

All Shapes and Sizes

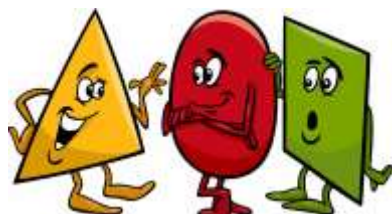
[Living in this World](#)

RE Assemblies for Infant School Children KS1 (ages 4-8)

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All Shapes and Sizes

Introduction

Welcome to “All Shapes and Sizes,” an RE assemblies guide. In approaching RE assemblies, it is good to start where the children are - in school. Helping children engage with life through linking their school education with Christian Bible stories, is the basis of this series. Any assembly leader can present these RE assemblies, regardless of their knowledge of Christian traditions. This can also be presented with a team of up to five people.

The theme of this book is “*Living in This World*” - an essential aspect of life. The topic is “Shapes” - an important part of learning. Add these two together with a big plus sign of FUN and INTERACTION, equals an exciting way for children to INVESTIGATE LIFE. Children begin to engage with their present world.

“Investigating Life”



“Shapes” = Living in this World with

“All Shapes and Sizes”

There are eighteen shapes to explore, along with Bible stories to illustrate each shape. The assemblies are presented in a multi-sensory way so every child can engage in the way they learn best. Every child deserves the opportunity to step from their intellect to their hearts. In these assemblies they are given time to focus on their personal world.

Each assembly lasts fifteen minutes and has the same basic structure. They can be given in any order, as best suits the leader. Each assembly has its own “Shape Card” that sums up the assembly. But please feel free to adjust each assembly as best suits you.

Here is the “memory line” for this assemblies’ series. Bring it out from time to time so the children can learn it through games and races.



Enjoy an adventure with “All Shapes and Sizes!!”

Basic Structure for a 15 minute RE Assembly

Sing: As the children file into the hall, sing some songs.

Welcome: (½ minute)

Introduce the RE Assembly Team.

Introduce Theme with Puppets: (1 minute)

The puppets introduce the theme using role play. The puppets explain some personal dilemma that needs solving.

Introduce Bible Time Line: (1½ minute)

Have two children hold a string, like a clothes line. Attach the downloadable “Shape Card” for that assembly with a clothes peg. Add a new “Shape Card” at the beginning of each new assembly.



Bible Story (Spontaneous Drama): (8 minutes)

Present the story by:

- A simple dramatized reading of the story.
- A spontaneous drama in which various children can participate as characters in the story. They may be chosen before the story begins. On the stage they should be guided from place to place as the story unfolds.
- Various props are suggested for each assembly.
- Various pictures can be downloaded for individual assemblies.

Reflective Time with Puppets: (2 minutes)

Ask about the feeling that came up in the story. Various children will want to respond. Choose three or four share with the group. Always thank the child for their contribution. Always take seriously what they say.

Prayer: (½ minute)

The RE Assembly leader may tell the children, “I shall say a prayer. If you want, you may join in at the end by saying ‘Amen.’”

Closing Theme Song: (1 minutes)

**Materials Needed for RE Assemblies**

Remember to arrive early and set up!

What to bring to every assembly:

- String for Time Line and clothes pegs
- "Shape Card" for each assembly
- Puppets
- Safety pins, tape, string
- Name Badges for each one on the assembly team
- Words for songs: memory stick, or acetates for an Overhead Projector

What to have on hand in your cupboard for the various assemblies:

- Lengths of fabric between 3 - 5 meters long.

Non wrinkly, easily washable fabrics best, like polyester.

These make excellent backdrops, boats, mountains, cloaks, rivers...

Bright solid colours are best...red, brown, blue, purple, white, green...

- Laminator for all Number Cards and paper items that will get used again
- Swords (wooden spoons, or the inside cardboard roll in wrapping paper)
- Armour, and helmets (the good old plastic kind)
- Plastic cups to hit together - they make a great horse or donkey sounds.

Theme 1: ARCH TO SEE – Things Go Wrong

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Use a washing line, clothes pegs, three event picture and "ARCH to see" card. Memory Line

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Noah and the Ark" (Genesis 6 – 9)

Materials needed:

Plastic hammer

Cardboard tubes as wood (like in wrapping paper)

Bags of food stored for the trip, Lantern to see in the boat

Rainbow, Cuddly animals

Brown cloth for boat, Blue cloth for water

Building Plans for boat

Cast: Narrator

God

Noah and family

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Sometimes things go wrong, but we can be prepared. In school we practice how to leave the building safely and quickly. We can think about the best way to get out of our homes if there was a disaster. Maybe you can go home and talk about it with your family. When you see a rainbow, remember, you can always be prepared.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, sometimes things go wrong. Please help us to think ahead and be prepared. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know...say "Be Prepared." ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 1: Noah and the Ark (Genesis 6-8)**

In the beginning God made the world and the world was good. People were good. But something changed. People started fighting, cheating, and doing mean things. God looked around and sighed. "I'm sorry I made this world."

But God noticed one man. This man was good and kind. "Noah," God called, "The world is in trouble. Please build a boat. Here are the plans."

Noah looked at the plans. He scratched his head. This was an awfully big boat. So he called his wife, his three boys and their wives. They had a family meeting. "Listen to me, family. God told me to build a boat. Let's do it together."

The sons and wives nodded their heads. "Looks like fun. Let's start now."

They chopped down trees. They made long boards. They nailed them together. They built the biggest, tallest, longest, widest boat on earth.

Then Noah and his family filled it with food. They cut grass and picked nuts. They found honey and figs. Soon everything was ready. But ready for what?!

"It's time!" God called. "Noah, you and your family, climb into the boat." God called the animals too, a girl and boy of every kind. They climbed into the boat as well. Then God shut the door behind them.

