



Decisions! Decisions!

Learning to Make Choices in Life: The Ten Commandments

RE Assembly for Junior Children (8-11 years old)

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The Ten Commandments in Order:

God is God

Love God Only

Respect God's Name

Take a Day Off

Respect Parents

Respect Life

Respect Marriage

Don't Steal

Don't Lie

Don't Be Greedy



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Welcome to Fun Fish Assemblies

This is a Fun Fish Series for KS2, ages 8-11. **“Decisions! Decisions!”** teaches children how to make choices in life. The Bible give ten guidelines called Ten Commandments. In this series we look at each of them through various Bible stories.

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.

“Decisions! Decisions!” 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 children visualize the concepts presented. 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 **“Decisions! Decisions!”**



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 Theme.

Introduce Bible Theme with Puppets: (2 minute)

Introduce the appropriate “Commandment” for each lesson. Each card is in a different colour, so that the colour can help the children remember the commandment easily.

The puppets act out a short sketch giving an example of the commandment.

On occasion review the memory line. (a flash card PDF file of the memory line, a verse from the Bible, is available for download)

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:

- Memory line:
- 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: God is God - A Pile of Red Sea**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team.

Bible Facts with Puppets: The Bible is like a map. It tells lots of people what things they should or shouldn't do. But it is easy to take the wrong turn and get lost.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): A Pile of Sea (Exodus 13, 14)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

Pharaoh

People of Israel

Soldiers

Children

Sea

Materials needed:

Blue cloths for Sea and Fish

Armour and Swords

Staff for Moses

Crown and Cape for Pharaoh

Cups for clapping and horse

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What does it mean to do what is right? How do we know what is right?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to do what is right. Help us to remember that it is possible to do right. Amen."

Sing a Song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:



**Story 1: A Pile of Red Sea (Exodus 13, 14)**

The people of Israel had been slaves for four hundred years. God wanted to set them free. He sent Moses to Pharaoh. "Pharaoh, please let these people go!" said Moses.

"No!" said Pharaoh. "Don't waste my time. I need these slaves to work."

Moses asked again and again, but Pharaoh just drove him away. "Get out," shouted Pharaoh. "Those people are mine. I don't care what God does, I will never let change my mind."

Suddenly one night Pharaoh's son died. That got Pharaoh's attention. "Servants," he yelled. "Get me Moses right now." Moses came running and stood before him.

"Take your slaves and get out of here," shouted Pharaoh. "I don't want to see you ever again. You have ruined me."

Moses ran out and called the slaves. "We can go," he said, "but we must go now." That night the slaves ran away. They followed Moses. He knew the way.

But in the palace Pharaoh paced back and forth. He changed his mind again. "Why did I let my slaves go free?" he shouted. "Who will do all my work? I want them back right now!"

The officers jumped. The whole army marched. The horses and chariots rumbled. But the people of Israel saw them coming. They started to shake. "Help us, Moses!" they cried.

"Don't be afraid" said Moses. "God will fight for you."

Moses held up his staff and the wind started to blow. It blew so hard it parted the sea. The sea stood up like walls and the seabed was dry in between.

"Follow me, people!" called Moses, and the people did, right between the sea.

Pharaoh saw it and shook with rage. "After them!" he shouted. "Bring back my slaves!"

His army rushed in, but things went wrong. The chariots broke down. The horses bolted. "Let's get out of here," yelled the soldiers. "God is fighting for the slaves."

When the slaves had crossed, God spoke to Moses. "Lift your staff again."

Moses did, and the sea splashed together. The enemy was gone. The people knew they were finally free. No one could make them slaves again, all because God is God. He could do anything.

**Theme 2: Planting Hope in Hearts (Harvest)**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team.

Bible Facts with Puppets: Two puppets wait for the bus, but one puppet suddenly realizes he has the wrong change and he won't be able to get on the bus. Now he can't see his sick grandmother in the hospital. His puppet friend pays the fare for him, and gives him hope.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): From a Seed to a Tree (Luke 13:19)

Cast needed: Narrator

Person who plants.

Two Shop keepers/friends

Materials needed:

Fruit for shop

Seeds in woods

Bucket and spade

Watering can

Camera

Photos of plant

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What do you think it means to give hope to people? How can we give hope to those around us?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to help others this Harvest Assembly time. Help us to give people hope. Amen."

Sing a Song:

**Story 2: From a Seed to a Tree**

In the Bible there is a story so important it is told three times. But it is also one of the shortest stories in the Bible. In Luke it is 31 words long. We will make it longer.

“I want to plant a seed,” said a gardener, “the smallest seed I can find.”

He hurried to the shop to look for that seed, but all he found were giant ones. Coconuts and avocados. Mangos and Peaches. “Those seeds are too big,” he said.

He took a walk in the woods to look, but all he found were middle sized seeds. Acorns and pinecones. Chestnuts and plums. “These seeds are still too big,” he said.

He went back home and sat on his chair. He scratched his head and thought. “I know,” he said. “I remember a package of mustard seed in the shed.”

He ran to the shed and pulled out the package, and took out a tiny seed. “I shall plant you,” he said to the seed. “I hope you grow.” He ran dig a small hole in the garden. He planted the seed and covered it with soil. He patted it down and watered it well.

