

**Finding the Rainbow**



**Learning to Live with Colour:**

**RE Assemblies for Infant School Children (KS1/4-8 year olds)**

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### Welcome to “Finding the Rainbow”

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

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

“**Investigating Life**”  “**Colours**” = **Learning to Live with “Finding the Rainbow”**

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

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

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



Enjoy an adventure with “**Finding the Rainbow!!**”

**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 "Finding the Rainbow" Card for that assembly, with a clothes peg. Add a new card at the beginning of each new assembly. OR... The puppets can introduce the theme using role play, and explain some personal dilemma that needs solving.



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 “Finding the Rainbow” Cards and clothes pegs
- “Finding the Rainbow” 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 “Finding the Rainbow” Cards and paper items to use
- 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: Be Kind – WHITE - Joseph is born**

**Memory Line:** “Always try to be kind.” (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Sing Songs:**

**Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and introduce Joseph story.

**Puppet Act Out Theme:**

What is a family? The puppets make a big family because they care for each other.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** Jacob tricked (Genesis 29, 30)

Cast needed:

- Narrator
- Jacob
- Dad and Mum
- Uncle Laban
- Leah and Rachel

Materials needed:

- Scarves for sisters
- Travelling bag
- Some sheep
- White wedding veil

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Sometimes families change. But no matter how they change there is something we can do.

“Always try to be kind.” I Thessalonians 5: 15

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, thank you for families. Help us to always be kind. Amen.”

**Sing a song:** If You’re Happy and You Know It.... Be kind.”

“Finding the Rainbow” card for this assembly:



**Story 1: Those WHITE Sheep (Genesis 29, 30) (Be Kind)**

There once was a man called Jacob. He lived at home with his Mum and Dad. One day he hugged his parents. "It's time for me to move out," he said. He packed his bags and left.

Jacob decided to visit his uncle, but he had never seen him before. He walked five hundred miles and surprised Uncle Laban. "Hello, I'm Jacob," he said, "and you're my uncle. Can I stay with you a while."

Uncle Laban hugged him. "Come in, Jacob, my boy, and meet my girls."

Jacob met Leah, the eldest. She looked okay. But when he set eyes on Rachel, he fell in love on the spot. "Uncle Laban," he said, "I'll work for you seven years, if you let me marry Rachel."

"That sounds good!" said Uncle Laban. "I have hundreds of sheep and goats. You can take care of them all, and you can start today." Jacob worked hard, day and night.

Seven years later the wedding arrived and the bride came up the aisle. She wore a thick white veil over her face. Jacob stood beside her and squeezed her hand. He was finally marrying Rachel. He was the happiest man in the world.

After the wedding he took off the veil. "No!" he screamed at the top of his voice. It wasn't Rachel under the veil, it was Leah instead.

He ran to Uncle Laban all red in the face. "You promised me Rachel. You tricked me. You lied. How could you be so mean?"

"Calm down," said Uncle Laban. "It isn't right to give you the youngest until the eldest one is married. Work for me another seven years and then you can have Rachel too."

Jacob worked hard and seven years later Jacob got married again. When Jacob picked up the wedding veil, Rachel was smiling at him. Phew!! Uncle Laban didn't play anymore tricks.

Soon Leah had lots and lots of children, but Rachel only had two. She called them Joseph and Ben. Jacob smiled and counted his children. "Twelve sons, and one daughter," he said. "Imagine that!"



**Theme 2: Planting Love – From a Seed to a Tree (Harvest)**

**Memory Line: “Always try to be kind.” (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**

**Sing Songs:**

**Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and “Planting Love.”

**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Puppet is given a package of seeds. He doesn’t know what to do with them. Another puppet shows him how.

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

Cast needed:

Narrator

Farmer

Friends

Materials needed:

Spade

Soil

Small Seeds

Other kinds of seeds

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

We can also plant kindness everywhere we go. What does it feel like when someone is nice to us? What do we feel like when we are nice to others?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, help us to always be nice to people. Help us to think of others and their needs. Amen.”

**Sing a song:** “Be kind. Be fair...”

**Story 2: Planting Love – From a Seed to a Tree - (Harvest)**

In the Bible there is a story so important it is told three times. But it is also one of the shortest stories in the Bible. In Luke 13:19 it is 25 words long.

“A mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

Here is a longer version.

There once was a man who looked at his garden. “I want to plant a seed,” he said, “the smallest seed I can find.”

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

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

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

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

Every day he looked at the seed and soon it started to sprout. A little green shoot and then a leaf. He watered it again and watched it grow. He took pictures to show his friends.

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

“We have to see this,” the friends said. “No seed can grow that big.”

They went to the garden and looked around. “Where is the plant?” they said.

“There,” said the man and pointed to a tree. “Look! There are birds in the branches too.” Then he smiled. “You know, God is like that. He puts his love in our hearts and we can’t see the seed. Then it grows and fills us with kindness.”

“We want seeds like that,” said the friends.

