

## Heroes and Villains

### Social Issues Children Face



**Memory line:** “The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”  
(John 15:13)

Story writer: Roger Stone

Copyright 2016©Roger Stone

Contents

Heroes and Villains..... 1

Welcome to Fun Fish Assemblies ..... 3

Basic Structure ..... 4

Materials Needed for RE Assemblies ..... 5

Social Issue: Lying – The Great Big Lie ..... 6

Social Issue: Cheating– Cheating Doesn’t Pay..... 8

Social Issue: Greed – Treasure or God?..... 10

Social Issue: War – General Sisera ..... 12

Social Issue: Friendship - Ruth and Naomi - Book of Ruth..... 14

Social Issue: You Don’t Have to be Famous to be Important (Christmas) ..... 16

Social Issue: Disabilities – Mephibosheth’s Accident ..... 18

Social Issue: Individuality (appearance) - - Absalom’s Fine Hair ..... 20

Social Issue: Poverty - Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath ..... 22

Social Issue: Health - Naaman the leper ..... 24

Social Issue: Bullying - Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego ..... 26

Social Issue: Death - The Widow of Nain..... 28

Social Issue: Keeping Confidences - Jesus commands the healed not to talk ..... 30

Social Issue: Generosity - Father and Prodigal Son..... 32

Social Issue: Breaking the rules - Jesus heals on the Sabbath Day ..... 34

Social Issue: Ambition - James and John being next to Jesus..... 36

### **Welcome to Fun Fish Assemblies**

This is a Fun Fish RE Assembly Series for KS2, ages 8-11. “Heroes and Villains” teaches children how to think about and act on social issues that might affect their lives. 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.

“Heroes and Villains” 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 the issues brought up in each assembly. They are given the freedom to laugh and enjoy, to see the positive in good things. 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](http://www.funfish.org) or e-mail: [funfish@navigator.co.uk](mailto:funfish@navigator.co.uk)

Enjoy this new adventure of “Heroes and Villains.”

**Basic Structure**  
**For a 15 minute RE Assembly**

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

Welcome: (½ minute)

Introduce the RE Assembly Team.

Introduce Theme with Puppets: (2 minute)

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

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

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

Bible Story (Spontaneous Drama): (8 minutes)

Present the story by:

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

Reflective Time with Puppets: (2 minutes)

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

Prayer: (½ minute)

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

Closing Theme Song: (2 minutes)

### **Materials Needed for RE Assemblies**

Remember to arrive early and set up!

#### **What to bring to every assembly:**

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

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

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

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Lying – The Great Big Lie**

**Memory line:** “The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What does it mean to tell the truth?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “The Great Big Lie” (Genesis 2,3)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Adam and Eve

Serpent

God

**Materials needed:**

Tree with fruit

Cloak for serpent

Leaves to cover.

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Why is it important to tell the truth?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, help us to always tell the truth. Help us to be brave.  
Amen.”

**Sing a Song:**

### **“The Great Big Lie” (Genesis 2, 3)**

There was once a man called Adam. He had a wife called Eve. God placed them in the Garden of Eden. God called Adam to one side. He pointed to a tree in the middle of the garden. "Adam, anyone can eat the fruit from any tree in this garden, except THIS ONE. If you do, if anyone does, you will certainly die!"

Adam nodded. "Yes, God! I will obey." He passed the message on to Eve.

One day Eve was alone in the garden. The Serpent came up close and hissed in her ear. "Did God really say that you must not eat from any of these trees?"

Eve looked at the serpent. It didn't occur to her that an animal was speaking. She smiled. "Actually, God said we can eat from any tree in the garden, all except the one in the middle. If we even touch it, we will die."

The serpent laughed. "God got it wrong. I know for a fact that you will not die. Instead you will become like GOD! You will know what is good and evil!"

Eve looked at the fruit. Her mouth started watering. "That fruit looks good. You know, serpent, you really make sense. Thanks. I do want to be like God ." *[Oh no you don't!... Oh yes you do!]*

"Go on!" hissed the serpent. "Eat it! Remember, it's only a piece of fruit."

Eve believed the serpent instead of God. She picked off a fruit. She took a bite. She even gave some to Adam. "This is really delicious!" she said.