Noah lit a candle and everyone grew still. Suddenly they heard a pitter-patter on the roof. Then CRASH BANG from lightning. But the rain didn't stop after a little while. It rained for forty days and nights. Soon the boat began to float.

They lived in that boat for a year, and finally God sent a wind. The water dried up and the boat hit ground. Noah sent out a dove to see if the land was dry. It came back with a twig with leaves.

But Noah waited for God to speak. He wasn't going to get off until God told him to. A few days later God did. "Noah! It is time. You may get off this boat! Everything is dry! Build houses and grow food."

People and animals ran off the boat. "Hurray!" they shouted. "Thank you, God."

God smiled. But he had one more thing to say to Noah. "Noah, I will never flood the whole earth again. I will put a rainbow in the sky instead. When I look at that rainbow it will remind me of my promise."

Theme 2: CUBES TO STACK – People are Different

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Two puppets speak hold a rope for the shape line. One puts on the three main markers in the Bible: Creation, Christmas, and Easter. Talk about all of us being different, just like shapes.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

Materials needed:

Ice cream buckets with lids or very big blocks to build a tower

Green cloth for a field

Wooden spoons for spades

Cast: Narrator

God

Clever man

Leader

Children to help build the tower

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How many of us can say hello in a different language?

We are all special, all different.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, thank you that you made us all different and special. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know...say "We're special." ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to stack



Story 2: The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11 in the Bible)

In the Beginning everyone spoke the same language. It didn't matter where you went, everyone knew what you said. But soon there were so many people, they moved to great, wide plain. It was so flat and they could see for miles.

But then they discovered they had a problem. There was no stone to build their houses, just mud, mud, everywhere. "I have an idea," said a clever man. "Let's make bricks."

Everyone scratched their heads. "What a crazy idea! Will it work?"

The clever man laughed. "It won't, if you don't try."

So the people made bricks and baked them hard. Then they built houses, barns and shops. But soon there was nothing else left to build.

"We like building," said the people. "What shall we do next?"

The clever man stood on a box so everyone could hear him speak. "Let's build a tower that reaches to the sky. Then we will be famous, and always stay together."

The people liked the idea and made thousands and thousands and thousands of bricks. Soon they began to build the tower, first one meter, then two, then three and four...a hundred meters, a hundred and fifty meters high.

But God came down and looked at the tower. "These people are clever and speak the same language. But they think they are special because they build something great. They are special already. I will give them different languages. Then they will spread out in all the earth. I want them to enjoy life."

The next morning the people showed up to work on the tower. The clever man stood on his box. "Grab your tools, everyone. I will show you what needs to be done today."

Only a few people grabbed their tools. The rest stood there and scratched their heads. "What's the matter with you?" the clever man called.

The people looked at him as if he was crazy. Then they turned to the person next to them, but no one could understand each other. So everyone packed up their tools and went back home. They took their families and moved away.

The tower crumbled after many years and those who lived there called it "Babel." That's because that's where everyone started babbling. God made everyone very special.

Theme 3 SEEDS TO PLANT – Being Generous (Harvest)

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Use a washing line, clothes pegs, three event picture and "SEEDS to Plant" card. Memory Line

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Seeds to Plant" (Matthew 13: 3 – 9)

Materials needed:

- Corn stalk (if you can find one in a garden somewhere)
- Corn on the cob
- Corn seed
- Watering can
- Stone
- Weeds

Cast: narrator

Farmer

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is it good to be generous? What are some good things we can give to others?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be generous and help others when they are in need. Amen"

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know...Give to all ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to plant

**Story 3: “Seeds to Plant” (Matthew 13: 3 – 9)**

There is a harvest story from long ago, but it is still true today. It is about a clever farmer, amazing seeds, and generosity. It takes all three to have a harvest.

Let’s hear that story...

What if there was a farmer who planted a corn seed on a path? Every time he walked down that path, he would step on it. It didn’t matter how much he watered the seed, it would never have a chance to grow. No seed can grow on a path.

What if that farmer planted that corn seed on a rock? He watered it. He sat down beside all day long, watching it. “Grow seed, grow!” he could say, trying to help it along. But that seed would never grow. No seed can grow on a rock.

What if that farmer planted his corn seed in weeds? That seed wouldn’t grow. The weeds would take all the sunlight and rain. No seed can grow in weeds.

But the farmer is clever. He takes his corn seed and plants it in good soil. He waters it, and it grows, and grows and grows. Every corn seed can grow in good soil.

That clever farmer knows a secret as well. He knows that a corn seed is amazing. When that one little corn seed grows up, the farmer won’t find just one little corn seed on a stalk, he will find one, two, three, four, five ears of corn.

“Hurray!” he shouts as he picks the corn.

He sits down and opens one ear. It has hundreds of seeds inside. “What a harvest!” he shouts. “Now I can share this food with everyone. Everyone will have plenty to eat.”

Harvest is about a clever farmer, amazing seeds, and generosity. Let’s all be like that farmer and seed, clever and generous in everything we do.

Theme 4: STARS TO COUNT – Children are Precious

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Every child in the world is precious. I am precious.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Use a washing line, clothes pegs, three event picture and "STARS to Count" card. Memory Line

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Stars to Count" (Genesis 12 – 15)

Materials needed:

Cloth and chairs for two tents to move from one side to the other

Doll wrapped up in blanket

Some cuddly animals

White cloth for God

Cast: Narrator

God

Abraham

Sarah

Lot

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What makes a child precious? Their eyes? Their smile? What makes you precious? Every child in the whole world is precious. When you look at the stars, remember that you are precious.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, thank you that children are precious. Thank you that each of us is very precious. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know...say "We're Precious!" ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 4: Stars to Count (Genesis 12 - 15)**

There once was a couple called Abram and Sarah. They had been married a long time, but still had no children. They were very sad.

One day God came to Abram. "Abram, leave your country, and I will show you where to go. I promise to give you a family."

