

Everyone Counts



Living with Feelings: RE Assemblies with Numbers KS1 (4-7 year olds)

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2. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

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Welcome to “Everyone Counts”

The fun world Fun Fish RE Assemblies.

“Everyone Counts” is all about children learning to living with feelings.

Children experience all sorts of feelings. The world brings challenges and joys, and children will engage with these circumstances in different ways. Fun Fish RE Assemblies encourages children to explore their responses in a safe and affirming environment.

“Everyone Counts” is all about Bible stories with numbers

Children already know their numbers. The Bible has a lot of stories with numbers, and each of these stories is full of challenges and how people responded to them.

Add It All Up?

“FEELINGS”  “NUMBERS” = ?

Answer: An action-packed time, full-of-fun learning.

Any leader can present these RE assemblies, regardless of their knowledge of Christian traditions. Every assembly is set up in a multi-sensory way, so that each child can engage in the way they learn best. Children are eager to learn, and as assembly leaders communicate in a way children can relate, children will listen and learn.

All the assemblies have the same basic structure. They can be given in any order, as best suits the leader. But please feel free to adjust each assembly as best suits you.

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



Enjoy the Fun Fish adventure... **“Everyone Counts!”**

4. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

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 Bible Time Line with Puppets: (2 minute)

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



Bible Story (Spontaneous Drama): (8 minutes)

Present the story by:

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

Reflective Time with Puppets: (2 minutes)

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

Prayer: (½ minute)

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

Closing Theme Song: (2 minutes)



Materials Needed for RE Assemblies

Remember to arrive early and set up!

What to bring to every assembly:

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

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

- Lengths of fabric between 3 - 5 meters long.
 - Non wrinkly, easily washable fabrics best, like polyester.
 - These make excellent backdrops, boats, mountains, cloaks, rivers...
 - Bright solid colours are best...red, brown, blue, purple, white, green...
- Laminator for all Number Cards and paper items that will get used again
- Swords (wooden spoons, or the inside cardboard roll in wrapping paper)
- Armour, and helmets (the good old plastic kind)
- Plastic cups to hit together - they make a great horse or donkey sounds.

ENJOY THE ADVENTURE!!!



Theme 0: Feeling Happy: Zero for Starters

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Mark 12:31)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Feeling Happy”

Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)

Puppets are back from the summer holidays. They are so happy to see the children and each other. They talk about the number line and how each number will tell a story. The number “0” makes them happy. It means RE Assemblies have begun.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Zero for Starters” (Genesis 1 - 2)

Cast needed: Narrator

God

Adam and Eve

Materials needed:

Torch for light, plastic flowers

Sun, moon, star, cuddly animals

Black cloth for darkness

Green cloth for fields

Dark Blue cloth for water

Light blue cloth for sky

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

How do we show others we are happy? What makes you happy?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you that you make us happy. Amen.”

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

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





7. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

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Story 0: “Zero for Starters” – God Makes the World – (Genesis 1-2)

In the beginning there was nothing. No trees. No sun. No houses. No people. But God was in the beginning. “I shall make a world,” said God. So the first thing He made was LIGHT. It shined in the darkness. It made it bright. “Perfect,” said God and smiled.

On Day Two God looked around. There was water everywhere. Water up above and down below. “Water, move down,” said God. “I want to see some SKY.” The water did and made room for the sky. “Perfect,” said God and smiled.

On Day Three God knew what to do next. “Water,” he said, “please move again. I want to see solid GROUND.” The water rolled off, and God spoke again. “I want plants on the earth,” he said. He planted trees, and weeds and flowers and fruit. “Perfect,” said God and smiled.

On Day Four God stared at the empty sky. He rolled up fire and made a sun. “Sun, your job is to rule the day,” said God. Next God made the moon and stars and planets. “You all shall rule the night,” he said. Everything was in the right place. “Perfect,” said God and smiled.

On Day Five God rubbed His hands together. “It’s time for some fun,” he said. He filled up the water with whales and crabs, the rivers with fish and frogs. He filled up the sky with flying birds, the earth with birds that cannot fly. “Perfect,” said God and smiled.

On Day Six God got straight to work. “I want to make animals, wild and tame,” he said. “I want them to roam the earth.” Suddenly elephants and mice, hedgehogs and lions, all kinds of animals appeared.

“I want to make people too,” said God. He picked up dirt and made a man. The man stood up and breathed. Then God made a woman. “Perfect,” said God and smiled.

On Day Seven God looked around. Everything was done. “I need a rest,” said God. So that’s what he did. He took a day off. “Perfect,” said God and smiled. And that was how God made the earth. Isn’t that good?

Theme 1: Feeling Scared: One Shaggy Fleece

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Feeling Scared.”

Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)

“1” is about being scared. One puppet sees one spider and freaks out. The other puppets comfort him. When we are scared we feel all alone, but friends can help us.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “One Shaggy Fleece” (Judges 6)

Cast needed: Narrator

Angel

Gideon

Materials needed:

Branch from a tree, so that a child can hold it during the play.

Basket of wheat stalks

Blanket on the floor for husking the wheat

Megaphone made from rolled paper

White fleecy towel

Washing up bowl

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

How do we help someone when they are scared? What should we do when we are scared?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, sometimes I get scared. Please always send someone to help me. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know it... don’t be scared...

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





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Story 1: One Shaggy Fleece – Gideon Asks for Help - (Judges 6) (Feeling Scared)

Gideon stood alone in a cave. He needed to clean a bag of grain. But the enemy army was all around. They stole all the food from the people. “I hope they don’t catch me,” whispered Gideon.

