



Finding Treasure

Finding the Resources to Live

Taken from Bible stories about King David and Jesus

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

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Welcome to Fun Fish Assemblies

This is a Fun Fish RE Assembly Series for KS2, ages 8-11. **“Finding Treasure”** teaches children how to find the qualities needed to live a fruitful life, and to gain an understanding of what that means. 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.

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

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

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

Enjoy this fabulous adventure of **“Finding Treasure.”**

Basic Structure
For a 15 minute RE Assembly

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

Welcome: (½ minute)

Introduce the RE Assembly Team.

Introduce Theme with Puppets: (2 minute)

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

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

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

Bible Story (Spontaneous Drama): (8 minutes)

Present the story by:

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

Reflective Time with Puppets: (2 minutes)

Ask about the feeling that came up in the story. Various children will want to respond.

Choose three or four share with the group. Always thank the child for their contribution.

Always take seriously what they say.

Prayer: (½ minute)

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

Closing Theme Song: (2 minutes)

Materials Needed for RE Assemblies

Remember to arrive early and set up!

What to bring to every assembly:

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

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

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

Theme 1: Finding Courage – David and Goliath

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: What is treasure? (Have a treasure box and put in first card ‘courage’) Lots of things are hidden to us and we have to find them. Like discovering new things in school. Like finding things that help us live better with others, like courage, good friends, patience...

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “David and Goliath”

Cast needed: narrator

Goliath

David

The King

Two armies, children to join on each side

Material needed: wooden spoons for swords

A sling for David, string with hair pin tied at end, to hold a paper stone

Armour for Goliath

Hill (chairs put back to back, cloth draped over them) on one side of stage

The king’s camp on the other side

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What is courage? How can we find courage to do what is right?

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

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Courage

Story 1: David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

There was war. The Philistines pitched their tents on one hill. God's army pitched theirs on another. There was a great valley in between. But the Philistine army was huge, and God's army was small. Everyone knew who was going to win.

The Philistines sent out Goliath, their biggest and fiercest warrior. Goliath stood nine feet tall, his armour weighed 57 kilos, his spear 7 kilos. He stood on his hill. "Send someone over to fight me," he shouted. "If one of your soldiers can kill me, you will be our masters. But, if I kill your soldier, you will be our slaves (Ha Ha)."

Every day this giant shouted out threats. Everyday God's army trembled with fear. They hid in their tents. Even their king. This happened every day for a month.

Now, far away in a field, a boy named David was taking care of his sheep. His father called him. "David! Go see how your brothers are doing in the battle field."

David set off early the next morning. But when he arrived, God's army was hiding, and Goliath was shouting out insults. "What are you?" shouted Goliath. "You are all chickens! (Ha Ha)!"

David found his brothers inside their tents. "What is this?" cried David. "How can you stand for this giant picking on us? We are God's special people."

David's brothers got angry. "Silence, little one. You don't understand."

But the king heard David from his tent. "Come here, boy," he called.

David ran to the king and bowed. "O king, I will fight, if you let me," said David. He showed the king his trusty sling. "I have killed lions and bears that attacked my sheep, and God always protected me. With God's help, I will get rid of that pesky giant."

The king nodded and David ran out. He picked up five smooth stones and ran towards Goliath. But Goliath only laughed when he saw David. "Who do you think I am," he roared, "sending a boy to fight? I will feed him to the birds (Ha Ha)"

David raised his sling and swung it around. "Goliath, you think your sword and spear can save you. God is on my side, and when God fights a battle, He wins."

David released the stone. It sailed through the air and sank into Goliath's forehead. It knocked him to the ground. He fell with a thud at David's feet.

"Hurray!" shouted David. "Hurray!" shouted God's army. But the Philistine army ran away. They hadn't counted on God. They hadn't counted on a courageous boy.

Theme 2: Finding Good Words – David and Saul

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: (Treasure Box and “Good Words” Card) Puppet sketch – two puppets have an argument, and another puppet stops them, saying words that help them see what they are doing.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “David and Saul”

Cast needed: narrator

David
Jonathan
King Saul
The people

Material needed: crown

A spear
Robes
Harp on one side of stage
Throne on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Good words are important. What are some good words that help people do what is right?

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

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Good words

Story 2: David and Saul (1 Samuel 18 - 19)

After David killed Goliath, King Saul put David in charge of a company of soldiers. He even gave David his daughter in marriage, and his son, Jonathan, became David's best friend. But soon the people started singing songs. They sang those songs everywhere. "King Saul has slain his thousands, but David his tens of thousands."

King Saul heard the songs. He saw that everyone liked David very much. That made the king angry. "David is more popular than me. Soon the people will want him to be king, instead of me. I had better keep an eye on him."

Now David played the harp very well, and King Saul liked David's music. It calmed him down when he felt grumpy. So David came to palace every afternoon, and played for King Saul to soothe his nerves.

But one day before David arrived, the king sat on his throne, and Jonathan his son sat with him. "Jonathan," said King Saul, "I want you to kill David."

Jonathan jumped to his feet. He ran out of the palace. He found David. "David, don't come in today. My father is in a terrible mood. Hide, until I can talk some sense in him."