They packed up their house. They put everything on camels and donkeys. They took their sheep. They took their nephew, Lot, as well. Then they set off, not knowing where they were going. They walked for hundreds of miles.

They finally came to another country. "I will give you this land," said God.

Abram and Sarah set up their tents. They rested there. Soon their sheep, donkeys and camels had lots of babies.

Their nephew Lot grew up. He set up his own tent as well. Soon he had just as many animals as Abram. He even had two children.

But with so many animals, grass and water were hard to find. Everyone started fighting. They fought over water holes and fields. "Let's split up," Abram said. "Lot, take all you have, and you go one way. I'll go the other."

Lot chose the valley, so Abram and Sarah moved up into the hills. They pitched their tents far away from anyone. But God came to visit Abram. "I will give this land to you and your children!"

"I can't wait," said Abram. "Everyone is having babies, except us." But the years ticked by and Sarah still had no baby. What were they going to do?

God came to Abram again. "I am your great reward," said God. But Abram shook his head. "God, we want a child."

God made a promise to him. "You and Sarah will have a son." God took Abram outside, in the dark. "Can you count the stars?" said God. "Your family will grow like that!"

Abram looked at the stars. He believed what God said. This time something did happen. A year later Sarah had a baby boy.

Abram and Sarah looked at their son. They called him "Isaac." That means "laughter," because they couldn't stop laughing for joy.

Theme 5: PYRAMID to BUILD – Be Brave

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: What are some brave things the puppets have done? Was it hard to do?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Baby in a Basket" (Exodus 2)

Materials needed:

Blue cloth – river, Green cloth – reeds

Grey cloth for pyramid

Basket

Baby

House

Crown for princess

Cast: Narrator

Pharaoh and soldiers

Sister

Moses' mother and father

Princess and servants

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How was brave in this story? How can we be brave?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be brave and do what is right. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...be brave!

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 5: "Baby in a Basket" (Exodus 2)**

A long time ago a family grew big in Egypt. Pharaoh got worried. "This family is getting powerful. Soldiers, make them my slaves."

The soldiers marched out and made the family build pyramids. The family worked hard, but that didn't stop them having babies. They had lots of them.

Pharaoh sat on his throne. "This is too much," he shouted. "Soldiers, take their baby boys away. I will not have them grow strong." The soldiers ran into the houses. Every time a baby boy was born, they snatched it away.

One slave family had a daughter. Phew! They were safe. But then they had a son. "We must hide him," said the father. "It is not right for soldiers to take babies."

The father hid him. The soldiers came. "Where is the baby?" they shouted

"What baby?" said the father, and the soldiers went away. But the baby started growing. "What can we do?" whispered the father.

"I have an idea," said the mother. She made a basket and covered it with tar. She put her son inside. She put the basket in the river, among the reeds. Then she looked at her daughter. "Keep an eye on your brother."

The sister sat by the river. Suddenly she heard a noise. She hid in the reeds and saw a princess coming. Maybe the princess wouldn't see the basket. But the princess saw it. "Get me that basket," she told her servant girl.

The servant ran and picked it up, and carried it to the princess. The princess took off the lid, and at that moment the baby boy started crying. "This is one of the slave babies," said the princess. "I will keep him as my own. I shall call him Moses."

The sister suddenly felt brave. She jumped out of the reeds and ran to the princess. "O princess, I know of a woman who can take care of your baby."

"Go, get her," said the princess.

The sister ran and got her mother. The princess smiled. "Please take care of Moses. He will be my son."

The mother nodded. Her baby was safe. God had helped her to be brave, and things would turn out alright.



Theme 6: A SPOT TO LISTEN – Following Instructions

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppets are talking in class. The teacher tells them to be quiet, but they keep on talking. They end up writing, "I will not talk in class," ten times.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Burning Bush" (Exodus 3)

Materials needed:

Red cloth for fire

Grey cloth for bush

Staff

Mountain

Cast: Narrator

Moses

God

Slaves

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It is sometimes hard to follow your teacher's instructions? What can we do to help us listen better to our teachers?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to listen to our teachers. Help us to do what is right. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...Don't Complain!

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to listen

**"Story 6: Burning Bush" (Exodus 3)**

Moses grew up and left the palace. He left his family. He left his people who were still slaves. He started to take care of sheep in the desert. He was always hunting for grass.

One day he came to Mount Horeb. He climbed it, searching for more grass. But then he noticed a bush burning. He stared at it. It didn't burn up. The flames kept leaping into the air. Moses didn't know that God was in the bush.

Moses scratched his head. "I will go over and investigate," he said.

When God saw Moses come close, he called out to him. "Moses! Moses!"

Moses almost jumped out of his skin. "Here I am," he said.

"Stop there, on the spot where you are standing. Listen to me," said God. "I am God. Now take off your sandals. The ground you are standing on is holy."

Moses threw off his sandals, and fell to the ground. He didn't move from that spot. He hid his face in his cloak, but God kept talking to him. "Moses, I have seen how sad my people are. They are still slaves. I want to rescue them and take them to a good land where they can rest and be happy. Now go! I am sending you to Pharaoh. I want you to lead them out."

Moses kept his face covered. "But God? I'm not an important person. I can't do this."

"I am with you, Moses, and I shall prove it. When you lead my people out of Egypt, you will come to this very mountain and pray to me."

Moses cleared his throat. "But God? What if the people don't believe me?"

"Moses, you have a staff in your hand. Throw it down."

Moses did, and it suddenly turned into a snake. Moses screamed and jumped from his spot. He ran away, but God called him back. "Moses, pick it up by the tail." Moses did and it turned into a staff.

"Do this in front of the people and they will believe you," said God. "Now go! I will always be with you. I will help you." Moses went and God did help him. God always helps us do what is right.

