



Be the Best

Respecting Ourselves and Others

RE Assemblies for Junior School Children KS2 (ages 8-11)

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Welcome to Fun Fish Assemblies

This is a Fun Fish RE Assembly Series for KS2, ages 8-11. “Be the Best” teaches children how to work towards how to be the best they can be in life, and what it actually means to be the best. As with all our assembly series, each assembly includes a memory line (a verse from the Bible that they can memorize), thoughtful thematic questions for the children to interact with, a Bible story on the theme for that day, and songs.

“Be the Best” enables children to grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually. They are given opportunity to join in the spontaneous interactive dramatic Bible story. They are given space to think through issues relating to school and home. They are given the freedom to laugh and enjoy. Fun Fish assemblies are fun, and we have found that when children are happy, they learn.

If you are able, adding puppets, musical instruments, and visual aids always help in an RE assembly. The more multi-sensory an RE assembly is, the more children will be able to engage. We have found that the best visuals are bold coloured bed linens or giant pieces of fabric, at least four meters long. These can be draped over chairs and stands to make effective boats, trees. These visuals are only representative, and if you tell a child that a pile of chairs with a green cloth thrown over the top is a tree, that’s what they see. Children have wonderful imaginations.

If you have any questions, please look on the Fun Fish Website: www.funfish.org or e-mail: funfish@navigator.co.uk

Enjoy this fabulous adventure of “Be the Best.”



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: (2 minute)

For each assembly there is a Treasure (theme) card. Introduce this.

The puppets then introduce the theme using some personal dilemma that needs solving. This can happen through a game, a puppet sketch, a demonstration. This is a place for creativity and spontaneity.

We have provided a helpful memory line (a verse from the Bible) that the children can memorize. This can happen on occasion during this introduction slot. (a flash card PDF file has been included on the website)

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: (2 minutes)



Materials Needed for RE Assemblies

Remember to arrive early and set up!

What to bring to every assembly:

- Puppets
- Memory Line
- Treasure card for that assembly
- Treasure box in which to put the card
- Visuals: pictures, objects, large pieces of fabric
- Safety pins, tape, string
- Name Badges for each one on the assembly team
- Words for songs: memory stick, or acetates for an Overhead Projector
- You might also need a musical instrument and music stand

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: Coping with Bullies**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sin a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet comes back from a party crying. Someone had pushed him down and then laughed. The puppet wants revenge. The other puppets give their advice on how to deal with it. Stay away from that meanie. Tell a grownup. Don't get even. It will only make it worse.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Stolen Wells (Genesis 26)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Isaac

Servants

People of the land

Materials needed:

Isaac's tent on one side of the stage

Sheep herd in middle

Spades to dig a well on the other side of the stage

Swords for the people of the land

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Have you ever felt like getting even? What is the wrong way to handle bullies? What is a right way?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please protect us from bullies. Help us to do what is right. Help us to stand up for those who are being bullied. Amen"

Sing a song:

**Story 1: Coping with Bullies – Stolen Wells – (Genesis 26)**

Isaac lived in a foreign land, and he had lots of sheep. Lots of sheep meant he needed lots of water and grass. That meant he travelled a lot looking for water and grass.

One day his servants had a brilliant idea. "Isaac, let's build a well," one of them said. "Then we will not always have to travel miles just to find water."

Isaac laughed. "What a good idea!" he said. "Let's get our spades and begin to dig."

They ran to their tents and got their spades. They found a secret valley and started to dig. It didn't take long to find water. Lots of water. They shouted and whooped. Then they watered their sheep.

But the people who lived in the land heard the noise. They came to see what was happening. Their eyes lit up. They turned into bullies. "Water! You found water! Wonderful. We're taking over this well. This is our land! You can't have it. Your strangers here."

Isaac's servants and those bullies started pushing and shoving each other. "Stop!" shouted Isaac. "We can't fight these people. They will win. Just let them have the well."

Isaac's servants stopped fighting, but they shook their fists at those bullies. "Meanies!" they shouted. But Isaac's servants refused to give up. They found another secret valley. They dug another well. They found water again.

But the bullies somehow found out. They laughed and pushed Isaac's servants away. "Thanks, little servants, for doing all the work," the bullies teased. "We appreciate you digging for us."

The servants ran to Isaac. "What should we do? They have stolen our well again."

Isaac sighed. "We can do nothing. Go find another valley and dig another well."

The servants did, and the bullies found out. "You can keep your well," they called out this time. "That just shows you how nice we are."

Isaac wasn't angry. He prayed to God instead. "Thank you, God, for this well. Thank you that the people of this land have left us alone. Now we have enough water for ourselves and our animals."

Isaac knew how to cope with bullies. He didn't fight. He went away from them. He knew it would only make things worse.

**Theme 2: Controlling Anger**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

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

Sing a Song:

Puppets Introduces Theme: One puppet calls to wake up another puppet. One puppet spooks another one and it screams. Both puppets get angry.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Balaam and the Donkey (Number 22)

Materials: Sword and white cloth for angel

Crown and gold cloth for king

Money bags

Donkey ears and grey cloth for donkey

Stick, head band and black cloth for Balaam

Plastic cup to make donkey hoof sounds

Cast: Narrator

Balaam

Donkey

Angel

Messengers

The Special People: all children in assembly

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive) It is easy to shout when we get cross. What can we do to stop shouting? How can we help others not get angry?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us not to shout when we get angry. Help us to not get others angry. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 2: Controlling Anger - Balaam and His Donkey (Numbers 22 in the Bible)**

There was a king who didn't like God's people. He had an idea. He would find someone who can say bad things about them. That would hurt them.