Jonathan ran back to his father. He spoke to King Saul in a kind, soft voice. "Dad, it really isn't a good idea to hurt David. He has put his life at risk, winning battles for us. God is with him, and anyways, it is wrong to kill an innocent man. You don't want to do that."

King Saul listened to Jonathan. He nodded in agreement. "I'm sorry for thinking such horrible thoughts. I promise to never hurt David. Never."

Jonathan ran and told David news. But soon an enemy attacked their country. David went out to protect his people, and God helped him. Again the people sang their songs. "King Saul has slain his thousands, but David his tens of thousands." King Saul heard.

When David came back from battle, he went straight to the palace to play that afternoon. King Saul sat on his throne, with his spear in his hand, and he watched David play his beautiful music. But this time the music didn't work. King Saul hated David.

The king jumped to his feet and threw his spear. It sailed through the air straight at David. But David saw it coming and dodged the spear. He ran away and hid with friends. God protected David through his friends. His friends spoke good words to save his life.



Theme 3: Finding Good Friends – David and Jonathan

Memory Line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: (Treasure box with “Good Friends” card) Work on Memory Line. Play a memory game, displaying all the cards and the hiding them one by one.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “David and Jonathan” (1 Samuel 20)

Cast needed: narrator

David

Jonathan

King Saul

Servant

Material needed: crown

A spear

Robes

Bow

Throne on one side of stage

A field with a stone (grey cloth over a chair) on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What makes a friend good, or not so good? How can we be good friends?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to be good friends, and to help us to treat our friends well. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Good friends

Story 3: David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 20)

After King Saul threw his spear at David, David fled straight to Jonathan's house. "Your father is trying to kill me," cried David. "What have I done wrong?"

Jonathan's eyes grew big. "It can't be true! My father tells me everything. You must have misunderstood."

David shook his head. "Your father knows that you and I are friends. He won't tell you a thing. Be assured, there is only one step between me and death."

Jonathan shuddered. "Alright, I believe you. I'll do anything you say."

David sat down. "Look! Tomorrow is a festival, and I am supposed to have dinner with the king. Let me go and hide in a field. If the king misses me, tell him you gave me permission to go home, to spend the weekend with my family. If he doesn't get mad, I am safe. But if he does get angry, you will know he wants to kill me. But please don't hand me over to your father. If I have done something wrong, you kill me instead."

"Never!" cried Jonathan. "If I knew my father wanted to kill you, I would have told you already."

David nodded. "I know. But, how will you get the message to me?"

Jonathan put his hand on David's shoulder. "David, I will find out what my father thinks. If he is happy, I won't say a thing. But if he gets angry, I will let you know. Hide by the big stone in the field. I will shoot three arrows to the side of the stone. If I say to the boy who collects the arrow that the arrows are close, you will know that you are safe. But if I say, 'The arrows are far away,' then you must flee for your life."

David went straight to the field, and Jonathan hurried back to his father. When King Saul asked Jonathan where David was, Jonathan told him David had gone home. King Saul exploded. He threw his spear at Jonathan instead, trying to kill his own son.

Jonathan cried out and ran from the palace. He shot three arrows in the field. He told the boy they were far away. When the boy found the arrows, Jonathan sent him home. But Jonathan stayed and ran to the rock.

"David," he cried, tears in his eyes, "my father will kill you. Flee for your life."

David wept. "Jonathan, my friend, even though we can't see each other anymore. Thank you for being a true friend." Then David ran away.

Theme 4: Finding Forgiveness – (Remembrance Day) Coventry and Dresden

Memory Line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team

Bible Facts with Puppets: (treasure box and “forgiveness” card) Ask the children: “What is forgiveness?” But don’t give them any answers.

Remembrance Day Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Coventry and Dresden”

Cast needed: narrator

Priest

Michael

Orphans

Material needed: six nails

White robe for priest

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Ask the children again, “What is forgiveness?” See if their definition changed. Ask... How can we show forgiveness?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to forgive, even when it is hard to do. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Forgiveness

Story 4: Coventry and Dresden

Michael Logan was only six years old. It was October, 18th, 1940, and the sirens suddenly went off in Coventry. He could hear the German fighter bombers coming his way. Michael ran to the air raid shelter, along with his dad and mum and younger brother. Dozens of people crowded in with them.

They could hear the bombs falling. They could feel the ground shake. Suddenly there was a flash of white light. A bomb fall right on top of them... and Michael's whole family was killed. Michael was left alone in the world.

A month after Michael's family died, the Coventry Cathedral was bombed as well. The priest in charge walked through the rubble the next day and picked up three nails in the rubble. He shaped them into a cross. "Father, forgive," he prayed.

Coventry was bombed for nine whole months, and hundreds of people died. The city was destroyed. What would the people of Coventry do? What would the government do? Could they say, "Father, forgive," like that priest?

The government decided to take revenge. They would do the same to a city in Germany. Five years later they bombed Dresden. Hundreds of airplanes roared over that city. They dropped thousands of tons of bombs. They levelled Dresden to the ground.

But the priest from Coventry didn't want revenge. He and many others wanted to forgive. They wanted to help rebuild Dresden after the war, and they came up with an idea. They sent groups of people on a project, to help build a hospital in the city. Then Dresden did the same. After the war they sent people to Coventry, to help build a new church.