He waited till night. He picked up a bag. He carried it outside and poured it on a cloth. Then he beat it with a stick to knock off the husk.

He tried to be as quiet as possible. But suddenly he froze. Someone was watching him.

“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior,” said the stranger.

Gideon hid behind the tree. “If God is with us, why are we hiding in caves?” said Gideon. “The enemy has ruined our land. Where is God?”

“I am right here,” said God. “Go save this people from the enemy! I will go with you, and your people will fight with you.”

Gideon blew a trumpet. People came running. He sent messengers to other groups hiding in caves. A small army gathered around him. But they had one big problem. The enemy army was huge.

“God,” said Gideon, “I’m scared. Please show me if we will win. To prove it, I’ll put out a fleece tonight. If it is wet with dew and the ground dry, then I will know we will win.”

God made the fleece wet. Gideon wrung it out. It was so wet it filled up a bowl with water. But the ground was completely dry.

Still Gideon was scared. He went out the next night. “God, just one more test. Make the fleece dry this time and the ground wet with dew.”

God did it again. Now Gideon knew they would win, and they did.

Theme 2: Feeling Angry: Two Strong Ropes**Memory Line:** "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Feeling Angry."**Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)**

"2" is about being angry. It takes two to fight. Two puppets see the same carrot and fight for it. Another puppet blows his whistle and stops them. He produces another carrot.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Two Strong Ropes" (Judges 15)

Cast needed: Narrator

Samson

Philistine general and army

Scared people

Materials needed:

Two ropes to tie Samson

Sword, helmet, armour of enemy

Stool to sit in cave

Sheet to make a cave

Jaw bone (do you have one!)

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

How do we help someone when they are angry? What should we do when we are angry?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to control our tempers. Please help us to do what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:** If you're Happy and You Know it... don't be cross...**"Number Line Card" for this assembly:**



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Story 2: Two Strong Ropes (Judges 15) (Feeling Angry)

The enemy still ruled the land. They still were mean and powerful. But God sent help. Samson was born. He became the strongest man there ever was.

Samson found a wife, but the enemy killed her. So Samson sat alone in a cave. “I will make them pay,” he said.

Samson started causing trouble. He set fields on fire everywhere. That made the enemy furious. They gathered their army. “We will find Samson. We kill him,” they said.

But the people in the land grew scared. They went to the enemy general. “O mighty general,” they said, “why are you angry?”

“We’re not angry with you,” said the general. “We want Samson, that trouble maker.”

The people left the general. “What should we do?” they whispered. “Samson is one of us.” So they went to Samson. They found him in his cave. “What have you done?” they said.

“The enemy are getting what they deserve,” said Samson.

“The enemy wants you,” said the people. “Can we tie you up and hand you over?”

Samson smiled and nodded his head. “Okay! Just promise not to kill me.”

“Good!” said the men. They tied Samson up. They tied him with two brand-new ropes. Samson could hardly move. The people took him to the enemy camp.

When the enemy saw Samson, they laughed. “Now we’ve got you!” they said.

But the enemy forgot about God. God gave Samson extra special strength. He broke those two ropes, as if they were nothing. Now who was doing the laughing?

Samson grabbed a bone. He swung it around his head. “Be afraid,” he roared. “Be very afraid.” The enemy army’s knees started to knock. They turned around and ran away. God always wins in the end!



Theme “minus sign”: Feeling Kindness: Ruth and Boaz (Harvest)

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

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: A minus sign, because harvest is about giving to others, which means less for us. Teach the memory line to the children. Use memory line cards and turn it into a game.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Ruth and Boaz” (Ruth 1 – 4)

Materials needed:

Field with some grain on one side of stage

A well

The house on the other side of the stage.

Cast: Narrator

Naomi and Ruth

Boaz

Workers in the field

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What does it mean to be kind? What are some kind things we can do for our friends?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for the kind things people do for us. Please help us to be kind as well. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know it... say, ‘Be kind!’

...Wave Good Bye

“Number Line Card,” a minus sign for this assembly





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Story "minus sign": Ruth and Boaz – Showing Kindness – (Ruth 1 - 4)

A long time ago there were two widows, Naomi and Ruth. A widow is someone whose husband has died. They lived in the same house, but they were very poor.

Now Naomi was old. She couldn't go out to work. Ruth was young. She went out to look for work. But what was she going to do?

It was harvest time and Ruth saw some men working in a field. She noticed that they had dropped an ear of corn. She ran and picked up the corn. She put it in her pocket.

Now, you might think that Ruth was stealing. But in that country poor people could do that. They were allowed to pick up anything that had been left behind by the harvesters.

Soon Ruth's pockets were completely full, and she hurried home. "Look, Naomi," she called. "We can have supper tonight."

Naomi hobbled over and looked at all the corn Ruth had pulled from her pockets. "Where did you get all this food? This is amazing!"

Ruth laughed. "I heard the field belongs to a man called Boaz."

"Boaz!" said Naomi. "He is a distant relative. I want you to stay with his harvesters. Boaz is a good man." So Ruth did what Naomi said.

One day Boaz came to see how the harvesters were doing. He noticed Ruth. "Who is that young woman?" he asked the harvesters.

"That's Ruth," said the harvesters. "She's the one who takes food home to Naomi."

Boaz smiled. "Ruth," he called, "I want you to stay with my harvesters. They will make sure you are safe. And please drink as much water from the well as you want."

Ruth bowed down to the ground. "Oh, sir! Who am I that you should show me such kindness? I am just a poor widow."

Boaz smiled again. "You have been kind to Naomi. May God be kind to you as well."