**Theme 3: Be Fair – RAINBOW – Joseph and His Coat****Memory Line: "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)****Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Fair."**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Puppet is given a big bag of something to share, but he keeps it all. It is unfair.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** Jacob tricked (Genesis 29, 30)

Cast needed:

Jacob

Joseph

Brothers and sheep

Materials needed:

Coloured coat

Sheaves

Some sheep

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Puppet finally shares. Sometimes it is hard to be fair. How can we be fair to those around us?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to always be fair. Help us to share. Amen."**Sing a song:** "Be kind. Be fair..."

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:



**Story 3: That RAINBOW Coat (Gen 37) (Be Fair)**

Jacob and his family moved far away from Laban, and took care of their own sheep. Joseph and his brothers took the sheep out into the fields every day.

“Sheep! Sheep!” shouted a brother. “Watching sheep is so boring! Let’s roast one on the fire and have a feast.”

“What a good idea,” said the other brothers. “We’re as hungry as wolves.” They chose a spotted sheep and picked it up by a leg.

“Put it down,” shouted Joseph, their young brother. “I’ll tell Dad!”

Joseph’s brothers sneered, “Go ahead. See how we care.”

Joseph ran home. “Dad, the boys are up to no good,” he cried, and Jacob ran out to scold the boys.

Then one day Jacob called Joseph. “Joseph,” he said, “you are very special. I can always trust you. Look, I had a coat made for you. I hope you like it.”

“It’s beautiful!” said Joseph, putting it on.

The brothers saw the coat and growled, “Why doesn’t Dad give us each a coat? Aren’t we special?” They decided not to like Joseph.

Then Joseph had a dream. He woke up the next morning and found his brothers. “Listen,” he said. “I dreamed we were all in a field, cutting down wheat. My bundle of wheat stood up tall. Yours came and bowed to mine.”

“Rubbish!” said his brothers. “Who do you think you are? Just because you’re special to Dad, doesn’t mean you can be our king as well.” They disliked Joseph even more.

Then Joseph had another dream. He told the whole family this time. “Listen to this one,” he said. “Even the sun, moon and stars came and bowed down to me.”

“What are you talking about?” said Jacob. “Will all of us bow down to you? Your mother? Me? Your brothers? Don’t say such things.”

But Joseph strutted around like a peacock. With his coat and important dreams, he thought he was great. Little did he know he would get into big trouble.

**Theme 4: Don't Fight – BLACK – Joseph in the Hole**

**Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Sing Songs:**

**Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Don't Fight."

**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Puppet discovery: it takes two people to have a fight. A puppet does a card trick, but another one runs away with the card. A fight starts. What is the best way to deal with the problem?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** A Black Hole (Genesis 37)

Cast needed: Narrator

Joseph

Brothers

Merchants

Jacob

Materials needed:

Coloured coat

Deep hole

Some sheep and green field

Money

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Puppet turns away and the other one gets bored and returns the card. How can we stop fighting?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to not to fight. Help us to be kind and fair. Amen."

**Sing a song:** "Be kind. Be fair..."

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:



**Story 4: A BLACK Hole (Genesis 37) (Don't Fight)**

"Joseph," said Jacob one day. "Go and see how your brothers are. They have been out in the fields an awfully long time. See if the sheep are alright too."

"Yes Dad," said Joseph. He put on his coloured coat and went.

The brothers could see him a long way off. "Look who's coming," they said. "Let's kill him." Then they laughed.

"No, don't hurt him," said one of the brothers. "I have an idea. Let's just throw him in a well. That will be punishment enough."

They jumped on Joseph and tore off his coat. They threw him into the empty well. They booed at him as he fell.

"Please, don't," howled Joseph. "What did I do wrong?"

"Be quiet, little brat," said a brother. "You deserve every bit of this." Then the brothers sat down to eat. But Joseph howled at the top of his voice.

"What can we do to make him be quiet?" said the brothers. Then they saw some market men coming across the fields with their camels.

"I have an idea," said a brother. "Let's sell him to those men."

The brothers nodded and laughed. They waved down the camels and market men. "We have a slave for sale," said the brothers.

"Show us," said the market men.

The brothers pulled Joseph out of the well. The market men poked Joseph and grinned. "We will give you... twenty pieces of silver."

"No!!" cried Joseph, but the market men didn't care. Business was business.

Then the brothers thought of their Dad. They would need to make up a lie. They killed a goat. They soaked Joseph's coat in its blood. Then they hurried home. "Dad, look what we found," they said. Then they showed Jacob the coat.

Jacob sobbed. "My son is dead. My son is dead." But Jacob didn't know the truth.

**Theme 5: Be Helpful – PURPLE – Joseph in Prison****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Helpful."****Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Puppet doesn't want to help another puppet clear the table. Then he wants someone to help him with homework. That isn't fair.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** PURPLE Grapes (Genesis 39-40)

Cast needed: Narrator

Officer's wife

Office

Joseph

Cup bearer and baker

Prison guard

Materials needed:

Rich robe and prison clothes for Joseph

Three baskets

Goblet

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Puppet says sorry for not being helpful. How can we be more helpful? What helpful things can we do in school?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to think how others need help and help them. Amen."**Sing a song:** "Be kind. Be fair..."