Every day he looked at the seed. He hoped it was a good seed, and it was. Soon it started to sprout. A little green shoot. A leaf. He watered it again and watched it grow.

“Look at my plant,” he said to his friends. “It started out small.” He showed them a seed. “Now it is big like a tree.”

“We have to see this,” said the friends. “No seed can grow that big.” They went to the garden and looked around. “Where is the plant?” they said.

“There,” said the man and pointed to a tree. “Look! There are birds in the branches too.” Then he smiled. “Guess what? I didn’t know if the seed would grow. It had been sitting in the shed for ages. Guess what else? God is like that seed. He puts his love in our heart. It can grow if we take care of it.”

**Theme 3: Take a Day Off – What is it?**

Memory Line: “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: The NHS says children aged 8 – 11 should sleep ten hours a day to keep happy and fit. Doctors also say everyone needs a “stop day” once a week, a day to do nothing and rest.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): What Is It? (Exodus 16)

Cast needed: Narrator

Good people

Wilful people

Materials needed:

Tent

Baskets

Manna – white biscuits

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is it so hard to sit still and rest?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to rest so we can do what is right. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

“Commandment” card for this lesson:

**Take a
Day Off**

**Story 3: What Is That White Stuff? (Exodus 16) (Take the Day Off)**

When Moses rescued God's people, the enemy ended up at the bottom of the sea. But the people had to move on. God used a cloud to lead them by day, and a fire to lead by night.

The people watched that cloud. Whenever it moved they took down their tents and packed them up. "This is hard work," they said. "We're hungry and tired."

Then they rubbed their stomachs. "Remember when we were slaves," they said, "we used to have lots and lots of delicious food. Now we hardly have anything."

God heard what they said. "Moses," he said, "I will give them food."

Next morning the people woke up and climbed out of their tents. They saw something white spread out on the ground. "What is it?" they asked.

The people picked it up and tasted it. It tasted like biscuits with honey. "Let's call it 'manna'," they said. (Manna means, "What is it?" in their language)

Moses smiled. "God sent this food," he said. "Gather what you need for each day."

Everyone did. Big families gathered a lot. Small families gathered little. There was enough for everyone. Those people went out and picked manna every day.

But some people didn't follow instructions. "Why should we listen to Moses?" they said. "Let's pick enough for tomorrow as well. It won't spoil." But the very next morning the manna was full of worms and smelled... They should have listened to God.

Then one day Moses had another message from God. "People, listen to me. God wants you to rest tomorrow. It's time to take a break. Pick enough manna to last you today and tomorrow. It will not go bad."

The people did what Moses said, but some didn't follow the instructions. They shook their heads. "Rubbish," they said. "It always goes bad. And anyways, we don't need rest. We can do what we want."

So they went outside and picked enough for that only day. The next day they went out as well, but there was no manna on the ground. "Where is it?" they cried. "Now we will go hungry today."

"You should have listened to God," Moses said. "He wants you to rest one day a week."

**Theme 4: Respect Life – Angry Faces!**

Memory Line: “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.” (Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Has anyone ever heard of the word, “The Ten Commandments”? God gave the people of Israel ten laws that would keep them on the right path. Puppets discuss what laws are.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Angry Faces! (Exodus 16)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

The People

Materials needed:

Tent

Water Jug

Moses’ staff

Grey cloth for large stone

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Getting angry with people is one way of disrespecting life. Why is it important to respect life? How can we respect life?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to not get angry with people around us. Help us to respect life. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

“Commandment” card for this lesson:



**Story 4: Purple faces! (Exodus 17) Respect Life**

The people of Israel were on the move again. The cloud had lifted. They packed their tents. But the next place they stopped had no wells or rivers around.

“Moses, why are we camping here?” the people asked. “This is the desert!”

Moses sighed. “This is where the cloud stopped,” he said.

“We want water,” the people shouted. “We want water, NOW!!”

Moses threw his hands in the air. “Why are you angry?” he asked. “God put us here!”

The people laughed. “God?” they said. “He doesn’t care about us. Our children and animals will die of thirst.”

Soon the water in their water bottles ran out. Everyone was thirsty now. The children cried. The animals baaed. What were they going to do?

“You brought us here, Moses!” they yelled. Their faces turned purple with rage. “We’re going to kill you if you don’t give us water.”

Moses was scared. He ran out of the camp to pray to God. “Help me, God!” he cried. “They want to kill me!”

“Go back to the camp,” said God. “Get your walking stick. Then get some of the leaders and take them into the desert.”

Moses did what God said. He was brave. He took the leaders into the desert. Then God spoke again. “Moses, hit a big rock! Water will pour out like a river.”

“Stand back,” Moses shouted to the leaders. “I’m going to hit a rock.” Moses raised his walking stick high above his head. He hit that rock with all his might. Suddenly water gushed out of the rock. It flowed out like a river.

The leader’s mouths fell open. They ran back into camp. “Water! There’s water!” they shouted.

What a stampede to that rock! The grownups drank. The children drank. The animals drank. Water never tasted so good. God showed that he really did respect life.

**Theme 5: Respect Parents - Jethro Gives Advice**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way." (Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Work on memorizing the memory line. Play a memory game.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Jethro Gives Advice (Exodus 18)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

The People

Zipporah and sons

Jethro

Materials needed:

Two Tents

Feast table, cups and plates

Desert

Chair for Moses to sit on

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we respect our parents?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to respect our parents. Help us to listen to them. Amen."