You might be wondering what happened to Michael Logan, that six year old boy? His uncle took him in and raised him. His uncle hated the Germans, and Michael did too. But sixty years later Michael realized that in Dresden there were probably orphans just like him. He decided to go and find some of them.

Michael took the journey over the channel and he met some of those orphans in Dresden. They told each other what had happened to their families. They cried and hugged each other. They could be friends. They could forgive.

That priest in Coventry was right. People can forgive each other. Those three nails shaped like a cross became a symbol of hope around the world. Even the cathedral in Dresden has a cross made of nails, with the words, "Father, forgive."

Sources: <http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/i-dont-hate-germans-now-10431742>; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coventry_Cathedral

Theme 5: Finding Compassion – David Spares Saul’s Life

Memory Line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme - What is compassion?

Bible Facts with Puppets: (treasure box and “compassion” card) One puppet hurts himself, but doesn’t tell anyone. Instead he is cross and pushes everyone away. At first the other puppets are offended, but then they realize he is hurt. They have compassion and help him.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “David Spares Saul’s Life” (1 Samuel 26)

Cast needed: narrator

David

King Saul

Soldiers

Material needed: crown

A spear

Armour

Blanket and pillow for Saul

Cloth for tents on one side of stage

Mountain with a cave on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What is compassion? How can we show compassion?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to show compassion, and to be kind, even when it is hard. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Compassion

Story 5: David Spares Saul's Life (I Samuel 26)

King Saul wanted David dead, so David had to flee for his life. He hid in the hills, in caves and behind rocks, but Saul could never find him. God kept him safe.

One day King Saul heard that David was hiding on a hill called Hakilah. He took 3000 soldier and marched to that hill. They reached it that evening. "We will stop and camp here," said King Saul. "Tomorrow morning I will kill David. I will destroy my enemy."

But David wasn't on that hill. He was hiding behind it, and he wasn't alone either. People who didn't like King Saul had joined up with David, hundreds of them. David had trained them to be soldiers.

David and his men saw the army arrive. They saw Saul in the middle, his army guarding him. David looked at his men. "Who will go with me to Saul?"

A soldier raised his hand. "I will go with you, David."

David and the soldier waited until night. They crept into Saul's camp. They crept to the middle of it, right up to where King Saul was sleeping. Saul had his spear stuck in the ground by his head, his water jug beside him. Saul's men snored around him, and didn't stir.

The soldier turned to David. "You could kill Saul right now," he whispered. "Let me pin him down with my spear." The soldier raised his spear.

David grabbed his arm. "No! Don't hurt him. God made him king, and God will get rid of him at the right time. Let's take his spear and jug, and get out of here."

No one saw David and his soldier creep away, nor did they see him climb up Hakilah Hill. Suddenly David shouted. "Wake up, sleepy heads!"

Saul jumped up. He recognized David. "Is that you, David?" he called.

"Yes, my king! Why do you want to kill me? What have I done wrong? I am nothing compared to you. I am like a flea, and you're just wasting your time."

David lifted up Saul's spear and the jug. "These are proof that I could have killed you. Just as I had compassion on your life, please have compassion on mine."

Saul threw his arms in the air. "I'm sorry, David. I wanted to kill you, but since you spared my life. I will not hurt you again." Saul gathered his army. They marched away. He never ever tried to kill David again.

Theme 6: Finding Peace –Abigail Stops David

Memory Line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team

Bible Facts with Puppets: (treasure box with “peace” card) See if anyone can remember the memory line.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Abigail Stops David” (1 Samuel 25)

Cast needed: narrator

David and his messengers

Abigail

Nabal

Servant

Material needed: bags of food

Sheep on one side of stage (green cloth for field)

House on other side of stage

Swords for David’s army (can use wrapping paper tubes)

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What if a friend is angry with someone? How could you help them find peace?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us bring peace. Help us to give good advice. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Peace

Story 6: Abigail Stops David (1 Samuel 25)

David and his men hid from King Saul, but there was nothing to do. One day shepherds came near, with huge flocks of sheep. They belonged to a man called Nabal.

David smiled. "I have an idea. Let's help take care of those sheep," he said.

David and his men worked hard, rain and shine, all through the winter. They kept away lions and bears. They stayed up at night so the shepherds could sleep.

That spring, after Nabal had sheared his sheep, he threw a huge party. When David heard this, he called ten of his men. "Go ask Nabal if he can share some of his feast with us. Surely he knows how hard we have worked."

The ten young men hurried to Nabal, and found him sitting at his table. It looked like a feast for a king. They bowed to Nabal and passed on David's request.

Nabal narrowed his eyes. He slammed down his goblet. "David?" he yelled. "He's just a scoundrel, hiding in the hills. Tell him he's a coward, running from the king. Now, get out!"

The young men gasped at what Nabal said, and hurried back to tell David. When David heard it, he exploded. "We put our lives at risk for that man and his sheep, and now he says its nothing. Grab your swords, men. I want revenge."

Back at Nabal's house, a servant overheard the conversation. He ran to Abigail, Nabal's wife. He told her everything. "Oh mistress, your husband just insulted David and his men. But they protected us day and night. Please do something. We're in big trouble."

