because no god had been able to stand against the might of Assyria (vv32b-35). You can imagine how the people in Jerusalem would have felt. It is likely that many would have wanted to give in and surrender to the Assyrians and hope that the Assyrians would keep their word and treat them kindly.

STAND FIRM (2 KINGS 19:1-20, 32-37)

Hezekiah was as distressed and troubled by the Assyrian threats as his subjects were (vv1; 3), especially when he got another threatening message from Sennacherib (vv9-13). But he didn't give up or give in. Instead he did three things:

1. He turned to his friends for support (v2a);
2. He asked someone he could trust, Isaiah the prophet, for advice and help (vv2b-4);
3. He prayed to God and told Him about the problem and the threats Assyria had made

(v14-19). Hezekiah recognised that such threats and the Assyrians claim that God was not able to help the people of Jerusalem were an insult to God Himself.

Isaiah gave Hezekiah good news from God which encouraged him to stand firm. Jerusalem would not be captured by the Assyrians (vv32-34) and Sennacherib would return home and be killed (vv5-7).

And that is precisely what happened (vv35-37). Some deadly disease struck down the Assyrian army camped round Jerusalem, killing many men overnight, so Sennacherib went back home to Nineveh and never again threatened Judah.

SUMMING UP

Even rulers and nations can be bullied by bigger and more powerful ones. It still happens today and is done in many ways. Bullying in any form is wrong and God does not like it.

If we are being bullied, or know someone who is, we can do the same as Hezekiah. We can turn to our friends for support, or give them our support if they need it. We can ask someone we trust, preferably an adult like our parents or teacher or minister, for help and advice. And we can tell God all about it and ask for His help.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: ‘O Lord, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; listen to the words of Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God.’” (2 Kings 19:15-16)

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet - “The King who was bullied – 1”
- Over 8s Activity Sheet - “The King who was bullied – 2”
- The Dramatised Bible:
 - pages 368-370 The Assyrians threaten Jerusalem
 - pages 370-371 The King asks Isaiah’s advice
 - pages 371-372 Isaiah’s message to King Hezekiah

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for those:

- Who are being bullied, especially those you know.
- Who are doing the bullying that they may learn that it is wrong and that they should help not harm

Sennacherib's Letter

From Sennacherib, ruler of the Assyrian Empire to
Hezekiah, King of Judah.

Signed: Sennacherib

Using 2 Kings 19:10-13, write out the threatening letter which Sennacherib sent to Hezekiah.

The King who was bullied

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

ASSYRIA GOLD LETTER COMMANDER
GREAT ARMY MESSENGERS DEAD BODIES HEZEKIAH
PAY DELIVER ISAIAH SENNACHERIB
DISTRESS JERUSALEM SILVER EGYPT
JUDAH TEMPLE

S	Y	M	R	A	T	A	E	R	G	S
J	H	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	O	E
E	A	I	D	E	S	H	L	E	L	I
R	I	S	N	G	A	A	P	V	D	D
U	K	T	A	Y	I	D	M	L	Y	O
S	E	R	M	P	A	U	E	I	A	B
A	Z	E	M	T	H	J	T	S	P	D
L	E	S	O	A	I	R	Y	S	S	A
E	H	S	C	R	E	T	T	E	L	E
M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	S	D
S	E	N	N	A	C	H	E	R	I	B

With the one remaining letter to start the word can you fill in the spaces below from 2 Kings 19:1 to find what King Hezekiah put on when he went to pray in the Temple?



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

12. THE KING WHO PLAYED EXTRA TIME

HEZEKIAH'S SICKNESS AND FAILURE

2 KINGS 20:1-21

TEACHING AIM

To understand that Jesus wants us to play our best right to the end of the match.

SETTING THE SCENE

Hezekiah was a king of Judah and he lived about 700BC. By this time Solomon's kingdom had been divided into two parts, the kingdom of Israel in the north and the smaller kingdom of Judah in the south. For most of Hezekiah's reign, Judah was threatened by the large and powerful empire of Assyria.

NORMAL TIME: HEZEKIAH'S EXAMPLE

Read 2Kings 18:1-7.

As king of Judah, Hezekiah was in effect the captain of the 'team,' his nation. Not all the kings of Judah or of Israel set good examples, but Hezekiah was one who did. The writer of the Book of Kings gave him a good report (2Kings 18:3, 5-6) for he had always tried to serve God. He put right some of the wrong things done in the reign of his father, Ahaz, when people had been worshipping other gods (2Kings 18:4). So God was with him. Hezekiah also strengthened the defences of Jerusalem against possible attack by the Assyrians and had a tunnel dug, which still exists, to bring a supply of water into the city in case of siege (2 Kings 20:20).

FINAL WHISTLE: HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS

Read 2Kings 20:1-11.

There came a time when the final whistle seemed to have been blown on the career of Hezekiah's life. Not only did he feel very sick but the prophet Isaiah came to tell him he was dying (2Kings 20:1). That couldn't have been very encouraging. No wonder that he turned his face away and prayed to the Lord. Notice that he didn't ask God for anything, not even to help him recover, but just for God to remember him at this difficult moment and how he had been faithful to Him (v3). Then he broke down in tears.

Before Isaiah could leave the king's palace, God gave him good news for Hezekiah. And what good news it was – he would be healed; he would have 15 more years to live; and the Assyrians would not capture the city of Jerusalem. However, Hezekiah felt so ill, he could hardly believe he would recover, never mind have long-term prospects, so he asked Isaiah for a sign (v8) and God made the shadow of the sundial go backwards as Hezekiah requested (vv9-11). The fig poultice doesn't sound very nice but it worked wonders and Hezekiah, on the point of being stretchered off the field of play for ever, was fit to play on.

EXTRA TIME: HEZEKIAH'S VISITORS

Read 2Kings 20:12-21.

It is not often that anyone knows precisely how long they have to live, but Hezekiah now did. Would you feel good or bad about knowing? Hezekiah should have been so grateful for all his extra time and shown it by continuing to serve God. It didn't work out like that.

Some visitors arrived from Babylon with greetings and a present (a kind of 'Get Well' card?) from the king. He seemed to be friendly as he also didn't like the Assyrians. Because Hezekiah was so delighted with the visit, and also at feeling so much better, look what he did (v13). He showed them all he had – his wealth, his weapons and his land. He didn't realise that he was giving away important information about the strength, the tactics and the training of his own team to the visitors. It was like giving away free kicks, penalties and own goals. Worse still, when Isaiah questioned him (v15), he talked about my palace, my treasures. He was showing off. There was not a word about the God who had so miraculously healed him and who had helped him all his life. The king, who had played well up to the full time whistle, was now forgetting the God who had allowed him extra time.

Isaiah had some bad news for him. Babylonia would become the new opposition, and would eventually win, with dreadful consequences for the people of Judah (vv16-18). Hezekiah showed how far he had turned from God's ways when he said 'At least I'll be alright' (v19). He was only concerned for himself. Worst of all, in his last 15 years he failed to bring up his son Manasseh properly so that Manasseh was one of the worst of the kings of Judah (2Kings 21:16-17). In extra time, Hezekiah did badly.

SUMMING UP

How well are you playing the game of life? It is no good starting well and finishing badly. Jesus wants us to follow Him all our life, to be in His team and play well right to the end.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend his city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.' (2 Kings 20:6)

ACTIVITIES

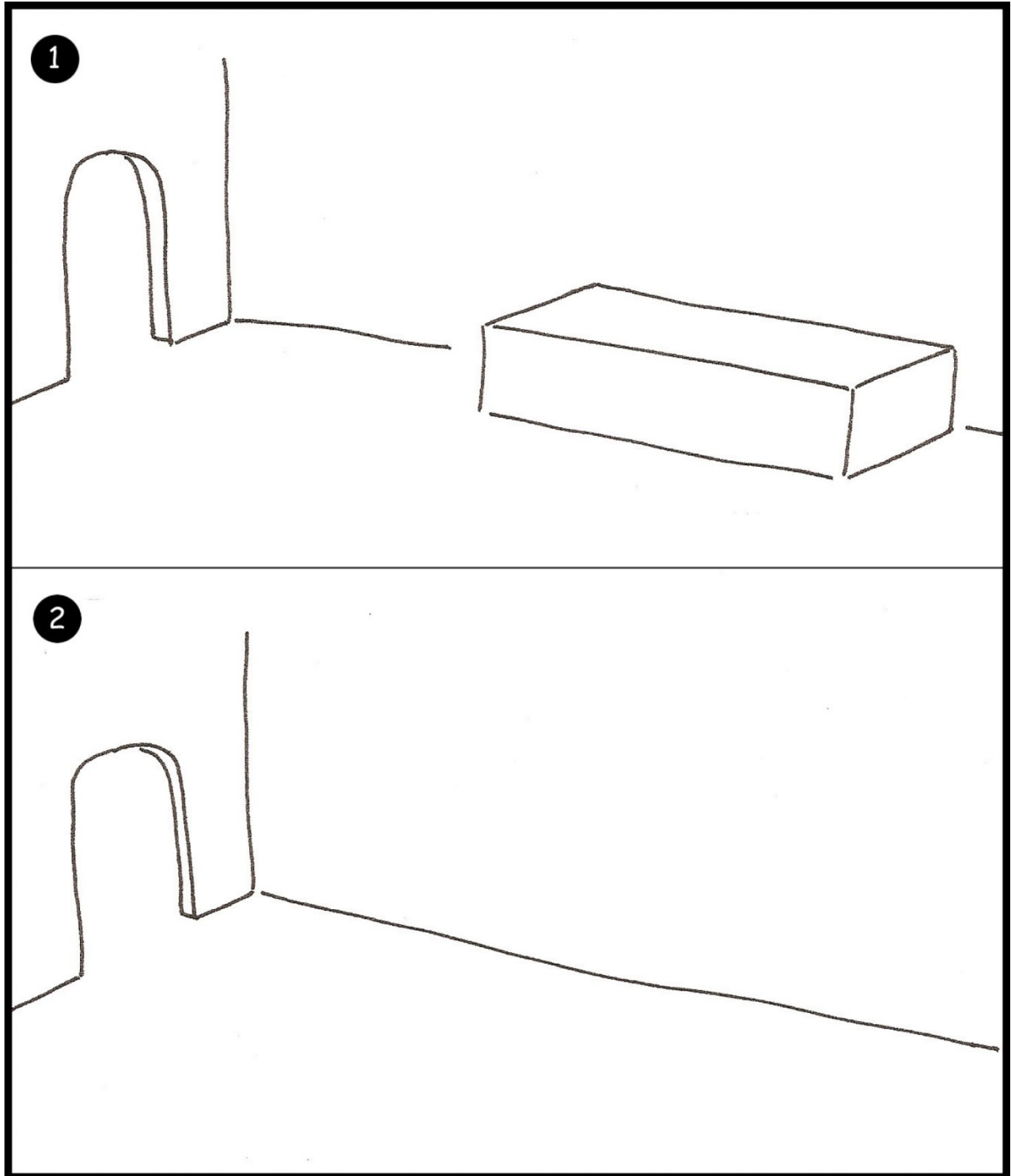
- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The King who played extra time - 1"
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The King who played extra time - 2"
- The Dramatised Bible pages 372-373 – King Hezekiah's illness and recovery and page 373 – Messengers from Babylon.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Young Christians that they may learn the rules which Jesus sets and be able to follow them.
- People who are coming to the end of their life that they may not forget that God still loves them.

Hezekiah's sickness and failure



In Picture 1 draw in a sad Hezekiah being told by Isaiah that he is going to die.

In picture 2 draw in a happy Hezekiah and the things he was showing to the visitors from Babylon.

Hezekiah

Find the following words in the Wordsearch.

HEZEKIAH PRAYED FIGS BACK ALL
BECAME ILL FIFTEEN SHADOW STAIRWAY GOLD
ISAIAH YEARS TEN AHAZ SPICES
WEPT POULTICE STEPS SHOWED FINE
BITTERLY OIL

P	I	L	L	I	E	M	A	C	E	B
R	T	S	W	I	H	A	I	A	S	I
A	E	T	L	S	L	O	H	S	E	T
Y	N	A	S	H	A	I	L	G	Y	T
E	E	I	P	O	U	L	T	I	C	E
D	E	R	I	W	E	N	I	F	S	R
T	T	W	C	E	B	A	C	K	T	L
P	F	A	E	D	O	S	R	A	E	Y
E	I	Y	S	D	L	O	G	H	P	L
W	F	W	O	D	A	H	S	A	S	L
H	E	Z	E	K	I	A	H	Z	U	A

With the letters left over, fill in the spaces below to find the first piece of good news from God that Isaiah gave to Hezekiah.