Theme 7: SPHERE TO STOP – Don't Be a Bully

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

No one likes to be bullied. We must be kind to each other.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Use the washing line, clothes pegs, three event picture and "Spheres to stop" card.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "When the Sun Stopped" (Joshua 10)

Materials needed:

Five crowns

Swords

Message

Brown cloth for city of Gibeon

Cast: Narrator

Joshua

Five kings

Gibeon

Runner

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): No one likes to be bullied. But sometimes it is easy to pick on others, to not like something about them. How can we stop teasing others?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, none of us likes to be bullied. Help us to be kind to everyone. Amen."

Sing a song: If You're Happy and You Know...say, "Be kind!" ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 7: "When the Sun Stopped" (Joshua 10)**

It took four hundred years for Abraham's people to turn into millions of people. Soon they wanted a good leader. God gave them Joshua.

All the cities around them thought Joshua was strong, and that he might take them over. They were petrified. Only one small city called Gibeon wanted to be friends. They had a meal with Joshua and promised to be kind to each other.

But the other cities were furious with Gibeon. "Traitor! How dare you make friends with our enemies. We'll beat you up." But the people of Gibeon didn't listen to them.

The five cities met together. "Let's attack Gibeon. We will teach them a lesson!" So they marched out with their five armies, waving swords in their hands.

The city of Gibeon saw the five kings coming. They saw the huge armies. They slammed their city gates shut. "We are in big trouble," they cried. "We have to tell Joshua."

The people of Gibeon found a runner. They gave him a message. It said, "Come quickly and help us, Joshua. We will be destroyed."

The runner ran for miles and miles. He found Joshua and gave him the message. Joshua read it. He called his army and they left right away. But Joshua was scared. "How can we fight five armies?!" he cried. "They will beat us up."

But God heard Joshua and spoke to him, "Don't be afraid, Joshua. You will win."

Joshua and his army marched all night. As the sun came up they saw Gibeon. It was surrounded by the five enemy kings. But Joshua and his army sneaked around. They surrounded the five kings instead.

The five kings had a terrible surprise. "Help!" they cried and ran away.

Joshua and his army chased after them, but the sun was going down. It was getting dark. There wasn't enough light to chase the enemy away.

Joshua stood still and looked at the sun. "Stop, sun. Don't move in the sky!"

Guess what?! God heard Joshua. He stopped the sun in the sky! It stayed there for one whole day. Now Joshua could chase those five kings far away, and those bullies never bothered them again.

Theme 8: RECTANGLE TO BUILD – Respect Special Places

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

We should respect everyone's special places.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: A puppet has a special place where he keeps his special marbles. Another puppet sees the marbles and plays with them. The first puppet says that they are special, and the second one says sorry.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "A Special Place" (2 Samuel 7)

Materials needed:

Rectangle Box and yellow cloth

Angels for Ark of God

Tent

Throne

Cast: Narrator

Craftsman

King David

Priests

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Do you have a place that is special to you? Your room? A tree house? A secret place? What makes it special to you?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for special places. Help us to respect what is special to other people. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know It...Show Respect! ...

...Pat your head

...Wave Good By

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 8: "A Special Place" (2 Samuel 7)**

There was one thing God wanted more than anything else. He wanted to be with His people. But there was a problem. People couldn't see him. What was God going to do?

He found a craftsman who worked with metal. "Craftsman, make me a chest, shaped like a rectangle. Then cover it with gold. Put two golden angels on top. This will remind people of me. They can even talk with me there."

The craftsman did exactly what God said. He called it the Ark of God, and put it in a special tent. Soon people came to listen and talk with God.

When David became king, he wanted to be with God. But the Ark was in a tiny village far away, and David had to live in the city. "What can I do?" said David.

Then an idea popped into his head. "I know. I will move the Ark of God closer to me. I'll ask the priests to do it." He called the priests and told them his plan. They did what King David wanted.

They moved the tent. They moved the Ark and carried it all into the city. They set it up near the palace. Now King David could talk to God whenever he wanted. The king was so happy he danced with joy.

One day David sat in his palace. A priest came to visit him. They looked out the window at the Ark of God. Suddenly King David shook his head. "It just isn't fair. I live in a palace, but the Ark lives in a tent. That doesn't seem respectful. I know what I will do. I will build God a house, a gigantic and beautiful one."

"That sounds good," said the priest. "I think you should do it."

But that night when the priest went to the Tent, God gave him a different message. The priest hurried to King David the next morning. He found King David on his throne.

"O King," said the priest, "I have a message for you. Your son will build the house, instead of you. But because you respected God and wanted to build him a really special place, he will make you great."

King David stood up and hurried to the Tent. He sat before the Ark of God. "O God, I don't deserve such kindness. Thank you that you for all your promises."

God kept his promises to King David. Soon David became the greatest king that country ever had, and years later his son built that special house for God.

Theme 9: MANGER TO FIND – (Christmas Story)

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone can listen and learn. Everyone can be wise.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: What does it mean to be wise? Is it someone with a big head? Or someone who is clever? What makes a person wise? When they listen and learn. Manger Card.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Who is the Wiseman?"

Materials needed:

- Baby Jesus and a manger
- Star
- Sheep for shepherds
- Gifts, crowns for wise men
- Blanket and pillow
- White cloth for angels

Cast: Narrator

- Shepherds
- Wise men
- Angels
- People wrapped in blankets
- King on his kingly pillow

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Sometimes it is hard to listen and learn. Does anyone have a clue how we can do that?

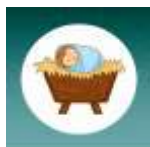
Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be wise. Help us to listen and learn. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...Listen and learn!

...use your heart

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to fill

**Story 9: "Who is the Wiseman?" (Luke 2)**

A long time ago, 2014 years ago, Jesus was born in a stable. But there were no tellies, no telephones to spread the news. How was anyone going to find out?