"Servants," called the king, "take a big bag of gold to wise old Balaam. Tell him say bad things to God's people. That will make bad things happen to them."

The servants told Balaam. "Alright," said Balaam, "but first I must ask God."

Balaam stood still and listened for an answer. "No!" said God. "Don't go. My people are special." So Balaam sent the servants away. But the king sent an even bigger bag of gold.

Balaam asked God again. "Alright," said God, "if you must."

Balaam climbed on his donkey. Suddenly an angel stood in the middle of the road, waving a sword. Balaam couldn't see it, but the donkey could. She ran into a field.

"You miserable donkey," shouted Balaam. He hit the donkey and tried to get her back onto the road. But the donkey trotted into a vineyard between two stone walls.

Suddenly the angel appeared again. Again Balaam couldn't see it. The donkey did. She tried to go around and smashed into the wall. Balaam scrapped his foot on the stones. He howled. "You no-good-for-nothing donkey!" He hit his donkey again.

The angel moved ahead and trapped Balaam between two cliffs. This time the donkey couldn't escape. She lay down on the ground. Balaam exploded.

Suddenly the donkey spoke. "Master, why have you hit me three times in a row?"

"You've made a fool of me," shouted Balaam, not realizing he was talking to a donkey. "If I had a sword I'd kill you."

"Master, have I ever done this before, in all the years I served you?"

"No," said Balaam. Then God opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the angel with the sword. Balaam fell to the ground and bowed.

"Balaam," said the angel, "your donkey saved your life. God told you not to go and then you asked him again. God was not happy."

"I will go straight back," Balaam said, but the angel shook his head. "No Balaam, God wants the king to hear you bless his people. The king needs to know they are special."

So that is exactly what Balaam did. He blessed them.

**Theme 3: Caring for Others - (Harvest)**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Welcome: Welcome the children, introduce Fun Fish, and explain the theme.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Learn the memory line. Use the memory line cards to play a game.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Parable of the Greedy Farmer.

Cast: Narrator

Farmer

Farm hand

Materials needed:

Hats for farmer and helpers

Four chairs draped with material for barns

Corn, grapes, wheat

Buckets for collecting food

White sheet for Jesus

Garden tools.

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Have you ever had to share something and you didn't want to? What did you do? How did you feel?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to share and care for others. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 3: Caring for Others – The Greedy Farmer (Luke 12)**

One man ran up to Jesus. "Jesus, my brother won't share with me," he said. "Make him give me what belongs to me."

"It isn't good to be greedy!" said Jesus. "Life is more than having lots of things." Then Jesus told this story...

Once upon a time there was a very rich farmer. He was so rich he had two big barns. His soil was the best in the land.

The farmer had a problem too. He loved corn on the cob. So what did he do? He yelled for his servants. "Servants, plant a field of corn and make those rows straight."

The servants bowed. "Yes master."

At harvest time the farmer yelled again. "Servants, pick the corn." The servants ran and filled one barn completely full.

The farmer had another problem. He loved toast for breakfast. What should he do? He yelled for his servants. "Servants, plant me two big fields of wheat."

They groaned to each other. "He already has so much. Why can't he share?"

At harvest time the farmer yelled again. "Servants, cut the wheat and filled up the last barn."

"Yes, master. Whatever you say," grumbled the servants.

It seemed the farmer had lots of problems. He loved raisins for lunch. "Servants," he yelled, "picked the grapes and dried them out."

"Where shall we put them?" the servants asked. "The barns were full."

The farmer scratched his head. "I know what I will do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, the biggest barns in the world. I'll plant more crops and fill up those barns. Soon I'll be the richest man on earth and never have to work." The farmer smiled to himself. "I always take care of number one. Pity others aren't as lucky as me."

God looked down from heaven and shook his head. "Mr. Farmer, you've got it all wrong. The number one thing is to care for others. Imagine if you were to die, others would get it all anyways. So you should change your mind."

...Jesus stopped the story there. He looked around and said, "Don't be greedy and try to get rich. Show you care and share with others."



Theme 4: Following Instructions

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish and welcome the children, telling them about the theme.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: A puppet asks: Do we always have to listen to our teachers? Can't we do what we want sometimes? He wants to eat candy in class.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

Cast: Narrator:

Joshua:

Priests:

Men:

People on Wall

Materials needed:

Cloth for walls – two children to hold it up

Trumpets for two children to blow

Ark to be carried by two children

Folded socks to throw over the wall

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Is it hard to remember the rules sometimes? What can we do to help us remember? How can we help others?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to do what we are told, and to do it cheerfully. Amen."

Sing a song:



Story 4: Following Instructions - Crumbling Walls of Jericho (Joshua 6)

God's people wanted to go home, back to the land that belonged to their great, great grandfather. But they had a problem, another tribe had built a city on their land.

The city Jericho was huge. It had two high walls circling it and the inner one was so wide it had rooms built into it. The whole city was full of palm trees.

Joshua, the leader of God's people, didn't know what to do. The giant city gates were bolted shut and no one could get in or out. Those people were not moving.

God spoke to him. "Joshua, I will give you that city. March around it once a day for six days. Have seven priests blow trumpets in front of the ark and all the men follow them. On the seventh day march around seven times and when the trumpets blast, everyone must shout. Then the walls will tumble down."

Joshua listened and did exactly what God told him. He lined everyone up and said, "Not a word from anyone until the very end."

They marched around the city the first day, the trumpets blasting away. The people on the walls of Jericho looked down at them wondering what was happening. They saw the ark and thought God lived in that box. They were scared, but nothing happened.

The second day the same thing happened and the people of Jericho smiled. "These people are strange," they said. "Their God isn't scary. Look, they have to carry him."