— — — — — (2Kings 20:5)



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

13. THE KING WHO TURNED THE SWORD ON HIS PEOPLE

JOSIAH REFORMS ISRAEL

2 CHRONICLES 34

TEACHING AIM

To show how important it is to read God's Word and obey it.

SETTING THE SCENE

Do matching exercise on Activity Sheet 2. God's Word is the most important book in the world. It tells us how to live to please God and warns us of the punishment for disobeying Him. Many years ago, a young king cried out to God for forgiveness when he heard God's Word read. Let's find out who he was.

GOD'S WORD IGNORED

Read verses 1-2.

Josiah came to the throne when he was only eight years old because his father, who had been a bad king, was assassinated.

Q. What sort of young boy was Josiah (v2)?

Read verses 3-7.

Q. What age was he when he began to seek the Lord (v3)?

It's very important to start following God when you're young for He'll guide you in the right direction in life.

The nation was in an awful state. The people had disobeyed God's Word and turned to worshipping idols and building altars to them.

Q. How was this disobeying God's Word? Read Deut 5:7-8.

When he was twenty, Josiah started to smash all these idols and pull down the altars to them throughout the land. We must keep away from wrong things and make God number One in our lives?

Q. Can you name some of the idols people worship today?

GOD'S WORD DISCOVERED

Summarise vv8-13.

Josiah's next job was to repair God's house which the previous kings had neglected. Money to buy materials and pay the workmen was brought to the High Priest, Hilkiah. Then something very dramatic happened. What was it?

Read verses 14-18.

Can you imagine only one Bible in the whole land and it had gone missing. We don't read that anyone, even the High Priest, had looked for it. But now it was discovered, sent to King Josiah and part of it read to him. We've plenty of Bibles in our land but many people don't bother to read God's Word. Do you read God's Word?

GOD'S WORD OBEYED

Read verse 19.

Q. How do we know that the king was very distressed when he heard God's Word?

He knew that God was very angry with the people because they hadn't done what his Word said so he sent messengers to ask God's prophetess what exactly this meant for him and his people. When they went to the prophetess, she explained.

In pairs, read verses 24-28 and write down what God said would happen to:

- i. the people of Israel
- ii. the king.

When the king heard this, he called together all the people of the land.

Q. What did he do at the meeting (v30)?

Fill in the gaps in the Activity Sheet 2 to find three things the king promised to do in the presence of his people (v31)?

Q. What did he make the people do (v32)?

Josiah knew that God was going to punish the people because they had rejected Him. God spared Josiah from the disaster that was coming because he had humbled himself before God. He wanted to warn the people so he read them God's own words rather than just telling them what to do. God will punish you for your sins if you don't turn to Him for forgiveness. If you're a Christian, are you warning others about what God's Word says?

SUMMING UP

Josiah was a good king. He destroyed the altars and idols that the people had set up. When God's Word was read to him, he humbled himself and publicly promised to obey and serve God all the days of his life. God's anger is on all who disobey Him. If you haven't done so, will you turn now to God for forgiveness? Remember to read and obey God's Word.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Ps 119:105

ACTIVITIES

- Activity Sheet “The King who turned the Sword on his people - 1”.
- Activity Sheet “The King who turned the Sword on his people - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God that we all can have a Bible.
- Pray for the Queen and the Royal family.
- Pray that many will read God’s Word and obey it.

The King who turned the Sword on his people

Cross out the wrong words

1. Josiah was 8 / 18 years old when he became king.
2. He built up / pulled down the altars to idols.
3. Josiah was very sad / glad when he heard God's Word.
4. Josiah promised / did not promise to obey God's commands.

Use the code below to find what Josiah did when he heard the words of the Law.

8 5 6 2 3 4 7 6 5 1 2 7

Code

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
B E H I O R S T

Colour in the some of the letters below to find the memory verse and then learn it.

YOYOURISWORDA AIS
AAMPLAMPTHTOTMYM
FEFEETANANDTHEALI
LIGHTFFORRMYPATH

The King who turned the Sword on his people

Can you match the following books with the information they contain? One of them is done for you.

Gardening book

Bible

Dictionary

Atlas

History book

Medical Book

Date of the Battle of Hastings

Symptoms of German measles

The name of the river that runs through Paris.

The meaning of a French word.

The method of planting roses.

Living to please God.

There are many books on different subjects but

The Bible is different from them all.

It's God's Word and tells us how to live to please God and warns of the consequences of disobeying Him.

Everyone needs to read this guide.

Fill in the gaps using the words below to find three things the king promised to do.

words

covenant

soul

renewed

all

obey

Lord

follow

commands

heart

The king stood and r_____ the c_____ in the presence of the L_____. He promised to f_____ the Lord and keep his c_____ with all his h_____ and a_____ his s_____ and to o_____ the w_____ of the covenant



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

1. THE LOVING FATHER

LUKE 15:11-32

TEACHING AIM

To show that God wants us and loves us.

SETTING THE SCENE

Jesus tells a story about a family, two boys and their father. The younger one is selfish, takes all he can and leaves home. After a while he loses everything, becomes destitute, and becomes known as the Prodigal Son. At home are a loving father and another awkward son.

THE SELFISH BOY

The younger boy demanded his share of the family wealth, although he had no right to it until his father had died. Nevertheless his father gave him the one third that he would have inherited. So he packed his bags and off he went to a distant country where he wasted his money, probably by throwing wild parties, drinking and going to gambling dens.

Q. What kind of things do you think he got up to?

Q. What kind of friends do you think he had?

Just at the time when he had spent his last penny, a dreadful famine occurred. His friends left him, so he had no money, he had no friends. The only job he could get was to look after pigs, which was not only a dirty job but, for a Jew, the pig was an unclean animal, which should be neither touched nor eaten.

So the younger boy had sunk to the lowest of the low. He was starving.

THE SORRY BOY

Then all of a sudden he got some sense into his head. He thought of home, remembering that the servants were treated better than he was; they had more than enough to eat. He knew he had no right to go back as the son of the family, yet he was hopeful that, if he said he was sorry, his father might give him a job as a servant. So he set off on the long journey home.

Q. What did he plan to say? - *Read verses 18-19*

THE LOVING FATHER WELCOMES HIS SON

This story describes the father always looking out for his wayward son; he must have been looking out for a very long time, ever since he first went away. Read verse 20.

The father was full of forgiveness; he ran to his son, hugged him and kissed him.

The very first thing the son said to his father was that he had sinned against heaven and him and was not worthy to be called his son, but, before he could get another word in, his father had taken over the situation.

Q. What did he mean to say? - See verses 18-19.

His prodigal son had returned and with great joy he restored him to his place in the family by giving orders to the servants. Read what the father said in verses 22-24.

The words of the father sum it all up, ***“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found”***.

This is the story of God’s great love for everyone. No matter how sinful we have been, God is waiting to welcome each one into His family, calling each His son or daughter.

THE AWKWARD BROTHER

Then there was the other brother, who had remained at home working hard, keeping the farm going. When he returned from his day’s work, he heard the music and dancing. So he asked a servant what was going on. He was told that his long lost brother had returned, and his father had killed the fattened calf for a feast and celebration. On hearing this, he stubbornly refused to go in, so his father had to go out to him, pleading with him to join in the party.

The elder son argued that it was not fair. Read Luke 15:29-30.

In verses 31-32 we are told what the father said.

SUMMING UP

This is really a story of two Prodigal Sons, one outside the Church and the other inside the Church. For both of them God the father has given everything. As soon as anyone wants to know Him, God is there welcoming him into the family. However, those of us within the Church need to remind ourselves that we are loved by God and enjoy being with Him in His family.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found”. Luke 15:24

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The loving father - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The loving father - 2”.
- “The Prodigal Son” in the Ladybird series

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks to God that He loves us as His children.
- Ask God to help us welcome every newcomer to our group, that they too will feel part of God’s family.
- Thank God for the parties and celebrations we have in His Church.

The loving father

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. The man had two sons.

T F

2. The older one asked for his money.

T F

3. There was a famine where the son went.

T F

4. The son fed sheep in the field.

T F

5. The father gave his son a ring.

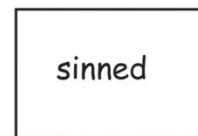
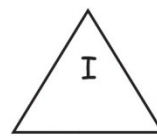
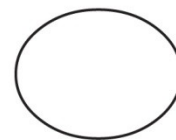
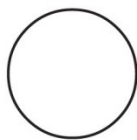
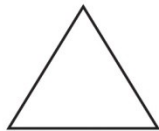
T F

6. The older son was pleased.

T F

Unscramble

Cut out the shapes below and place them in the shapes above to find what the son said to his father.



The loving father

Replace the missing words with words from the list below:

sinned, distant, celebrate, brother, everything, kissed, music, angry, anything, calf, share

A man had two sons and the younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my _____ of the estate." So he divided his property between them.

The younger son got together all he had, set off for a _____ country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. When he had spent everything, there was a severe famine. He went to work and was sent into the fields to feed pigs. He was very hungry but no-one gave him _____.

When he came to his senses, he realised that his father's hired men had food to spare, and that he was starving. I will go back to my father and say: "Father, I have _____ against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men." So he got up and went to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and, filled with compassion, ran to his son, threw his arms around him and _____ him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened _____ and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard _____ and dancing. He asked a servant what was going on. "Your _____ has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

The older brother became _____ and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could _____ with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and _____ I have is yours."



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

2. THE GOOD SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:25-37

TEACHING AIM

To answer the question, "Who is my neighbour?"

SETTING THE SCENE

The scene is set on the rocky road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a distance of 17 miles. From Jerusalem it was a long winding descent, from 2500 feet above sea level to 800 feet below sea level. Apart from it being a very physically demanding route, it was highly dangerous as many robbers attacked travellers on this road.

THE STORY JESUS TOLD

In this story there are four characters, the victim, a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan.

THE VICTIM

We know little about him, except that he was attacked, robbed and left to die. It was customary for travellers on this road to join a caravan or group of travellers, for there was safety in numbers. This man travelled alone, and he had no one to blame but himself.

THE PRIEST

If the victim was foolish so was the priest, for he too journeyed alone. When the priest saw the injured man, he crossed the road away from him and hurried on. Why didn't he stop?

He was on his way to take part in the Temple ceremonies in Jerusalem. There were so many priests that they had to take their turns in rota. If the man had been dead and the priest had touched him, he would have been unclean for seven days and would have missed his place on the rota for a whole year for the next opportunity. His religious duties came before helping an injured man.

THE LEVITE

He was a Temple official, another religious man. Foolishly he too was on his own. He approached the injured man, looked at him and went on his way. He played safe. Sometimes a robber pretended that he was injured, acting as a decoy, so, when someone stopped to help, the rest of the gang would attack.

THE SAMARITAN

He also was on his own! When he saw the injured man, he went to his aid, giving first aid treatment, taking him to an inn and nursing him. When he left, he gave money to the inn keeper to look after him until he was well enough to continue his journey, and any extra bills

he would settle when he passed by again. The innkeeper must have known him, for he was probably a commercial traveller who frequently used the inn.

WHY DID JESUS TELL THE STORY?

A religious man tried to trip up Jesus by asking a question. Read Luke 10:25-29. When the man finally asked, **“Who is my neighbour?”** Jesus answered by telling this story. The man and all the people listening were shocked when at the end of the story Jesus asked them which of the three acted like a neighbour. The man would not use the word ‘Samaritan’, for the Jews hated the Samaritans, so all he could say was, **“the one who showed mercy”**.

SUMMING UP

The Jews would have said the person next door, or someone who lived nearby was his neighbour. Jesus said our neighbour is a foreigner, even someone we hate or despise. Our neighbour is everyone in the world. Wherever someone is in need, even if it is their own fault, if we can, we should show care to them.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“He answered: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”
Luke 10:27

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The Good Samaritan - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The Good Samaritan - 2”.
- Discuss together how you might put on this story as a play using a modern setting. Who would be the victim? The Priest? The Levite? And the Samaritan?