God had a plan. He hoped someone would listen. He sent angels down from heaven. They filled the sky from one side to another. They sang and sang, "Jesus is born!" Maybe somebody would hear their songs.

People in houses didn't hear a thing. They were asleep, wrapped up in their duvets. The king in the palace didn't hear a thing. He was asleep on his kingly pillow.

But some shepherds were out in the fields that night. They didn't have duvets or pillows or houses. They slept on the ground close by a fire. When the angels started singing, they jumped to their feet. They heard the music alright.

One angel stepped forwards. He didn't care they were poor shepherds. At least they were listening. "Don't be afraid," he said. "A mighty king is born. You will find him in a manger, in a stable in town." The angels then disappeared.

The shepherds suddenly had a choice. Would they listen to the angel and do what he said? After all, what kind of a king was born in a stable? But the shepherds were wise. They went to find Jesus.

God wanted more visitors to come and see Jesus. He thought of another plan to get the news out. Maybe someone else would see and go. God put an enormous star high in the sky, to tell everyone a king was born.

People in houses didn't see a thing. They were asleep, wrapped up in their duvets. The king in the palace didn't see a thing. He was asleep on his kingly pillow.

But some wise men far away, saw the star. They watched it travel the sky. They knew that a king had been born somewhere, but they knew that baby was far away.

The wise men had a choice. Would they be brave and follow the star? Would they leave that night? The wise men were wise, and set off at once. They found baby Jesus in the stable.

But what happened to all those people wrapped up in their duvets, to the king on his kingly pillow? They all missed the excitement that happened that night. But they had a choice as well. Would they believe the shepherds and wise men, who told them a king was born? ... What would you have done if you were there?

Theme 10: HEARTS TO GUARD – Everyone Can Do What is Right

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone has a heart. Everyone can choose to do right or wrong.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet drops litter on the floor. The other puppets tell him to stop. What should the puppet do? Heart Card

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "The Great Big Choice" (Proverbs1-3)

Materials needed:

Throne
Crown for Solomon
Small chair for Rehoboam
Tree

Cast: Narrator

King Solomon
Rehoboam
Joe
Friends

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): The boy in the story had a hard choice to make. He had to choose between his friends and what was right. Is it easy to do what is right? How can we choose to do the right thing?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to listen to good advice. Help us to do what is right. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...Do what's right!

...use your ears

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to guard

**Story 10: "The Great Big Choice" (Proverbs 1 - 3)**

King Solomon had a special son. He called him Rehoboam. "Rehoboam," said King Solomon, "come here and sit next to me. I want to tell you a story."

Rehoboam ran to sit with his dad. He sat still and quiet. He loved it when his Dad told him stories. This was the story:

"One day a boy called Joe was playing outside. He saw some friends sitting under a tree. Joe wondered what they were doing.

"Hey, Joe! Come here," called his friends.

Joe ran over and sat down with them. They started to laugh. "We need your help, Joe. We want to sneak into a house and take some things. It will be great fun."

They patted him on the back. "Joe, you're the best friend we have. We will share everything with you."

Joe gasped. "I can't do that! That's stealing!"

His friends stared at him. "What's the matter with you, Joe? Are you scared, or something?"

Joe jumped up. "I want to go home."

Joe's friends stood up and cornered him. "Oh, no you don't! You've heard the plans. You're in on this."

"It's wrong!" cried Joe. "Let me go."

His friends pushed him away. "You're not our friend anymore. Go away!"

Joe stopped. He wanted to be their friend, but he knew what they were doing was wrong? What was he going to do?

King Solomon paused and looked at Rehoboam. "Guard your heart, my son."

"What does that mean?" asked Rehoboam.

"If you do good things you will live. But if you do bad things, they will ruin you."

Rehoboam nodded. He would remember that.

Theme 11: CYLINDER TO CLIMB – Helping Those in Trouble

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone can listen and learn. Everyone can be wise.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet struggling to carry a bag of groceries. The other puppets discuss what they should do. Help or not? They finally do... Cylinder Card

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Jeremiah in the Mire" (Jeremiah 38)

Materials needed:

Black/brown cloth for a well.

Rope and rags

Robe for Ebedmelech, for bad men

Crown for king

Cast: Narrator

Jeremiah

King

Ebedmelech

Servants

Bad men

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Sometimes it is hard to be helpful. Why do you think it is good to help others?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be caring. Help us to help those in need. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...help each other!

...lend a hand

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 11: "Jeremiah in the Mire" (Jeremiah 38)**

There was once a city full of naughty people. A preacher called Jeremiah tried to stop them. "Please don't do bad things," he said. "God wants you to do right."

But the people got mad. They ran to the palace. They bowed to the king. "O King, you know that pest called Jeremiah. He keeps telling us what to do. He thinks he is right and we are wrong. It makes us feel bad."

The king listened to the men. He nodded his head. "Alright, I understand how you feel. You can throw that pest into the well. That will keep him quiet."

The men bowed again. "Thank you, O King." They ran from the palace and grabbed some rope. They ran into the city and found Jeremiah. "Got you!" they shouted.

They dragged him to the well and tied the rope around his waist. "What have I done wrong?" cried Jeremiah.

"You tell us to be good, but we don't want to be good. If you're in the well, we can't hear you anymore. Don't worry, there's no water in the well."

They lowered him in and left him. "Help," shouted Jeremiah, but nobody heard him. Slowly he started sinking into mud. Soon he sank in up to his chest.

Jeremiah knew he would die if he stayed there. There was only one thing he could do. He prayed. "Please, God, save me. Get me out of here."

Now in that city there lived a good man, and his name was Ebedmelech. He ran to the palace. He bowed to the king. "O King, those men did wrong to throw Jeremiah in the well. He will die if he stays there any longer."

The king listened to Ebedmelech. He nodded his head. "Alright, take some servants and pull him out. I promise no one will ever hurt him again."