Abigail went pale. "Servant, saddle some donkeys and pack up two hundred loaves of bread, meat, wine, nuts, two hundred cakes." The servant ran like the wind.

Abigail hurried with the gifts towards David. When she saw him she bowed to the ground. "My Lord, forgive me. I didn't know that your messengers came. But please listen to me. I know God wants you to be king. I also know that if you kill out of anger, you will regret it forever. Please don't ruin your life. Instead, accept these gifts."

David lowered his sword. "Thank you for stopping me. I will accept what you give." David and his men turned around and headed back to the hills.

The next morning Abigail told her husband what had happened. Nabal was so shocked he had a stroke. Ten days later he died. David never needed to take revenge. Abigail had brought him peace.

Theme 7: Who is the Wise Man? (Christmas Story)

Memory Line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team

Bible Facts with Puppets: (treasure box with “Wisdom” card) Puppets discuss what it means to be wise. Is it someone with a big head? Or someone who is clever? What makes a person wise? When they can listen and learn.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Who is the Wise Man?” (Luke 2)

Cast needed: Narrator

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

Material needed:

- Baby Jesus and a manger on one side of stage
- Star
- Sheep for shepherds
- Wisemen’s house on other side of stage
- Gifts, crowns for wise men
- Blanket and pillow
- White cloth for angels

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

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us be wise. Help us to listen to good advice. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Wisdom

Story 7: Who is the Wiseman? (Luke 2)

A long time ago, over 2000 years ago, Jesus, David's great...grandson was born in a stable. But there were no TVs to spread the news. How would people find out?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theme 8: Finding the Truth – Daniel in the Lion’s Den

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team

Bible Facts with Puppets: (treasure box with “truth” card) Puppets discuss how we can know if something is true or not. They compare science books, comic books, and the news.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Daniel in the Lion’s Den”

Cast needed: Narrator

Daniel

Two men

Soldiers

King

Materials needed:

Lions on one side of stage (black cloth for the den)

Daniel’s house on other side of stage

Cloak for Daniel

Swords for soldiers

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How did King Darius finally know what was true? How can we know?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to know what is true. Help us to always tell the truth. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Truth



Story 8: Daniel in the Lion's Den – Finding the Truth (Daniel 6)

Daniel worked for King Darius. The king liked him. Everyone liked him, except the two men who worked with Daniel. They hated him, because he was so good. "Let's get rid of him," whispered one of the men. "I have a superb idea."

Both men laughed and rubbed their hands. They hurried to King Darius and bowed. "O King, you are wonderful. May you live forever. We think you should make a decree that everyone must pray to you for the next thirty days. If they don't, throw them to the lions."

King Darius smiled. "I like it! Go and make sure it happens."

When Daniel heard the law, he hurried to his room. What was he going to do? He had always prayed to God three times a day. God was more important to him than anything. He decided to pray anyways. He bowed his head.

Suddenly the two angry men burst into his room. "We caught you!" they shouted. "We can already hear those lions licking their lips."

The men dragged Daniel to the palace. They bowed before King Darius. "Oh, king, we caught this Daniel red-handed. He was praying to his God, not you. Now you can see what a horrible man he is. You can throw him to the lions."

King Darius jumped to his feet. He had been tricked. But he couldn't change the law, because a law was a law. He had to throw Daniel to the lions. "O Daniel," said King Darius, "may your God protect you."

The king watched Daniel get dragged away by soldiers. He watched him get thrown into the lions' den. He watched the soldiers roll a huge stone in front of the opening.

King Darius hurried back to his palace, but he couldn't eat or sleep that night. The next morning early, he ran to the lion's den. "Daniel," he cried, "are you alive?"

"Yes!" called Daniel. "My God knew I was innocent. He shut the lions' mouths."

King Darius ordered the stone rolled away. The soldiers pulled Daniel out. He looked as good as new. Not a scratch. Not a tear in his clothes.

King Darius cried out with relief. "Now I know Daniel's God is the only God."

But what happened to those wicked men? King Darius had them thrown to the lions instead. They learned the hard way it didn't pay to tell lies. Truth is always best.

Theme 9: Finding Diligence – Parable of Two Sons

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team

Puppets introduce theme: **(treasure box with “Diligence” card) Puppets** talk about how hard we have to try before we can get something right. It takes practice. A girl and boy skip on a rope, and then still while jumping, can they hold a bean bag on their heads.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Parable of Two Sons (Matthew 21)

Cast needed: Narrator/Jesus

Father

Two sons

Materials needed:

Baskets and grapes on one side of stage

House and model ship on other side

Biscuits and cake

Table

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It is hard to do a chore when you would rather play. How can we remember to work first and then play?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, sometimes it is hard to do our chores, our homework. Help us to be diligent and finish things well. Amen.

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Diligence

Story 9: Parable of Two Sons – Finding Diligence (Matthew 21)

When Jesus lived on earth, he met some people who didn't want to do their jobs. They didn't like it when others worked well. So Jesus told them a story...

There was once a rich man who lived in a big house. He had a huge vineyard. He had two sons.

Now even though he was rich and had lots of servants, the father wanted his sons to learn how to work. He found the first one out in the garden, sitting under a tree, eating some cake. "Son," he said. "I want you to go into the vineyard and work today."