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- Someone you know who is not well.
- The people of a troubled part of the world that you know about.
- Your next door neighbour and the people in your street.

The Good Samaritan

Cross out the wrong words

1. A man asked Jesus "what must I do to inherit **eternal** / **long** life?"
2. The man who was attacked was a **Jew** / **Samaritan**.
3. He was travelling from Jerusalem to **Bethlehem** / **Jericho**.
4. The man who was attacked was travelling **alone** / **with his friends**.
5. The first man to pass him by was a **Priest** / **Levite**.
6. The injured man was taken to the inn by the **Levite** / **Samaritan**.
7. A religious man asked Jesus "Who is my **neighbour** / **enemy**?"
8. The man gave **two** / **three** silver coins to the innkeeper.

Jig Saw Puzzle

Cut out the shapes below and paste them in the squares to find three people Jesus mentioned in the story.

SAM

PR

LEV

IENT

ITE

ARITAN

The Good Samaritan

Crack the Code

Use the code below to find what the man asked Jesus

23 8 15 9 19 13 25 14 5 9 7 8 2 15 21 18

Now use the code to find out how to treat your neighbour.

12 15 22 5 25 15 21 18 14 5 9 7 8 2 15 21 18
1 19 25 15 21 18 19 5 12 6

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Unjumble

Unjumble the words to fill the gaps.

One day an expert in the **wal** stood up to test Jesus.

He asked "Teacher, what must I do to inherit **renalet** life?"

Jesus asked "What is **twenrit** in the Law?"

He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your **rathe** and with all your **lous** and with all your **grethstn** and with all your **dimn**; and, **voel** your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus replied, "You have answered correctly, do this and you will **evil**."

The man, however, wanted to **stifjuy** himself, so he asked Jesus, "who is my **?**"

bighouren

In reply Jesus **dolt** the story we **wonk** as the Good Samaritan.



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

3. THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

MATTHEW 7:24-27

TEACHING AIM

To show that Jesus is the only guide for life.

SETTING THE SCENE

Jesus places the story in Israel during the hot season when a river has dried up completely. The sandy shore makes it an attractive place to build a house, and this has been the case with some foolish people who did not appreciate that in the rainy season the river bed became a raging torrent, washing away everything in its path.

A house built on the sand would fall and be washed away.

A wise man would find a rocky area, and on that foundation construct a house which would withstand the rain and the river.

THE MAN WHO AVOIDED WORK

Jesus describes a foolish man who didn't look further than his nose. He did not think. The place looked attractive and so he built his house on the sand. He didn't think about a foundation. Even if he had, it would have meant a lot of work, and the house would have looked no better for it. So he found a short cut.

Q. What was missing? - *The foundation.*

THE MAN WHO DID NOT THINK

The house the man built was probably very attractive. He was concerned about looks. Not only did he not think about a foundation, he did not think about the way in which the weather changed throughout the year, for after the sunny period came the rains. It happened every year without fail. And, when it rained, it was torrential turning dry river beds into cascading torrents.

Q. What was going to happen? - *It was going to rain heavily.*

THE MAN WHO KNEW WHAT TO DO

In the story Jesus talked about another man who was wise, he knew what to do. By the river side he found a rocky area, where he dug a foundation, on which he then built his house. He was ready for all kinds of weather. When the winter rains came, and the river flooded, his house stood firm.

Q. What had this man done? - *He built on a foundation.*

Q. What did Jesus say?

Jesus said that if you obey His words and teaching you will have a firm foundation for your life. This happens when we read what Jesus said and what Jesus did. This we find in the Bible, and particularly in the four Gospels, that is Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read part of it regularly, a few verses every day, and you will discover that Jesus is showing us the way to live.

Q. What did Jesus say? - *Obey My teachings.*

SUMMING UP

This story is a reminder to build your life on a lasting foundation, on Jesus as your Saviour and on His teachings. This means reading the words of Jesus. These can be found in the Four Gospels. Resolve to start building that foundation by trusting Jesus and reading part of the Gospels each day.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” Matthew 7:24

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The wise and foolish builders - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The wise and foolish builders - 2”.
- Have a supply of trays, sand, pebbles and jugs of water. Place a small book under one end of the tray, then on the tray make a small sand castle, alongside which lay some pebbles. Gently pour the water over the sand and the pebbles, noting how the sand is washed away while the pebbles remain in their position.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank Jesus for:

- Teaching us how to live.
- Putting His teachings in such lovely stories.

Pray that:

- God will help us to obey His teachings.

The wise and foolish builders

True or False

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. The wise man built his house on the rock.

T F

2. The rain and the winds beat against the wise man's house and it fell.

T F

3. The foolish man built his house on the sand.

T F

4. The foolish man's house stood firm when the rains came.

T F

5. If we believe in Jesus, we are like the wise man.

T F

Memory Verse

Colour in the Memory Verse and learn it.

Therefore everyone who hears
these words of mine and puts
them into practice is like a wise
man who built his house on the
rock. Matthew 7: 24

The wise and foolish builders

Fill the Gaps

Replace the missing words with words from the list below:

foolish, words, built, everyone, streams, crash, rock, winds, beat, sand, everyone, crowd, wise, foundation

One day Jesus was teaching the _____ and he told them that _____ who hears his _____ and puts them into practice is like a _____ man who _____ his house on the _____. When the rain came down and the winds blew and _____ against the house it did not fall because it had its _____ on the rock.

Jesus also told the crowd that _____ who hears his words and does not put them into practice is like a _____ man who built his house on _____. The rain came down, the _____ rose, and the _____ blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great _____.

Wise words

Use the code below to find the message.

___ _ ___ _ ___ _ ___ _ ___ _ ___ _ ___ _

___ _ ___ _ ___ _ ___ _ ___ _

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



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

4. THE SOWER

LUKE 8:4-15

TEACHING AIM

To encourage young lives to respond to God's word.

SETTING THE SCENE

In His stories Jesus used examples that the people could easily understand. Here He probably could see a farmer sowing seed. The people would have been familiar with this sight.

THE STORY

Read Luke 8:4-8.

Here the farmer is throwing the seed by hand from a basket which he is carrying on his hip. The seed falls into four kinds of soil.

- The path - In those days farmers did not have fields, but rather narrow strips of land. People could walk by the side of this strip of land, treading it into a hardened path. Any seed landing on this would be trampled on and then eaten by the birds.
- Rock - This describes soil that was very shallow, just about covering the hard limestone beneath. The layer of soil was too thin to retain any moisture, so the roots had no nourishment and the plant died.
- Thorns - Some seed fell on this ground which looked as if it was well prepared for planting. However, the weeds were there growing at the same time as the new plant, choking it so that no plants grew there.
- Good soil - Here the seed grew and produced an excellent crop. One seed produced a hundred times more grain.

THE MEANING

Very few of Jesus' parables have an explanation attached, but this one does. The seed is God's word or God's message. The soil describes the different kinds of people who respond to hearing God's message.

- The path represents those who have closed minds, who shut out God's message and will have nothing to do with it.
- The rock represents those who happily accept God's word but, when difficulties come, or their faith is tested, like plants with no roots, they collapse, and fall away.

- The thorns represent those who allow worry, or riches, or pleasure, or many other things to fill their lives and so the word of God is crowded out of their lives.
- The good seed represents those who hear God's message, listen to it and accept it, basing their lives on the teaching in God's word. They become strong Christians whose lives reflect their faith, influencing other people for good.

SUMMING UP

There are all kinds of people, some do not follow Jesus, and others follow for a little while. We are urged to accept God's word whole heartedly and allow God's influence to grow in our lives by becoming mature Christians.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Luke 8:15

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The Sower - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The Sower - 2".
- Work out a play based on this parable, the characters being - the farmer, the four types of soil, others representing the birds, the sun, the thorns, the good seed – see The Dramatised Bible pages 142-143

PRAYER POINTS


- Give thanks that we have God's word, the Bible.

Pray that:

- God will give us the faith to be true to Him at all times
- Our non Christian friends will come to know and love Jesus.

The Sower

Draw a line to the correct answer. The first one is done for you.

- A farmer went out to  sow his seed
cut his hay
plough his fields
- The seed on the good ground yielded a crop
- 10 times what was sown
80 times what was sown
100 times what was sown.
- The birds ate the seed that fell
- on good ground
among the rocks
on the path
- The seed is
- the word of God
corn
good deeds done to others

Memory Verse

Find the verse and learn it.

-----,
-----,

-----.

But these seeds on good soil stand for those with an noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15.

The Sower

Complete the sentences below by joining the two halves. One is done for you.

Some fell along the path

and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.

Some fell on rock

the word of God.

Other seed fell among thorns

and the birds of the air ate it up

Still other seed fell on good soil

and the plants withered because they had no moisture.

The seed is _____

which grew up with it and choked the plants

The meaning of the parable

Replace the missing words with words from the list below to find the meaning of the parable.

word, saved, devil, joy, hearts, hear, rock, choked, produce, testing, riches, root, good, thorns, heart

The seed is the w_____ of God.

Those that fell along the path are the ones who h_____, and then the d_____ comes and takes away the word from their h_____, so that they may not believe and be s_____.

Those on the r____ are the ones who receive the word with j___ when they hear it, but they have no r____. They believe for a while, but in the time of t_____ they fall away.

The seed that fell among t_____ stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are c_____ by life's worries, r_____ and pleasures, and they do not mature.

The seed on g____ soil stands for those with a noble and good h_____, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering p_____ a crop.



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

5. THE TALENTS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

TEACHING AIM

To show that God expects everyone to use their talents.

SETTING THE SCENE

A rich man was going abroad, so he divided his wealth between his three servants, according to their ability, expecting them to use it wisely. On his return, he summoned his servants together, demanding a report on how well they had handled his finances.

THE RICH MAN TRUSTED HIS SERVANTS

The rich man trusted the servants with all he had. He divided it into five portions called 'talents'. Each talent was worth a considerable amount of money. To the first servant he gave five talents. To the second he gave two talents and to the third one talent. He did not tell them what to do; but he expected them to use the talents well. Then he went away. Like the rich man in the story, God trusts us all. To everyone He gives talents and abilities. We are all different but we have all got talents. Some might be able to do more than others, but we can all do something. Some can draw, others can sing, some can dance, others are good at football. Some can play a musical instrument, others can recite. We can all help others, we can all pray.

HOW DID THE SERVANTS USE THE TALENTS?

- The first servant used the money wisely and doubled it, so gaining another five talents. He now had ten.
- The second servant did the same, doubling his money from two to four talents.
- The third servant dug a hole and put the money in it to keep it safe. So in the end he still had one, but no more.

Now what is your talent? The point of the story is that the talents have to be used.

Let us think what talents we have, and how we are going to use them.

The rich man returned demanding the servants tell him how they used the talents

- The one with the five brought the other five. Read what the master said: Matthew 25:21.
- The second one with the two, brought another two. Read what the master said: Matthew 25:23.
- The third man said that he knew the master was a hard man, and he was afraid. He did not want to lose his master's money, so he buried it. Then he handed over

the talent to his master. The master was very angry, calling him a wicked and lazy servant. Read what the master said to him: Matthew 25:26-30.

The master took the talent from him and gave it to the one who had the ten. In some ways this is a hard story, and you might feel sorry for the man with the one talent. However, the story is saying that, if talents are not used, they are no good to us and they die. If you say you can draw, but never actually draw anything, then you will never draw anything. But the one who practises drawing will draw better and better. It is as if extra talents have been given to him, just as in the story Jesus told.

SUMMING UP

God has given us talents to use. If we don't use them, we will lose them. Start using yours now!

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’” Matthew 25:21

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The Talents - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The Talents - 2”.
- Make a list of your own talents.
- Plan a concert in which you all display your talents, such as speaking, reciting, singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, printing tickets, being in charge of the stage. There should be a job for each one of you.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for the talents:

- He has given to you.
- Your leaders are using for Christian Endeavour.

Pray that:

- Everyone will discover their talents and use them to make this world a better place.