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A purple rectangular card with the words "Be helpful" written in white, bold, sans-serif font. "Be" is on the top line and "helpful" is on the bottom line.

**Be  
helpful**

**Story 5: PURPLE Grapes (Genesis 39 - 40) (Be Helpful)**

Joseph was sold by his brothers. Now he was sold again. He stood on a platform and people looked at him. Then the bidding started. "Who will pay twenty for this excellent slave? Thirty? Forty? Fifty? Sixty? Sold!!"

But God was with Joseph. Joseph worked hard. He helped everywhere and everything he did turned out well. Soon his new master put him in charge of his house and lands.

Then one day the master's wife got mad. "Throw that slave into prison," she yelled. Joseph was, even though he hadn't done anything wrong. But God was with him.

"You there," said the prison keeper, "take care of everything." Joseph worked hard and helped everywhere. Soon he was put in charge of the prison.

Then one day the king got mad. He threw his cupbearer and baker into Joseph's prison. They sat in their cell and fell asleep. But then they woke up and looked scared.

"What's the matter?" said Joseph.

"We both had strange dreams last night," they said.

"God knows the meaning of every dream," said Joseph. "Tell them to me."

The cupbearer went first. "I took three bunches of purple grapes and squeezed them into a cup," he said. "I gave it to the king."

"That is good a good dream," said Joseph. "In three days you will be set free."

"My turn," said the baker. "I had three baskets of bread on my head. I too was taking them to the king, but birds flew down and ate them up."

"This one is bad," said Joseph. "In three days' time you will be punished."

Three days later the king gave a party. The cupbearer was set free. The baker was punished. Joseph had got it right.

But just before the cupbearer left, Joseph stopped him. "Cup bearer," said Joseph. "Please ask the king to set me free. I didn't do anything wrong."

"I will," said the cupbearer. But he forgot. What would happen to Joseph now? But God was with him.

**Theme 6: Be Caring – GREEN – Joseph Set Free**

**Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Sing Songs:**

**Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Caring."**

**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

The Bible is the most important book to Christians. It is where they learn to live. It is easy to be naughty. It is hard to do right. Here is a verse that shows how to live. "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** GREEN to Famine (Genesis 39-40)

Cast needed: Narrator

- King
- Wise men
- Joseph
- Cup bearer
- Soldier

Materials needed:

- Crown and robe for king
- Throne and prison
- Cows (big and little)
- Wheat (big and little)

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

How did you see that Joseph was caring? How can we be caring?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to be caring. Help us to do what is right. Amen."

**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:



**Story 6: GREEN Fields of Plenty (Genesis 41) (Be Caring)**

Joseph lived in prison. He believed in God. He did what was right. He wasn't scared.

The king lived in a palace. He didn't believe in God. He did what he wanted. But one morning he woke up scared. “Get me the wise man, right now!” he yelled. They all came running as fast as they could.

“I had two dreams,” said the king. “Tell me what they mean.”

“Dream One: I stood by the river. Seven fat cows climbed out of the water. Seven very thin cows climbed out next. Then the thin cows ate up the fat ones.”

“Dream Two: I stood in a field. Seven fat corn grew out of the ground. Seven very thin corn grew up next. Then the thin ones swallowed the fat ones.”

The wise men listened. They shook their heads. “We don't know what the dreams mean, O King,” they said.

Then the cupbearer raised his hand. “O King, there is someone in prison who can help. He told me what my dream meant.”

“Bring him to me,” said the king.

The guards rushed out. They ran to the prison. “Change your clothes,” they told Joseph. “The king wants you now.” Joseph changed from his dirty prison clothes. He ran to the king. He bowed down.

“I hear you have talent,” said the king. “You can tell what dreams mean.”

“This talent comes from God” said Joseph. “God will tell you what it means.”

The king told Joseph the dreams and Joseph nodded his head. “The seven fat cows and corn are seven good years. The seven thin cows and corn are seven bad years. There will be a famine, O king. You need to find someone to gather food in the seven good years. When the famine comes you will be ready. God has sent you a warning.”

The king nodded. “Joseph, God is with you. You will do this job. I need your talents right now.”

“Yes, O King,” said Joseph.



**Theme7: What Do You Want to Be? CHRISTMAS**

**Story:** “Tale of Three Trees” a folk-story.

**Sing a Song:**

**Welcome and Introduce Theme:** Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

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

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

**Cast needed:** Narrator  
Three Trees  
Three woodsmen

**Materials needed:**  
Three green cloths for the trees  
An axe  
Feed Box for animals  
Boat  
Cross  
Mary and baby Jesus  
Jesus as a man.

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

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

**Sing a Song:**

**Story 7: Tale of Three Trees**

On a mountain grew three small trees. They dreamed of what they would be.