God was very kind. Not long after Boaz and Ruth got married, and Naomi came to live with them. So you see, when you show kindness, it helps others to show kindness too.

Theme 3: Feeling Special: Three Baby Goats

Memory Line: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Feeling Special."

Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)

A puppet is three years old. He has a birthday party, a cake and three presents. He feels very special. (You will need a plastic birthday cake and three presents)

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Three Baby Goats" (1 Sam 9, 10)

Cast needed: Narrator

Samuel

Saul

Three men with three goats

Cook

Materials needed: A box

Three loaves of bread

Three goats (cuddly animals)

Table set for a feast

Lots of pretend food

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

What makes us feel special? How can we make others feel special?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, thank you that I am very special. Help me make others feel special. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it... say, "I'm special!"...

"Number Line Card" for this assembly:





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Story 3: Three Baby Goats – Saul Becomes King - (1 Samuel 9, 10) (Feeling Special)

Samuel was a prophet. God spoke to him. One day God said, “Samuel, tomorrow you will meet a man. Make him king. He will save my people from the enemy.”

The next day Samuel went to a feast. “Look!” said God. “See that man over there? He will be the king.”

Samuel looked. He saw Saul. Saul was tall and handsome.

But Saul wasn’t thinking anything like that. He had lost his donkeys. He had gone to the feast to find Samuel. Samuel could tell him where the donkeys were hiding. But Saul had a problem. He didn’t know what Samuel looked like.

“Excuse me,” said Saul to someone. “I’m looking for Samuel. Can you tell me who he is? I hear he is at this feast.”

Samuel smiled. “I am Samuel,” he said. “Come to a feast with me. Your donkeys are already found. I have something special for you.”

“What are you talking about?” said Saul.

Samuel didn’t answer. Instead he sat Saul down at the table, at the head, in the place of honour. Saul wondered what was happening.

Then Samuel called the cook. “Bring out that special food I asked you to save. Give it to Saul right here.”

The cook set the plate in front of Saul. “Eat it,” said Samuel. “I saved this for you.” Now Saul was really confused. “What’s going on?”

“God wants you to be king!” said Samuel. “To prove it to you, you will meet three men. They will have three young goats and three loaves of bread. They will give you two loaves.”

Everything happened just as Samuel said. Saul walked down the road. He met three men, with three goats, with three loaves of bread. They even gave him two. Saul finally believed and soon he became king.

Theme 4: Feeling Brave: Four Barrels of Water

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Feeling Brave.”

Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)

“4” is about feeling brave. One of the puppets is four years old. He needs to start school in reception. He feels a bit scared. His friends help him to be brave.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Four Barrels of Water” (1 Kings 18)

Cast needed: Narrator

Elijah

King Ahab

Priests and people

Materials needed:

Crown for the king

Doll to bow down to as an idol

Rocks, wood for the altar

Four buckets

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

How can we be brave? How can we help others to be brave?

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

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

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





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Story 4: Four Barrels of Water – Elijah Calls Fire From Heaven - (1 Kings 18) (Feeling Brave)

King Ahab and his priests bowed down to a stone statue. It couldn't walk or speak. It just sat on a table. “This is our god,” said the king and priests.

The people watched their leaders bow down. “We will too,” said the people.

But God looked from heaven. He was sad. He was their true God, not some statue. So he sent brave Elijah to talk to King Ahab. “King Ahab,” said Elijah, “you think your statue helps you, that he speaks to you. God wants to have a contest with your statue. God wants to show you who really can help.”

“Alright,” said King Ahab. “That sounds fun. I'll call all my priests together.”

Elijah raised his hand. “Call all the people in the land as well. I want everyone to see what happens. Tell them it will be on Mount Carmel.”

So King Ahab sent messengers to every part of the country. “Listen everyone, meet at Mount Carmel. We're going to have a contest!”

Everyone came. They stood there, waiting. Elijah suddenly stood up. “Listen to me, all you people. You must make up your minds once and for all. If my God is real, then please follow him. If your stone statue is real, then follow it.”

The people said nothing, so Elijah told them the rules of the contest. “You statue priests go first. First put meat on some wood. Then ask your stone statue to send down fire. Ask it to burn up the meat. The God who can do that is real.”

The priests started dancing around the statue. They shouted, and begged to their stone statue. They did this all day, but nothing happened. “Shout louder,” cried Elijah. “Maybe your god is asleep. Or maybe he is on a trip.” But no fire came down from heaven, no matter how loud they called.

Finally the sun went down Elijah waved everyone to come near. “It's my turn,” he called. “Now listen to me, get four barrels full of water. Empty them on the wood and meat. I want everything completely soaked.”

The people did exactly what Elijah said. Then they watched as Elijah prayed. “O God, please show these people you are the true God.”

Suddenly fire fell from heaven. It burned up the meat, the wood, and the rocks. The people fell down to the ground. “God is real!” they shouted. “The God of Elijah is real!”

Theme 5: Feeling Generous: Five Hungry Horses

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Feeling Generous.”

Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)

“5” is about feeling generous. Puppet wants to pick up a basket, but he can’t as he doesn’t have five strong fingers. He asks the other puppets, they can’t. He asks a child, they can help. They are generous.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Five Hungry Horses” (2 Kings 7)

Cast needed: Narrator

Enemy soldiers

Four poor men

King

Soldiers

Materials needed:

Throne

Five horses

Tents

Food

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

How can we be generous? What things can we share?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for giving us so many things. Help us to be generous too. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know it... share your things...