The Talents

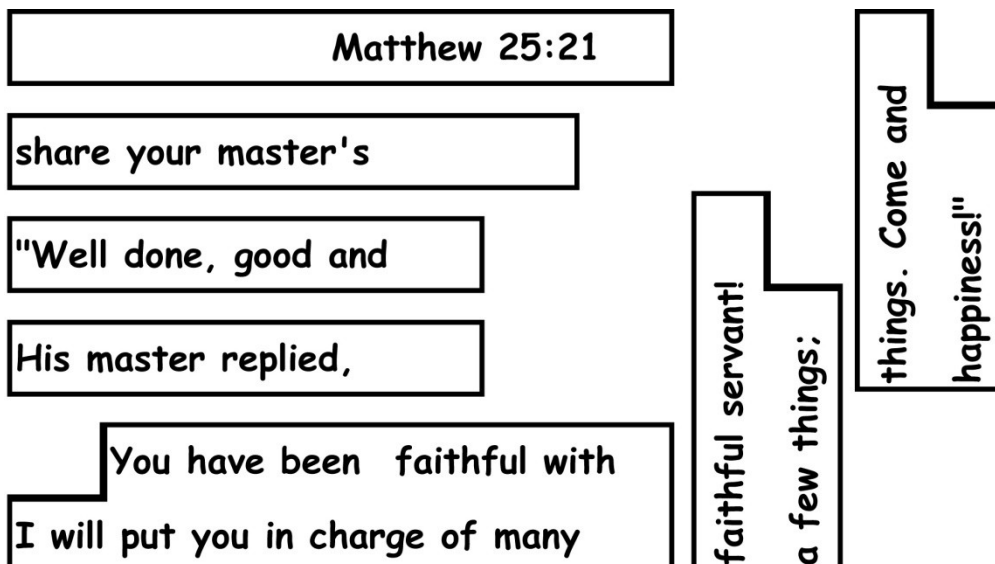
True or False

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. The man given five talents put his money to work and gained five more. T F
2. The one given the two talents gained four more. T F
3. The man given one talent dug a hole in the ground and hid it. T F
4. The man whom gained the five talents was told, "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." T F
5. The man who hid his talent was called a wicked, lazy servant! T F
6. The talent from the man who hid it was given to the one who had the four talents. T F

Jig saw

Cut out the pieces below and piece them together to find the memory verse.



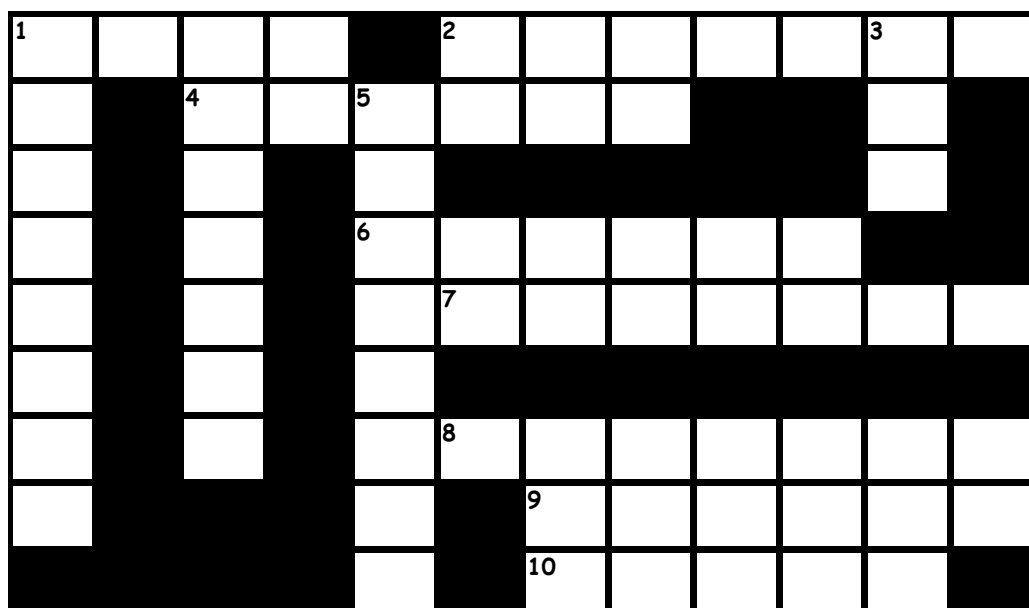
The Talents

ACROSS

1. He gave this number of talents to a servant.
2. He gave his servants according to their _____.
4. The servant with two talents told his master, "I have _____ two more."
6. The master said, "Take the _____ from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents".
7. The master said, "throw that worthless _____ outside"
8. Outside there will be _____ and gnashing of teeth.'
9. There will be no weeping here.
10. Only those who are _____ will go to be with Jesus.

Down

1. His master said to the one who gained five talents, 'Well done, good and _____ servant!'
3. The one with the two talents gained _____ more.
4. The servant given the one talent told his master, "I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the _____".
5. The master told the lazy servant, "You should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that I would have received it back with _____".





THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

6. THE RICH FOOL

LUKE 12:13-21

TEACHING AIM

To warn against the dangers of greed.

SETTING THE SCENE

Have you ever been told, “Don't be greedy”? What does the word ‘greedy’ mean? Greedy people are selfish and always wanting more money and possessions for themselves. On one occasion a man asked Jesus to make his brother share his possessions with him. Jesus did not interfere for He knew that, if both were not greedy, there would be no problem. He went on to warn of the danger of being greedy and told the story of a farmer to illustrate it.

RICH FARMER

Read Luke 12:16-17.

The farmer had planted his seeds and then came the harvest when the crops were to be gathered in.

Q. What sort of crop had the ground produced?

Q. Churches usually have a special service at harvest time. What are the people doing at these services? - *Thanking God for giving the right conditions for the fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. to grow.*

Q. Did this man thank God for giving him an abundant crop? - *No mention of that.*

Q. How should he have felt? - *Pleased, grateful.*

Q. How did he feel? - *Worried.*

Q. Why was he concerned? - *Barns not big enough to store the crops.*

Q. How could he have got around the problem? - *By giving some of it to the poor or selling some of it and giving the money to those in need.*

Do you ever think that you have too many toys or get too many presents for your birthday, Christmas etc.? What could you do about this? If you want to hold on to all your possessions and want even more and bigger gifts, then you are in danger of becoming greedy.

AMBITIOUS FARMER

Read vv18-19.

Before long the farmer had found a solution to his problem but he hadn't asked God what he should do. When we have to make a decision, we should ask God to help us make the right one.

Q. What did this farmer plan to do? - *Build bigger barns.*

Q. What did he intend to do when the buildings were completed and filled with goods? - *Take life easy and enjoy himself for many years.*

This man was rich and seemed to have everything going for him but he was selfish and thought only of himself.

Q. Does God say that it is wrong to make money and enjoy it? - *No, He says it is the love of money that leads us to want more and more money and possessions and to close God out of our lives.*

POOR RICH FARMER

Read vv20-21.

The farmer wasn't going to enjoy his wealth. God had a different plan for him - that very night he was going to die.

Q. Why did God call him a fool? - *He had spent his time getting rich and feeding his greed but hadn't thought of anyone else.*

He thought that he was in control of his life and would live for a long time. God warns us that death can come at any time so it is very dangerous to put off asking Jesus to forgive your sins - see Proverbs 27:1. The best time to give your life to Jesus is now, when you are young, and then you can live the way He wants you to live. This man thought it was all about possessions but he found out too late that true happiness is found in trusting and obeying Jesus throughout your life so that you are ready to go to be with Him when death comes.

SUMMING UP

Jesus told the story of a rich farmer to warn of the danger of greed. Everything was going well for the man but he still wanted more for himself. He had no thought of thanking God for giving him good crops and possessions or of sharing them with others. God called him a fool for he was going to die and be shut out of heaven because he had shut God out of his life. Will you ask Jesus into your life now and follow Him?

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” Luke 12:15

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The rich fool - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The rich fool - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God:

- That He loves us.
- For all the good things He gives us every day.

Pray for:

- People who are greedy and selfish.
- People in other lands who do not have enough food.

The Rich Fool

Wordsearch

Find the words below in the wordsearch.

FARMER SINS BIGGER FOOL HARVEST
GREEDY RICH BARNS JESUS MONEY

F	A	R	M	E	R	H
J	L	O	O	F	I	A
E	S	I	N	S	C	R
S	G	O	E	D	H	V
U	I	S	Y	G	O	E
S	N	R	A	B	O	S
Y	D	E	E	R	G	T
B	I	G	G	E	R	D

The letters left over, reading from left to right, give us an important truth about God.

— — — — —

The Rich Fool

Fill a Gap

Replace the missing words with words from the list below:

refused anyone place rich brother life barns fool
parable greedy good

A person once asked Jesus to tell his b_____ to divide the inheritance with him. Jesus r_____ and told His listeners to be careful not to be g_____. He also told them a p_____ about a certain rich man whose ground produced a g_____ crop. The man didn't know what to do for he had no p_____ to store his crops so he decided to tear down his b_____ and build bigger ones. He thought that since he had plenty he would take l_____ easy. God said that he was a f_____ for that very night he was going to die and then someone else would get what he had prepared for himself. Jesus said that is how it will be with a_____ who stores up things for himself but is not r_____ towards God.

Memory Verse

Starting with the letter 'W' fill in the letters

below to find the memory verse

----- ! -----

----- ; -----

----- : -----

Watch out Be on your guard against all kinds of greed man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions Luke 12:15



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

7. THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

MATTHEW 18:21-35

TEACHING AIM

To show that we must forgive those who sin against us.

SETTING THE SCENE

You go to school one day without doing your homework. What do you expect your teacher to say and do? If you say you're sorry and that you will bring it as soon as possible, do you think the teacher will let you off or will you be punished? If the teacher is kind and merciful, she will forgive you. The next day you meet one of your classmates who says she cannot find a book that you gave her. What will you say to her? Will you forgive her if she says she will replace it? In today's story, Jesus talks about forgiveness.

QUESTION ANSWERED

Read Matthew 18:21-22.

Peter knew that, as a Christian, he should forgive those who did bad things against him. He wasn't sure, however, whether he understood what Jesus meant. He wanted to know if there was a limit to the number of times that he should be willing to forgive someone who kept on sinning against him. It's good to ask questions from a Christian leader or parent when you're not sure what something in the Bible means. How many times did Peter think would be enough times to forgive? How many times did Jesus say he should forgive? How would you remember how many times you forgave someone who wronged you? Jesus was really saying to Peter that there was no limit and no record should be kept; we must keep on forgiving people. Do you find it hard to forgive someone who says nasty things about you or who has destroyed some of your toys? We must all remember that we have done wrong things against God. Can you think of some of them? God keeps on forgiving us when we do wrong things if we are really sorry. What does Paul tell us in Ephesians 4:32. Learn this verse and ask God to remind you of it the next time you feel like getting your own back on someone.

KIND RULER

Read Matthew 18:23-27.

Jesus gave an example of forgiveness in action to help Peter understand the importance of forgiving. The time had come for a king to settle his accounts with his servants. He noticed that one of them, who must have had a responsible job, owed him a large sum of money. The man was called in and threatened with severe punishment if he didn't pay what he owed. How would the servant feel since he couldn't pay his debt? What did he do? The king was moved with pity with his servant's plea for mercy. How did he show that he had forgiven the man? We

have all been born in sin so we owe God a great debt that we can't pay. How can we be forgiven by God?

CRUEL SERVANT

Read Matthew 18:28-35.

No sooner was the servant set free than he met a fellow servant who owed him a small amount of money. Remember this first man had been forgiven and set free. He should have been so grateful that he would have wiped out the amount of money owed by his debtor and forgiven him. How did he treat this fellow servant? The poor man pleaded for mercy in the same way as the forgiven servant had pleaded before his master but he was shown no sympathy or mercy and was thrown into prison. Was this cruel servant going to get off for refusing to forgive his fellow servant? Other servants saw what happened and reported it to the king. Soon the first servant stood before the king to be reminded of the forgiveness he had received. No mercy was shown this time. He was thrown into prison where he would stay until he had paid his huge debt. Jesus warns all of us that we must forgive people from our hearts just as God forgives us when we put our trust in Jesus Christ.