Suddenly their eyes were opened. They had no clothes on. They ran to a tree and covered themselves with leaves. Then they heard God walking in the garden. "Oh, no! We're in trouble!" said Adam. "Let's hide from God."

"Where are you?" God called.

"We're hiding," said Adam. "We're scared. We have no clothes on."

"Who told you that?" said God. "Have you eaten the forbidden fruit?"

"Eve gave me a bite," said Adam.

"The serpent tricked me," said Eve.

God was so sad. Evil had come into the world. He punished the serpent. He sent Adam and Eve away of the garden. They had to work long and hard by themselves. They had to grow their own food to live. Now they were very sad.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Cheating – Cheating Doesn't Pay**

**Memory line:** "The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends."  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What does it mean to not cheat?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Cheating Doesn't Pay" (Gen 27)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Isaac and Rebekah

Jacob and Esau

**Materials needed:**

Cooking pot

Robe

Red woolly material

Couch

Plate, knife and fork

Goat

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Why is cheating wrong?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to always be fair. Help us not to ever cheat.  
Amen."

**Sing a Song:**



## Jacob & Esau - "Cheating Doesn't Pay" (Genesis 27)

Isaac and Rebekah had twins. The first one was born with red hair, and was hairy all over. His father Isaac loved him best. His parents called him Esau, and he grew up to be a hunter.

The second son had a pale white face, and had smooth skin. His mother loved him best. His parents called him Jacob and he grew up to be a farmer.

Now according to the law at the time the first one born inherited everything from his father, unless the father said different. So Jacob's mother started to scheme how she could trick Isaac into giving everything to Jacob.

One day, when Isaac was very old, he said to Esau, "Make me my favourite roast dinner one more time and I will give you my blessing."

Rebekah saw her chance. As soon as Esau set off to go hunting, she called to Jacob, "Go and kill me two goats on the farm. I will make a special meal before Esau comes back. Take it to your father so you can get the blessing".

Jacob coughed. "Even though my father is nearly blind and he can't tell us boys apart, if he touches my smooth skin he will know I'm not Esau. He will get angry with me instead of blessing me."

Rebekah smiled. "I will wrap your arms in the skin of the goats so they feel hairy and you can wear Esau's clothes. Then your father will think you are Esau."

So Jacob did exactly what his mother wanted, and he brought the food to Isaac. "Father, I am Esau," he lied. "Eat some of this tasty dinner I made for you. Then you can give me your blessing."

Isaac reached out his hands. "You don't sound like Esau. Come closer. Let me touch you." Isaac smelled the clothes Jacob wore. They smelled just like Esau's. He touched Jacob's arms. They felt like Esau's. He gave Esau's blessing to Jacob.

But as soon as Jacob left, Esau arrived with a meal cooked for his father. "Here is the delicious meal I cooked for you."

Isaac started to shake. "If you are Esau, who did I just bless? Was it Jacob?"

Esau flew into a rage. "I will kill my brother one day." So you see, cheating doesn't pay. It only brings misery to a family.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Greed – Treasure or God?**

**Memory line:** “The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What does it mean to be greedy?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Treasure or God?” (Joshua 7)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

God

Joshua and his army

Achan

**Materials needed:**

Gold and silver

Tent

Swords and shields

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Why is greed wrong?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, help us to always do what is right. Help us not to ever be greedy. Amen.”

**Sing a Song:**

## Joshua and Achan - "Treasure or God?" - Joshua 6, 7

When God took his people to live in a new land, they first had to conquer it. The first city they had to capture was Jericho. But Joshua, their leader, stared at the city wall. "It is too strong to break it down," he said. "It is too high to climb over."

God knew the problem and he gave Joshua a plan. "March round the city to the sound of trumpets. When you finish shout as loud as you can. Then I will make the city walls tumble down. But there is one strict rule: Don't take any of the treasure inside the city. It all belongs to me."

The Israelites did everything exactly as God said, and suddenly the walls fell down. The people rushed in to take the city. No one was killed or hurt.