The first tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds. "When I grow up I want to be the most beautiful treasure box on earth," said the first little tree. I want to be covered in gold and gems."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The three trees smiled at what they had done. Each had a special job.

**Theme 8: Be Giving - BROWN – Joseph Feeds the World**

**Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Sing Songs:**

**Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Giving."**

**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Can anyone remember the Memory Line? "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

Today we will about another way to be kind, to "Be Giving." See if you can spot it in the story.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** Joseph Feeds the World (Genesis41)

Cast needed: Narrator

Josephs' father and brothers

Joseph

Hungry people

Materials needed:

Robe for Joseph

Important chair for Joseph

Bags of food

Morrison's bags

Barns

Cups for horse sounds

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

How did you see "Be Giving" in the story? How can we be giving?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to be giving. Help us to do what is right. Amen."

**Sing a song: If You're Happy and You Know it...**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A solid brown rectangular card with the words "Be giving" written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. "Be" is on the top line and "giving" is on the bottom line.

**Be  
giving**

**Story 8: Joseph Feeds the World - (Gen 41) BROWN**

Joseph became the second most important man in Egypt. Only the king was more important than him. But Joseph got to work right away.

He climbed in his chariot. He rode into every town. "All you people, listen to me," he said. "In seven years, we will run out of food. There will be a famine. You must give me some of your crops every year. If you grow five bags of food, you will give me one. That's the new rule in all the land."

The whole country obeyed Joseph. They did what he said.

Joseph had barns built in every town. "Fill these barns with food," he said. The people did what Joseph said. Soon they filled the barns to the top. They counted each bag as it went in. They marked it down with a pencil.

"Joseph, the barns are full," said the people. "What shall we do now?"

"Build more barns," said Joseph. The people did what Joseph said. But now there was so much food, they actually lost count. They put their pencils down.

Then one day the rain stopped raining. The crops dried up. The fields turned BROWN and nothing grew. The famine had finally come.

Soon the people ran out of food. Soon they ran to Joseph. "Our cupboards are empty," they said. "Our children are hungry. Give us food or we will die."

Joseph opened the barns. People lined up in front of him. They bought food and carried it home. Never did food look so good.

But the news got out. It spread from country to country. "There is food in Egypt. They're selling it there!" The famine was in every country around.

Jacob, Joseph's dad heard the news. "I hear there is food in Egypt," he said. "My sons, go and buy some for us. Why should we starve to death?"

Joseph's brothers packed their donkeys. They took empty sacks for the food. They took their money bags too. It was going to be a long trip.

They waved to their dad, "Bye," they called. "We'll be back in a couple of weeks." But they never imagined who they would meet in Egypt.

**Theme 9: Be Honest – RED – Joseph Meets Brothers****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Honest."**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Can anyone remember the Memory Line? "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

Today we will think about another way to be kind, to "Be honest." See if you can spot it in the story.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** (Genesis 42)

Cast needed: Narrator

Brothers

Joseph

Dad

Man

Materials needed:

Robe for Joseph

Important red chair for Joseph

Bags of food

Barn

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

How did you see "Be Honest" in the story? How can we be honest?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to be honest. Help us to do what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A red rectangular box containing the words "Be honest" in white, bold, sans-serif font. "Be" is on the top line and "honest" is on the bottom line.

**Story 9: Joseph Meets Brothers (Genesis 42) (Be Honest)**

Joseph worked hard and soon he was ready. The famine could come. It did and people ran out of food. Soon they came from everywhere to buy it. Joseph's brothers came too. "Where can we buy food?" they asked.

"Over there," said a man and pointed to a barn. "The governor is in charge of it."

The brothers hurried over. They found the governor. He sat on a big red chair. They bowed to the ground in front of him. "We would like to buy food," they said.

Joseph looked at them and his eyes almost popped out. Those were his brothers. He hadn't seen them for twenty years. "Where have you come from?" said Joseph. He acted like he didn't know them. He had to see if they were sorry.

"From far away," said the brothers, but they didn't know it was Joseph.

"You're lying!" said Joseph. "I can see you are spies!"

"That isn't true, governor," they said. "We are honest men, twelve brothers in fact. But the youngest is at home and one is missing."

"I don't believe you," said Joseph. "But I will test you. If you bring your youngest brother back, I'll know you're telling the truth. But one of you must stay in prison."

The brothers were scared, but they didn't dare complain. "Yes, governor," they said.

Then the brothers turned to each other. "This is a punishment," they whispered. "We shouldn't have sold Joseph. Why didn't we listen when he begged us to stop?"

Joseph heard them and jumped up from his red chair. He had to get away. He never dreamed his brothers would be sorry. But still he needed to test them.

One brother was sent to prison. The rest were sent home. But Joseph gave them tons of food. A whole year went by. They ran out of food.

"Go buy us more food," said their dad. "This famine is very bad."

"We can't," said the brothers. "The governor told us to bring back Benjamin. We can't take him there. He might get lost. We can't lose him like we lost Joseph."