By the fifth day the people of Jericho were hanging over the walls. "Hey, you crazies down there, don't you have anything better to do?" But the men and priests didn't say a word. On the sixth day, the people of Jericho threw things over the wall at them, but the men and priests still said nothing.

On the seventh day the people of Jericho thought Joshua would do the same thing, but he didn't. The men marched around once in total silence, not even the trumpets sounded this time. They marched around twice, three times, four, five, six times.

On the seventh time around, the trumpets started blaring and the men started shouting at the top of their lungs, "This city belongs to God," over and over again. The people of Jericho jumped out of their skins.

Suddenly the walls began to tremble. Huge cracks appeared. The walls crumbled! They fell down flat. Giant billows of dust rose in the air. The city of Jericho fell, just like God had said. Imagine that.

**Theme 5: Listening to Good Advice**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet One is reading a good book. He should be studying for a test instead. Puppet Two reminds him about the test. Puppet One puts down his book.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): God Speaks to Samuel

Cast: God

Samuel

Eli

Narrator

Materials Needed:

Bed for Samuel – three chairs and a cloth thrown over them

Pillow and blanket for Samuel

Cane for Eli

Brown cloth to partition the rooms

Ark of the Covenant for where Samuel sleeps

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why do you think you should listen to good advice?

What make advice good?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to listen to good advice. Help us to know when it is good. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 5: Listening to Good Advice - Samuel Listens to God (1 Samuel 3)**

Samuel was only a boy, but he lived in the temple and helped take care of things there. He even slept in the temple at night. One night God called to him. "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel didn't recognize God's voice, so he jumped out of bed and ran to the chief priest's room. "Here I am, Eli," he said. "You called me,"

"No, I didn't," Eli said. "Go back and lie down." So Samuel went back to his bed and lay down.

"Samuel! Samuel!" God called again.

Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am, Eli. You called me."

"My boy," Eli said, "I did not call you. Go back to bed and lie down."

Samuel went back to bed to sleep. "Samuel! Samuel!" God called him a third time.

Samuel got up like before, and ran to Eli. "Here I am, Eli. You called me."

Eli suddenly realized God was calling Samuel. God hadn't spoken to anyone in a long time and no one knew His voice. "Samuel," said Eli, "go back to bed. If you hear your name called again say, 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

Samuel nodded and hurried back to his bed. When he lay down God came and stood before him. "Samuel! Samuel!" God called.

Samuel sat up in his bed. "Speak, for your servant is listening," he said.

"I have a message for you," said God. "Eli's two sons have been naughty. They steal from the people and hurt them. Now they are in big trouble."

Samuel was scared and lay in bed all night, wide awake. In the morning he got up and opened the temple gate, hoping Eli wouldn't ask him what God had said. But Eli did.

"Samuel," Eli called.

Samuel ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said.

"Samuel, tell me what God told you and don't hold anything back." Samuel gulped, but he told Eli everything.

Eli nodded. "God is the Lord," said Eli. "He does what is good." Eli knew his sons didn't listen to anyone. It was time they listened to God. It was time they did what was right.

**Theme 6: Helping Those Who Need Help**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce team and welcome children. Introduce the theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Memory Line Games – boys vs. girls. Who can say it the loudest.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "The Son Who Lived" (2 Kings 4)

Cast Needed:

Narrator

Elisha

Wealthy Lady

Boy – a puppet preferably

Servants for Lady and Elisha

Materials needed:

Two plastic cups to click together to sound like a donkey

Pillow, blanket

Puppet boy

Fancy dress for wealthy lady

Stick for the prophet

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Have you ever been asked to help someone and you didn't want to? Why do you think you felt that way?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to help those who need help. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 6: Helping Those Who Need Help - The Son who lived - (2 Kings 4)**

There was a man called Elisha. He gave people messages from God. One day a wealthy woman met him. "Come for lunch," she said.

Elisha and his servant went to lunch, and they did every time they visited that town. Soon the lady built them a room on her roof. Now they had someplace to stay as well.

"How can we repay your kindness," Elisha asked the lady.

"Nothing," she said. "I have everything I need." Then she left.

Elisha asked his servant. "What do you think we can do for her?"

The servant scratched his head and then he smiled. "She has no son."

Elisha called the lady. "This time next year you will have a son," he said.

The woman sighed. "Do not mock me, O man of God! Do not give me hope." But that next year she gave birth to a son.

The child grew and one day while working out in the fields with his dad he crumbled to the ground. "My head! My head!" he cried.

A servant carried the boy back home in his arms and he died that day. "Servant, saddle my donkey," cried the mother. "I must go to the man of God."

Elisha saw her coming. "Servant," he said, "go see what's wrong."

The servant ran and asked her. "Everything is alright," she said. But when she saw Elisha she fell at his feet. The servant tried to push her away.

"Leave her alone," said Elisha. "She is sad, and God hasn't told me why."

Suddenly the lady cried out, "I did not ask for a son. You raised my hopes."

"Servant," said Elisha, "go and see what's happened to that boy." The servant ran and found the boy. He gasped and ran back crying, "He's dead."

Elisha, the servant, and the mother, all hurried to the boy. Elisha prayed for the boy, holding him in his arms. Suddenly the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

"My son," the mother cried and hugged her boy.

Elisha smiled. "God always does what is right," he said.

**Theme 7: Saying Sorry**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet One breaks a Puppet Two's pencil and doesn't want to say "Sorry." Puppet Two gets angry. Finally Puppet One comes around and promises to be more careful next time. He says "Sorry."