Sing a Song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:

Respect
Parents

**Story 5: Jethro gives Advice (Exodus 18)**

Long before Moses led God's people out of Egypt, he was married and had two boys. While Moses led the people, his family stayed with Grandpa Jethro.

Grandpa Jethro called his daughter and two grandsons together one day. "I have good news," he said. "I just heard that Moses has set God's people free. Let's go and visit him."

"Yippee!" the boys shouted. They jumped for joy.

Jethro sent a message to Moses. "We are coming to see you in a few days."

Moses walked out into the desert to meet his family. He was so happy to see them. They had missed each other so much. "There is so much to tell you," Moses said. "God opened the sea. We walked through on dry ground. He feeds us with manna. He gave us water out of a rock."

That night there was a big feast. Everyone said "Thank you" to God.

Next morning Moses got up early, like normal. People waited outside his tent to talk with him. They needed help. They stood in a very long queue.

Some of those people waited a long, long time. "Will Moses be able to see us today?" they whispered to each other. "We're at the back of the queue."

The sun moved across the sky. Moses listened to each problem: "My neighbour stole my sheep. Tell him to give it back." Or "My neighbour's camel sat on my tent. Tell him to fix it."

Moses helped sort out their problems as fast as he could, but the queue was still very long. By the end of the day Moses still hadn't finished. Jethro shook his head. "Moses, what are you doing?" he said.

"The people need to hear from God," said Moses. Then he yawned.

Grandpa Jethro took Moses inside the tent. "This job is too big for you," said Jethro. "The queue will be just as long tomorrow. Find some good men to take care of the little problems. You see to the big ones."

Moses listened to Grandpa Jethro. Moses respected what he said. Soon there was no more waiting in giant queues. Everyone went home happy. It is worth respecting parents.

**Theme 6: Love God Only - “The Yellow Calf”**

Memory Line: “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: The puppets talk about what they love. Ice-cream. Football. Books. Everyone loves something.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Yellow Calf” (Exodus 32)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

Aaron

The people

Materials needed:

A calf

Brown cloth for mountain

Tablets of stone

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What did the people in the story love? Is everything we love always good? What are some bad things?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to choose to love good things in life. Help us to keep our hearts in the right place. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

“Commandment” card for this lesson:



**Story 6: A YELLOW Idol (Exodus 32) (Love God Only)**

The people stopped at the bottom of a mountain. It was time to rest again. "Moses," called God, "climbed up that mountain."

Moses did and all the people watched him go up. He soon disappeared from sight. As the people waited Moses looked around at the top. His eyes grew big. He saw God, and God was writing on a stone tablet. God used his finger to carve out the words!

"Moses, this is My Word," said God. Then he gave the tablets to Moses.

But down in the camp the people kept waiting. They waited for twenty days! "Where is Moses?" they finally said. "What has happened to him?"

They waited twenty more days. They gave up hope of ever seeing him again. "We need a god," they said. "Let's make our own. That Moses is probably dead."

They went to Aaron, Moses' brother. "Make us a god," they said.

"Take off your earrings," said Aaron, "and give them to me."

The people gave Aaron what he wanted. Aaron melted it down. Then he made a golden calf. "This is your god," said Aaron.

"This is our god!" sang the people. "This is the god that saved us from our enemies." They bowed to the calf. They had a big party. They forgot about who really saved them.

But up on the mountain God spoke to Moses. "There is a disaster! I am very upset. My people have made a calf. They think it saved them! They have already forgotten about me."

"Please, don't be angry," said Moses. He found it hard to believe that it was true. But when he ran down and saw the calf, Moses exploded. "Aaron," he Moses, "what happened?"

Aaron backed away. He was scared. "I threw the gold into the fire and out came a yellow calf!" he said. But that wasn't what exactly happened.

The people realized they had done wrong. They shouldn't have dumped their God. They should have been thankful for all he did. They should have loved him.

**Theme 7: Don't be Greedy – Brown Birds for Dinner**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: One puppet talks about wanting a computer, but his mum gave him a skipping rope instead. He had to be content because he knew he should exercise. Another puppet remembers the Memory line and holds it up. Everyone says it together.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Brown Birds for Dinner" (Numbers 11)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

God

The people

Materials needed:

Birds

Robe for Moses

Tents for the people

Bowls

Fire for cooking

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What is the opposite of greed? How can we learn to be content with what we have?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to not be greedy. Help us to be content with what we have. Amen."

Sing a Song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:



**Story 7: BROWN Birds for Dinner (Numbers 11) (Don't Be Greedy)**

If you remember, every morning the people of God ate manna. But soon they couldn't take it anymore. "This is too much," they shouted. "Manna for breakfast, manna for lunch, manna for supper." They threw their bowls on the ground. "We want real food," they shouted. "We want meat and vegetables!"

"Why are you angry?" said Moses. "What am I supposed to do? Don't be so greedy."

Moses did the only thing he could do. He prayed to God. "God, where can I find food to feed all these people," he cried.

"Tomorrow," said God, "they will have so much meat, they will be sick of it."

Moses looked at the people. He looked at the Red Sea. He thought of fish. "There aren't enough fish in the sea to feed everyone," said Moses.