Ebedmelech bowed. "Thank you, O King." He grabbed some rags and ropes.

Ebedmelech ran and looked into the well. "Jeremiah, here are some rags. Put them under your armpits. Then the rope won't cut you." Jeremiah did exactly what Ebedmelech said.

"Pull, pull," shouted the Ebedmelech. The servant did, with all their might.

"Thanks," said Jeremiah, as he climbed out, and no one ever hurt him again.

Theme 12: SQUARE TO FIND – Don't Be Afraid to Ask

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone can listen and learn. Everyone can be wise.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Washing line with cards. Square Card added. Memory line.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "The Secret Search of Nicodemus"

Materials needed:

Black/brown cloth for walls in the night.

Cloaks for Nicodemus and Jesus

Lantern

Mat

Cast: Narrator

Nicodemus

Jesus

Grumpy teachers

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Are you sometimes scared to ask a question in school?
Why do you think it is good to ask questions?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be brave and ask questions when we don't understand.
Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...ask for help!

...raise your hand

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to find

**Story 12: "The Secret Search of Nicodemus" (John 3)**

There was once a teacher called Nicodemus. He thought what Jesus did was good, but other teachers thought Jesus was crazy. After all, Jesus helped sick people get better. He helped people to do right, and he NEVER asked a penny. Whoever did something for nothing?

Nicodemus was sad. "I like what Jesus does," he whispered to himself. "But I'm scared that the other teachers will laugh at me. I had better forget about him."

But Nicodemus couldn't get Jesus out of his head. He walked around his house, thinking. "Jesus said that we must do right. But I am scared. If those other teachers find out I believe what Jesus says, I could lose my job."

Nicodemus kept on walking in circles. "I know. I will go and talk to Jesus. But not in the day, when the other teachers can see me. I will go at night."

Finally the sun went down. Everyone fell asleep. Nicodemus could even hear the other teachers snoring. "It's safe now!" he whispered. "I must go!"

He took a lamp and hid it under his cloak. He crept from his house. He tiptoed down the street. He could hardly see his way in the dark.

He found the square house where Jesus was staying. He tapped on the door. He tapped again, a little louder. The door opened and Jesus looked out. "Hello?"

Nicodemus bowed. "Jesus, if you have time, I would like to talk with you."

Jesus beckoned Nicodemus in and closed the door. He took Nicodemus to a corner of that small square house. They sat on a mat. "How can I help you?" Jesus said.

Nicodemus sighed. "I know you are good and come from God. I just have to look at all the good things you have done. How do you do what is right?"

Jesus smiled. "Nicodemus, you're a teacher. Don't you know the answer?"

"No! Please tell me!"

Jesus smiled. "God helps me do what is right. He can help you too. I know it is scary to do that, but you don't have to be afraid."

They talked and talked late into the night. Nicodemus was happy he had asked his question. He never forgot that night. He wasn't afraid anymore.

Theme 13: TRIANGLE TO SAIL – Everyone Has Problems

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone can listen and learn. Everyone can be wise.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Triangles are amazing. A square can be squashed to one side. But if you put a diagonal in it, it makes two triangles and becomes very strong. It cannot be pushed out of shape. Triangles make weak things strong. Triangle card.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Come Walk on Water!" (Matt 14)

Materials needed:

4 chairs for a boat – brown cloth to cover them

Blue cloth for sea

Green cloth for mountain

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Peter

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Everyone has problems. What should we do when things go wrong? When we lose our mum in a shop? When our bicycle chain falls off?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, sometimes I have problems. Help me to call for help. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...ask for help!

...raise your hand

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 13: "Come Walk on Water!" (Matthew 14)**

Jesus was tired. He had worked all day helping sick people get better. The lame could now walk. The deaf could hear. The dumb could talk.

Jesus wanted to be alone. He sent his helpers across the lake in a fishing boat. He sent the crowds to their homes. But he went up the mountain to pray.

The sun went down. The wind started to blow, but in the wrong direction. The big triangle sail billowed out. The boat couldn't go in the right direction. "This is bad," shouted Peter, one of the helpers. "We'll never get to the other side."

The helpers struggled on. The boat heaved from one side to the other. "This is crazy," shouted Peter. "This should have only taken us one hour. We've been here all night."

Meanwhile Jesus finally came down the mountain. He went to the lake to look for a boat. But there wasn't a single one left. What was he going to do?

He put his foot on the water, then the other. He set off walking towards his helpers across the sea. The helpers saw him. Their eyes popped out. Their faces turned white. "It's a ghost!" they cried. "Oh no!"

Jesus waved to them. "Be brave! It's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter suddenly had a crazy idea. "Jesus, if it really is you, tell me to come on the water."

Jesus waved again. "Peter, climb out and join me!"

Peter put one foot over the edge of the boat. He put another foot over too. He stood up and took a step, another step. He walked on the water towards Jesus.

But the waves were big. The wind was strong. Peter took his eyes off of Jesus to look around. His crazy idea, was too crazy right now. He suddenly started to sink.

He felt the cold water close around his legs. He felt it close around his waist. "Save me, Jesus," he shouted.

Jesus caught him. "Why were you scared? You are always safe with me."

That moment the wind stopped, and Jesus helped Peter climb into the boat. All the other helpers fell on their knees. They bowed to Jesus like a king. They knew without a doubt that Jesus was special. He could solve problems. He could do anything.

Theme 14: CIRCLE TO JOIN – Everyone Believes Something

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone believes in something, but do we believe what is true.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: A puppet walks in a circle around a hula-hoop. He walks around and around trying to get to the end, but he never does. He believes he is right, no matter what anyone tells him. Is he believing the truth? Circle Card.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Who's telling the Truth?" (Mk 3)

Materials needed:

Table and two chairs

Tea set

Two more chairs for Pharisees

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Pharisees

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Puppet from beginning of the assembly reflects on his actions of going in a circle and realizes he has believed what is not true.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, people say many things. Help me know what is true. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...clap your hands!