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Jonah and the Whale (Book of Jonah in the Bible)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Jonah

Sailors

People of Nineveh

Material needed:

Brown cloth for boat – draped over four chairs, sailors sit on chairs

Blue cloth for waves- two children to hold cloth and make waves

Netting for whale – so children can see inside when Jonah is swallowed

Whale eye, spout and mouth

Shoe boxes – cargo for the ship

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It isn't very easy to say 'sorry'. Why do you think that is? Is there something we can do to make it easier?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to do what is right. Help us to say sorry when we have done something wrong. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 7: Saying Sorry - Jonah and the Whale - (Jonah 1 – 3)**

One day God spoke to a preacher called Jonah. "Jonah, go to Nineveh and tell those people that they have been very bad. Tell them they must say 'sorry'."

Jonah didn't want to do that. "I shall run away," he thought. "Then God can't find me and tell me what to do anymore."

He found a ship and bought a ticket. He climbed on board and soon he was sound asleep. But God knew just what was happening. He sent a storm.

The ship rolled from side to side. The sailors thought the ship would break up. "We must throw the cargo overboard," they shouted. They threw over suitcases and boxes. "Let's hope this works," they cried.

It didn't and the storm grew worse. "Where is Jonah?" the sailors asked. "We must find him and make sure he is okay."

They found him below, fast asleep. "Get up!" they yelled. "How can you sleep when we might die?"

Then the sailors had a strange idea. "Let's throw dice and see if one of us is causing this storm." They gathered around and it pointed to Jonah.

They looked at Jonah in shock. "What did you do?" they asked.

"I'm running away from God. I don't want to do what he told me to do."

Suddenly the storm grew worse. "What shall we do?" the sailors asked.

"Throw me overboard," said Jonah, "and the sea will calm down."

Tears sprang to their eyes. "No!" cried the sailors. "We will never do that."

"You must," said Jonah, "or you will all die." So the sailors picked him up and threw him over. The storm suddenly stopped, and the sailors knew that Jonah's God was God.

A whale swam by and swallowed Jonah. For three days and three night Jonah sat in the whale. He started to cry. "I am sorry, God," he prayed. "I will do what you say."

The whale spit Jonah out, just outside Nineveh. Jonah stood up and went into the city. "God has a message," he called. "You will get into trouble if you don't say, 'sorry'."

The people in the city believed. They knew how bad they had been, and said "sorry" to each other, and "sorry" to God. They did the right thing. So can anyone.



Theme 8: Making Good Choices (Christmas)

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children and introduce team and theme

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet One and Two have special toys. Puppet Three talks about giving a special toy to those children who don't have any. Puppet One and Two don't want to at first. They finally decide it would be the nice thing to do.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Why did Jesus come to earth?"

Cast: Narrator

God

Gabriel

Mary and Joseph

Angels

Adam and Eve

Materials needed:

Tinsel for angels

Edict that God gives Gabriel

Blue cloth for the sky which the angels hold up

Pin on stars and tinsel

Bench for Mary

Bed for Joseph

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Sometimes it is hard to do what is right. Why do you think that is? How can we help ourselves choose to do what is right?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to choose what is right. Please help us to do what is right. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 8: The Christmas Story – Making Good Choices - (Matthew 1, Luke 1 – 2)**

In heaven the angels loved God. They loved God so much they did what he said. God thought, "I will make a world with people in it so they can love to me too."

He made trees, birds, and Adam and Eve, but things went wrong. A snake slithered up and whispered to them. "You don't have to love God," it said.

Adam and Eve nodded. "Snake, you are right," they said. "We don't have to listen to God. We will not do what he wants."

God looked down from heaven, the angels looked down too. Tears spilled from their eyes. "I must do something to save this world," said God. A wonderful idea popped into his head. "Gabriel, come here," he called.

The chief angel bowed to God. "I want you to take a message to earth," God said, and he whispered something into Gabriel's ear. Gabriel flew straight to earth.

The angels watched from heaven. Where was Gabriel going? He flew over the king's palace, over the temple. He flew over the city, over the towns. Then he stopped at a poor little house. A poor young woman sat on a bench, praying.

"Mary," Gabriel said, "God says he is with you."

Mary tried to answer, but was too scared to speak. "Don't be afraid," said Gabriel. "God will give you a baby and he will be a king forever."

"How can I have a baby?" Mary asked. "Joseph and I aren't married yet."

"God will put the baby inside you. He will be God's Son."

Mary nodded. "I will do what God wants," she said.

Gabriel sped back to heaven and God called him again. "Gabriel, come here." The angels watched and wondered what would happen next. Gabriel flew down again.

This time he found Joseph asleep in his bed. "Joseph," called Gabriel, "get up and get married right now. Mary will have a son and you must call him Jesus. He will save the world from their sins."

Joseph jumped out of his bed. "I will do what God wants," he said. He threw a party and got married to Mary.

In heaven the angels watched and shouted "Hurray! God is saving the earth." They threw a party too. That is how Christmas began.



Theme 9: Asking for Help

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sin a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children and the Fun Fish Team. Introduce the theme

Puppet Introduces Theme: A puppet gets lost in a shop. All the rest of the puppets search for it. They run to the manager and security guard for help. They finally find him hiding.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Losing Jesus

Cast needed:

Narrator

Jesus

Mary and Joseph

Cousins

Priests

Materials needed:

Fabric for temple building

Ark of the Covenant

Camp

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Have you ever been lost? What should you do? How can we stop from getting lost?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to stay close to our friends. If something goes wrong, help us to always run for help. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 9: Asking for Help - Losing Jesus - (Luke 2)**

Everyone was going to the feast in Jerusalem, cousins, aunts, uncles, and neighbours. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were going too. They packed their bags, but they didn't have a car. They would walk, and set up camp by the side of the road each night.