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





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"Everyone Counts"

Story 5: Five Hungry Horses – A Hungry City - (2 Kings 7) (Feeling Generous)

The city was surrounded by another enemy army. No food could get in. No people could get out. The people had nothing to eat. God gave Elijah a special message. Elijah told it to all the people. "Tomorrow you will eat," he said.

The people listened. "We hope so," they said. But they didn't believe it could happen. The king didn't believe it either.

Now, there were four men outside the city. They were so sick, no one would touch them. They had even been kicked out of the city. Not even the enemy army. "We're hungry," they said. "Let's ask the enemy for food. They might kill us, but it is worth the risk."

That evening they crept to the enemy camp. They waited behind a bush. Nothing moved. They heard nothing. Not a cough. Not even a snore. "What's going on?" they said.

They didn't know, but God was at work. God had sent the sound of a great marching army. The enemy heard it. They ran for their lives. They left everything.

The four sick men went into a tent. "What a feast!" they shouted. "Food! Drink! Clothes! Thank you, enemy!" Then they found gold and silver. They carried it away and buried it. They found some more treasure and buried that.

Suddenly they stopped and stared at each other. "What are we doing?" they said. "The whole city is starving. We must tell the king."

They ran to the city and shouted the good news. "It is a trap," said the king. "Don't believe them."

But an officer bowed down to the king. "O king, send some men and horses to check it out. It just might be true."

There were only five skinny horses were left in the city. Some men rode out to see. They rode back shouting the news. "The enemy is gone. There is tons of food." The whole city ran to the enemy camp. There was enough to eat, and a lot more.

"See, I told you," said Elijah. "God always keeps his promises."

Theme "plus sign": Feeling Surprised – "Christmas"**Memory Line:** "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Life is Full of Surprises."**Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)**

"+" is about feeling surprised. The "+" is Jesus being born. One way to get ready for Christmas is to make a mince pie. How do you make one? One puppet thought it was easy, throwing everything into a clear bowl. What a mess! It was a big surprise when it didn't work.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Life is Full of Surprises" (Luke 2)

Cast needed: Narrator

Baby Jesus

Angels

Shepherds

Mary and Joseph

Materials needed: Sheep

A fire

White robes for angels

Manger for baby Jesus.

Stable

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): Life is full of surprises. What surprise would you like for Christmas? How can you surprise someone else for Christmas?**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, lots of surprises happen in life, some good and some bad. May this Christmas be full of good surprises. Amen.**Sing a song:** If you're Happy and You Know it... shout, "Surprise!"...**"Number Line Card" a plus sign for Christmas, for this assembly:**



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Theme “plus sign”: “Life is Full of Surprises”—Jesus is born (Luke 2)

It was a dark and quiet night. It was cold. Shepherds sat around a fire, huddled in their cloaks. The sheep were fast asleep. Suddenly the whole place became bright as day.

The shepherds’ mouths fell open. Their eyes grew big. They shield them as they looked at the light. Things like this didn’t happen every day. What was happening!

It took a minute, but suddenly they could see what was in the light. The whole sky was filled with thousands of angels. “**SURPRISE!**” shouted the angels and they started to sing. “Hallelujah!” They danced around in circles.

But the shepherds didn’t cheer, or join in the fun. Their knees knocked together and their mouths went dry. They had never seen one angel, never mind thousands of them! Then a giant angel stepped out from the rest.

“Don’t be scared” the angel said. “I bring you good news. Jesus is born; the greatest king on earth; the King of kings. You will find him in Bethlehem, in a stable – not in a palace - lying on some hay in an animal feed box.”

The angels sang and suddenly disappeared. The shepherds jumped up and stared at each other. “Let’s go and see this new baby. This is a chance we don’t want to miss!”

They started off for Bethlehem, but then began to wonder. “Did we hear the angels correctly? Did they really say a stable? Maybe it was a table? Whoever heard of a king being born in a barn?”

They stopped and looked at each other. “But we all heard it, didn’t we? It must be true? Right, let’s go then!” So they set off to look in every stable they could find.

“No baby in this one?” ----- “No baby in that one?” ----- No baby in here?” Finally they looked in another one. “**SURPRISE!**” called the angels from heaven.

Mary and Joseph waved to them. “Come in and see the special baby that God has given to us!”

The shepherds stepped inside. They were so amazed. They fell on their knees to worship the King of kings.

“Surprise!!!” whispered the angels in heaven. And it really was. Jesus was the BIGGEST SURPRISE EVER!!!!!!!!!!

Theme 6: Feeling Embarrassed: Six Big Jugs**Memory Line:** "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Feeling Embarrassed."**Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)**

"6" is about feeling embarrassed. One puppet is clumsy. He drops his food. He feels so embarrassed. "I must have six thumbs," he says. The other puppets help him pick up the mess.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Six Big Jugs" (John 2)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Chef and Servant

Mary and guests

Materials needed:

Jugs and cups

Well and six barrels

A wedding table

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

What do we do when we are embarrassed? How can we help others when they are embarrassed?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help me when I feel embarrassed, especially when I mess up. Help me to start again and do it right. Amen."**Sing a song:** If you're Happy and You Know it... Stay Calm...

"Number Line Card" for this assembly:





23. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

Story 6: Six Big Jugs – Jesus Turns Water to Wine - (John 2) (Feeling Embarrassed)

The whole town came out for the wedding. Jesus and his mother came too. Everyone ate and drank. They laughed and danced. The servants filled everyone’s cups with wine.

Suddenly the servants ran to chef. “We’ve run out of wine?” they said.

Soon the rumour spread from guest to guest. “Can you believe it,” they said, “running out of wine at a wedding! What kind of a chef is that?”