"Trust me, Moses," said God. "It will happen tomorrow. You'll see. I can do anything."

Moses believed God. He knew God would keep his promise. So Moses went and told the people. They listened and nodded their heads. Everything would soon be alright.

That night God sent a wind. It blew all night long! It blew in millions of brown birds from over the sea. They landed around the camp, for miles and miles. There were so many of them, they lay one meter thick on the ground.

The next morning the people ran outside. "Look," those greedy people shouted, "there are brown birds everywhere! Wow! This is great. We finally have meat."

They laughed and chased those birds. "Come here, dinner!" they called. It took them two days to gather in all the birds and cooked them on fires. "This is delicious," they said.

They had... brown birds for breakfast, brown birds for lunch, and brown birds for supper. They eat brown birds for a whole month.

"Birds, birds, birds," groaned the people. "We have birds coming out of our ears." They forgot to say "Thank you" to God for giving them what they wanted. They were still greedy.

**Theme 8: What Do You Want to Be? (CHRISTMAS)**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Story: "Tale of Three Trees" a folk-story.

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: What do we want to be when we grow up? Puppets discuss their desires. In this story can you see how life can change our minds about what is best in life?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Tale of Three Trees

Cast needed: Narrator

Three Trees

Three woodsmen

Materials needed:

Three green cloths for the trees

An axe

Feed Box for animals

Boat

Cross

Mary and baby Jesus

Jesus

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What do you want to do in life? What is the best thing to do in life?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to be the best in our lives. Help us to do the best. Amen."

Sing a Song:

**Story 8: Tale of Three Trees**

On a mountain grew three small trees. They dreamed of what they would be. The first tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds. “When I grow up I want to be the most beautiful treasure box on earth,” said the first tree. “I want to be covered in gold and gems.”

The second tree looked at a stream running by. “When I grow up I want to live on water. I want to be the strongest ship on earth. I want to carry powerful kings.”

The third tree looked down in the valley, where people lived in a town. “When I grow up I want to be the tallest tree on earth. Then people can lift their eyes up to heaven and they can think of God.”

Years passed. The rains came, and the little trees grew into giant trees. Then one day three wood cutters came.

The first woodcutter cut down the first tall tree. “Now I will be a treasure chest,” said the tree. But the wood cutter only made feed boxes for animals.

The second woodcutter cut down the second tall tree. “Now I will be a mighty ship,” said the tree. But the woodcutter only made a fishing boat.

The third wood cutter cut down the third tall tree. “I am sad,” said the tree. “Now I can’t point people to God.” This tree was made into logs and forgotten.

Years passed and the trees almost forgot their dreams. But one starry night a young woman put her child into an old feed box. “This manger is perfect for Jesus,” she said. Suddenly the first tree knew he held the greatest treasure on earth.

Years passed and a man and his friends climbed into an old fishing boat. The man fell asleep and a storm blew up. “Jesus, wake up,” cried his friends. Jesus stood up and stilled the storm. Suddenly the second tree knew he carried the King of Kings.

Then one Friday some soldiers picked up an old forgotten log. They put that log on a man’s shoulder. “Jesus, carry this,” they said. Then they nailed Jesus to that log. But three days later Jesus rose again. Suddenly the third tree knew he pointed people to God. They would look at that log and find hope.

The three trees smiled. Each one had done an important job. No job is too little for God.

**Theme 9: Respect God's Name – Black Clouds and Fire**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: What does it mean to respect someone?

It means to admire them, think they are great. It is to treat them as important.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Black Clouds and Fire" (Exodus 33, 34)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

God

The people

Materials needed:

Tablets of stone

Black cloth for mountain on other side of stage

Red cloth for fire

Tents for the people on one side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How did you see respect in the story? How can we respect each other?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to respect one another. Help us even when it is hard. Amen."

Sing a Song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:

**Respect
God's name**

**Story 9: BLACK Clouds and Fire (Exodus 33, 34) (Respect God's Name)**

The people of God always complained. They complained about food, about water, about having to live in a desert. They complained about everything. God was sad.

"People, it's time for you to go," said God, "but I'm not going with you. You keep turning your backs on me. You don't respect me."

"We respect you. Honest," said the people. "Please, come with us."

"Alright," said God, "but you must show that you are sorry for always complaining."

"We're really sorry," said the people. They cried and looked sad.

Moses was sad too. He hurried to the desert to talk with God. "Please, God," he said, "I have a request. Do not send us away. We are your people. It's you who makes us special."

"Alright, Moses," said God. "I will go with you because you ask me."

"Please God," said Moses, "I have one more request. I don't know who you are. How can I do what is right if I don't know you."

God smiled. "I will show you, Moses," he said. "But if you see my face, you will die. I will cover you with my hand so you only see my back."

Moses climbed a mountain. It burned with fire at the top. Black clouds swirled around it. God was there, but Moses couldn't see him.

God covered Moses with His hand. Moses stood very still. His heart pounded. Then the hand disappeared and Moses looked. He saw God's back.

God spoke. "This is who I am. The LORD, the kind, the merciful, the patient, the loving, the faithful, the forgiving. The one who want people to do right. That's who I am." Moses fell to the ground and bowed down.

"Now write what I tell you," said God.

Moses made some tablets of stone and wrote down the Ten Commandments. Then he hurried down the mountain. "Come!" he called to the people. "Listen to what God says."