When they finally reached Jerusalem they saw the great temple of God. "Dad, Mum," asked Jesus, "I'm twelve years old now. May I go to the temple and pray?"

"Yes, son," said Joseph. "Just make sure you're back for supper."

Every morning Jesus walked to the temple. He spent all day talking with the priests. Every evening he ran back for supper.

The week flew by and it was time to go home. Joseph and Mary packed again. "Where is Jesus?" asked Mary.

"He's with the cousins," said Joseph. "We'll see him at the camp."

That night Mary looked around. "Joseph, where is Jesus?" she asked again.

"I don't know," said Joseph, so they ran and found his cousins. "Where is Jesus?" they asked.

"We thought he was with you?" said the cousins.

"We've lost him," cried Joseph. "Come, Mary, we must go to Jerusalem to find him." They ran all the way back, as fast as their legs could carry them.

"Have you seen Jesus?" they asked everyone they saw. "He's only twelve years old." But everyone shook their heads.

For three days they hunted. They asked in shops, on the street, everywhere. Then they decided to look in the temple. They saw him sitting by a pillar, talking with the priests. Mary and Joseph ran up to him. "Jesus, where have you been?" they cried.

"Here," Jesus said. "In my Father's house. I am His Son, you know."

Mary and Joseph didn't understand what Jesus meant. "Let's go home," they said.

Jesus stood up and went with them. His father and mother loved him. They would do anything to make sure he was okay.

**Theme 10: Working Cheerfully**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppets are given jobs to do and think the other one is given the easiest job. Then they realize they can help each other, and then everyone is happy.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Mary and Martha (Luke 10)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Jesus

Mary

Martha

Materials needed:

Kitchen with utensils and pot

Living Room

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Is it easy to think "Poor me, everyone else has it easy. I work too hard." How can we learn to do things with a smile? How can we help our friends?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to not complain and do our jobs cheerfully. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 10: Work Cheerfully - Mary and Martha (Luke 10)**

Long ago there were no mobile phones. When you wanted to visit someone, you just dropped in. You couldn't tell them ahead of time that you were coming for lunch.

One day Jesus and his helpers walked through a village. "Mary and Martha live here," said Jesus. "Let's drop by and see them." So they went and knocked on their door. Knock. Knock

Mary opened it. "Jesus," she shouted, "what a surprise! Come in."

Martha heard the knock and came running too. "Jesus," she cried, "how good to see you. You must be tired and hungry. Have you and your friends come far?"

"We're just passing through," Jesus said, "and thought it would be good to see you."

As everyone crowded into the house, Martha turned to Mary. "Mary," she whispered, "take Jesus and his helpers into the living room and tidy it up a bit. It's a mess in there, and then come and help in the kitchen. We don't have anything to feed them."

Mary nodded and Martha hurried to the kitchen. She started cooking and waited for Mary, but Mary never showed up. "Why isn't my sister coming to help?" said Martha. "It's such hard work in here."

Martha hurried to the living room to find her sister listening to Jesus. Martha tapped her sister on the shoulder. "Mary," she whispered, "come and help, right now."

Mary nodded. "In a minute," she said. So Martha hurried back to the kitchen and waited. One minute. Two minutes. Three minutes. Four. "Where is my sister?" she cried. "This isn't fair."

Martha ran back to the living room and cleared her throat. Jesus stopped talking and looked at her. "Jesus," cried Martha, "don't you care that I'm slaving away in the kitchen. Tell my sister to come and help me. It isn't fair."

"Martha," Jesus said, "we don't need a big meal. Mary is doing the right thing by spending time with me. I'm only staying a little while and you're missing out."

Martha sighed. Jesus was right. If she wanted to cook a meal, she should do it happily. Could you do that as well?

**Theme 11: Eating what is Good**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children and the Fun Fish team. Introduce the theme

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet want to eat candy, cake, fizzy drinks, biscuits, every day. The other puppets try to get him to eat fruit and vegetables.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

Cast needed:

- Narrator
- Father
- Younger Son
- Older Son
- Farmer

Materials needed:

- Fabric for younger son's house, father's house
- Cap and words for farmer, cones to represent pigs
- Fancy robe, wine jug and cups for younger son
- Money to divide between sons

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): What are some healthy things we can eat? What are some unhealthy things? Why is it good to eat healthy food?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us be careful what we eat. Help us to treat our bodies well. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 11: Eating what is Good - The Lost Son (Luke 15)**

There was once a wealthy man with two sons. One day the younger son said, "Dad, half of everything you own will belong to me one day. I want it now."

The father divided everything he had and gave it to each of his sons. The younger son smiled. "I'm leaving," he said. "I want to live my own life. I don't want anyone to tell me what to do." So he packed his bags and left.

The younger son rented an expensive house in a faraway city. He ate delicious food, bought designer clothes, and lived like a king. Everyone wanted to be his friend, but soon his money ran out. Soon he had nothing left, not even food.

"I'm hungry!" he cried. "What am I going to do?"

He found a farmer. "Please," he begged him, "give me a job." The farmer sent him out to the fields to feed the pigs. The son was so hungry he ate their food. Pig food! It tasted horrible, but that was all he had.

Then he thought of his party friends. They didn't care about him. They just wanted his fancy food.

He thought of his father and a light turned on. "How many servants does my father have?" he said. "They always have enough food, and here I am starving to death. I will go home and say, 'Father, I have done wrong. Please don't treat me like a son anymore. Hire me as a servant.'"

The young man stood up and hurried home. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him. The father ran to meet him and threw his arms around him.

"Father," the son said, "I have done wrong. I don't deserve to be your son."