"Then we will starve" said their dad. "Please take Benjamin and go."

"We will bring him back," said the brothers. "You will not lose another son." So the brothers set off, promising to be honest men in the future.

**Theme 10: Don't Steal – ORANGE – Joseph Tests His Brothers**

**Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Sing Songs:**

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

**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

One puppet wants to steal a sweets from the shop. He asks a friend to come with him. The friend tells him it is wrong.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** (Genesis 43 - 45)

Cast needed: Narrator

Brothers

Joseph

Soldiers

Materials needed:

Robe for Joseph

Important red chair for Joseph

Bags of food

Silver cup

Tissues

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Why is it wrong to steal?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us not to steal. Help us to do what is right. Amen."

**Sing a song: If You're Happy and You Know it... Don't Steal.**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A solid orange square containing the text "Don't steal" in bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines.

**Don't  
steal**

**Story 10: ORANGE Bags of Grain (Gen 43 - 45) (Don't Steal)**

"We have come, O Governor," said the brothers. "Here is our youngest brother."

Joseph turned to his soldier, "Take these men to my house. Make a feast. I will be home for lunch to eat with them. And set the other brother free."

When Joseph came home, he saw his youngest brother, Benjamin. He ran to his room and cried. His brothers waited for him. They looked at his fancy furniture. "Wow!" they said.

Joseph returned. "Is your father well?" he asked.

"Yes. Yes," the brothers said, but they couldn't wait for dinner. They ate it all and left Joseph's house happy. Then they headed home. "That was great," they sighed. But they didn't know that Joseph was testing them. Joseph had put his silver cup in Benjamin's food sack.

Suddenly the brothers were surrounded by soldiers. "Thieves!" the soldiers shouted.

"No!" the brothers replied. "We are honest men. None of us would steal."

"One of you did. Joseph's silver cup is missing," they said.

"That's not true," cried the brothers. But the soldiers searched them anyways. They searched their bags. They found it in Benjamin's sack.

The brothers turned back. Their hearts were breaking. "What are we going to do?" they wailed.

When they saw Joseph, they fell before him. "What did you do, Benjamin?" shouted Joseph.

One of the brothers stepped forward, "Please, if Benjamin doesn't go home, my father will die. Take me instead. We lost Joseph. It was our fault. We can't lose Benjamin."

Joseph suddenly knew his brothers really were sorry for selling him. He looked at them and started crying. He couldn't stop crying. The brothers looked at him, scared.

"I am your brother," Joseph finally said. "It's me, Joseph, honest." The brothers stared at him. They blinked their eyes. They shook their heads. Joseph was alive!

The brothers swarmed around him. They hugged him. They were so happy. The brothers had stolen Joseph from his dad, now God had returned him to his family.

**Theme 11: Don't Complain – BLUE – Leaving BLUE Waters****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Don't Complain"**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

One puppet has to tidy his room. He complains. The others join in and help him.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** "Leaving Blue Water" (Genesis 45 - 46)

Cast needed: Narrator

- King
- Messenger
- Brothers
- Joseph
- Jacob
- Family

Materials needed:

- Robe for Joseph
- Bags of food
- Wagons

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

So, instead of complaining, how can we be thankful?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us not to complain. Help us to be thankful. Amen."**Sing a song: If You're Happy and You Know it... Don't Complain.**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A blue rectangular sign with the words "Don't complain" written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Story 11: Leaving Blue Water (Genesis 45-46) Don't Complain**

A messenger ran to the king. "Joseph's brothers have come!" said the messenger.

"Great news!" said the king. "Go! Tell Joseph to bring his family. The famine will last five more years. Tell him to send wagons for the children and lots of food."

The messenger ran. He gave Joseph the news. Joseph laughed. He told his brothers. "The king wants you all to come and stay here as our guests."

The brothers didn't know what to say. They had thought Joseph was dead, but he was alive. And now he was the most important man around! How had that happened?"

Joseph smiled. He nodded his head. "You meant it for evil, but God turned it to good. Now go home and get Dad." Then Joseph stopped and looked at his brothers. "Also remember, no complaining, no fighting along the way."

The brothers laughed. "Okay, Joseph," they said.

Joseph gave them wagons and lots of food. He gave them everything they needed. "Hurry," he said. "Please come back soon. I can't wait to see Dad."

The brothers hurried home. "Dad!" they shouted, "Joseph is alive! He is a ruler!"

Jacob sat down. He put his hand on his heart. He couldn't believe his ears. "Did you say Joseph is alive?" he said.

The brothers showed Jacob the wagons and food. "Joseph wants us to go to be with him," said the brothers. "He will take care of us there."

"I believe you," said Jacob. "We must do what he says."

Everyone started packing. They rolled up their beds. They took down their tents. But Jacob talked with God. "God, I don't want to complain, but this is our home. You gave us this land, with its blue water and green grass. Do you want us to go?"

"Don't be afraid," said God. "I will go with you. You will see Joseph. You will return."