The people listened, and God took care of them. He led them through the desert, to the land he had promised them. They finally respected God.

**Theme 10: Respect Marriage – Marrying a Stranger**

Memory Line: “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “God is God”

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: We have been studying the 10 commandments this year. God gave them so people can know how to live, so that they wouldn’t hurt themselves and others. What does the Memory line tell us about the commandments?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Marrying a Stranger” (Numbers 12)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

Miriam

Aaron

Zipporah

Materials needed:

Oasis on one side of stage with trees and a well

Meeting tent in centre stage, with a white cloth for a cloud

A chair on other side of stage where Miriam sits as a sick person

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): God wanted Miriam to respect the person Moses chose as a wife. How can we show respect to people who are different?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to respect those who are different. Help us to respect marriage. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“Commandment” card for this lesson:



**Story 10: Respect Marriage – Marrying a Stranger (Numbers 12)**

What a good place to finally be. There was an oasis. There was water. There were palm trees with long green branches. Everyone was happy. Well, not everyone. Miriam and Aaron (Moses' brother and sister) were furious with Moses.

"We don't like your wife being here," they said. "She's from another country." But Moses didn't pay attention to them. His wife was his wife and he loved her.

Miriam and Aaron flew into a rage. "Moses, you should never have married a foreigner. That is just plain wrong." But Moses stayed true to Zipporah. She was his wife!

Miriam and Aaron said bad things about Moses. One day Miriam said a horrible thing. She whispered to Aaron, "Aaron, who does Moses think he is that God only speaks to him. Who does he think he is that he should be our leader? We can be leaders. God can speak to us!"

God was listening. He was not happy. "Moses, Aaron and Miriam," called God, "come to the Meeting Tent."

They came. They stood there. God came in a cloud and stood there as well. "Aaron and Miriam," said God, "come closer. Listen to Me."

They stepped up to the cloud. "Moses is My servant," said God. "I speak to him face to face. He is true to me. Why do you say bad things about him?"

The cloud lifted suddenly and Aaron turned to his sister. "Miriam," he cried, "what happened to you. You are all white. You are deadly sick." He wanted to hug his sister, but he might catch her horrible disease.

Aaron turned to Moses, "Moses, please don't be angry with us. We were foolish! Pray to God for our sister. Please pray that this disease leaves her."

Moses cried out to God, and God listened to him. "Put Miriam outside the camp" said God. "She must stay there for seven days. When she feels sorry, she can come back."

Miriam was sorry. Now she knew it was right to respect Moses. It was right to respect his marriage. She respected God even more.

**Theme 11: Don't Lie – Korah Rebels**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."

(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Don't Steal"

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: Review Memory line. Play a game, boys against girls. Who can say it the loudest? The quietest? The fastest?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Korah Rebels" (Numbers 16)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses and Aaron

Korah

Two special friends

250 men

Materials needed:

Meeting Tent on one side of stage

Korah's tent on the other side of stage

Brown cloth in middle for the earth splitting open

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

Why is it wrong to lie? What can we do to help us tell the truth?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us not to lie. Help us to respect others and tell the truth. Amen."

Sing a song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:



**Story 11: Korah Rebels (Numbers 16)**

While God's people still lived in the desert, God wanted them to do something special. "Sew blue tassels on the hem of your robes," said God. "When you see them you will think me."

Korah was a leader among God's people. He sewed blue tassels on his robe, but he forgot about God. Korah talked to his two special friends. "Moses is a rubbish leader," he lied. "Who does Moses think he is? He is no one special. I could do a better job."

His two friends believed him and told 250 more leaders. "Moses is a terrible leader," they lied. "Korah should be our leader."

It was a revolt. Korah and the leaders went to Moses and Aaron. "You have gone too far," Korah shouted. "Why do you think you can be the top leader? Anyone of us should have a chance."

Moses fell to the ground, and bowed to the men. "Korah," said Moses, "tomorrow God will tell us who he wants as the leader. Come to the Meeting Tent so he can choose."

But while Moses was speaking, he noticed that Korah's two special friends weren't there. Moses sent a message to them. "Come right now," he said.

The two friends sent a rude message back. "No! Who do you think you are, Moses?"

Moses was angry. He prayed to God. "God, please look at what is happening. I have taken nothing from them. I have not hurt them. They are not doing what is right."

The next morning came. Korah appeared at the Meeting Tent. His two friends showed up. The 250 leaders were there. Moses and Aaron were there. God came down in a cloud.

"Stand aside Moses and Aaron," said God. "I will put an end to these wicked leaders."

But Moses and Aaron fell on the ground. "Oh God, don't be angry with everyone. Only Korah sinned," they cried. "He was the only who lied about Moses."

"Stand back, everyone," called God. "Everyone except Korah and his two friends."

They all moved far back. But then Moses spoke up. "Listen everyone, if God has chosen me," said Moses, "let the earth will open up and swallow up these three wicked men."

Suddenly the earth split open. Korah and his friends fell in. The leaders ran away. God showed that he wanted Moses to be in charge. God didn't want people to lie.