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to join

**Story 14: "Who's telling the Truth?" (Mk 3)**

Jesus and his helpers were coming for dinner. The owner of the house worked hard. He wanted Jesus to have the best, the most delicious meal ever.

The owner looked out the window. He saw Jesus and his helpers walking down the road. He ran to the door. "Come in! Come in!" he called.

Jesus and his helpers stepped inside. They smelled the food. "This is wonderful," they said. "Thanks for having us over." Then they sat down to eat.

But just as they were about to take the first bite, there was a "Knock! Knock!" at the door. The owner got up and opened it. "Is Jesus here?" asked a man.

"Yes," said the owner.

The man turned and shouted over his shoulder, "Everyone! I found Him!"

A crowd swarmed into the house. They didn't notice that Jesus was about to eat. They sat in a circle around him. "Tell us stories," they said.

Jesus started to speak, but there was another "Knock! Knock!" at the door again. This time some priests stood there. "May we come in?" they said.

The owner bowed. This was a great honour. "Yes! Come in. Sit down here."

But the priests didn't want to sit in the circle with Jesus. They sat at the back and whispered. "Jesus isn't doing things God's way. He is just plain old crazy."

But Jesus looked up. He knew exactly what the priests were whispering. He shook his head. "Don't say bad things about God. He is kind and good."

Suddenly there was another "Knock! Knock!" at the door. This time Jesus' family stood there, his mother and brothers. "We want to take Jesus home," they said. "He doesn't have time to eat, to rest, to be normal. All these people are driving him crazy."

The owner hurried to Jesus and tapped him on the shoulder. "Your family is here."

Jesus pointed to the circle of people around him instead. "This is my family. Anyone who does what is right is my brother and sister and mother."

The owner smiled. He wanted to do right. He was part of a wonderful family.

Theme 15: CROSS TO BELIEVE – Easter

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme. Everyone believes in something, but do we believe what is true.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: If someone told you a crazy story would you believe them? If they told you they walked on the moon, or had super powers? What if they promised you it was true? Would you believe them then?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Jesus Keeps His Promise" (John 2, 20)

Materials needed:

Temple

Cross

Hill

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Temple leaders

Sad woman

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What are some promises you made that are hard to keep? Like tidying your room...never fighting...

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to keep our promises. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...keep your promise!

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 15: "Jesus Keeps His Promise" (John 2, 20)**

Jesus and his helpers sat in the temple. It was beautiful, with pillars and arches. "If you destroy this temple," said Jesus, "I will raise it up in three days."

The temple leaders scratched their heads. "That is impossible. It took 46 years to build this place." They thought Jesus was talking about the temple, but he wasn't.

It didn't take long for those temple leaders to hate Jesus even more. "Everyone likes him," they hissed. "Nobody likes us. We must get rid of him." They dragged him to the temple.

But what were the temple leaders going to do now? Jesus never did anything wrong. He never told a lie, or hurt anyone. How could they get him in trouble?

They scratched their heads. Finally a man stood up. He raised his hand. "I know! Jesus said he will rebuild the temple in three days. That is impossible. That proves he is wrong."

The temple leaders nodded their heads. "This is a serious crime. Jesus must die. We cannot have liars around."

They dragged Jesus out of the house, down the street, out of the city, and up a hill. They put him on a cross and left him there. But his helpers sat nearby. They cried. How could someone so good get treated like that?

Jesus died later that day and his helpers took him down from the cross. They laid him in a tomb and cried again. But that was because they forgot that Jesus always kept his promises, even if they didn't understand.

Three days later some of the helpers went back to the tomb, but Jesus' body was missing. "Where is he?" cried the helpers. "What have the temple leaders done?" But they forgot that Jesus kept his promises, even if they didn't understand.

They all went back to their homes, all except one lady. She stood at the tomb crying. Suddenly Jesus stood beside her. "Why are you crying?" he asked.

She looked at him and it took her a moment to recognize him, but then she fell to the ground. "Jesus, you're alive!"

"Yes! Yes! I am. Now go tell my helpers the good news." The lady ran with all her might. Now she knew Jesus always kept his promises, no matter how impossible they seemed. You see, the temple was his body, not a building. Jesus did tell the truth.

**Theme 16: LINE TO FISH – Paying Back What We Owe**

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet borrows a book from the library, but he forgets to give it back. The library sends a letter, but the puppet forgets. The library sends another letter. Now there is a fine.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "A Fishy Coin" (Matthew 17)

Materials needed:

House on one side of stage

Lake on other side of stage

Fishing line

Fish with a coin in the mouth

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Tax Collector

Peter

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): No one likes it when they lend something and the person doesn't give it back. How can we remember to give back what we borrowed?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be careful to return what we have borrowed. Help us to think of ways to remember. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know... "Pay your dues!" ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



to fish

**Story 16: A Fishy Coin (Matthew 17)**

One day Jesus and his helpers visited a town. His helper, Peter, went off for a wander. Suddenly two men stopped him. "Hey you, you're one of Jesus' helpers."

Peter nodded. "Yes."

The men laughed. "We're tax collectors. Jesus is supposed to pay his tax to the temple."

"He will pay it," Peter said. "How much is it?"

The tax collectors laughed. "It's 1£ a person. What is it? Is he too poor to pay?"

Peter shook his head. "I'll go tell Jesus." He hurried away and found Jesus. But even before he had a chance to tell Jesus, or anyone else what had happened, Jesus spoke up.

"Peter," said Jesus. "I have a question for you. When a king wants money, who does he ask? Does he ask his sons, or does he ask everyone else in the kingdom?"

That was an easy question, but Peter was surprised. How did Jesus know he was thinking about money? Peter answered, "Jesus, the king's sons never pay taxes. Everyone else does."