The father just laughed and turned to the servants. "Quick! Get the best robe and put it on my son. Hurry! Let's have a party too. I thought my son was dead, but he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found."

What a party they had! Good food, good drink. It tasted so good. And he had the best company in the world. His family!

**Theme 12: Respecting People**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet One has hay fever and sneezes on everyone.

The other puppets get cross. Then they realize Puppet One doesn't have a tissue. They get him a box.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Lost Coin (Luke 15)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Jesus

Goodie

Woman with Ten Coins

Materials needed:

Lamp

Broom and Rug

Ten Coins and bag

Chair and table

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Sometimes we might not like someone because they annoy us. How should we treat them? How do we want to be treated?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to respect everyone around us. Help us to be kind. Amen."

Sing a song:



Story 12: Respecting People - The Lost Coin (Luke 15)

Jesus was always surrounded by people, good people and not so good people. One day the goodies complained. "Jesus, why are you nice to baddies? We don't like them."

Jesus looked at the goodies and sighed. "Let me tell you a story..."

There was once a woman who was rich. She had ten silver coins and a house. One day she closed her windows and door so no one could see and reached into her secret hiding place, a secret place behind a chair. She pulled out her money pouch to count her ten coins. She liked doing that once in a while. "One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine..."

"Where is the tenth one?" she cried out.

She shook the bag. She looked inside it. She reached inside and felt around, but it was gone.

"What am I going to do?" she cried. "No one could have stolen it. No one knows about my secret hiding place. I must have lost it somehow."

She lit a lamp and started looking. Was it under the table? No! Was it under the chair? No! Was it in her pocket? No!

The woman grabbed her broom. "I must clean this place from top to bottom," she said. "I must find that coin."

She swept and swept, but still she couldn't find it. "What am I going to do?" she cried. "I know. I'll move the furniture." She moved the table, the plant, one chair, the other chair. And suddenly there it was, still in the secret hiding place.

She grabbed it and danced around with joy. "I found it!" she sang. "I found it. It must have fallen out of the bag?"

Do you know what she did next? She opened her windows and door, blew out the lantern and called out to her neighbours. "I just found my lost coin. Come and have a party with me." And what a party they had.

That was the end of the story and Jesus looked around at the goodies. "Everyone is special," Jesus said. "God loves everyone, goodies and baddies. And he is so happy when a baddie turns to good. He celebrates in heaven with the angels."

**Theme 13: Standing Up for Right**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sin a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet wants to skip school for the day and go to the river and play. He wants all his friends to go with him. The other puppets say, 'It is wrong to skip school. Let's go on the weekend.'

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Jesus Says the Truth (Luke 4)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Jesus

People in church

Servant

Materials needed:

Church on one side of stage with chairs and lectern

Cliff on other side of stage

Scroll

White robe for Jesus

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Sometimes it is hard to stand up for right.

Sometimes we need help. Who are some good people we can ask to help us?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be strong and stand up for right. Help us to encourage our friends to do right. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 13: Jesus Says the Truth (Luke 4)**

Jesus went back home to Nazareth, where he grew up. He visited his family and friends. On Sunday he went to church, and was asked to read the Bible to everyone.

An attendant handed Jesus a scroll, written by someone who had written the scroll 600 years before. Jesus stood up. He unrolled it and found the place where he wanted to read. He spoke in a loud voice...

"God is with me, because he has chosen me to preach good news to the poor. He wants me to set prisoners free, to make blind people see. He wants me to tell everyone that God loves them."

Jesus rolled up the scroll. He gave it back to the attendant, but no one in the church could take their eyes off of Jesus. Jesus stood there and looked around. "Today," said Jesus, "the words that I read to you are actually happening. The blind can see. People are set free in their hearts. Hope is given to the poor."

All the people in church nodded their heads. "These are nice words," they said. But then their smiles turned to scowls. "Jesus is just an ordinary person, the son of a carpenter! Why does he think he is so special? He is no better than us. And then to top it off, he doesn't do any miracles in our town. Who does he think he is?"

Jesus knew what the people in his hometown were thinking and feeling. He knew they didn't like it that he was famous. They didn't like it that crowds followed him everywhere. They didn't think it was fair, and it made them mad as bees.

Jesus sighed. He had to tell the truth. "Listen to me. I know you want me to do miracles here, but I can't. I simply can't! How can I when you are angry with me?"

The people in church jumped to their feet. "Let's get rid of this man!" they shouted. They grabbed Jesus and dragged him out of town. They dragged him across the field to the edge of a cliff. They meant to throw him off and kill him.

Somehow they let go of Jesus. Somehow they lost him. Jesus quietly slid out of the crowd. He hurried to the next town. No matter where Jesus went he would stand up for what was right.

**Theme 14: Living with Surprises – (Easter)**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children and the Fun Fish team and theme

Puppet Introduces Theme: Did you know that in long ago people threw their cloaks on the road for someone important? It showed honour, like a red carpet being unrolled for movie stars.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Jesus Rose from the Dead (Matt. 21-28)

Cast Needed:

Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Women

Religious Leaders

Soldiers

Materials needed:

Donkey

Palm Branches

Green cloth for hill

Cross on top of hill

Grey cloth for Tomb

Black cloth pinned to a hula-hoop - for the stone in front of the tomb

White cloth to cover Jesus

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Has something ever surprised you? Something wonderful? What did you do? Something not so wonderful? What did you do?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for the Surprise of Easter. Thank you for filling our lives with good surprises. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 14: Living with Surprises – Jesus Rose from the Dead. (Easter) (Matthew 21-28)**

The news was out! Jesus did amazing things. His helpers knew it. The crowds knew it and everyone loved him. Well, almost everyone. "He's too popular," the religious leaders hissed. "We must stop him."