**Theme 12: Don't Steal – We Promise to Pay**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."

(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "God is God"

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: We have been studying the 10 commandments this year. God gave them so people could know how to live, so that they wouldn't hurt themselves and others. What does the Memory line tell us about the commandments?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "We Promise to Pay" (Numbers 20-21)

Cast needed: Narrator

Moses

King of Edom and army

People sitting in their tents

Materials needed:

Tent on one side of stage

Border guard for Edom in centre stage

King's throne on other side of stage

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Why is it a good idea not to steal? How can we encourage others not to steal?

How can we help ourselves be the best we can be? How can we help others be their best?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to respect what belongs to others. Help us to be strong and not steal. Amen."

Sing a song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:



**Story 12: We Promise to Pay (Numbers 20, 21)**

The people of God had almost finished their journey. They finally reached the edge of the desert, but it was bordered by different countries. They stood at the border of one country called Edom. It had big grey mountains. A valley ran through it. There was lots of water.

Moses sent a letter to the king of Edom. "Dear King, we are travellers. God rescued us. Let us pass through your land. We promise to stay on the road. We will not go in the fields. We promise to pay for everything we eat and drink."

God's people waited for a reply. They camped at the edge of Edom. They sat in their tents and talked with each other. "It sure would make life easier if the king says 'yes,'" said the people. "It would be much easier than having to walk all the way around it."

The king of Edom finally sent a message, "A BIG NO! You will not come through. If you do, we will march out. We will attack you with the sword."

"Please," wrote back Moses. "We will only stay on the main road. We will pay for everything. Just let us pass through."

The king wrote back again. "Didn't you understand me the first time? NO!" Then the king gathered his army. They marched out and blocked the way.

God's people could have fought. They could have walked through and stolen everything they needed. But they respected the king of Edom. Instead, they packed up their tents. They walked around Edom, around the mountains. It was a long way.

"God, why did you let this happen?" the people said.

"Don't be afraid," God said. "I will take care of you."

God did. He took them to the land where they should live, and gave it to them. God's people learned to trust God. He gave what they needed at the right time.

**Theme 13: Respect Marriage – The Wedding at Cana****Memory Line:** “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”

(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:**Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and “God is God”**Puppets Act Out Bible Theme:** One of the puppets get teased at how he looks. His friends stand up for him.**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** “The Wedding at Cana” (John 2:1-11)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Mary

Chef

Bride and Groom

Guests

Servants

Materials needed:

Jugs

White robe for bride

Cups for guests

Apron for chef

Coloured robes for guests

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

What does it mean to respect someone? What do you think it means to respect marriage?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to respect marriage. Help us to respect everyone. Amen.”**Sing a song:****“Commandment” card for this lesson:**

**Story 13: “The Wedding at Cana” (John 2:1-11)**

“What a perfect day for the wedding,” said the chef. “I’ve cooked the food. I’ve bought the wine. The guests can come.”

“Knock, knock,” went the door.

“Servant, please get that,” said the chef. “That will be the guests.” The servant opened the door and bowed.

“Hello,” said the guests and stepped inside.

“Knock, knock,” went the door. The servant opened it again. “Hello,” said Jesus and his helpers. “Hello,” said Mary, Jesus’ mother. Soon the place was crowded.

When the bride and groom finally said, “I do,” all the guests cheered and clapped. Then they sat down to eat the feast. But a little while later the servant rushed into the kitchen. “Chef, the wine is all gone. What shall we do?”

“I don’t know,” said the chef, wringing his hands. “This is terrible news.”

Mary rushed into the kitchen too. “Don’t worry,” she said. “Jesus can help. Do whatever he tells you to do.”

Jesus came in a minute later. “Servant, follow me,” he said.

The servant followed Jesus out of the kitchen, out of the house and over to the well. Jesus pointed to six huge jars. “Servant, fill these with water,” said Jesus.

The servant did what Jesus said and Jesus dipped a cup into one of the huge jugs. “Servant, take it to the chef,” he said.

The servant did what Jesus said, and he ran to the chef with the cup. “Chef,” said the servant, “Jesus wants you to drink this up.”

The chef looked at the cup, he smelled it. He took a sip and drank it all up. “Where did Jesus get this excellent wine? This is the best. Give it to the guests.”

“Wine?” said the servant. “But I poured in water. This is a miracle!”

It was! And did you know, it was the first miracle Jesus ever did. He did it because he respected marriage. Soon everyone at the wedding was happy again. Even the chef!

**Theme 14: Forgive Everyone – (Easter Story)**

Memory Line: “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Forgive Everyone”

Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:

What is Easter all about? One puppet thinks it is about Easter Eggs. Another about chocolate bunnies. Another says, “Actually Easter is all about forgiveness.”

“What is forgiveness?” asks a puppet.

“Forgiveness is not getting even.”

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Easter Story” (Luke 22 - 24)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Soldiers

Religious Leaders

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

Garden on one side of stage

Hill where Jesus dies on the other side of stage

Soldiers gear

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

So, what is forgiveness? How can we forgive others?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to forgive. Help us to do what is right. Amen.”

Sing a song:

**Story 14: "The Sun Disappears" – (Easter Story) (Luke 22 – 24)**

Jesus was kind to everyone. People thought he was wonderful. Well...almost everyone. The religious leaders hated him. He was just too good for them.

The religious leaders stood in the temple. "We must get rid of that man," they said. "We need to find him all alone and grab him when no one sees."