The son swallowed his cake. He grabbed a biscuit next. "I'm busy, Dad. It's hot. There's no way I'm going to do any work."

The father shook his head and went back inside. But when he had gone, the son put down his biscuit. "Why am I so lazy, when Dad works so hard? I know. I will surprise him. I'll go out into the vineyard and pick those grapes."

The father went to look for his second son. He found him in his room, sitting at his desk. He was building a model of a ship. "Hi, Dad," said the second son. "Look what I made today."

"That's very nice, son," said the father. "How about helping me today. I want you to go into the vineyard and pick some grapes."

"Sure," said the second son, "in a minute. I'll just fix one of these ropes."

The father smiled. "I'll be in the vineyard waiting for you."

The father picked up a basket and headed outside. But who do you think he met? The first son picking grapes! "Hi, Dad," said the first son. "I changed my mind. I want to help. Look how much I picked."

The father laughed and helped his son. They worked together in the vineyard. But all the time the father kept looking over his shoulder. Would the second son come as he promised? That second son never showed up...

Jesus stopped and asked those lazy men a question. "Which son did the right thing?"

The lazy men knew. To do the right thing, you had to do it. It didn't just happen. Diligence was hard work.

Theme 10: Finding Generosity – The Widow’s Mite

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: How important is money? What does money do? What can’t it do?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Widow’ Mite” (Mark 12)

Cast needed: Narrator

Widow

Jesus

Jesus’ helpers

Rich people

Materials needed:

Temple in centre stage with money box

Jesus and his helpers sitting on one side of stage

Fine cloaks for rich people, with bags of coins

Ragged cloak for poor widow with only two coins

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why did the widow give everything she had? What can we give, other than money, to help those around us?

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

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Generosity

Story 10: The Widow's Mite – Choosing to be Generous – (Mark 12)

One day Jesus and his helpers decided to go to the temple. They sat down by the temple door and looked around. Opposite them they saw a big fancy box. It had a hole in the top. People dropped in money to help run the temple.

Jesus and his helpers watched as people came in through the temple door. A rich person came in with very fine robes. He had a bulging bag of money hanging by his side. He dropped the whole bag into the box. CLANG.

Everyone turned to stare at the rich man. "What generosity," said one of the helpers. Everyone around nodded in agreement.

Another person came in with flowing robes. He too had a bag of money by his side. He opened his bag and dropped in coins. CLINK. CLINK. CLINK. The clinking just kept on going. Everyone heard the clinks and turned their heads.

The helpers nodded. "This man is generous too!" they said.

A poor widow came next. Her clothes were mended. She was thin, her hands were red from work. She had a small bag in her hands. It looked like it had nothing inside.

She opened it and reached in her hand. She pulled out one small copper coin. She turned her bag upside down and shook it. Out fell another coin. She reached over and dropped her coins into the box. They made the tiniest sound. Tick.

No one heard the tick. No one turned to look at the widow. No one paid attention to her. But Jesus did. "Listen, helpers," said Jesus, "who put the most into the money box?"

The helpers looked at Jesus. "It's obvious," one of them said. "Those rich people put in the most. They put in whole bags of coins."

Jesus shook his head. He pointed to the widow. "That poor widow put in the most."

"What?" said the helpers. "How can that be?"

Jesus smiled. "It is true that those rich people gave a lot, but they still have a lot left in their bank accounts. That poor widow gave everything she had. Now she has nothing left. She is the one who gave the most. She is the truly generous one."

Theme 11: Finding Honesty – The Rich Thief

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet drops something and it breaks. He lies to protect himself. But he finally admits to it and says sorry.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Rich Thief” (Luke 19)

Cast needed: Narrator

Zacc

Jesus and his helpers

Tax payers

Crowd

Materials needed:

Table with money box on one side of stage

Tree in centre stage

House on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is it important to be honest? What can we do to help us be honest?

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

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Honesty

Story 11: The Rich Thief (Luke 19:1-10)

There once was a man called Zacc. He was rich. He was mean and he was very short. But the worst thing of all, he was a tax collector.

He sat at his desk and people came to him, trembling in their shoes. “You own 50 denarii,” he told one man.

“50! I thought it was 20,” said the man. “I can’t pay that? I would have to sell my sheep.”

“Are you questioning me?” said Zacc. “Sell those sheep!”

“Have mercy,” cried the man.

“I will throw you in prison if you don’t,” shouted Zacc. The poor man backed away. What choice did he have?

A woman stood next in line. Zacc looked at her and sneered. “You are late in paying your taxes. It should have been 40 denarii. Now it’s 100.”

“100!” cried the woman. “I don’t have that. I would have to sell my house.”

“What do I care,” said Zacc. “You can choose. Sell your house or go to prison. Do you hear?!” The poor woman backed away. What kind of a choice was that?

Then one day Jesus and his helpers came into town. Zacc closed his office and ran into the crowd. “Get out of the way,” he shouted. “I want to see Jesus.” But no one moved.

“Let me through,” he yelled, but no one paid attention. Zacc jumped up and down, but he was just too short. But then he had an idea. He ran on ahead and climbed a tree.

Zacc watched Jesus walk up the road, then up to the tree. Jesus stopped. “Zacc,” called Jesus, “come down. I’m coming to your house for tea.”