Now Jesus planned to go into the city. "Find me a donkey," he told his helpers. "I must ride in today." The helpers found one and put a cloak on it.

When Jesus sat on the donkey, something surprising happened. The crowds laid their cloaks on the road in front of him, like a red carpet. Some even laid branches down. "God sent you to us," they shouted. "You will save us." Then they ran beside him and cheered.

The religious leaders watched. "We must kill Jesus," they whispered to each other. "This is getting out of hand. He is too powerful."

One night the religious leaders sent soldiers to catch Jesus. They said he deserved to die, and had him nailed to a cross. They killed him, just like that. What a horrible surprise. How could they do that? Weren't religious leaders supposed to be good?

Some helpers lifted Jesus off the cross. They put his body in a cave, and rolled a huge stone in front of it. They went away, crying. Their hero was dead.

But the religious leaders laughed and sent two soldiers to guard the tomb. "Make sure no one steals the body," they ordered.

Three days later, at sunrise, two women went to visit the tomb. There was another surprise. An earthquake! The soldiers and women fell to the ground. They saw an angel came down from heaven and roll the giant stone away.

The soldiers shook with fear and fainted. The women stared. "Don't be afraid," the angel said. "Jesus isn't here. He's alive. Take a look in the cave and see for yourselves. Then go and tell his helpers."

The women tiptoed in and looked around. Jesus was gone! They turned to run and bumped into someone. "Hello," the man said.

The women looked at him. "Jesus!" they cried and fell down at his feet. That was the best surprise of all. Jesus was alive!

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "Go and tell everyone the good news." It really was good news. So good, the women ran and told everyone.

**Theme 15: Not Giving Up**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sin a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Not giving up. Have a race with two children, who can jump rope the longest. Who won't give up.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Persistent Widow (Luke 18)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Judge

Widow and children

Mean Neighbours

Materials needed:

Fabric for widow's and judge's houses

Judge's cape and gavel

Rubbish for mean neighbours to throw

Lantern in widow's house

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Have you ever felt like giving up? How can we help someone not give up?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be strong and not give up. Help us to help others not give up. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 15: Not Giving Up - The Persistent Widow (Luke 18)**

There was once a widow. All she had was a house and children. But she also had some neighbours, the worst ones in the world.

"How can we get rid of that widow and her kids?" one neighbour whispered to another. "We don't want people like her in the neighbourhood."

The other neighbours laughed. "Let's be mean to her and then she will leave." That night they threw rubbish at her house and pounded on her windows and door.

The widow woke up and turned on her light. She ran to the door. "Who's there?" she cried. There was no answer. She opened it and saw the neighbours sprinting away. There was rubbish everywhere.

That morning she ran to the judge and knocked on his door. "Please," she asked. "My neighbours are bothering me. Tell them to stop."

"Go away," the judge scowled. "I don't care. I'm not helping you."

The next night, the neighbours danced around the house, shouting, "Go away! Go away!" They pounded on her door again.

The widow knocked on the judge's door. "Please help me," she cried. "Tell them to stop." But the judge just laughed. "Leave me alone. Go away."

The widow sat outside the judge's house. "I will not give up," she said. "I will come here three times a day and ask for help. Maybe the judge will change his mind." And that is exactly what she did, day after day.

One morning the judge woke up. "I'll die if that widow knocks on my door once more. She's driving me crazy with her nagging." Then he heard it... "Knock, knock."

He threw his door open. "Alright, lady. I'll protect you. I'll do whatever you want. Just leave me alone." And he did. He kept his promise to her.

That's what God wants us to do. He doesn't want us to give up when things are wrong.

**Theme 16: Giving Others a Chance**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Learn the memory line. Play a learning game with it, by a boy team and girl team unscrambling the cards. There will be a "pop quiz" next week.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Lost Sheep (Luke 15)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Jesus

Shepherd

One lost sheep – maybe Ali with her sheep puppet

All the other sheep – all the children in the hall

Materials needed:

Shepherd's crook

Puppet sheep

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Sometimes people make mistakes and we don't like it. Sometimes we make mistakes and others don't like it. What things could we say when someone makes a mistake? What things could we say when we make mistakes?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to accept someone when they make a mistake. Help us to be patient with ourselves when we make mistakes. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 16: Giving Others a Chance - The Lost Sheep (Luke 15)**

One day some people asked Jesus a question. "Jesus, why do you forgive people who keep making mistakes?" That was a good question, so Jesus told them a story.

There once was a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. He talked to them. He gave them names. He patted their heads and he counted them every day. But he also knew that sheep wander off. They didn't think of getting eaten by lions and bears.

One day the shepherd counted his sheep, just like he did every day. "One, two, three, four...ninety-eight, ninety-nine." The shepherd stopped and scratched his head. "I must have counted wrong," he said. So he started all over again. "One, two, three, four... ninety-eight, ninety-nine."

The shepherd jumped up and looked around. "Where is Peggy sheep?" he cried. "Why does she always wander away?"

Then he shouted at the top of his voice. "Peggy, where are you?" He listened. There was nothing. "Peggy," he called again.

"I must find her," said the shepherd. He put the rest of the sheep in the middle of a giant field. Wild animals never went there. "Stay where you are," he told the ninety-nine. "I must find Peggy, but I'm coming back."

The shepherd grabbed his staff and set off for the cliff. He knew sheep liked it there with all that nice green grass. But they never thought to stop, and sometimes they fell over the edge. "Peggy," he called. He looked over the edge. No Peggy.