SUMMING UP

Jesus' answer to Peter's question about how often we should forgive someone who has wronged us must have surprised him. Jesus then gave an example to explain the importance of forgiveness - one of the king who cancelled the debt owed by one of his servants; the other of the servant who had been forgiven but who refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed him a small amount of money. The previously forgiven servant had his pardon withdrawn by the king and ended up in prison because of his unwillingness to forgive. God warns all of us that we must obey His teaching by forgiving those who sin against us.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The unmerciful servant - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The unmerciful servant - 2".

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God that:

- He forgives us from our sins.
- Our parents forgive us when we do wrong things.

Pray for:

- Those in prison that they would repent of their sins.
- Christians who are in prison because of heathen rulers.

The unmerciful servant

Quiz

Tick the correct answer to the following questions.

1. The disciple who asked Jesus about forgiveness was called.

☐

Peter

☐

James

☐

John

2. The number of times he thought that you should forgive someone.

☐

1

☐

3

☐

7

3. The servant who owed the king money did this.

☐

paid it all

☐

fell on his knees

☐

paid some of it

4. The amount of money the servant owed the king.

☐

100 talents

☐

10,000 talents

☐

1,000

talents

5. The king did this to his servant's debt.

☐

cancelled it

☐

reduced it by half

☐

doubled it

6. The amount of money one servant owed the other.

☐

100 denarii

☐

200 denarii

☐

300 denarii

Memory Verse

Complete the memory verse by adding the missing vowels (a,e,i,o,u) and then learn it.

B_ k_nd _nd c_mp_ss_ _n_t_ t_ _n_
_n_th_r, f_rg_v_ng _ _ch _th_r, j_st _s
_n Chr_st G_d f_rg_v_ y_ . Ephesians 4:32

The unmerciful servant

True or False

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. John asked Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother. T F
2. The disciple asked Jesus if he should forgive his brother seven times. T F
3. Jesus told the disciple that he should forgive his brother 700 times. T F
4. The king's servant owed him ten thousand talents. T F
5. The man was not able to pay back the debt. T F
6. The king ordered that the man, his wife, and his children and all that he had should be sold to repay the debt. T F
7. The servant's master took pity on him and cancelled the debt. T F
8. The servant who was forgiven went out and found one of his fellow-servants who owed him 1000 talents. T F
9. His fellow-servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' T F
10. The forgiven servant refused forgiveness and hit his fellow-servant. T F
11. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were pleased. T F
12. The king told the servant that he should have had mercy on his fellow-servant just as he had on him. T F
13. When the king heard what had happened, he sent the man to prison to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. T F
14. Jesus said that God will treat each of us like that unless we forgive our brother from our heart. T F



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

8. THE TENANTS

MATTHEW 21:33-46

TEACHING AIM

To show the danger of rejecting Christ.

SETTING THE SCENE

In this parable the vineyard represents the people of Israel. The parable shows how the people were provided for and protected by God. God expected to receive fruit from them but, instead, they rejected all His prophets and very soon would kill His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOD'S GOODNESS TO ISRAEL

Read Matthew 21:33-41.

God had given Israel material and spiritual blessings and asked only that they would follow Him. God sent prophets (servants) to guide the people of Israel but they ignored what they said and often mistreated them. Instead of sending His armies to destroy these wicked men, God sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus was clearly teaching the Jews a number of things. God had been good to them in giving them a good land with plenty and He had sent the prophets to guide them. In spite of all they did, God did not destroy them but sent His Son Whom they would also kill.

Jesus was teaching the Jews that what was about to happen to them was correct and just, for they themselves gave the verdict.

GOD'S GOODNESS TO US

God has done the same for us in that He has placed us in a land of plenty and given us the Bible to guide us. He allows us to come to Him in prayer with our requests.

List all the good things that God has given you. Point out to the children that all good gifts come from God. Make sure they realise that rain, sunshine, food, jobs for fathers and mothers, health, church, the Bible, teachers etc. are all good gifts from God.

God has given us the 'Ten Commandments' to guide us as to how we should behave.

How many of the Commandments can you name? - see Exodus 20.

How have we failed to keep God's Commandments?

- Shops opening on Sundays.
- People idolising pop stars and footballers.
- Many murders in our land etc.

Since we have forsaken God's laws, what should He do to us?

THE STONE

Read Matthew 21:42 – 44.

In the Old Testament, God is referred to as a rock or stone and the Messiah was also referred to as a rock. The Jews, therefore, realised that Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah in this passage.

A ROCK CAN HAVE A DUAL PURPOSE:

- i. It can act as a foundation. If we are standing on a rock, then, even though all the ground around us is quicksand, we are safe. A rock is something which we should build our houses on as Jesus told in the parable in Matt. 7:24-27.
- ii. It can be used as an offensive weapon to crush. If a large rock falls on us, we will be killed.

In the parable, Christ is the stone rejected by Israel but He is the foundation or cornerstone of the Church, the stone on which the church is built. Point out to the children that the church is not the building but the people who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ returns, He will be the stone that will fall and grind all opposition to powder.

We must make Christ the foundation stone of our lives in our day to day living.

What are some of the ways in which Christ can be made the foundation stone in your life? Make sure that they know:

- i. We start by asking the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive our sins.
- ii. We read the Bible every day to learn what God wants us to do with our lives.
- iii. We pray to Him every day to thank Him for all He has done for us and also to bring our requests to Him.

SUMMING UP

In spite of all we have done, God still loves us and sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. Don't be like the people in the parable who rejected Him, but trust Him today.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Haven't you read this scripture: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.” Mark 12:10

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The Tenants - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The Tenants - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

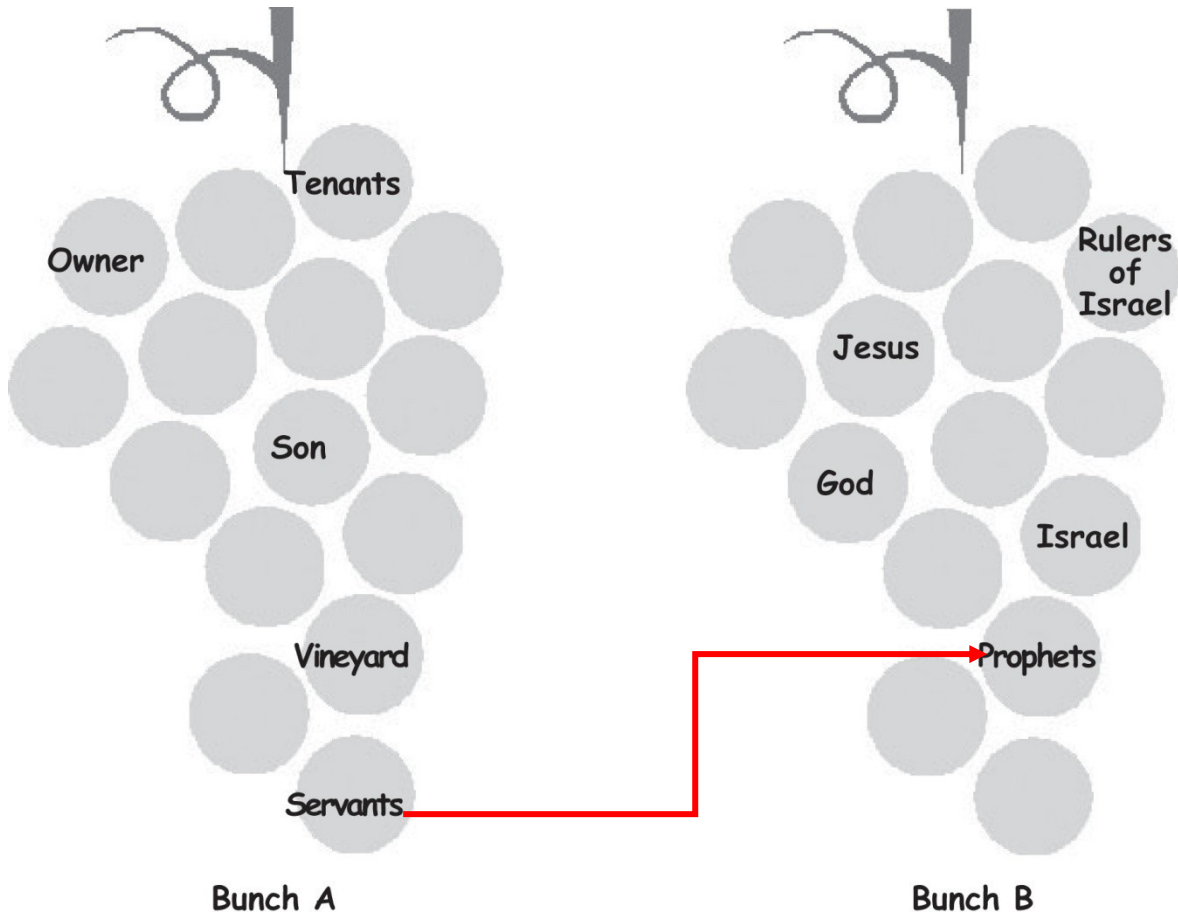
- All the good things He has given us including rain, sunshine, food, jobs for fathers and mothers, health, church, the Bible, teachers etc.

Pray for:

- Those in other lands who do not have as much as we have.
- Those known to us who are still rejecting Christ.

The Parable of the Tenants

In the bunches of grapes below, 'Bunch A' shows things mentioned in the Parable and 'Bunch B' is what they represent. Draw a line from the grape in 'Bunch A' to the grape that it represents in 'Bunch B'. An example is done for you to show that the 'Servants' mentioned in the parable represent the 'Prophets' of the Old Testament e.g. Isaiah.



MEMORY VERSE

I	H	T	H	E	S	S	T	O	N	E	S
T	H	E	R	B	U	I	L	D	E	R	S
I	I	R	E	J	E	C	T	E	D	N	H
H	A	S	E	B	E	C	O	M	E	R	H
T	H	E	E	C	A	P	S	T	O	N	E

Hidden in the squares below is a verse. Colour in only the letters which make up the verse and learn it. It is found in Mark chapter 12 verse 10 (NIV).

The Parable of the Tenants

Put in the missing words from the list below to complete a parable that Jesus told.

wall kill God farmers servants owner produce
kingdom third destroy built vineyard harvest son

There was a landowner who planted a _____ and put a _____ around it. He dug a winepress in it and _____ a watchtower. He rented the vineyard to some _____ and went away on a journey. When the _____ time came he sent his servants to the farmers to collect his fruit.

The tenants seized his _____; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a _____. They did the same to other servants that the landowner sent to them. Finally, he sent his son to them saying, "They will respect my _____".

When the tenants saw the son, they decided that they should _____ him and take his vineyards for themselves. So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Jesus asked the people, "When the _____ of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

They replied that he should _____ them and rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

Jesus told them that the _____ of _____ will be taken away from them and given to a people who will _____ its fruit.

True or False

Tick the ☐ below with ✓ if it is true and with 'X' if it is false.

- 1 ☐ In this parable the vineyard represents the people of Israel.
- 2 ☐ God expected to receive fruit from the tenants.
- 3 ☐ The son in the parable is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4 ☐ We have all kept the Ten Commandments perfectly
- 5 ☐ God was good to the people of Israel.



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

9. THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

MATTHEW 19:27 - 20:16

TEACHING AIM

To show that we do not merit salvation but we depend on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SETTING THE SCENE

Jesus had just told the rich young man he lacked one thing and that was to sell what he had and give to the poor. The young man went away very sad for he was very rich. At this point Jesus said that it was difficult for a rich person to enter heaven. Peter asked what they would get since they had left all to follow Jesus. After telling Peter what he would get, Jesus told this parable.

THE WORKERS AND THEIR WAGES

There were two categories of workers in the vineyard, those who agreed to work all day for a denarius (a normal day's wage for a labourer) and those who had no contract but depended on the generosity of their employer.

Was the employer fair to those who toiled all day?

Let the children give their answers (this can be done by filling in the Activity Sheet "The Parables of Jesus - 1" and then give the following points:

- The denarius was a day's wage. It was sufficient money to get the worker all he needed for himself and his family.
- The first workers had agreed to work all day for the denarius.
- Those who were hired later in the day also needed the money to pay for food for themselves and their families.
- Those who were hired later in the day were not lazy for, in those days, you had to wait each morning for someone to hire you.