They packed the wagons. The children sat on top. They all set out for the trip.

Joseph saw them a long way off. He ran to his Dad. He hugged him. He cried. Finally all the family were together again. Hip-hip-hurray. Hip-hip-hurray. Hip-hip-hurray.

**Theme 12: Forgive Everyone - YELLOW – (Easter)****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Forgive Everyone"**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

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

"What is forgiveness?" asks a puppet.

"If someone hurts you, you don't hurt them back."

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** "Easter Story" (Luke 22 - 24)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Soldiers

Religious Leaders

Crowd (friends and helpers)

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

Garden

Hill where Jesus dies

Soldiers gear

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

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

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to forgive. Help us to do what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A bright yellow rectangular box containing the words "Forgive everyone" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "Forgive" is on the top line and "everyone" is on the bottom line.

**Story 12: “The YELLOW Sun Disappears” – (Easter Story) (Luke 22 – 24)**

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

The religious leaders had a secret meeting in the temple. “We must get rid of that man,” they whispered. “We need to find him all alone and grab him when no one sees.”

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

They called in the temple soldiers. “Go catch Jesus,” they said. “We hear that he is in the Garden of Gethsemane.”

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

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

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

The religious leaders rubbed their hands. “This man says he’s the Son of God,” they said. “He’s lying. Get rid of him.”

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

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

Suddenly the sky turned black. The bright yellow sun disappeared. The soldiers jumped up and looked around. They were really scared. “This man was the Son of God,” they said. “We just killed an innocent man.”

But the religious leaders didn’t care. They hurried to the temple to celebrate. But while they had a party, Jesus’ friends took Jesus off the cross. They buried him in a cave. They cried.

But three days later Jesus rose again. He was alive, and he walked right out of that tomb! He really was the Son of God. He came to forgive the world. Those soldiers got it right.

**Theme 13: Be Kind - WHITE – Two Blind men healed (Matthew 9:27)**

**Memory Line:** “Always try to be kind.” (I Thessalonians 5: 15)

**Sing Songs:**

**Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and “Be Kind”

**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

One puppet is hurt their wing and foot. Another puppet tries to be kind, but hurts the first puppet even more. The rest step in and together they can really help.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** “White Robe” (Matthew 9:27-31)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Two Blind Men

Man with Robe

Crowd

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

House with a door

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

What did it mean to be kind in this story? How can we be kind to others?

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

**Sing a song:**

“Finding the Rainbow” card for this assembly:

# Be kind



**Story 13: "WHITE Robes"- Two Blind men healed (Matthew 9:27 - 31)**

Jesus wanted to stay with some friends. Two blind men heard he was passing their way. "Maybe Jesus can heal us," said one of the blind men.

A crowd walked by. Jesus walked by in the middle of the crowd. The blind men lifted their voices. "Have mercy on us, Jesus!" they shouted. But Jesus didn't hear them and walked right by.

The blind men jumped up. "We must follow him," they said. They grabbed someone from the crowd. "Take us to Jesus," they said. They hung on to that person's robe.

Jesus kept walking. The crowd kept walking. The blind men hung on to that robe. "Have mercy on us, Jesus!" they called.

Jesus entered the village. The crowd entered the village. The blind men still hung on to that robe. "Have mercy on us, Jesus!" they called.

Jesus found his friend's house. He went inside. The crowd stayed outside and waited. The blind men let go of that robe. "We must find Jesus," they said.

They felt for the door. They turned the knob. They opened it up and stepped inside. "Have mercy on us, Jesus!" they called.

They couldn't see a thing, but they could hear. "Do you believe I can heal you?" said Jesus.

"Yes, Jesus. We do," they said.

Then the blind men felt fingers touch their eyes. "If you believe," said Jesus, "be healed."

Suddenly the blind men saw Jesus. They saw his brown eyes and white robe. "We can see you," they said. They danced for joy.

"Listen," said Jesus. "Don't tell anyone about this. Please promise me that?"

"Yes, yes," said the men. But they told everyone they knew, and even those they didn't. Even though they didn't keep their promise, Jesus was still kind to them.

**Theme 14: Be Fair – RAINBOW – Jesus blessed the Children****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Fair"**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:** Puppets divide up a biscuit. But one gets left out. They don't even notice, until the left out one tells them. Then they share.**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** "Jesus Blesses Children" (Matthew 19:13 - 15)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Children

Helpers

Clever people

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

Hill where Jesus sits

Robes for helpers

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

What does it mean to be fair? How can we be fair?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to be fair. Help us to do what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:



**Story 14: "Jesus Blesses Children" (Mark 10: 13 - 16)**

Everyone wanted to be with Jesus. Poor people came to hear good stories. Sick people came so they could get healed. Important people came to ask Jesus questions. There were people everywhere, thousands of them.

One day Jesus talked with the important people. The important people listened. They nodded their heads. They pulled their beards. They scratched their heads. The helpers stood around and listened. Everyone was quiet and thoughtful.