The shepherd hiked to the river. Sheep liked it there too, but they never thought to just have a drink. They walked out into the middle and sometimes were washed away. "Peggy," he called. He stopped and looked. No Peggy.

He walked and called and suddenly he heard, "BAA! BAA!" He ran towards the baa and found his sheep. She had fallen into a hole. "Peggy sheep," he cried and lifted her out. "If you had stayed with me you would have been alright."

The shepherd put Peggy on his shoulders. He loved his sheep. He ran back to the flock, and called his friends. "Come for a party. My sheep was lost, but now she is found."

Jesus stopped and explained the story. "Everyone deserves a chance, even if they make mistakes. God is kind and wants to forgive. He gives them a chance to do what is right. When they finally do, God will always celebrate in heaven."

**Theme 17: Being Prepared**

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sin a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Have a "pop quiz" for the memory line. Did anyone remember it from the last assembly? It is all about being prepared.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Burglary (Luke 12)

Cast needed:

- Narrator
- Jesus and his helpers in a huddle
- House owner and family
- Police
- Thief and accomplice

Materials needed:

- House to be burgled on one side of stage
- Hut where thieves live on other side of stage
- Jesus and helpers in a huddle in centre stage
- Candle sticks and cutlery, a mobile phone to be stolen
- A suitcase for holidays

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Have you ever forgotten to study for a test, or didn't bother to do your homework? How did you feel afterwards? What can we do to help ourselves remember to be prepared?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to set aside the time to get prepared. Please give us the strength and courage to do what is right. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 17: The Burglary (Luke 12)**

Jesus finally had a quiet moment with his helpers. Jesus smiled. This was perfect. He had a special story to tell them, about something important they had to learn.

Jesus raised his arms. "Imagine a big house," he said. "It has the best furniture. The best food. A swimming pool and Jacuzzi. A huge plasma television."

The helpers nodded and laughed. None of them had anything like that, but they could imagine the story, right there before their eyes. Jesus continued...

...The man who owned it decided to go on a holiday. He wanted to go to Egypt to see the pyramids and ride camels. He went and had a great time. But when he returned the back door was open. "Oh no!" he cried. "Thieves have broken in. They have taken everything, even the refrigerator with all my food."

The man started thinking. "I know. I must put in the best alarm system on the market. I must get two watch dogs, and build a high fence. Then I will feel safe.

A year passed by and he went on holiday again, this time to a beach by the sea. He had a great time, but when he got home, his back door was open again. "Oh no!" he cried. "My house is empty again. Those thieves have even taken my watch dogs, and the state-of-the-art security alarm I put into my house. What am I going to do?"

He knew what to do. "I will hire a private investigator," he said. Then he got a tip off of when the thieves are coming next. He laughed. "I'm ready for you thieves. The police will be here. You will have an awfully big surprise."

That was exactly what happened. The thieves came. The thieves broke in, but this time they met the police face-to-face. "Ha!" the man said. "My house is safe, because this time I was prepared."

Jesus stopped his story and looked around at his helpers. "Helpers, always be prepared. You never know what will happen next in life. Do the jobs you need to do right away. Then you will have time for the surprises in life."



Theme 18: Making Plans

Memory Verse: "Don't let good advice go in one ear and out the other." (Proverbs 4:2)

Sin a Song:

Welcome: Welcome the children. Introduce the team and theme.

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet One wants to hike up Mt Everest. The other puppets ask him if he has been training. No. Has he been saving up money? No. Does he know where Mt Everest is? No. Puppet One is not making good plans.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Building a Tower (Luke 14)

Cast needed:

- Narrator
- Jesus and crowd
- Man who wants a tower
- Builder
- Architect
- Friends who make fun of him.

Materials needed:

- Blocks for building a tower in the middle of the stage.
- Notebook with building plans
- Mobile phone

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Have you ever wanted to do something and didn't know how to go about doing it? What do you think is the next step in your plans?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to be wise when we make plans. Help us to ask for advice when we don't know what to do. Amen."

Sing a song:

**Story 18: Building a Tower (Luke 14)**

Sometime Jesus talked and walked at the same time. One day as he went from one town to another, he told everyone a story. It helped pass the time.

"What if someone wanted to build a big tower?" said Jesus. "What if he wanted a circular stair case to the top, and a penthouse where he could live? He would feel so grand."

The people around Jesus laughed. "Go on," they said. So Jesus continued...

...It wasn't just a dream. That man hired an architect to draw up the plans. He took it to a builder. "Builder, how much will it cost to build this magnificent tower?"

The builder studied the plans. He pulled out a pad and pen. He scribbled some numbers. He showed the paper to the man. The man gasped, "One million pounds?"

The builder nodded. "Yup. It's a big tower, and that circular staircase will cost a lot."

"Let me see how much money I have?" said the man. He turned on his computer and looked at his bank account. He sighed. "I only have £800,000," he told the builder. "If you take out the circular staircase and put in an ordinary one, will that cut the cost?"

The builder wrote on his pad again. "Yes," said the builder, "I can build it for that."

"Great!" said the man. "I want you to start today."

So the builder built, and the man watched. But the price for bricks and cement shot up. The price for lumber shot up. The tower was only two-thirds built and the man ran out of money."

The builder stopped building. The tower stood there half finished. People around started to laugh. "This is funny," they said. "That man started to build and he couldn't even finish. He should have made better plans. Who did he think he was, wanting a tower? Ha-ha-ha."

...Jesus paused and looked around at the crowd. "Listen everyone, if you want to start something, make sure you can finish. Do any of you have big dreams? What is a sensible way to make those dreams happen?"

The End

If you would to continue with other series from Fun Fish, please go to www.funfish.org.uk