One night, someone tipped them off. Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane. The religious leaders laughed. "Now we can get rid of him," they said.

They called the temple soldiers. "Soldiers, go catch Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane."

The soldiers bowed. They marched to the garden with swords and clubs. They surrounded Jesus and waved their weapons. "We got you," they shouted.

But Jesus didn't cry or run away. He stood there, calm. "Why do you come with swords and clubs?" said Jesus. "I'm not doing anything wrong."

But the soldiers didn't listen. They had to follow their orders. They grabbed Jesus and dragged him away. They took him to the religious leaders. "Here is the man," they said.

"This man says he's the Son of God," said the leaders. "He's lying. Get rid of him."

The soldiers bowed. They followed their orders. They took Jesus out to a hill called Golgotha. They hung him on a cross. Then they sat down to guard him.

Jesus looked down and felt very sad. "Dear God, please forgive those soldiers," he prayed. "They don't have a clue what they are doing." Then Jesus died, just like that.

Suddenly the sky turned black, like night. The soldiers jumped up. They were scared. "This man really was the Son of God," they said. "We just killed an innocent man."

The leaders were there too. They gloated and went to the temple to celebrate. But they found the giant curtain tore in two. God did that to open the way, so people could come to him.

Three days later Jesus rose again. He walked out of that tomb. Jesus really was the Son of God. He came to forgive the world. Those soldiers got it right.

**Theme 15: Respect God's name - Jesus cleanses the temple (John 2)**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Respect God's Name"

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: One puppet wins a race and boasts about it to everyone, even to the one who lost. The one who lost is jealous. Both have to learn to respect each other.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Cleaning the Temple" (John 2)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Money lender

Animal herder

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

Rope for a whip

Animals and bird cage on one side of stage

Tables and piles of money on other side of stage

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Sometimes it is hard to understand what it means to respect. Think of yourself. How do you want people to treat you? How do you think we should treat others? Respect is important everywhere.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to treat others like we want to be treated. Help us respect other people. Amen."

Sing a song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:

**Respect
God's name**

**Story 15: "Cleaning the Temple" (John 2)**

Jesus took his helpers into the temple. He wanted to get away and pray. But it was full of noise. Sheep baaed. Cows mooed. Animal herders shouted. Money lenders clinked their coins. There wasn't a quiet corner anywhere.

Jesus sat on a step and looked around. Everywhere people were disrespecting the temple. But Jesus came up with a plan.

He found some rope. He bound it together to make a whip. Then he stood up. "It this how you treat my Father's house?" he cried. He flung his whip in the air and it cracked.

"Go away," said the animal herder. "We have every right to be in here."

"Go away," said the money lender. "We have every right to be in here."

"Take everything out!" cried Jesus. "This is a place to pray, not a place to make money off of people. This is God's temple, not a market place."

The people laughed, so Jesus cracked his whip again. CRACK! He opened the pens and let out the animals. CRACK! He drove the animals out of the temple. CRACK!

"Stop it!" shouted the animal herder.

"I'm cleaning out my Father's house."

Next Jesus ran over to the money tables. He grabbed the edge on one and tipped it over. He ran to the next one and did the same. "Get out," cried Jesus. CRACK!

"Stop it!" shouted the money lenders. They dived to the floor to pick up their coins.

"I'm cleaning out my Father's house," cried Jesus. CRACK!

Then Jesus found someone with a cage full of doves. "Take these outside," said Jesus. "We always respect God in his temple."

Soon the temple was quiet and still. Jesus threw aside his whip. "Now we can pray to our Father in heaven," he said. "He wants us to always respect him."

**Theme 16: Respect Life - Lazarus wakes up**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Respect Life"

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: One puppet does a research project on the NASA rocket that blew up 30 years ago. All the other puppets laugh thinking it is a fireworks rocket, until the first one says seven people died in it. Then everyone is serious, because life is precious.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Jesus Raises Lazarus" (John 11)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus and helpers

Lazarus - puppet

Mary

Martha

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

Cloaks for Mary and Martha

Tomb on one side of stage

House on other side of stage

Message/note with "Lazarus is sick" written on it

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

Why is it good to respect life? How can we respect life?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, help us to respect life. Help us to respect others. Amen."

Sing a song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:

Respect
Life

**Story 16: “Jesus Raises Lazarus” (John 11)**

Jesus had some special friends, a couple of sisters and their brother. Their names were Mary, Martha and Lazarus. One day Lazarus got very sick and Mary and Martha sent Jesus a note. “Lazarus is sick,” they wrote.

Jesus read the note. He looked at his helpers. “Lazarus will not die,” he said. “God will do wonderful things.” So they stayed away for two more days.

Jesus finally stood up. “We must go,” he said. “Lazarus is dead.”

The helpers looked at Jesus confused. Why was Jesus going now? He said it himself, Lazarus was dead. But they didn’t say that to Jesus. They stood up with Jesus. “Then we will go with you,” they said.

When Mary and Martha heard that Jesus was coming, they put on their robes and ran out to meet him. They fell down at his feet. “Jesus,” said Martha, “if you had come, our brother would still be alive. But we believe that God can do what you ask.”

“Your brother will live,” said Jesus. “Whoever believes in me will live, and they will see that God is good.”

Mary started to cry again. Jesus started crying too. “Where is the grave?” he said.