Jesus smiled. "That's right. In heaven everyone who believes in me is a son or daughter of the King, of God. But on earth there are other rules. We must pay what we owe on earth."

Jesus looked out the door, at the lake shimmering in the sun. "Peter, take your fishing line and go catch a fish. The very first fish you catch, open its mouth. Inside you will find a 2£ coin. Take it to the tax collectors, to pay your tax and my tax."

Peter grabbed his fishing rod. He hurried to the lake. He threw in his line, and pulled out a fish. It was tiny, but Peter did what Jesus said. He opened its mouth. Guess what he found? You're right! A 2£ coin.

Peter pulled it out and threw the fish back into the water. He ran to the tax collectors. "Here," he said. "See! We do pay our taxes."

So you see, Jesus really does want us to pay what we owe. He will even help us remember.

Theme 17: OVALS TO EAT – Don't Give Up!

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Use the shape line and put up the main stories in the Bible, creation, Christmas, Easter, and today's oval story. It is a squashed circle. Sometimes life is a challenge, like a circle getting squashed into an oval. What will we do about it?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Are You Crazy, Man?" (Luke 11)

Materials needed:

Two empty baskets

Lantern

Box with some food

Cast: Narrator

Jesus and helpers

Guest who arrives in the night

Man and his wife

Neighbour

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): When something is hard to do, like learning to swim or riding a bike, how long should we keep on trying? Why should we keep on trying? Ovals remind us that no matter how squashed we feel, not to give up.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, it is easy to give up. Help us to keep trying. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...Don't give up!

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 17: "Are You Crazy, Man?" - OVALS to Eat**

Jesus sat on a mountain. "Jesus," asked a helper, "please teach us to pray."

Jesus smiled. "That is a good thing to ask. This is what you should say: "Our Father in heaven, great is your name. You are the King. Please, give us food for every day. Help us to say sorry when we do wrong. Help us to forgive whoever hurts us. And please keep us away from trouble."

Then Jesus told his helpers this story. "Imagine it is night time, and everyone is asleep. Someone knocks on a front door. "Who is it?" calls the man.

"It's me," a voice shouts. The man opens the door and sees his friend. He hasn't seen his friend for years. "Come in!" the man shouts. "Come in and let's have a meal."

The man's wife tiptoes up to the man. She whispers in his ear. "Excuse me, dear, we have a problem. We have no food and the shops are closed."

The man taps his head and smiles. "I'll go and ask our neighbour. He will have plenty of food." The man grabs his lantern and runs next door. Knock. Knock.

"Who is it?" a voice shouts from inside.

"It's me, from next door. Can you lend me some food?"

"Go away, man!" says the neighbour. "Come back tomorrow. I'm asleep." But the man keeps on knocking, and knocking, and knocking.

Finally the neighbour gets up. He opens the door. "Are you crazy? It's midnight."

"My friend has just come," says the man. "We have nothing to eat."

The neighbour puts three oval loaves in a basket. "I better give him extra," he grumbles to himself. "I don't want to get woken again." He puts in even more food.

The man's eyes almost pop out. His neighbour has given him a lot of food. "Thank you," shouts the man and races home.

Jesus stopped his story and looked at his helpers. "Listen to me. Don't be scared to tell God what you need. He will give you what is best. But you must remember to ask, and don't stop asking. Don't lose hope, my friends."

Theme 18: CRESCENT TO HIDE – Don't Be Afraid

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: "For everything God made is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Do the memory line. Since everything God made is good, so there are things we don't need to be afraid of. Puppets tell what they are afraid of.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "The Wild Ride" (Mark 4)

Materials needed:

Two chairs with brown cloth for a boat

Blue cloth for a sea.

Black cloth for clouds

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Crowd

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What are some things we don't have to be afraid of? Like homework? Spiders? What can we do to help us be brave?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, it is easy to get scared. Help us to be brave. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it...Be Brave!

...Wave Good Bye

"Shape Card" for this assembly:



**Story 18: "The Wild Ride" (Mark 4)**

It seemed that most days Jesus worked hard. Thousands of people came to see him. Jesus and his helpers worked from morning till evening.

One evening as the sun went down, Jesus stopped and looked around. The Sea of Galilee sparkled in the sun, the water looked cool and inviting. He turned to his helpers. "Let's go over to the other side of the sea. We need a break."

The crowd didn't notice them hurry down to the shore. They didn't notice them climb in a boat. They didn't even notice the splash of oars as they left.

Then Jesus saw a cushion in the bottom of the boat. He fluffed it up and lay down to rest. He fell fast asleep in an instant and the crescent moon shined down on him. It all looked so peaceful and calm.

The helpers rowed in silence. They didn't want to say a word. They knew Jesus needed to sleep. But suddenly the clouds turned black. The wind started to blow. Rain started to fall. "We must row faster," whispered the helpers. "We must get to the other side quick."

The wind blew harder. The waves grew bigger. The rain fell faster and the moon disappeared. But Jesus still slept on his cushion.

Then the waves splashed into the boat. The helpers got wet. Jesus got wet. But Jesus still slept on his cushion. "This is bad," said the helpers. "Row faster!"

Then the lightening lit up the sky. The air shook as it rumbled, but Jesus still slept on his cushion. "This is terrible," cried the helpers. "We're scared."

Suddenly the waves and rain filled up the boat. "We're drowning!" shouted the helpers. "Jesus, wake up!"

Jesus opened one eye, then the other. He rubbed them and yawned, and then he stood up. He faced the wind. "Wind, be quiet! Waves, stop splashing!" Suddenly it was completely calm.

The helpers stared at Jesus and at the sea. "Why were you scared?" Jesus said. "You're always safe with me."

The helpers nodded. Now they knew. Jesus could still any storm.



This is the end of “All shapes and Sizes.” If you liked this series, there are many more on www.funfish.org.uk