The chef felt very sad. “I’m so embarrassed,” he said. “What a thing to happen at a wedding. I don’t know what to do.”

Mary found Jesus and pulled him aside. “Jesus, there is no more wine,” she said.

“Why are you telling me this?” said Jesus.

Mary didn’t take that as a “no.” She found the servants and whispered in their ears. “Do whatever Jesus tells you,” she said.

A few minutes later Jesus found the servants. “Follow me,” he said. They went outside, to the well. Jesus pointed to six big jugs. “Fill those with water,” he said.

That was a strange thing to do at a wedding. But if that is what Jesus wanted, the servants would do it. They filled all six jugs right up to the brim.

“Now what do we do, Jesus?” they said.

Jesus took a cup and dipped it in the water. “Take this cup to the chef,” he said. “Let him have a drink.”

The chef took the cup. He tasted the water. “This is delicious!” he said. “Where did you get this excellent wine?”

The servants knew and told the chef. “Really!” said the chef. He ran to Jesus and fell on his knees. “Thank you, Jesus! You saved this wedding. Thank you for making it special. No one will ever forget this day!”

That chef was right. We still talk about it 2000 years later, how Jesus also saved a chef from embarrassment. Wasn’t that good!

Theme 7: Feeling Helpless: Seven Ordinary Loaves

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Feeling Helpless.”

Puppet Talk about Number Line: (present number line)

SEVEN means being complete or perfect – But sometimes things go wrong and we don’t know what to do. One thing we can do is the memory line... Learn it in the assembly

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Seven Ordinary Loaves” (Mark 8)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Crowd

Materials needed: fish

Bread

Baskets

Picnic Blanket

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

What should we do when we feel helpless? How can we help others when they are helpless?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, sometimes I can’t make things better. Sometimes I don’t know what to do. Please send me help. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know it...help a friend ...

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





25. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

Story 7: “Seven Ordinary Loaves” (Mark 8) Feeling Helpless

In the middle of nowhere a huge crowd gathered. They came to see Jesus.

“We have been here for three days. We have run out of food,” people said to each other. “Where can we buy some? There are no shops around.”

Jesus heard this and called all his helpers together. They stood around him. Jesus said, “These people are hungry. Some have come a long way. If they go home hungry, they will faint on the road.”

“Where can we buy bread for them out here?” the helpers asked.

Jesus said, “How many loaves of bread do you have?”

“Seven,” they replied.

Jesus knew what to do. He said, “Tell everyone to sit down.” They did.

Jesus took the seven loaves and prayed, “Thank you, God, for this good bread. Amen.”

He broke the bread and handed it to his helpers. “Break off bits of bread and give it to everyone,” Jesus said.

A helper found some fish. “Jesus, look what I found!”

Jesus prayed again. “Thank you, dear God, for this tasty fish. Amen.”

Jesus gave the fish to the helpers and said, “Hand these out too.”

Everyone ate. What a lot of food there was!

“What shall we do with the leftovers?” everyone asked.

“Does anyone have a basket?” Jesus asked.

The helpers found seven and gave them to Jesus. “Put the leftover food in these,” Jesus said, so the helpers filled all seven to the top.

The people clapped. “Thank you, Jesus,” they said. “Now we can make it home.”

So you see, these people were helpless. Jesus saw them and felt sad for them. He helped them. We can do the same for others.

Theme 8: Feeling Discouraged: Eight Tired Hands

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

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Play a game with the memory line.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Eight Tired Hands” (Mark 2)

Materials needed:

Sick man

Ropes

Big blanket

House roof

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Sick person

Four friends

Crowd

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we help someone who is sick? How can we help someone who is down?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for friends that help me when I am down. Please help me to be a good friend too. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know it... help a friend!

...Wave Good Bye

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





27. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

Story 8: Eight Tired Hands (Mark 2) (Feeling Discouraged)

The house was totally packed. There wasn't a place to squeeze in at the door. People even crowded outside windows. Everyone wanted to see Jesus.

Outside four men tried to get in. They were carrying a sick man on a mat. “Excuse us,” they called. “Let us through.”

No one listened to them. Instead they said, “Shh! Can't you be quiet?”

The four men stopped. They hung on to the sick man. Their arms and hands ached. “We will not give up,” they whispered to each other.

One of them pointed to the roof. “Let's go up there. Maybe we can make a hole in the roof. Maybe we can let our friend down to Jesus.”

They carried their friend up onto the roof. “Don't worry,” they told the sick man, “we will get you to Jesus.”

They pulled off the tiles. They moved the wood over. Down below people were covered in dust. “Hey!” the people called up. “Stop making a mess! We're getting all dirty!”

But the four men didn't pay attention. They grabbed the mat. Eight hands moved in unison. They lowered the sick man through the hole.

Jesus stopped talking and looked at the man. “Your sins are forgiven,” he said. Jesus knew why the man was sad.

Some people complained, “Hey! You can't say that. Only God can forgive.”

Jesus answered them, “Which is easier to say, your sins are forgiven or get up and walk.”

Jesus turned to the man. “Get up and walk!” he said. “Take your mat and go home.” The man suddenly got up. He picked up his mat, just like Jesus said.

Everyone was amazed. “God is great!” they shouted...

So you see, when one of your friends is having a hard time, help them not to give up. Say kind words. Do kind things.

Theme 9: Feeling Thankful: Nine Forgetful Men

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

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet is given a gift and forgets to say thank you.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): ““Nine Forgetful Men” (Luke 17)

Materials needed:

A house where sick men live

A road where Jesus passes by

The priest’s house

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Ten men

Priest

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we remember to say thank you?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for helping me every day. Help me to thank people when they are kind to me. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know it... say thanks!