Q. Was the employer too good to those who only worked for one hour? - *The householder had a right to do what he wanted with his money as long as he paid the first people what they had agreed.*

THE LESSON OF THE PARABLE

Make sure the children understand the following facts

- The householder paid each of the workers a denarius i.e. a full day's wage and, therefore, all were cared for fully.

- We cannot earn salvation no matter how long and hard we work, we depend solely on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Everyone needs the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.
- Salvation is by grace alone, it is never merited.
- No one deserves or needs grace any more than any other.
- We are saved by grace but, afterwards, we work for the Lord Jesus Christ because we love Him and want to do all we can for Him.
- Why is it good to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ when we are young?
- It is good to be saved early in life so that we are sure of our salvation. If we wait, we may be saved at a later date, but we may miss out and be eternally lost.
- It is also good to be saved early in life so that we have our whole life to work for Jesus Who did so much for us.

Can you think of anyone in the Bible who was saved just before they died? - *The thief on the cross.*

What does this tell us about salvation? - *We cannot earn it, we are saved by grace and grace alone.*

SUMMING UP

The man gave each of the workers the same wages. Those who worked all day received the normal day's wage. Those who started later in the day also received a full day's wage and this was due to the kindness of the employer.

The parable is about trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. The person who comes to Jesus when they are old will be saved just as much as a person who comes to Jesus when they are young. The worker could only work when they were asked by the owner of the vineyard. In the same way we can only come to Jesus when He calls us. Make sure you trust in Jesus when He calls you for you may not get a chance later in life. The Bible teaches us in 2Corinthians 6:2 ***“... now is the day of salvation”***.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“... now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.” 2Cor. 6:2

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The Workers in the Vineyard - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The Workers in the Vineyard - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God that:

- Salvation is free.

Pray for:

- Those who work for Jesus.
- Those who have not yet answered God's call to trust in Him.

Workers in the Vineyard

In the Parable there are two kinds of workers - those who worked **all day** (12 hours) and those who only worked a part of the day (either 9 hours, 6 hours, 3 hours, or only 1 hour). They all received the same wages, a penny or denarius. Write below the thoughts that might have come into their heads when they received their wages.

Man who worked 12 hours _____

Man who worked 9 hours _____

Man who worked 6 hours _____

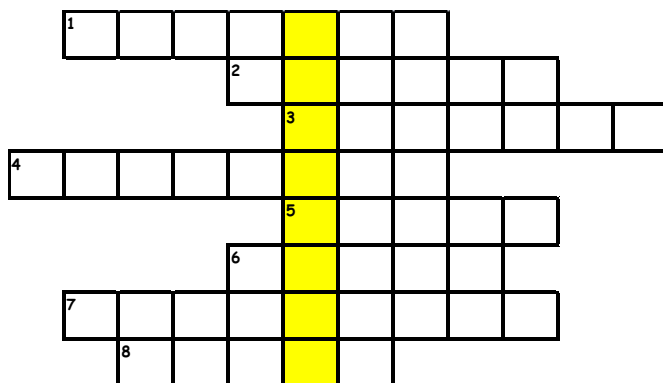
Man who worked 3 hours _____

Man who worked 1 hour _____

Write in your own words what this parable teaches us.

Workers in the Vineyard

Crossword Clues



- 1 & 2 The parable tells us what the _____ of _____ is like.
3. What the people were doing in the market - place.
4. Where the people were to work.
5. The landowner said he would pay the workers what was _____.

6. The workers were to be paid beginning at the last ones to be _____.
7. The man hired _____ for his vineyard.
8. Jesus said these would be last.

The letters in the shaded squares tell us how much a labourer was paid for a day's work.

What is it? _____

True or False

Tick the ☐ below with ✓ if it is true and with 'X' if it is false.

- ☐ The workers who started early deserved more than the ones who started later.
- ☐ We are saved by the grace of God and not because we work longer and harder than other people.
- ☐ The landowner paid the ones he hired first the correct wages but was very kind to the others.
- ☐ We are to work for the Lord without looking for a reward.
- ☐ The last people to be hired were very lazy for they did nothing all day.
- ☐ The last people to be hired were not lazy for they had not been given the chance to work. The Teaching of Jesus



THE PARABLES OF JESUS

10. THE WITHERED FIG-TREE

MATTHEW 21:18-22

TEACHING AIM

To show the danger of refusing God's grace and not accepting the Saviour.

SETTING THE SCENE

Perhaps the best known verse in the Bible is John 3:16. In it we find the great love that God had for lost mankind; a love so great that He sent His One and Only Son to die that we might live, if we believe in Him.

Some people think that, because God is a God of love, even if they do not accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, they will somehow be forgiven.

It may be a great surprise to the children that Jesus would curse the fig-tree for He could equally well have caused it to bear fruit. Explain to them that Jesus used this parable to teach His disciples some lessons about bearing fruit and judgment.

PRODUCING FRUIT

God wants us to produce fruit in our lives and not just have a worldly show of religion. He gives us all enough time and chances to produce this fruit but, if we fail, we will suffer the consequences.

Q. What does it mean to produce fruit? - *Explain that all have sinned, that we are not able to help ourselves and that we must come to the Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation. To bear fruit also means working for the Lord Jesus Christ and telling others of the Good News.*

Q. What sort of things could you do to bear fruit for the Lord Jesus Christ? - *Draw to their attention the fact that this does not mean just telling people about the Lord Jesus Christ but that they should live their lives in such a way that their friends will know that there is something different about them.*

WHY DID JESUS CURSE THE TREE?

Our Lord's action was not one of anger. It is not always anger that condemns a person. The tree was faulty, a failure, so its time for judgement had come.

When a judge sits in judgement over a court case and a person is found guilty, the judge pronounces sentence. The judge is not angry with the person but he must sentence him for the crime he has committed.

One day we will all come before God as Judge. Although we are all guilty, if, and only if, we are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for Salvation, we will be pardoned because Jesus has paid the penalty for us. However, if we insist in not accepting God's pardon, we will be condemned just as the fig-tree was condemned.

God's justice will be absolutely fair, none will be able to say in that day that it is not, for God has provided a way of Salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

FAITH AND PRAYER

Jesus used the cursing of the fig-tree to teach His disciples a practical lesson about faith and prayer. The disciples commented ***“How soon is the fig-tree withered away!”*** (Matthew 21:20) and, in reply, Christ gave them a talk on the importance of having faith when we pray - ***“... all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive”*** (Matthew 21:22).

Explain to the children that this is not to be understood as an assurance that God will grant every request we make, or give us whatever we ask for. We have to pray in accordance with the will of God which we find by studying God's Word, the Bible. We, therefore, have to study the Bible every day and learn more about Him and what He has planned for us and the world.

SUMMING UP

Jesus is teaching us two important truths in this passage:

- i. If we do not repent and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we will be judged just as the fig-tree was judged.
- ii. When we pray we should do so believing that we will receive what we ask for. In order for this to happen, we must study God's Word to see what His will is and then pray in His will.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The Withered Fig-Tree - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The Withered Fig-Tree - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God that:

- He allows us to repent of our sins and trust in Him.

Pray for:

- The wisdom to be able to serve God in our everyday lives.
- Any of our friends who have not yet trusted in Jesus.

The Withered Fig-Tree

Word Search

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

Hidden in the grid above are 10 words listed below which are all connected with the Parable of the Fig -Tree. Can you find them? You may move up, down, across or diagonally.

fig-tree, Jesus, sea, early, mountain, wither, fruit, disciples, city, believe

Memory Verse

When you have found all the words, the remaining letters, without the extra 'Zs', read from left to right give the **Memory Verse**. Write out the verse in the spaces below.

--- --- -- ---- -- ---- -- ---;

--- --- ---- ----;

---- -- ---- -- ---. Matthew 7:7

The Withered Fig-Tree

The passage below tells the story of the Parable of the Withered Fig-Tree. Some of the words have become jumbled up. Unscramble them and write them in the space provided.

As Jesus was on his way back to salJemeru, early in the morning, He was nghury. He saw a fig-tree by the side of the oard and He went up to it but there were no igfs on the tree, just leaves.

Jesus said, "May you never bear itruf again" and immediately the tree withered. When the cidilessp saw this they were amazed and asked Jesus how this happened so quickly. Jesus told the disciples that if they had aitfh they could do not only the same thing but also say to the mountain to be cast into the esa and it would happen.

Jesus then told the disciples that if they would believe they would receive whatever they asked for in aeprry.

Memory Verse

Using the code below unscramble the memory verse.

✋ ✌

☆ ✎ ✚

✋ ✌ ☹ ✋ ✌ ✚ ✌,

☆ ✎ ✚ ✎ ✋ ☹ ☹

☼ ✌ ✌ ✌ ✋ ✚ ✌

✎ ✎ ✚

✋ ☹ ☹

✌ ✎ ☼ ✋ ☠

✎ ☼ ✌ ☆ ✌ ☼.

✌=A, ✋=B, ✌=C, ✌=E, ✌=F, ✌=H, ✋=I, ☹=K, ☹=L, ☠=N, ✎=O, ✎=P, ☼=R,
☹=S, ☼=T, ✚=U, ✚=V, ✎=W, ☆=Y.



THE TEACHING OF JESUS

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

11. THE TWO SONS

MATTHEW 21:23-32

TEACHING AIM

To show the children the need to repent and turn to Christ.

SETTING THE SCENE

One day Jesus entered the Temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling. Many people who were sick or had disabilities came to Jesus at the Temple and he healed them. Many of the people, when they saw what Jesus, did believe on Him but the chief priests and the teachers didn't believe and they looked for ways to trick Jesus and arrest Him.

THE BAPTISM OF JOHN

Read Matthew 21:23-27.

The chief priests and elders of the people came to Jesus and asked him a question, - ***“By what authority are you doing these things and who gave you this authority?”*** They were not trying to find out about Jesus but they were trying to trick Him. They were the people who should have been leading the Israelites but they were jealous of Jesus. They were scared that He would take away their authority.

Jesus didn't answer their question at once but said He would answer them if they answered His question.

Q. What question did Jesus ask them? – ***“John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?”***

The chief priests and elders of the people knew that the people believed that John the Baptist came from God and that all he did was by God's power. They didn't believe in John and what he was saying when he told them to repent but they were afraid to say anything about John in case it made the people angry. Jesus knew this and He knew that they couldn't answer Him.

Q. After discussing it among themselves, what did they say? – ***“We don't know”.***

They were not prepared to answer Jesus' question so Jesus didn't answer theirs. However, He told the parable of the two sons.

THE TWO SONS

Read Matthew 21:28-31a.

A man had two sons and he asked them to go and work in his vineyard.

Q. What did the first son say to his father and what did he do? - ***“I will not”*** but later on he changed his mind and went and worked in the vineyard.

Q. What did the second son say to his father and what did he do? - ***"I will sir", but he didn't go.***
When Jesus asked which of the two did what his father wanted, they knew it was the first.

THE MEANING

Read Matthew 21:31b-32. The two sons represented all the people in Israel.

They were very privileged because they had heard the preaching of John the Baptist and his call for them to repent. They had also heard Jesus preaching and saw all His miracles.

What the parable meant:

The first son was like the out and out sinners such as tax collectors and prostitutes. They didn't make any pretence of following God but would freely admit that they were sinners. When they heard and saw these things, they repented and turned to God.

The second son was like the chief priests and the elders of the people. They pretended to be good but had never repented of their sins.

Jesus did not leave anyone in doubt about what He meant by the parable. He turned to the chief priests and elders and told them exactly where they stood in relationship to God.

Q. What did Jesus tell them? - ***"Tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the kingdom of God ahead of them".***

What about you? Which one of the sons are you?

Are you like the first son? Have you repented of your sins and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Perhaps you are like the second son. You come to CE, church and Sunday school but, as yet you have not trusted in Christ. Remember, only those who trust in Christ and Christ alone for Salvation will be saved.

SUMMING UP

We are all sinners and need to repent and turn from our sins. How we appear to others does not matter, it is only by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved. Will you turn to Christ today?

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’” John 3:3

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The two sons - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The two sons - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God that:

- He sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die for our sins on Calvary's cross.