Suddenly dads and mums surrounded them. They had their children with them. The children made lots of noise.

"Quiet," said the helpers. "Can't you see this is an important meeting?"

"We want Jesus to bless our children," said the mums and dads.

"He's busy," said the helpers. "Come back another time."

"This isn't fair," said the mums and dads, "but we can wait." So, they sat down and waited, but the children ran around making lots and lots of noise.

The helpers exploded. "We've had enough of you," they said. "Go away."

Jesus looked up. He saw the children. He saw the mums and dads. "Helpers, this isn't fair," said Jesus. "Let those children come to me as well. Don't you know that God loves children? God wants all of us to be like them, full of love and trust."

The children came near to Jesus and he held out his arms. "Bless you, my children," he said. "Remember that God always loves you. You are very special to him."

The helpers looked at the important people. The helpers looked at Jesus and the children. Suddenly they knew that no one was too little to come to Jesus. People didn't need to be important to spend time with him.

Jesus stretched out his arms again. He said, "EVERYONE is special to me."

**Theme 15: Don't Fight – BLACK – "Who is the greatest?"****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Don't Fight"**Puppets Act Out Bible Theme:** Puppets see a book in the room. They fight over it. Another steps in to break it up, saying they can share.**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** "Who is the Greatest?" (Matt 18:1 - 5)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Matthew

Peter

Child

Crowd

Materials needed:

Hill for Jesus to sit on

Cloaks for helpers

White cloak for Jesus

Cuddly animal for child

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

What makes us want to fight? How can we stop fighting?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us not to fight. Please help us to do what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A black rectangular sign with the words "Don't" and "fight" written in white, bold, sans-serif font. "Don't" is on the top line and "fight" is on the bottom line.

**Don't  
fight**

**Story 15: "Who is the Greatest?" (Matthew 18: 1 - 5)**

One day Jesus sat on a mountain and people sat all around him. They listened to Jesus as he told stories. They brought their children to be blessed. They set their sick people before him and he healed them. Everyone was happy.

Then they heard angry voices. They looked up and saw Jesus' helpers picking their way through the crowd. "I'm the greatest," said Peter.

"No, you're not," said Matthew. "I am. Don't you know Jesus likes me more?"

"That isn't true," said Peter. "Jesus thinks I am the best. I'm going to sit at his right hand when he is king in heaven."

"Liar," said Matthew. "That is my place. I am better than you."

The crowd looked at the helpers. Jesus looked at the helpers. The children looked at the helpers. "Alright," said Peter, looking around and noticing everyone staring at him. "I have an idea. Let's ask Jesus who is the greatest and settle this fight for once. It's obvious you won't listen to me. You can't see that I am right."

Matthew laughed at Peter. "Ask if you want, and you will see you're wrong."

So they hurried to Jesus. "Jesus," said Peter, "who is the greatest in your kingdom, Matthew or me?"

Jesus sighed and pointed to a little child. "Child, come here," he called.

The child ran and stood in the middle, between Jesus and the helpers. "Look at this child," said Jesus. "You have to change and become like her. This child is not proud or pushy. Become like her and you will become the greatest in heaven. But remember this, if you are kind to a child, you are kind to me."

Matthew and Peter stared at the child. "Yes, Jesus," said Matthew. "This is hard. To become like a child, means I have to be humble. I mustn't think I'm so great."

Jesus smiled. "That's right. Everyone is equally important to me."

**Theme 16: Be Helpful – PURPLE – "Sheep in the Pit"****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Helpful"**Puppets Act Out Bible Theme:** Someone drops their crutch. Puppets don't notice and keep on chatting. The person calls for help and the puppets run over and pick up the crutch.**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** "Sheep in the Pit" (Matt 12: 10–14)

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus

Religious leaders

Man with sick hand

The owner of the sheep

The sheep puppet

Materials needed:

Brown cloth for hole

Sheep puppet

Robes for the people

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Should we always try to be helpful? What can we do to help others?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to be helpful. Please help us to do what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A purple rectangular box containing the text "Be helpful" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The word "Be" is on the top line and "helpful" is on the bottom line.

**Story 16: "Sheep in a Pit" (Matthew 12: 10 – 12)**

One day Jesus went to church and he saw a man with a crippled hand. Jesus wanted to heal him, but he had a problem. At that time no one was allowed to do anything on a Saturday. If Jesus healed the man, he would break the law.

The religious leaders watched Jesus. They knew he was helpful to everyone. They asked him, "You know the law says no one can do anything on a Saturday. It's wrong to be helpful on that day."

What was Jesus going to do? He told them a story instead.

"Imagine if you had a sheep. This sheep was your favourite and it was out in your field. You looked at your sheep on a Saturday and you smiled as it nibbled grass. But then you saw your sheep push through the fence and wander away.

You have a problem, because you're not supposed to do anything on a Saturday. Then you watch your sheep fall into a pit. You can hear it baaing at the bottom. What are you going to do? Leave it there, because the law says you aren't allowed to do anything?