...Wave Good Bye

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





29. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

Story 9: Nine Forgetful Men (Luke 17) (Feeling Thankful)

In the old days most people walked from town to town. Jesus did too.

He was just about to go into a town when ten men spotted him. They were so sick, they weren't allowed in the town. Everyone else might catch their sickness. So they stood at a distance and shouted at the top of their voices.

“Jesus,” they cried, “have mercy on us.”

Jesus felt very sad for them. He called, “Go to the priest and talk with him.”

The sick men looked at each other and nodded. “Okay,” they shouted back, but they were sad. They wanted Jesus to heal them right then and there. But they went to find the priest anyways.

As they walked, one of them lifted his hand to shoo a fly away. Suddenly he shouted, “Look!”

All the rest gathered around him. “What is it?” they asked.

“Look at my hands! Look at your faces! We are healed! Jesus did it!”

The sick men were well men now. They ran down the road, laughing and shouting. But one of the men stopped. “I must say thank you to Jesus,” he said. No one heard him.

He turned back. He ran down the road. He sang a song as he ran. “Thank you, God. Thank you, God. You are so wonderful!” Everyone heard him.

The man finally found Jesus, sitting on a rock. The man fell on his knees and bowed. “Thank you, Jesus,” he said. “Thank you for making me well.”

Jesus nodded. “I thought there were ten of you. Where are the other nine?” he said.

The man shrugged his shoulders. “I don't know. They must have forgotten.”

Jesus stood up. “Because you believed in me, you are well. Get up and go home.”

The man stood up and laughed. He ran down the road leaping and dancing and singing. He was thankful for the being well. We can be thankful too.

Theme 10: Feeling Lazy: Ten Flickering Lamps

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Welcome

Sing a Song

Puppet Introduces Theme: When a puppet gets 10 out of 10 on a test, they feel so proud. They stop doing their homework. They stop studying. They get lazy, and the next test they get 2 out of 10. Oh dear.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): ““Ten Flickering Lamps” (Matthew 25)

Materials needed:

A field where women sleep in centre stage

House where groom will come on one side of stage

Shop to buy oil on other side of stage

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Ten young women with lamps

Groom

People

Shop keeper

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we stop being lazy? How can we help others to stop being lazy?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, sometimes I feel lazy. Help me to get up and do what is right. Amen.”

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

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





Story 10: Ten Flickering Lamps (Matthew 25) (Feeling Lazy)

“Here is a story about heaven,” Jesus told the people.

Ten girls stood in a circle laughing. “I can’t wait to go to the wedding tonight. I’m going home to get ready,” one of them said.

“Me too!” the others replied. The friends laughed as they ran to their homes. Each girl put on her best clothes and checked her lamp. In those days no one had torches with batteries.

Five of the girls didn’t think ahead. Each one said, “I think I have just enough oil in my lamp to get me to the wedding. I feel rather lazy. I won’t go out and buy some more.”

But the other five were wise. “I might run out of oil,” each one said. “Just in case, I’ll pop over to the shop and buy some more.”

All ten girls met at the wedding gate later, but the groom wasn’t there. They waited.....and waited.....and fell asleep on the grass. At midnight a shout woke them up. “The groom is here!”

The girls sat up and rubbed their eyes. They looked around. It was dark. Their lamps were going out.

The lazy ones said, “We have run out of oil. We see you have some extra oil. Please give us some so that we can see where we are going.”

The wise girls shook their heads. “If we give it to you, we might run out ourselves. Go buy your own. The shop might still be open.”

The lazy girls sighed and hurried off. They knocked on the shop keeper’s door. “Wake up!” they shouted. “We want to buy some oil.”

It took a while for the shop keeper to get up, to get dressed, to open the door, to sell the oil. By the time the girls got back, everyone had gone in to the wedding. The door was locked.

The girls banged on the door. “Open up,” they shouted. “It’s us!”

“Who?” the groom called back. “I don’t know you. Go away.”

Jesus looked at the people. “Always be ready! You never know when I will come.”

Theme “equal sign”: Feeling Sorry: Equal Sign - “A big Man in Trouble” (EASTER)

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Welcome

Song

Puppet introduces Theme: Puppets on a beach. There is a “no swimming” sign. One puppet goes in and is overwhelmed by the water. One puppet throws in a welly. It doesn’t work. Another rings their mum for help, but she lives far away. Another throws in a life ring. The puppet is saved, but it realizes it didn’t obey the “no swimming” sign and says sorry.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children) Easter - A Big Man in Trouble (John 18, 21)

Materials needed:

The garden where Jesus is arrested in middle of stage

The priest’s house on one side of stage, with a fire in front

Swords and armour

Lake on other side of stage with fish and a boat

Cast: Narrator

Jesus and helpers

Soldiers

Peter

Servant Girl, other people around fire

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It is hard to say, ‘sorry.’ What should we do when we say something unkind?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to be kind in what we say. And when we make a mistake, please help us to say sorry. Amen.”

Sing a Song: If you’re Happy and You Know it, say... I’m sorry.

“Number Line Card,” an equal sign for Easter, for this assembly:





33. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

“Everyone Counts”

Story “equal sign”: A Big Man in Trouble – Feeling Sorry - (John 18, 21)

Peter was proud to be Jesus’ helper. He smiled as he walked beside Jesus. Jesus was like movie star. Peter loved every minute. One day Jesus said to his helpers, “I will be arrested and you will all run away.”

“Jesus, never!” Peter replied. “I will always stay with you.”

Jesus shook his head. “Peter, when the cockerel sings three times you will disown me.”