But one city was not enough for all of God's people. Joshua sent spies to another city. The spies came back with good news. "O Joshua, this city is quite small. You won't need the whole army to conquer it. Just send 3000 men."

Joshua took their advice. Those 3000 attacked the city, but they were beaten back. Thirty-six of their men died. "God, why did you let this happen? Joshua cried.

"Stand up!" said God. "Someone broke the strict rule I gave. When you captured Jericho, someone stole some of the treasure from the city."

Joshua groaned, but God kept right on speaking. "This is what I want you to do, Joshua. Gather all the people. Make them stand in family groups. I will show you which one did wrong."

God pointed to Achan. Joshua groaned again. "Achan, what have you done?"

Achan hung his head in shame. "When the walls of Jericho fell down, I saw some expensive clothes, bags of silver coins, and a huge bar of gold. I couldn't help myself. I took them and buried them under my tent."

Joshua sent some men to Achan's tent. They dug up the treasure and brought it back to Joshua. Joshua was angry. "Achan! Thirty-six men died because of you. Because you were greedy, we lost the battle."

Achan died that very day. He learned the hard way it didn't pay to be greedy. He forgot that God could see everything, even what he did in secret.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: War – General Sisera**

**Memory line:** “The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song: God wants me to be a light (was "I am a city on a hill")**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What is war?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “General Sisera” (Joshua 7)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Deborah

Barak and army

General Sisera and army

Heber (voice from behind the tent) & Jael, his wife

**Materials needed:**

Tent

Hammer and peg

Swords and shields

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Why do people fight? Why is war wrong?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, help us to always seek for peace. Help us to not fight.  
Amen.”

**Sing a Song: Giants (war version)**

## Deborah and Barak – “General Sisera” - Judges 4

The Israelite people forgot that God had helped them win their battles. So God allowed the enemy commander Sisera, with his 900 iron chariots, to defeat the people. Sisera made their lives miserable and they cried out to God for help.

God spoke to Deborah, their leader, telling her what to do. "Bring Barak to me", ordered Deborah. "Barak, take our army to the mountain. I will lure Sisera to the river below. There you will be able to defeat him". Barak replied, "I will not go unless you come with me". Deborah agreed, "God has revealed to me that Sisera will die - and by a woman's hand". So Barak and the army set off with Deborah.

On their way they rested at the tent of a family that had separated from the Israelites. Heber was friendly with the enemy. But Jael, his wife, spoke secretly to Deborah, "I wish there was something I could do to help you win". "Perhaps you will be able to play your part", said Deborah.

Commander Sisera was marching to meet Barak in battle. He too came past the tent and shouted to Heber, "Where's Barak's camp?" Heber called back, "You will find Barak at the mountain". So Sisera marched on with his army and chariots, "Tonight we'll camp by the river at the bottom of the mountain. Tomorrow we attack".

Early in the morning, before it was light, Barak and his army charged down the mountain and defeated Sisera's army. But Sisera himself escaped. When his chariot got stuck, he continued on foot and came to a tent he recognised. "I'll be safe here", he said, "this is Heber's tent". But Heber was away and Jael, his wife, greeted him. "Come right in", said Jael, "Don't be afraid". "I'm thirsty", said Sisera. So Jael gave him milk. "I'm so tired", said Sisera so he lay down and Jael put a blanket over him. "Stand guard like a soldier outside the tent while I am asleep", commanded Sisera.

Jael went outside thinking, "This is the enemy commander. If I was a real soldier and had a weapon I would kill him". Just then she saw a tent peg and a hammer and she picked them up and crept back into the tent. Moments later Sisera was dead.

When Barak arrived he asked, "Have you seen a soldier go by, a commander?". "Come in", said Jael, "I will show you the man you're looking for".

So God saved his people once again. Maybe now they would listen to him.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Friendship - Ruth and Naomi - Book of Ruth**

**Memory line:** “The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What is friendship? Puppets discuss it.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Friendship” (Book of Ruth)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Ruth

Naomi

Boaz

Farmhands/Crowd in marketplace

**Materials needed:**

Field with Corn in the middle

House in foreign country on one side.

Another house where Naomi and Ruth move to – on the other side

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** What makes people into friends? How do you stay friends?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, help us to always be friendly. Help us to be a good friend. Amen.”