“Fantastic,” cried Zacc, and climbed right down. He could hardly believe it. Jesus wanted to come to his house.

Zacc stopped. “Jesus,” he said, “I have been mean and bad. I want to be honest. I will give half of all my things to the poor, and give back four times what I cheated.”

The crowd just stood there, their mouths wide open. What made Zacc change like?

Jesus laughed. “Zacc,” he said, “I am always looking for people like you, people who are lost and want to find the right way.”

Theme 12: Finding Work – Parable of Workers in the Vineyard

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet discuss different kinds of jobs. Each has something they do that they are proud of doing.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Workers in the Vineyard”

Cast needed: Narrator

Landowner

Workers

Materials needed:

Market place on one side of stage

Vineyard on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is working important? What are different jobs we can do?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for work. Help us to do every job the best we can. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Work

Story 12: Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20)

There was a rich man who owned a vineyard. He woke up early one morning to check his grapes. He laughed. “The grapes are ready for picking today.”

He rode into town at 8am. He found some men standing in the market place. “Hello, men!” he called. “Do you want a job?”

“Yes, please,” said the men.

“Go into my vineyard and pick my grapes. I’ll give you £30 for the day.”

The men whooped and ran to the vineyard. “We have work!” they sang.

But there were too many grapes. The owner rode to the market at 11am. Again he found men standing there. “Hello, men! Do you want a job?” he called.

“Yes, please,” said the men.

“Well, go to my vineyard and pick my grapes. I’ll pay you what is right.”

The owner went again to the market at 2pm, and at 5pm. He hired more men and sent them to the vineyard. He rode out again at 7pm and still found men waiting in the market place. “Didn’t anyone hire you today?” called the owner.

“No, sir,” said the men. “We have waited here all day.”

“Well, go to my vineyard and work the last hour. I will pay you what it fair.”

The men ran with all their might. They worked like the wind that last hour. Then the whistle blew and everyone gathered to get their wages.

The owner called up the last men he hired, the ones who had only worked one hour. He gave them £30 each. “Thank you!” said the men and hurried home.

The ones who had been hired first started to smile. If those last men got paid £30, they would get paid much more. They strutted up to the owner and held out their hands. But the owner only gave them £30 each.

“That isn’t fair,” cried the workmen. “Those who worked less got paid the same. We deserve at least £100!”

The owner shook his head. “We had a deal, £30 for the day. We both kept our end of the agreement. This is my money and I can do as I want. Don’t be angry that I am generous. Work is important for everyone.”

Theme 13: Finding Love – (Easter Story)

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet discuss ‘what does it mean to be show love?’ They ask each other.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Finding Love” (John 11)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Crowd

Helpers

Materials needed:

Cross on hill on one side of stage

Olive tree on other side of stage

Court house in centre stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): In the story how did Jesus show love? How can we show love?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you that you show love to us. Help us to show love to others. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Love



Story 13: Finding Love – Easter Story (John 18-19, Luke 22)

Jesus had friends everywhere. He had enemies too. It was dangerous for Jesus in some places. People actually wanted him dead. For three years he escaped. But one night...

...Jesus was in an olive grove praying with his friends. Suddenly a crowd of soldiers and church leaders surrounded them. They carried weapons and lanterns. “What do you want?” asked Jesus, even though he knew.

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

Jesus raised his arms. “I am he,” he said.

All at once the soldiers and church leaders jumped back. They fell to the ground as if they had fainted. “Who do you want?” asked Jesus again.

The soldiers and leaders shook themselves. “Jesus of Nazareth,” they said again.

Jesus pointed to himself. “I already told you that I am he. But please let the rest of my men go.” Jesus loved his helpers and he didn’t want them to get hurt.

But one of the helpers grabbed a sword. His name was Peter. He swung it at the crowd of soldiers and leaders. “Stay away from Jesus,” shouted Peter. “You’re not taking him away.” Then Peter slashed at one of the men. He cut off that man’s ear.

“Stop, Peter,” commanded Jesus. “Put that sword away. I must go with these men. This is what God wants.”

Peter drew back. He put his sword away. But Jesus reached out and touched the place where the man’s ear had been. Suddenly that ear reappeared again, as if it had never been cut off. You see, Jesus loved that man as well, even though he was an enemy.

Those soldiers and leaders took Jesus away. They tried him in court and found him guilty. But Jesus loved them too, even though they lied about him and put him to death. “Father,” said Jesus, as he hung on the cross, “forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Jesus died, and the Bible says he rose again. Jesus did it because he loves. He loves everyone so much.

Theme 14: Finding Talents – Parable of Lazy Servant

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet discuss ‘what is a talent?’ They ask the children and share their talents. But one doesn’t know his talent and the others help him.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Lazy Servant”

Cast needed: Narrator

Landowner

3 Servants

Jesus and his helpers

Materials needed:

Town on other side of stage where the two good servants work

Office on one side of stage with money bags

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Everyone has a talent. Does anyone want to share what their talent is? How can you improve your talent?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for talents. Help us to develop them and make them better. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Talents

Story 14: The Lazy Servant (Matthew 25)

One day Jesus told a story to his helpers:

There was a rich man who had to go a long trip. He called his three servants to himself. “Servants, I will be gone a long time. Please take care of my money.”