Suddenly they were surrounded by soldiers. They took Jesus away anyways. But Peter followed close behind. “I’m really scared,” he thought. “But I promised I would stay close.”

Peter followed Jesus to a house. He stood in the front, warming himself by a fire. A servant girl looked at Peter. She pointed to him. “This man was with Jesus!”

Peter growled at her. “I don’t know him,” he said.

Another person pointed at Peter too. “Hey, you there. You’re one of Jesus’ followers”

“No, I’m not!” Peter cried.

Another stranger shouted the same, and Peter almost exploded. “What are you on about?! Leave me alone! I NEVER knew that man.”

Suddenly the cockerel sang three times. Peter heard it and remembered Jesus’ words. He burst into tears and ran away. “I just let Jesus down,” he cried. “I disowned my friend.”

Three days later Jesus was alive again. It was a miracle, but Peter still was sad. One day Peter called the other helpers. “I’m going fishing. Want to come with me?”

They rowed out on the lake. They let down their nets. Suddenly someone called from the shore, “Do you have any fish?”

Peter looked across the lake at the man. “That’s Jesus!” he shouted. He jumped into the water and swam for shore. Jesus smiled at him.

Peter was so happy. Jesus wasn’t angry with him. Jesus even had a job for him, to tell everyone about God. Peter knew Jesus had forgiven him.

**Theme 11: Feeling Sad: Eleven Sad Helpers**

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

Memory Line: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet has to go on a trip and all the other puppets are sad. They won't see him for a whole week.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Eleven Sad Helpers" (Luke 24, Acts 1)

Materials needed:

Green cloth for mountain on one side of stage

White cloth for clouds to hid Jesus

Brown cloth for secret house, table and chairs – on other side

White robe for Jesus

Cast: Narrator

Jesus

Helpers

Angels

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What do people usually do when they are sad? How can we help someone when they are sad?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us when we are sad. Please bring us family and friends who will help us be happy again. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know It... Don't be sad!

...Wave Good Bye

"Number Line Card" for this assembly:





Story 11: “Eleven Sad Helpers” – Feeling Sad – (Luke 24, Acts 1)

It was all so strange. Jesus used to have twelve helpers. Now there were only eleven. After Jesus died, one of his helpers disappeared. It had something to do with mean leaders.

The helpers were sad. They were scared. They had to go into hiding. Maybe those mean leaders would hurt them too. The eleven helpers hid in a secret room.

Suddenly Jesus appeared. The helpers’ mouths fell open. “How did you get in?” one of the helpers cried. “The doors are locked. The windows are closed.”

Jesus laughed. “Hi, there! Don’t be scared. I told you I would come back to life. Put your fingers in the holes in my hands. See! It is really me.”

The helpers gathered around Jesus, touching his hands. Then Jesus took them for a walk. “Where are we going?” a helper asked.

Jesus smiled. The eleven helpers followed him out of town. They followed him to the Mount of Olives. They stopped there and the helpers stood around him.

One of the helpers raised his hand. “Jesus, when are you going to get rid of all the enemies that live in our land? This place is full of mean people.”

Jesus said, “That isn’t why I came to earth. I came to help you love God. Now I have a job for you. Go into the whole world and help everyone love me as well.”

The helpers looked at Jesus. “The whole world?” one helper said. “That’s a big job!”

Jesus nodded. “It is. But don’t worry. I will send you help from heaven.”

Then Jesus raised his arms. He rose up into the sky and disappeared into the clouds. He was gone... The eleven helpers stood there staring into the sky. They were so sad.

Suddenly two angels appeared. “Helpers, why are you staring up into the sky?” they asked. “This same Jesus who was taken from you, he will come back again.”

The helpers shouted for joy. Jesus would be coming back again. They turned and ran back in to the town, leaping and singing all the way. But they kept looking up at the sky. Jesus could appear at any time. And do you know what? People all over the world are still waiting.

Theme 12: Feeling Happy for Others: Twelve Helpers, Again!

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

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: One of the puppets wins a contest. The other puppets are happy for him and congratulate him.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Twelve Helpers, Again!” (Acts 1)

Materials needed:

A long stick, a short stick

A room with chairs around

Cast: Narrator

Peter and helpers

Matthias

Joseph

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we show someone that we are proud of what they have done? What words could we say?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for friends that do so well. Please help me to be a good friend and be happy with them. Amen.”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know It... say, ‘Well done!’

...Wave Good Bye

“Number Line Card” for this assembly:





Story 12: Feeling Happy for Others - “Twelve Helpers, Again!” - (Acts 1)

After Jesus had gone to heaven, the helpers got together. Peter stood up. “When Jesus was with us, he had twelve helpers,” he said. “Now we are eleven. Let’s choose another helper to make us twelve. How about someone from the crowd of people who always followed Jesus?”

The other helpers nodded. “Yes! That is a good idea,” they said.

The eleven helpers thought about all the people who had followed Jesus. Two names came to mind. A man called Joseph. Another one called Matthias. Those two men had been a part of everything Jesus did. The helpers called the two men in for a meeting.

Peter stood up again. “Hello, Joseph. Hello, Matthias. We would like to choose one of you to become Jesus’ special helper. We are eleven now. We would like to keep it at twelve.”

The two men looked at each other. Their eyebrows went up. “We are happy to do whatever you think best,” they said.

Peter nodded. “Let’s pray then. ‘Dear God, you know everyone’s heart. Please show us which of these two men you would like us to choose.’”

Then Peter picked up two small sticks. One was short, and the other long. He showed them to everyone. “The one who picks the long stick is the one who will be Jesus’ new helper.”