Pray for:

- Those who have heard the gospel message for many years but have not accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.
- Sunday school teachers, CE leaders and others who teach boys and girls the way of Salvation.

The Two Songs

Quiz

Tick the correct answer.

1. How many sons did the man have?

One ☐Two ☐Three ☐

2. When asked to work in the vineyard, the first son said?

Yes ☐

No ☐

I'll think about it ☐

- 3. When asked to work in the vineyard, the second son said?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

I'll think about it ☐

- #### 4. Who went to work in the vineyard?

First son ☐

Second son ☐

Both sons ☐

5. Who did Jesus say would enter the kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders?

Samaritans ☐






















the tax collectors ☐

Pharisees ☐

Important Truth

Use the code to find out a very important truth.

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

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

The Two Sons

Tick the correct answer to each of the following questions:

1. What does the vineyard represent in the parable?

☐

Israel

☐

The World

☐

The Church

2. Which of the two sons obeyed the father?

☐

The one who said 'no' and later did the work.

☐

The one who said 'yes' and did not do the work.

3. What did the son who said 'yes' and did not work in the vineyard represent?

☐

Those who pretend to be Christians and do no work for Jesus.

☐

Those who are Christians and work for Jesus.

4. What did the son who said 'no' and later went to work in the vineyard represent?

☐

Those who are opposed to the Lord Jesus Christ but later repent.

☐

Those who say 'no' and forget about God and ignore what the Lord Jesus Christ has done.

5. Who did Jesus say was entering the kingdom of God ahead of the elders of the people?

☐

Evil people who repent.

☐

Good people who go to church every week.

6. What sort of people were entering the kingdom of God before the elders of the people.

☐

Those who started to go to church.

☐

Those who heard God's Word and repented.

☐

Those who gave money into the church.



THE APOSTLE PETER

1. HE LIVES!

PETER PREACHES AT PENTECOST

ACTS 2:13-14; 22-24 AND 36-38

TEACHING AIM

To show that, when we trust in Jesus, He gives us strength to stand up for Him.

SETTING THE SCENE

On the day of Pentecost, a Jewish feast day, the apostles were all together in a house when suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. It seemed that tongues of fire touched each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. In Jerusalem at that time there were many Jews from foreign lands and they each heard the apostles speaking in their own language.

Some, however, made fun of them and said, ***"They have had too much wine."***

THE CHANGE IN PETER

Read Acts 2:13-14.

We are told that Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and spoke to the crowd. What a change had come over Peter. At one time he was so scared that he denied Jesus three times. Recap the story of Peter's denial of Jesus (Mark 14:66-72).

Q. What made the big difference in Peter's life? - *Explain Jesus' reinstatement of Peter as leader (John 21:15-19) and also that he now had the Holy Spirit within him. Explain the meaning of Holy Spirit.*

Q. What was the first thing Peter made the crowd aware of? - *The men were not drunk; it was only nine in the morning. Before Peter went any further, he made sure the people did not misunderstand what was happening.*

THE PREACHING OF PETER

Read Acts 2:22-24 and 36.

Peter then took the opportunity to tell the crowd about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. How did God show that Jesus was sent from Him? - *Miracles, wonders and signs, which God did through Jesus.*

Q. Why should they believe what Peter was saying? - *They had seen the miracles themselves and people were also talking about them.*

Q. What reason did Peter give for God not stopping the people killing Jesus? - *It was God's will that Jesus would be crucified. Jesus had left heaven to come to earth to pay the punishment for our sins.*

Peter went on to explain that God raised Jesus from the dead. This was new to the people listening to Peter who thought that Jesus had just been killed and buried. Peter, however, did not stop there for he went on to explain that God had made Jesus both Lord and Christ. Christ is another name for Messiah and the Jews were waiting for their Messiah to come as He had been promised in their Scriptures.

THE APPEAL TO PETER

Read Acts 2:37-38.

When the people heard what Peter was saying, they were frightened and asked Peter and the other apostles, ***“Brothers, what shall we do?”***

Q. What was Peter's reply? - ***“Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”.***

Q. What did Peter mean by repent? – *Leader, explain the meaning of repentance.*

Q. What was the result of Peter's preaching? - *A great number of people were saved. We read that, ***“the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”*** (Acts 2:47).*

SUMMING UP

Peter did not get angry with the people or run away when they made fun of them. He stood up for Jesus and told them clearly who Jesus was and that they needed to repent of their sins.

If you are a Christian, are you prepared to stand up for Jesus in a crowd?

If you are not a Christian, you need to be like the people who heard Peter and ask Jesus to forgive your sins.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “He lives! - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “He lives! - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray:

- That God will give you strength to witness to your friends.
- For your friends who are not Christians.

Thank God:

- For the person who told you about Jesus and what He has done.
- That you can learn about early Christians in the Bible.

He lives!

Fill the Gaps

Using the words below fill in the gaps.

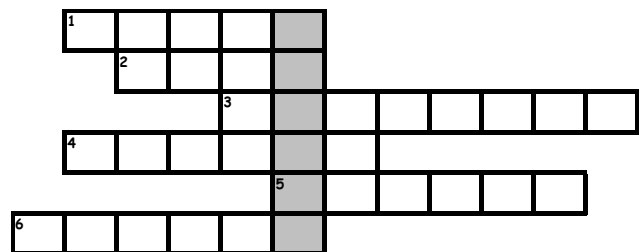
Christ wine nine miracles Repent raised crucified fun
Nazareth drunk wicked signs Holy Spirit forgiveness

At Pentecost the apostles received the _____ and began to speak in different languages. Some in the crowd made _____ of the apostles and said that they had too much _____. Then Peter raised his voice and asked the crowd to listen carefully to what he had to say. He told them that they were not _____, as they thought because it was only _____ in the morning! Peter then spoke to the crowd about Jesus. He told them that Jesus of _____ was a man sent by God and that God showed this by _____, wonders and _____, which He did among them through Jesus. God allowed Jesus to be handed over to them and they, with the help of _____ men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross but that God had _____ Him from the dead. Peter said that God had made this Jesus, whom they _____, both Lord and _____.

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "_____ and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Crossword

1. The one who spoke to the crowd.
2. The time that it was in the morning.
3. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. God _____ that Jesus came from Him by miracles and signs.
5. The people had _____ Jesus to the cross.
6. Peter said that Jesus was the _____.



The word in the shaded area is what we all need to do.

What is it? _____



THE APOSTLE PETER

2. WALKING, JUMPING AND PRAISING GOD

CRIPPLED BEGGAR HEALED

ACTS 3:1-10

TEACHING AIM

To show that we must remember to thank God for all His goodness to us.

SETTING THE SCENE

The disciples were full of enthusiasm and were preaching the good news about Jesus Christ all over Jerusalem. As today's story begins, Peter and John were going up to the Temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. There was no longer any need for them to go to the Temple to sacrifice for the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ did away with the need for animal sacrifices. However, the Temple was a good place to meet people and also to give the disciples an opportunity to witness.

CRIPPLED FROM BIRTH

As they approached the Temple, a man crippled from birth was being carried to the Temple gate called Beautiful. He was put there every day to beg from those going into the Temple.

In those days there were no hospitals or social security. The man could not work for a living and so he depended on the generosity of people for his food and clothing.

Q. What might the man be thinking when he saw Peter and John coming? - *They were people he could get some money from.*

He asked Peter and John for money. The man had no other desire. He had given up hope of ever walking, he just wanted money with which to buy food.

Q. What did Peter do and say? - *looked straight at him and said “**Look at us!**”*

The man looked expectantly at them hoping to get some money.

HEALED IN AN INSTANT

Q. What did Peter say to the crippled man? - *“**Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.**”*

Can you imagine the situation? The crippled man's disappointment at not getting any money, followed quickly by surprise at what Peter said. There would have been many people about in such a busy place and they would have been curious to see what happened. Get up - this man had been a cripple all his life.

Peter did not stop at telling him to get up but, taking him by the right hand, he helped him up. The miracle was instantaneous for immediately the man's feet and ankles became strong. There was no period of time when the man learned to walk slowly using crutches. No, his healing was complete.

JUMPING AND PRAISING GOD

The crippled man jumped to his feet and began to walk.

Q. Where was the first place the healed man went and what did he do? - ***“He went into the temple courts, walking, jumping, and praising God”.***

The result of the man being healed was that all the praise went to God. It's likely that there were many things the man would have liked to do as he lay crippled at the Temple gate but, when healed, he only wanted to do one thing - praise God.

The people recognised him as the same man who used to sit begging at the Temple gate and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

What a story the man had to tell for the rest of his life - I was crippled from birth but I was healed in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Peter took no glory and so wherever this story was told God would get the glory and Jesus' name would be exalted.

Do you ever tell anyone about what Christ has done for you?

Do you ever sit and think of all the good things that God has given you?

SUMMING UP

Peter and John were willing to tell everyone about the Lord Jesus Christ and what He had done for them. They took the opportunity to go to the Temple and speak for Jesus where they met a crippled man and healed him. This healing brought glory to God. Remember to recognise all the good things that God has done for you and thank Him.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’” Acts 3:6

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “Walking, jumping and praising God - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “Walking, jumping and praising God - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

- Your many blessings - health and strength, parents etc.
- The gift of salvation

Pray for:

- Courage to tell others about Jesus.
- Those known to you who are sick.

Walking, jumping and praising God

True or False

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. Peter and John gave the crippled man money.

T F

2. The man was crippled from birth.

T F

3. The man sat begging at the Temple gate called Beautiful.

T F

4. The man was expecting Peter and John to heal him.

T F

5. Peter and John healed the man in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

T F

6. The man did not go into the Temple with Peter and John.

T F

Wordsearch

Find the following words in the wordsearch:

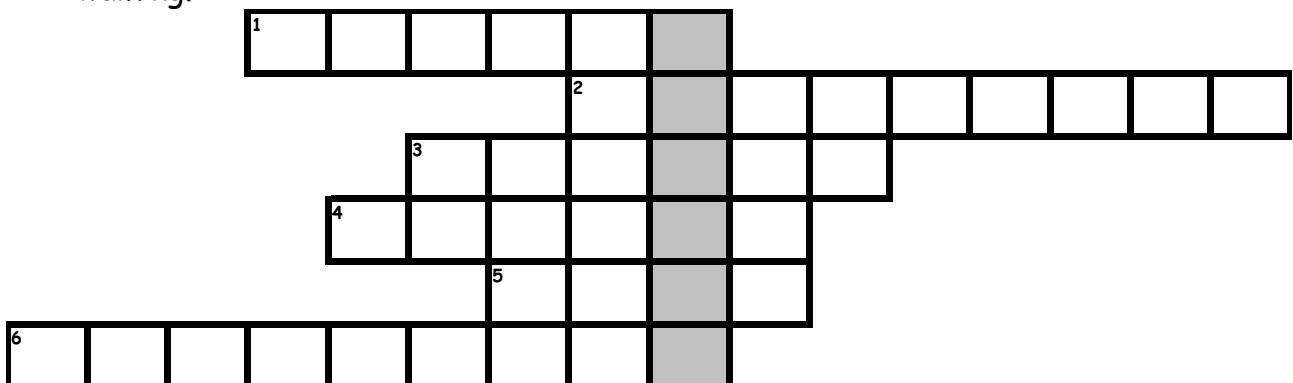
SILVER,
GOLD,
PETER,
BEAUTIFUL,
NAZARETH,
JOHN,
AMAZEMENT,
ANKLES,
CRIPPLED

S	I	L	V	E	R	T	E	P
J	O	H	N	D	L	O	G	E
A	M	A	Z	E	M	E	N	T
H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	E
A	N	K	L	E	S	M	K	R
C	R	I	P	P	L	E	D	R
L	U	F	I	T	U	A	E	B

Walking, jumping and praising God

Crossword

1. Peter and John were going to the Temple at the time of _____.
2. The crippled man was being carried to this gate.
3. He was put there to beg from people going into the _____.
4. Peter said they had not got this.
5. Peter took the man by the _____.
6. The people were filled with wonder and _____ when they saw the man walking.



The letters in the shaded area tell us what we all must do.

Jig saw

Cut out the pieces below and piece them together to find the memory verse.

of Jesus

In the name

walk." Acts 3:6

"Silver or gold

but what I have

I give you.