The servants bowed as the rich man gave them his gold. The first got five bags. The second got two. The third one got one bag of gold. “Sir,” they said, “we will do our best.”

The rich man went away, and immediately the servant with the five bags of gold went out and set to work. Soon he earned five more bags. The servant with two bags did the same and soon he earned two more bags.

But the servant with one bag of gold hurried out into the field. He dug a hole and hid his money. He smiled to himself. “It will be safe there. I’m not taking any risks.” Then he sat down and did nothing at all.

A long time later the rich man returned. He called his servants to see how they did. The first servant who had been given five bags of gold, he smiled as he came in. “Look, sir! You told me to take care of your money. I did. I earned you five more bags of gold.”

The rich man clapped his hands. “Well done, good servant! You have been faithful to me. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and be happy with me!”

The second servant who had been given two bags of gold came in and bowed down next. “Sir, you told me to take care of two bags of gold. I did. I earned you two more bags.”

The rich man clapped his hands. “Well done, good servant! You have been faithful to me. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and be happy with me!”

The third servant stepped forward, shaking the dirt from his bag of gold. He gave it to his master and smirked. “Here! I know you take what other people earn and make it yours, so I hid your gold in the ground instead. See, it’s all here.”

The rich man jumped to his feet. “You lazy servant! If you knew I took what I didn’t earn, why didn’t you at least put my money in the bank? Then I would have received some interest while I was gone.” He fired that lazy servant...

Jesus stopped his story and looked at his helpers. “Listen to me. This is important. Don’t waste your talents. Work hard and you will succeed.”

Theme 15: Finding Kindness – The Good Samaritan

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Review the memory line with a game. Boys vs girls

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Good Samaritan” (Luke 10)

Cast needed: Narrator

- Samaritan
- Robbers
- Inn keeper
- Priest
- Teacher
- Jesus
- Half dead man

Materials needed:

- Town on one side of stage
- Valley in centre stage
- Inn on other side of stage
- Money bags and cloak
- Donkey and water and rags

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Kindness is a choice. Why should we show kindness?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you that you are kind to us. Help us to be kind to others. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Kindness

Story 15: “The Good Samaritan” (Luke 10)

One day Jesus told a story about kindness to his helpers:

A man had to go on trip, but he had to travel through some dangerous mountains. Suddenly robbers jumped out. “Give us your money,” they shouted.

“Leave me alone!” cried the man, and he tried to run away. But the robbers beat him up, and took his cloak and money. They left him on the road, half dead.

A priest happened to be traveling on that same dangerous road. The half dead man recognized him. “Help me, priest,” he mumbled.

The priest looked at him, but he was scared. “Sorry, I can’t stop. I might get beat up as well. Bye.” The priest didn’t even check the man, he just sprinted by.

A little while later a teacher came by. The half dead man recognized him. “Help me, teacher,” he mumbled. “Please, help me.”

The teacher pretended he didn’t see him. He hurried by on the other side of the road, looking up at the sky. “It looks like rain,” said the teacher. “I had better go faster.”

Next a stranger on a donkey came by, a Samaritan. Nobody liked the Samaritans, not even the half dead man. But, suddenly it didn’t matter that the stranger wore strange clothes, and spoke with an accent. “Please help me,” mumbled the half dead man.

The stranger pulled his donkey to a stop. He looked at the half dead man. He knew that the half dead man’s people treated him like an enemy. But the stranger felt sorry for that man. He jumped off his donkey and gave the man a drink. He took an old shirt and tore it up. He cleaned and bandaged the half dead man’s wounds.

“I can’t leave you here,” the stranger told the half dead man. “Let me take you to the nearest town. Someone can look after you there.”

He put the half dead man onto his donkey. He took him to the nearest inn. “Look after this man for me,” the stranger told the innkeeper, “and when I return, I will pay up.”...

Jesus stopped and looked at his helpers. “Which of these three men do you think was kind? That’s right. The Samaritan. God wants you to be the same as well.”

Theme 16: Finding Acceptance – The Woman at the Well

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet discuss ‘what does it mean to accept people?’ They ask each other. Does it include enemies? Friends? Anyone?

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Woman at the Well” (John 4)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Woman

Helpers

Materials needed:

A well with a bucket in centre stage

A town on other side of stage

Food

Robes for helpers

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): In the story how did Jesus accept people? How can we accept people?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you that you always accept us. Help us to show acceptance to others. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Acceptance

Story 16: Woman at the Well (John 4)

Everyone knew about the Samaritans. They were those strange people who spoke in a strange accent. They had their own towns and minded their business.

One day Jesus and his helpers had to cut through their land. At midday they came to a town. Jesus sat down on the well outside the city walls. "I'm tired," he said. "Helpers, why don't you go into the town and buy some food. I shall rest here until you get back."

The helpers hurried off and Jesus closed his eyes. He heard a noise and turned. A Samaritan woman stood there, a bucket in her hand. "Please give me a drink?" he asked.

The woman looked at him, her eyes wide with surprise. "You're one of those people who hate Samaritans, and I'm a woman as well. How come you're talking to me?"

Jesus smiled. "If you knew who I was, you would ask me for living water."