Peter put the two sticks in his hand and mixed them around. Then he held out his hand to Joseph and Matthias. “Choose one,” he said.

Joseph nodded. “I am happy to be a helper, if that is the right thing.”

Matthias smiled. “Yes! Me too! Let’s each take a stick and pull it out at the same time.”

“Okay,” said Joseph, and they both reached out their hands. They both took a hold of a stick. They both pulled it out of Peter’s hand at the same time. They both held up their stick and looked at them.

Which one had the long one? Matthias! Joseph threw his arms around Matthias. “Congratulations, Matthias! I am so happy for you.” Joseph was truly happy for his friend. We can be too, when our friends do well!

**Theme 13: Feeling Bold: More than Thirteen**

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

Memory Line: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Puppet is scared to stand up in front of class and say a poem he memorized. He friends encourage him to be bold. He finally does it.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "More than Thirteen" (Acts 10)

Materials needed:

Big sheet full of animals

Peter's house on one side of stage

Cornelius' house on the other side of stage

Sword and armour for soldier

Cast: Narrator

Peter

Cornelius and family

Two servants and soldier

Angel

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What does it mean to be bold? How can we be bold?

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

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

...Wave Good Bye

"Number Line Card" for this assembly:





Story 13: More than Thirteen – Feeling Bold – (Acts 10)

There was once a Roman officer called Cornelius. He liked God and prayed to him every day. One afternoon he had a dream. An angel came to him. “Cornelius,” said the angel, “send some men to Joppa. Tell them to get a man called Peter. He is staying in a house by the sea.

When the angel had gone, Cornelius jumped to his feet. He called two servants and a soldier. He told them everything and sent them to Joppa. They left almost immediately.

The next day at lunch time, just as the two servants and soldier were getting near to Joppa, Peter went up on the roof to pray. His tummy started rumbling, but he couldn’t eat. The people in the house were still cooking the meal.

As Peter waited, he started to dream. He saw the sky open up, just like a curtain. A gigantic bed sheet suddenly appeared. It was held at the corners, and it was coming down.

Peter looked inside. It was full of all kinds of animals! Bats! Crocodiles! Panthers! Peter could have counted them... One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen... But Peter had no time to count. He heard a voice. “Kill an animal, and eat.”

Peter looked at the animals. He shook his head. “I don’t want to do that. They would not be good for me.”

The voice called again. “Peter, I made all these animals. Everything I make is good.”

This happened two more times. Then suddenly there was a knock at the front door. Guess who was there? Yes! The two servants and soldier.

Peter knew this had something to do with his dream. He hurried downstairs and opened the door. He gasped. They were the enemy! The Romans who took over his land.

But Peter instantly knew what his dream meant. No matter where people come from, or what they have done, God made everyone. Everyone is special to God.

Peter suddenly felt bold. He invited the enemy in. He gave them food. The next day they all went to Cornelius’ house, and again Peter knew what he had to do. He would tell them that everyone was very special, and that God loves them all.

**Theme 14: Feeling Safe: The Fourteen Day Storm**

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

Memory Line: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: One puppet wants to walk a tight rope, but he is scared he will fall down. Another puppet grabs his hand and helps him. The first puppet finally feels safe.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "The Fourteen Day Storm" (Acts 9, 27)

Materials needed:

Brown cloth for a boat in centre stage

Things in the boat to throw out.

Cast: Narrator

Paul

Captain of the ship

Soldiers and sailors

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we help someone feel safe? What/Who makes us feel safe?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for friends that help me feel safe. Please help me to notice when a friend is scared. Help me to be a good friend too. Amen."

Sing a song: If you're Happy and You Know it... say, 'Keep safe!'

...Wave Good Bye

"Number Line Card" for this assembly:





Story 14: “The Fourteen Day Storm” – Paul is shipwrecked- (Acts 9, 27)

There was once a man called Paul. He didn’t like Jesus. He did everything he could to stop people talking about Jesus. But then one day he met Jesus in a dream.

Paul changed overnight. He started telling everyone about Jesus. He went to many different countries. But some people didn’t like him and captured him. They put him on a ship.

Now Paul was surrounded by soldiers and other prisoners. They all set sail, but winter was coming. The wind was strong and it took a long time to get to the next port.

Paul hurried to the soldiers. “It’s getting dangerous. We must stop at this port, or else the ship will get wrecked, and we all might die. Please don’t go on.”

But the soldiers didn’t listen. “The captain of the ship says this port isn’t very good. We’re moving to a better one where we can spend the winter.”

What could Paul say? The wind was gentle. The weather looked good. The ship set sail for the next port.

Suddenly a storm blew in. It blew the ship in the wrong direction. The captain of the ship tried to steer it. “I can’t hold her anymore,” he shouted. “We are at the mercy of the wind.”

The storm was the worst they had ever seen. The masts broke. The sails torn into shreds. They had to throw the cargo overboard. They threw the fishing nets out as well. They didn’t see the sun or moon for fourteen days. They thought they were going to die.

Then one morning Paul stood up. “You should have listened to me and not sailed on. But don’t be scared. Last night an angel told me that we will all live, all 276 of us. He also told me that we will run onto an island.”

Sure enough, the ship ran into an island. Some of the people swam to shore. Everyone else grabbed a plank and paddled ashore. When they counted everyone, there were still 276 people. Not a single person was lost.

Paul smiled. God had kept him promise. He was always safe with God, even in the middle of a storm.



42. FUN FISH Infant Assemblies

"Everyone Counts"

The end of this series. Check out other ones on www.funfish.org.uk.