**Sing a Song:**

## Friendship - Ruth and Naomi - Ruth 1

Ruth and Naomi are mourning a death. Poor Ruth - the man who died was her husband. Poor Naomi - the man who died was her only living son.

Naomi is crying, "For years now I have struggled on without my husband - and now another death in the family." Ruth was also in tears, "Now I no longer have a husband and you no longer have a son. We must find people who will look after us."

Suddenly Naomi wiped away her tears, "I have decided what we must do. Ruth, you must stay here with your relatives. I will go back to my homeland and try and find a relative to look after me."

But Ruth was horrified, "No, no, Naomi, I am not leaving you. Wherever you go I will go. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God."

Finally Naomi agreed to take Ruth with her and together they set off to find Naomi's distant relatives. When they arrived it was harvest time. Naomi told Ruth, "Follow along in the fields and if you see corn being dropped, gather it up and bring it to me so that we can bake and eat bread tonight."

Now Boaz saw Ruth in the field and asked his workers, "What's the name of that new girl and where does she come from?". Then had a quiet word with his workers, "When you see Ruth gathering grain in my fields, don't try to stop her but secretly drop more corn for her to pick up".

At the end of the day, Ruth took a huge bag of corn back to Naomi, "Ruth how did you get so much? Whose fields were you working in?" Ruth replied, "I think they said his name was Boaz - and I think he must like me". Naomi remembered the name from a long time ago and said to Ruth, "For the rest of harvest time, don't go anywhere else, just keep going back to Boaz's fields".

At the end of the harvest Boaz decided that he wanted Ruth to be his wife and he would look after Naomi. The only way he could do it legally was if he bought the land that belonged to Naomi's husband. So a meeting was set up in the marketplace.

Boaz said, "You are my witnesses. I want to buy the land that belonged to Naomi's husband and look after Naomi and marry Ruth". Everyone agreed. So Boaz and Ruth were happily married and Naomi was cared for. And all because Ruth's friendship meant that she could not bear to be parted from Naomi.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: You Don't Have to be Famous to be Important (Christmas)**

**Memory line:** "The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends."  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What makes you feel important? To treat someone like a king? To treat them like a celebrity?... It is to treat them with respect.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "You don't have to be famous..."  
(Luke 2)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator  
Shepherds  
Angels  
Mary and Joseph  
Baby Jesus

**Materials needed:**

Four stables  
Manger  
Sheep  
Star

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** What makes you feel important? What can we do to help others feel important?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, thank you that each one of us is important. Help us to treat others so that they feel important as well. Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

### **“You don’t have to be famous to be important (CHRISTMAS) (Luke 2)**

It was very dark and quiet up on the hillside. It was cold. Some shepherds sat around a fire, huddled in their cloaks. Even the sheep were cuddled up together to keep warm.

The shepherds felt grumpy. “Everyone else is down in the town enjoying their warm beds. It’s not fair!” said one.

“I bet they don’t even think of us up here. No one brings us any warm food!” said another shepherd.

“They don’t even bother to thank us for keeping their sheep safe at night and they even complain that we smell!” said the third one.

“Nothing exciting ever happens up here. I hate these winter nights.”

Suddenly the whole area became brighter than the sunniest day might be. The shepherds were absolutely terrified, not understanding what was happening. Eventually they could see what was making the light; it was thousands of angels covering the sky and singing loudly and joyfully.

The shepherds had never seen one angel, never mind thousands of them and they felt very worried. Why had they been singled out! What had they done!

The senior angel stepped forward.” Please don’t be scared of us! We have come to give you some really good news from God. The special King you have all been waiting for has just been born in Bethlehem in a stable. Mary and Joseph his parents used a cattle feeding trough for his cradle. He will grow up to be a great leader of God’s people. God wanted you to be the first to find out because he knows that although you are poor and rejected by the other people, you love God very much. He wants you to know that you are very important to him!”

Then the angels left the sky and the shepherds were very excited. They determined to leave straight away; no one wanted to miss this amazing event so they left the sheep by themselves. They ran down the hillside and entered Bethlehem, knocking on a number of doors but no one seemed to know what they were talking about.