Of course not! Every sensible person would run out of the house, run down the field, jump over the fence, fall down on his stomach and pull out his sheep. Then he would pick up that sheep and cuddle it. He would carry it home and fix that fence.

Everyone knows that you can be helpful to a sheep on a Saturday. So why can't I be helpful to a person as well? People are much more important than sheep."

Jesus looked at the man with the crippled hand. "Stretch out your hand," he said.

The man stretched out his hand and... suddenly it looked just like his other one. The man raised his hands and laughed for joy. Jesus just showed him he was more important than sheep. People are more important than anything.

**Theme 17: Be Caring - GREEN – "A Sick Lady"****Memory Line: "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)****Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Honest."**Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:**

Puppet's tummy hurts, but he doesn't want to tell anyone. He can't help groaning on the playground and his friends hear. They take him to the teacher.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "A Sick Lady" (Luke 8)**

Cast needed:

- Narrator
- Sick lady
- Jesus and helpers
- Crowd

Materials needed:

- Robe for sick lady
- White robe for Jesus
- A tree on the side of the road

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):** Sometimes our friends might feel sick. What should we do? How can help them feel better?**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, sometimes those we care about will get sick. Please help us to be caring and helpful. Amen."**Sing a song:** "Be kind. Be fair..."

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:



**Story 17: "A Sick Lady" (Luke 8)**

One day the crowd tried to get as close to Jesus as possible. He was a celebrity now. They reached out and touched his shoulders and arms.

In that crowd, there was a very sick woman as well. She wanted to touch Jesus. But, the crowd pushed and shoved her.

She didn't say a word. She didn't want anyone to know what she was planning. Slowly she made her way closer to Jesus. "I'm almost there," she thought. "Just one more meter... half a meter... maybe I can reach..."

Someone pushed her away and she started all over again. "Just one more meter... half a meter... maybe I can reach..." Someone pushed her away.

Finally, she saw a space, just enough for her arm. She reached out and touched Jesus' cloak. It was just a split second, but suddenly she knew she was well. She wasn't sick anymore. But the crowd moved around her and she was pushed away.

At that instant Jesus stopped. He looked around. "Who just touched me?" he called.

The helpers looked at him like he was crazy. "Jesus! Everyone is touching you. What do you mean?"

Jesus kept looking around at the crowd. "Someone just touched me. I know because I could feel power flowing out of me."

The sick woman, who now was well, knew she couldn't hide. "I did," she called.

People made a path for her and she came to Jesus. But she was scared and shook like a leaf. Would Jesus be mad at her for touching his cloak? She knelt at his feet. "I touched your cloak," she said. "I have been sick for twelve years and the doctors can't heal me. I have spent all my money and still I was sick. That is, until I touched your cloak."

Jesus smiled. He wanted her to know that he cared for her. "My daughter, because you believed I could heal you, you have been healed. Go in peace and don't be afraid."

Jesus cared for that lady. He cares for everyone. And you can be caring too.



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Jesus cared for that lady. He cared for everyone. So can we.

**Theme 18: Be Giving – BROWN – Jesus Raises Lazarus****Memory Line:** "Always try to be kind." (I Thessalonians 5: 15)**Sing Songs:****Welcome:** Introduce Fun Fish team and "Be Giving"

**Puppets Act Out Bible Theme:** Puppet has a marker. He wants to write on the wall. Another puppet gives him paper. "Write on this instead." But the first puppet doesn't want that gift. Sometimes we have to give what is right, instead of what someone wants.

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

Cast needed: Narrator

Jesus and helpers

Lazarus - puppet

Mary

Martha

Materials needed:

White Robe for Jesus

Cloaks for Mary and Martha

Tomb

House

Message

**Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):**

Is it good to give someone everything they want? What are good things to give?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to give what is right. Amen."**Sing a song:**

"Finding the Rainbow" card for this assembly:

A brown rectangular card with the words 'Be giving' written in white, bold, sans-serif font. 'Be' is on the top line and 'giving' is on the bottom line.

**Be  
giving**

**Story 18: "Jesus Raises Lazarus" (John 11)**

Jesus had some special friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. One day Lazarus got very sick and Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message. "Lazarus is sick," they said.

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

Then Jesus stood up. "We must go," he said. "Lazarus is dead."

The helpers looked at Jesus confused. "Then we must go," they said.

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

"Your brother will live," said Jesus. "Anyone who believes in me lives, and they will see that God is wonderful."

Mary started crying all over again. Jesus looked at her and he started crying too. "Where is the grave?" he said.

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

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

"Trust me," said Jesus, "and you will see that God is very wonderful."

So the helpers rolled the stone away, and Jesus looked up to heaven. "Dear Father," he prayed, "help these people to believe in me, to believe that you are wonderful."

Then Jesus looked at the tomb. "Lazarus, come out," he called. Everyone heard a groan and then Lazarus walked out alive. Everyone shouted and cheered.

**The End... You will find more assemblies series on [www.funfish.org.uk](http://www.funfish.org.uk)**