Christ of Nazareth,

Then Peter said,
I do not have,



THE APOSTLE PETER

3. GET UP, KILL AND EAT

PETER'S VISION OF THE LARGE SHEET

ACTS 10:1-23

TEACHING AIM

To show that all who trust in Jesus will be saved.

SETTING THE SCENE

Peter was a Jew and God had given certain rules for the Jewish nation. These regulations were in addition to the Ten Commandments and concerned what food they were to eat. This led to the Jews not associating in any way with Gentiles. The prejudices of Peter would have prevented him going to Cornelius who was a Gentile. To tell a Jew that God had said that unclean animals were now regarded as clean was really saying that the Law of Moses was done away with. In our story, God was preparing Peter for service among the Gentiles. God knows what service He has for us and He knows how to prepare us.

CORNELIUS' VISION

Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman army and he lived in Caesarea.

Q. How do we know that Cornelius and all his family were devout and God-fearing (v2)? - ***“He gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly”.***

One day, at about three in the afternoon, Cornelius had a vision and saw an angel of God who spoke to him.

Q. What did the angel say to Cornelius (vv 4-6)?-

- i. Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.***
- ii. Send men to Joppa to bring back Simon Peter who is staying with Simon, the tanner, whose house is by the sea.***

When the angel had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa. The next day, as they were approaching the city about noon, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

PETER'S VISION

Q. Peter became hungry and while the meal was being prepared for him, he fell into a trance. What did he see in his trance (vv11-12)? - ***He saw heaven opened and a large sheet being let down to earth containing all kinds of four-footed animals, reptiles and birds.***

Q. What did the voice say to Peter (v13)? - ***Get up, Peter, kill and eat.***

Peter was shocked. He believed in God and God had said that only certain types of meat could be eaten and certainly not reptiles.

Q. What was Peter's reply (v14)? - ***“Surely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”***

Peter obeyed God's laws. However, the voice spoke to him a second time.

Q. What did the voice say (v15)? - ***“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”***

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

Peter was puzzled and wondered what the vision meant when the men sent by Cornelius arrived at the gate of the house.

THE MEANING OF THE VISION

The men called out, asking if Simon Peter was staying there.

Peter was still thinking about the vision when the Spirit spoke to him.

Q. What did the Spirit say (v19)? - ***“Simon, three men are looking for you so get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”***

Peter went down and asked the men, ***“Why have you come?”*** What did they reply (v22)?

- ***We have come from Cornelius the centurion.***
- ***A holy angel told him to ask you to his house to hear what you have to say.***

Peter then did something no Jew would do - he invited the men into the house to be his guests for it was clear to Peter that, since the death and resurrection of Jesus, there was no difference between Jew and Gentile.

SUMMING UP

By giving visions to both Cornelius and Peter, God pointed out that the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, had put an end to the partition between the Jews and Gentiles. Salvation was for all who trust and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus?

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.” Romans 10:12

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “Peter's vision of the large sheet- 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “Peter's vision of the large sheet- 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

- The lord Jesus Who saves all who trust in Him.
- Missionaries who go out to other countries to tell the good news about Jesus.

Pray for:

- Those in our land who have suffered racial attacks.
- The right words to speak to non-Christians from other countries.

Get up, kill and eat

Cross out the wrong words

1. Cornelius was a **centurion** / legion.
2. Cornelius prayed to God **occasionally** / regularly.
3. One day at about **three** / six in the afternoon he had a vision.
4. **Cornelius** / Peter saw an angel of God.
5. The angel told Cornelius to send men to **Joppa** / Jerusalem.
6. Peter went up on the roof to **pray** / sleep.
7. **Cornelius** / Peter saw a large sheet let down from heaven to earth.
8. The sheet **did** / **did not** contain all kinds of birds of the air.

Wordsearch

Find the following words from the story in the wordsearch.

CORNELIUS
BIRDS

SLEEP
GIFTS

PRAY
PETER

CENTURION
CONTAINED

VISION
POOR

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

Get up, kill and eat

Unscramble

Unscramble the words to fill the gaps.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a _____ in the Italian
curemention
Regiment. He and all his _____ were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously
filmay
to those in _____ and _____ to God regularly. One day at about three in the
eend rayped
afternoon he had a _____ where he saw an angel of God, who spoke to him.
sivion
Cornelius stared at him in _____ and asked, "What is it, Lord?" The angel
frea
answered, "Your _____ and gifts to the _____ have come up as a memorial
rappers ropo
offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man called Simon
who is called _____. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the
tePer
sea." When the angel had gone, Cornelius called two of his _____ and a devout
rvtsanse
soldier, told them everything that had _____ and sent them to Joppa.
penpedha

Memory Verse

Find the verse and learn it.

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord of all and richly blessed all who call on him



THE APOSTLE PETER

4. THE GREAT ESCAPE

PETER ESCAPES FROM PRISON

ACTS 12:1-18

TEACHING AIM

To show that no-one can stop God's plan.

SETTING THE SCENE

King Herod arrested some members of the church in Jerusalem. He had James, the brother of John, killed. When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he seized Peter and put him in prison. This happened during the Passover after which Herod intended to hold a public trial. This would make him very popular with the Jewish leaders.

BOUND WITH CHAINS

In prison, Peter was handed over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. This would ensure that he would not escape.

Q. What did the church in Jerusalem do when this happened? - *Prayed.*

We are not told that they complained or went on street marches but that they prayed. The early church knew that the secret of success was prayer. They could do nothing without God.

Do you bring your problems to God in prayer? That does not mean that we do no work for exams and then pray that God will work a miracle and we will pass. No, we are to pray asking God to help us to learn so that we will be useful to Him and bring glory to His name.

The night before the trial was to take place, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. He was very well protected. God had plans for Peter, the church and Jerusalem and no man, not even Herod, could stop His plans.

RELEASED FROM CHAINS

While Peter was sleeping, an angel appeared and a light shone in the cell. The angel wakened Peter and said, ***"Quick, get up!"***.

Q. What happened to Peter? - *The chains fell off his wrists.*

Q. What did the angel say to Peter? - ***"Put on your clothes and sandals and wrap your cloak around you and follow me"***.

Peter did as the angel told him and followed him out of the prison. Peter thought he was seeing a vision. We are not told that Peter prayed to be released but no doubt he prayed that, whatever happened, God and the Lord Jesus Christ would be glorified. Peter knew the power of God and yet he was not prepared for what happened. He thought he was having a dream.

Peter followed the angel past the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city.

Q. What happened to the gate? - *It opened by itself.*

A short distance along, the angel suddenly left Peter.

PETER ACTS

When Peter was left on his own, he suddenly realised what had happened to him. God had miraculously rescued him in spite of all that Herod had done to keep him in prison.

Peter went to the house of John Mark's mother and knocked on the door.

Q. What happened when the servant girl came to answer the door? - *She was so overjoyed that she ran back without opening it and told them that Peter was at the door.*

Q. What was the reaction of the people in the house? - *They didn't believe her.*

Eventually, when Peter continued to knock, they let him in and he told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. Peter gave all the glory to God.

SUMMING UP

King Herod tried to stop the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ from being spread in Jerusalem by throwing Christians in prison and even killing James. God, however, is always in control and He used the whole situation to bring glory to Himself. In the morning, there was a commotion among the soldiers for they didn't know what had happened to Peter.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

“For nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37

ACTIVITIES

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “The great escape - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “The great escape - 2”.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God that:

- He has a plan for your life.
- He is in control of everything.

Pray for:

- Christians who are being persecuted for their faith.
- Courage to do what you know God wants you to do.

The Great Escape

True or False

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. Herod persecuted the church.

T F

2. Herod had John killed.

T F

3. Peter was put in prison guarded by two soldiers.

T F

4. Peter was singing when the angel appeared.

T F

5. Peter followed the angel out of prison.

T F

6. Peter thought he was seeing a vision.

T F

7. Peter knocked the door and Rhoda let him in.

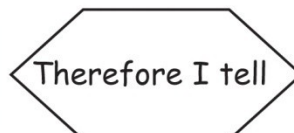
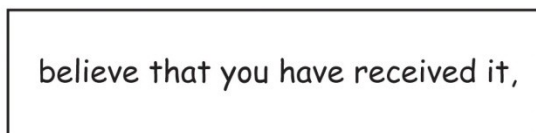
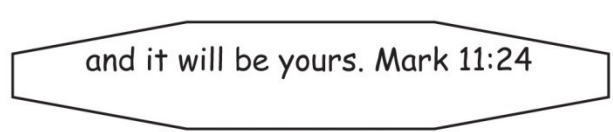
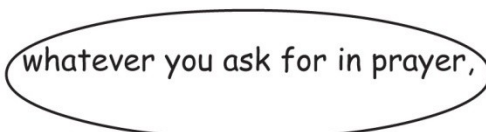
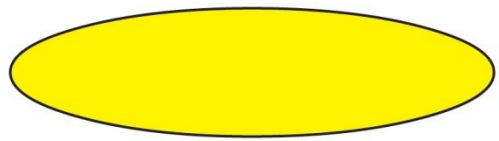
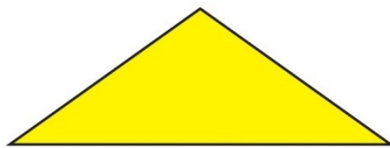
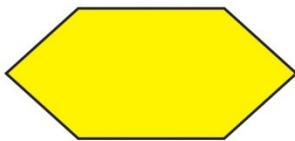
T F

8. In the morning the soldiers were puzzled as to how Peter escaped.

T F

Memory verse

Cut out the shapes below and paste them on the yellow shapes to find the Memory Verse.



The Great Escape

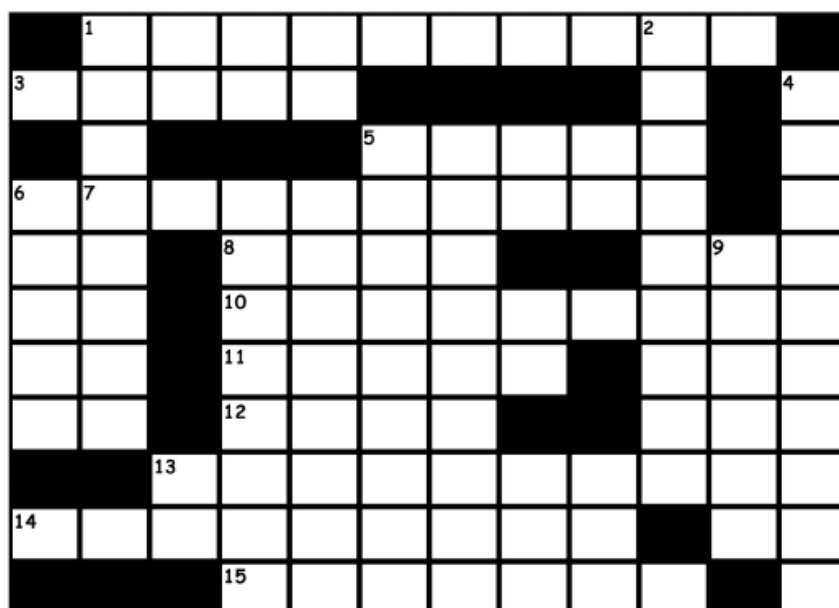
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Herod did this to the church.
3. Herod had him put to death.
5. He was put in prison to please the Jews.
7. Peter was _ _ _ _ _ between two soldiers, bound with two chains.
8. The angel struck Peter on the _ _ _ and woke him up.
10. The angel told Peter to _ _ _ _ _ him.
11. Peter knocked on the door and _ _ _ _ _ came to answer it.
12. The servant girl was so overjoyed she ran back and did not _ _ _ the door.
13. They did not _ _ _ _ _ that Peter was at the door.
14. The servant girl kept _ _ _ _ _ that it was Peter.
15. Peter described how the Lord had _ _ _ _ _ him out of prison.

DOWN

1. Peter was to stand trial after this festival.
2. How the church was praying to God for Peter.
4. Peter was put in prison during the Feast of _ _ _ _ _ Bread.
6. An _ _ _ _ _ of the Lord appeared to Peter in the prison.
9. These fell off Peter's wrists.





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