Eventually they noticed a bright star shining over a low building and they went to investigate. A soft voice invited them inside and they found Mary, Joseph and the special baby there in the stable.

“You are our first visitors,” said Joseph. “We feel very honoured to welcome you! You must have come a long way from the hills above the town. Thank you so much for coming!”

The shepherds felt very special and important now. They were so pleased that they had believed the angels and come to visit the special baby.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Disabilities – Mephibosheth’s Accident**

**Memory line:** “The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What is disability?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Mephibosheth’s Accident” (2 Samuel 4:4)**

[c.f. <http://www.pbv.thunder-bay.on.ca/NetSermons/2Samuel4-4str.html>]

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Mephibosheth (Mephi)

Nurse/servant

Soldiers

King David

**Materials needed:**

Stage Left: Mephibosheth’s humble house (brown, black, poverty...).  
Nurse and servant carry in Mephibosheth, sit him on a chair and wrap his legs in a blanket (showing he doesn't have the use of his legs). The soldiers need a door to bang on.

Stage centre: A chariot to ride from house to palace (A wheelchair? or a real chair carried like a Sudan chair?)

Stage Right: The king's palace (Gold, silver, purple, richness...)

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** What kinds of disabilities do people have?  
What does it feel like to have a disability?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, help us never to exclude someone just because they have a disability. Help us to find ways to include them. Amen.”

**Sing a Song:**

## Disabilities – Mephibosheth's Accident - 2 Samuel 4:4

We are at the home of Mephibosheth (but we will just call him Mephi). A group of soldiers have marched down the road and one of them is banging on the door and shouting, "King David wants to see you now!".

Mephi doesn't answer the door because for one thing he can't walk on his own, but the other reason is that he is suddenly very, very scared. All the bad memories of what happened when he was five came flooding back.

"When I was little my life was great. My father was Prince Jonathan and his father was King Saul. I had the best house, the best food, the best presents and I had servants to look after me. That is until that awful day when both my father and grandfather were killed in battle and everyone in the house had to run and hide or we would all be killed too". The nurse continues the story, "He was only little and he wasn't running away fast enough. So I picked him up and started to run with him in my arms. But it wasn't long before I stumbled and dropped him and he landed badly on his back and since then he hasn't been able to move either of his legs."

The soldiers bang on the door again. Mephi continues, "That is reason why I am so frightened now. We have been living in secret for many years and had begun to feel that we were safe". The nurse explains, "Somehow the new king has found out about us and where we live. This will be the end for all of us in this house".

The banging at the door was very loud now. A servant opened the door and let the soldiers in. "Where is Mephibosheth?" The soldiers picked up Mephi and carried him to a chariot and set off at speed. At last they carried Mephi into the king's court and sat him down in front of the king. Mephi trembled with fear as he heard the king call his name, "Mephibosheth". He bowed and started to say, "Your servant..." but he suddenly realised that the king's voice didn't sound very angry.

"Mephibosheth, I am King David. Your father Jonathan was my best friend. I have been very busy but after Jonathan was killed in battle I promised myself: When I have time I will search for his family. I will do what I can for them in memory of my friendship with Jonathan. I am glad I have found you at last. I will restore to you all the property belonging to your father and you can eat at my table."

So we see that in God's world we should never give up hope. Mephi lost his father, lost his royal position, lost the use of his legs and had to live in hiding. Life was pretty miserable until the day the king's soldiers came.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Individuality (appearance) - - Absalom's Fine Hair**

**Memory line:** "The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends."  
(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What sort of things do you notice about people that make them stand out?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Absalom's Fine Hair" (2 Samuel 14-18)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator  
Absalom  
King David  
Joab  
Girl servant 1 & 2  
A tree (to snare Absalom's hair)

**Materials needed:**

Wig for Absalom  
Stage left: King's palace  
Stage centre: Battlefield with forest (well a tree!)  
Stage right: Absalom's hideaway

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** What makes you an individual? What does it feel like to stand out from the crowd?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to recognise what it is in other people that makes them individual. Help us celebrate our individuality (and use it for good). Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

## Individuality (appearance) – Absalom’s Fine Hair - 2 Samuel 14, 15, 18

King David is at dinner. Absalom, the king's son, bursts in, angry, and starts shouting, "This morning my sister Tamar came running to me in tears, and it is all my brother Amnon's fault. What he has done is unforgiveable, & you father must punish him!". The king replied, "Leave it with me". So Absalom left, but he was not satisfied.