The woman looked into the well. "You don't have a bucket and the well is deep. How can you get this living water?"

Jesus smiled again. "Everyone who drinks from this well will get thirsty again. But if you drink the water I give, you will never be thirsty."

"Give me this water," she said. "Then I won't have to come here again."

"Call your husband," said Jesus.

"I don't have a husband."

"You are right," said Jesus. "You have had five husbands and the man you are living with is not your husband."

The woman stared at Jesus, her mouth open. How did he know all this about her? But at that moment the helpers arrived.

The woman left her bucket and ran into town. "Come to the well," she told everyone. "I have just met a man who told me who I was. Could he be from God?"

The whole town went out to talk with Jesus. They believed what he said. "Stay with us, Jesus," they begged. "We want to learn more about God." Jesus did. He told them about God and that he accepts everyone. Even them.

Theme 17: Finding Mercy – The Unmerciful Servant

Memory line: “Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure.” Proverbs 2:4

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet discuss ‘what does it mean to show mercy?’ They ask each other.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Unmerciful Servant” (Matt 18)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus and helpers

Servants

King

Man with a big debt

Man with a little debt

Materials needed:

Throne with a crown on one side of stage

Street on the other side of stage

Bags of money

An account book

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): In the story where did you see mercy? How can we show mercy?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you that you show mercy to us. Help us to show mercy to others. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Treasure Card for this lesson:

Mercy

Story 17: The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18)

One day a helper came up to Jesus. “Jesus, when someone hurts me, how many times should I forgive them a day? Up to seven times?”

Jesus shook his head. “Not seven times, but seventy times seven.” That was 490 times a day! The helper gasped. How could he do that?! So Jesus told him a story

...There was once a king who wanted to get back the money he had loaned to his subjects. He went through his books. “Here is a man who owes me millions of pounds,” he said. “Servants, bring that man to me.”

The servants brought him in. “Give me the money I loaned you,” said the king.

“I don’t have it,” said the man.

The king turned to his servants. “Sell this man, his wife and children. Sell his house, so he can repay his debt.”

The man fell on his knees, his hands outstretched, tears running down his cheeks. “Please, your majesty, be patient with me. I will repay everything I owe.”

The king filled with mercy. “I will do more than that,” said the king. “I forgive your debt completely. You don’t owe me a thing.”

The man jumped up and wiped his tears. “Thank you, your majesty.”

The man ran out onto the streets, happy. But then he saw a poor man who owed him twenty pounds. He grabbed the poor man by the neck. “Pay back what you owe me!”

The poor man fell on his knees. “Please, be patient. I will pay you back as soon as I can.” But he threw the poor man in prison instead, until he paid up.

The servants saw what had happened, and they knew it was completely wrong. They told the king the terrible story. “Bring that man to me,” said the king.

The man came again, and the king rose to his feet. “You wicked man,” he shouted. “I cancelled your debt. Shouldn’t you have done the same?”

The king turned to his servants. “Throw this man into prison. Make sure his life is miserable. He will not get out until he has paid the last penny.”...

Jesus stopped and looked at his helper. “Forgive those around you from your heart, just like God has forgiven you. That is the right and merciful thing to do.”

Theme 18: Finding Hope - Mary's Perfume

Memory Line: "Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure." Proverbs 2:4

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Finding Hope"

Puppets Act Out Bible Theme: Review memory line. A good one to remember over the holidays.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Mary's Perfume" (John 12)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus and helpers

Judas

Mary

Martha and Lazarus

Materials needed:

Table and chairs centre stage

White Robe for Jesus

Cloaks for Mary and Martha

Perfume

Food

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive): How did Mary find hope? Why do we need hope?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please give us hope so that we can live happy lives. Help us to show hope to others. Amen."

Sing a song:

Treasure card for this lesson:

Hope

Story 18: “Mary’s Perfume” (John 12)

Jesus and his helpers visited a family, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They dropped in as they were walking by one day. “So good to see you, Jesus,” said Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. “Come inside and have a meal with us. What a treat for us.”

Jesus and his helpers gathered around the table, but at that time people didn’t sit on chairs. They lay down on sofas instead. Jesus and Lazarus, and all the helpers got down on their sides. They started to eat. “This is really good food,” everyone said.

Martha and Mary kept bringing out plates of food. But suddenly Mary knelt down behind Jesus. She pulled a small perfume bottle from her robe. She opened it up and the whole house smelled.

Everyone turned to look at her. What was she doing? She poured the perfume on Jesus’ feet. She started crying and her tears dripped on Jesus feet. She had to wipe them off, but she had no cloth. She used her hair.

No one could say a word. They just stared at her. They had never seen anything like this before. That perfume was expensive and she had just poured it on Jesus feet!

A helper called Judas, sat up. He looked angry. “What is this waste?” he said. “That perfume is worth £12,000. We could have sold it and given the money to the poor.”

“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “She did this because she is thankful. You will always have the poor around, but I will not always be here.”

Mary looked up into Jesus’ face. She smiled. Jesus had just stood up for her. He had protected her. She must be worth it, even though Judas didn’t think so. Mary filled with hope. She was precious to God.

The End. If you would like to continue with another series, go to www.funfish.org.uk