Mary and Martha led Jesus to the tomb. It was a cave in the side of the hill, with a huge stone rolled in front. “Open it up,” said Jesus.

“But, Jesus,” said Martha, “Lazarus has been in there for four whole days. It won’t smell very nice.”

“Please trust me,” said Jesus. “Then you will see that God is very good.”

Everyone helped roll the stone away. They backed away from the smell. But Jesus looked up to heaven. “Father,” he prayed, “help these people to believe that you are good.”

Jesus looked at the tomb. “Lazarus, come out,” he called. Everyone heard a groan and then Lazarus walked out alive. Everyone shouted and cheered. God was good. He respected life.

**Theme 17: God is God – Plank in the Eye (Matthew 7)**

Memory Line: “Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “God is God”

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: Puppets wonder what God looks like. Is he an old man with a beard, or a beam of light with a big voice? They decide that no one knows, but that they like the good rules he thought up. He knows how to be fair.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Plank in the Eye” (Matt 7)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Person with speck

Person with plank

Helpers

Materials needed:

Jesus in centre stage with a white robe

Helpers around Jesus

Mr. Speck on one side of stage

Mr. Plank on the other side of the stage

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Should we follow good rules? How can we know which rules are good, and which ones are not?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to pay attention to good advice. Help us to know what is right and what is wrong. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“Commandment” card for this lesson:



**Story 17: "Plank in the Eye" (Matthew 7)**

Jesus sat on a mountain side. All his helpers sat around him. Thousands of people were there too. Jesus told them a story.

"It is so easy to see what others do wrong," said Jesus. "It is easy to put our noses in the air and think that we are the only ones who know what is right. We can even think we are better than anyone else."

Then Jesus stopped and looked at everyone. "Put on your thinking caps, everyone. Try to imagine what I am going to tell you. Imagine two people. Here. There. Mr. Plank has a plank in his eye. This plank is so big he can't see anything. He runs into walls, falls over chairs, and spills his tea all over the place.

Now imagine the other person, Mr. Speck, with a speck of straw in his eye. "Ow!" Mr. Speck cries. "I have something in my eye. How irritating." He sits down and tries to get it out, but he can't.

Along comes Mr. Plank. He stops in front of the Mr. Speck. "Ow!" says Mr. Speck. "Please help me get this speck of straw out of my eye."

Mr. Plank moves his plank around. He can't see a thing. He turns it this way and that. He can just get see that straw. "How careless of you," he says. "Let me help."

Then Jesus paused and pointed to Mr. Plank. "Mr. Plank, aren't you being a bit of a hypocrite. You think you can help someone with a speck in their eye, but you actually can't see a thing. First take the plank out of your eye, then you will be able to help."

It suddenly made sense. A helper raised his hand. "Jesus, does that mean that people have to stop stealing before they can tell someone else to stop stealing? Does it mean that people have to stop lying before they can tell someone else to stop lying?"

"That's right," said Jesus. "We must be the best that we can be. God is God, and he gave us good rules."

**Theme 18: Don't be Greedy – Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)**

Memory Line: "Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."
(Proverbs 4:27)

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: What does it mean to be greedy? A puppet gets a new computer game. He goes around telling everyone how great he is, and that he can beat everyone. He is a greedy puppet, because he wants all the attention.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Pharisee and Tax Collector"

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Pharisee

Tax collector

Proud people in the temple

Materials needed:

Temple

Robe for Pharisee

Money bag for tax collector

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What are different ways that we can be greedy? How can we stop being greedy?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us not to be greedy. Help us to do what is right. Amen."

Sing a Song:

"Commandment" card for this lesson:

Don't Be
Greedy

**Story 18: Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14) (Don't be Greedy)**

Back when Jesus lived on earth, people went to the temple to pray. But Jesus noticed that some people strutted around like they were better than everyone else. Jesus told them a story to get their attention. He said...

Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, a good man who taught everyone how to live. The other was a tax collector, a bad man who knew how to cheat and steal.

Now the Pharisee came into the temple one day. He wore his fine robes. He looked important. He cleared his throat and glanced around. He wanted to make sure people saw him. But then he spotted a tax collector by the door. The Pharisee hated people like that. He turned away and shook his head. "Riff-raff," he said.

The Pharisee put his nose in the air. He lifted his hands and prayed, his voice came loud and clear. He wanted everyone to hear his prayer. He wanted everyone to see his goodness.

"God," prayed the Pharisee, "thank you that I am not like other people. I don't rob, or do bad things, or ruin other people's marriages. I am a good man. Not like that tax collector over there. I thank you that I'm better than him. I eat healthy food. I give to charity. I'm the best that there is around."

The tax collector heard the Pharisee's prayer. He knew the Pharisee was right. He bowed his head and fell on his knees. Tears streamed down his face.

"God," prayed the tax collector, "have mercy on me. I have stolen. I have cheated. I have done lots of bad things. But now I want to do right. Please help me."

The tax collector stayed on his knees a long time, sorry for what he did...

Then Jesus stopped speaking and looked at the crowd. "Listen to me," he said. "God was pleased with that tax collector, not the Pharisee. That Pharisee was greedy for attention. He did anything he could to get it. But that tax collector was humble. He knew he struggled with greed and he was sorry. He wanted to change."

The End. If you would like to use other Fun Fish series, please go to www.funfish.org.uk