Absalom waited but the king did not punish Amnon and so Absalom plotted some revenge himself. He had Amnon killed. When King David heard the news he wept bitterly, "My son! My son, Amnon, dead!". Absalom thought to himself, "My father is so upset, he will be furious with me and want to punish me." So he ran away and hid. During that time Absalom started planning. "I blame my father for what has happened. He is no good as a king. I could be a better king myself."

One of King David's trusted soldiers, Joab, knew that the king was missing his son Absalom, so he went to the king and asked, "O merciful king, isn't it time that your son Absalom should be back with you?" The king replied, "Yes, but I will not allow him to be with me face-to-face". So Absalom was allowed back, but after two more years, because he could not be with the king, he was even more unhappy. "I'll send a message to Joab - he'll speak to the king for me". But Joab would not come so Absalom raged against Joab, "Joab disobeyed me, so I will burn all his crops."

Despite being such an angry man, many people liked Absalom. Girl servant, "I think Absalom is the most handsome man in the whole nation!" Girl servant 2, "I would recognise him anywhere by his hair. It is so long and blonde!" Absalom was easily able to persuade people to follow him and it was not long before he had raised an army. "Now I am ready to fight my father for his kingdom."

When the King heard that his son Absalom had raised up an army against him he wept, "Absalom my son, how has it come to this - that we must meet in battle". David gave strict orders to his soldiers, "Deal gently for my sake with Absalom".

But on the day of the battle king David's army was strongest and Absalom had to escape riding on a mule. Unfortunately as he rode for his life through dense forest Absalom's long hair tangled in an overhead branch and jerked him off his mule. Before he could set himself free, David's soldiers caught up with him. They knew that they were not supposed to harm Absalom, but Joab stepped forward and killed him.

Absalom allowed his anger to grow. He used his appearance and popularity to get people on his side. It didn't pay, and then he died and lost everything.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Poverty - Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets: Puppet discuss** what it means to be poor. Is it money? Possessions? Knowledge?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): "Poverty" (I Kings 17:8-24)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Elijah

Widow

Son

**Materials needed:**

Stage left: The brook where Elijah is hiding

Stage centre: The town gate, the well, firewood lying around

Stage right: The widow's house, fireplace/oven, flour jar, oil jug

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Is it right that some are rich and some are poor?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to recognise when we have more than we need and be prepared to share with others. Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

### Poverty - Elijah and the widow at Zarephath (I Kings 17:8-24)

Elijah the prophet was hiding by the brook at the place God had told him. But there had been no rain anywhere in the country for months and the brook that he was drinking from was drying up. On the day that there was no water at all God told Elijah to go to the city and ask for help from a widow.

By the time he had walked all day to the city he was very thirsty. But when he got to the city walls he saw a woman gathering firewood. He could hardly speak "Please get me a little water from the well". As she turned to get it he added "And a little bread too, please".

"I'll tell you the truth sir, I am a poor widow. With these sticks I am going home to light a fire and bake some bread and that will be the last meal for my son and me. Back at home we only have a little flour in a jar and a spoonful of oil in a jug. There is nothing else to eat. After this last meal we will starve."

"Don't be afraid", said Elijah, "Go back home and do what you said, but bring me the first loaf that you make - then go back and make a loaf for you and your son. The Lord God promises you that your flour and oil will not run out".

When she got home her son met her and said, "Mum, I am so hungry - how quickly can you make bread?" The widow said, "My son, while I was gathering firewood, I met a man who was hungry too. He gave me a promise from God. If I make the first bread for him, then our flour will not run out and our oil jug will not empty." The son was in tears, "But mum, what if it doesn't work - then there will be nothing at all for us".

The widow kissed her son and dried his tears. She lit the fire and made the bread and baked it. When it was ready it smelt so good and her son looked longingly at her. But she shook her head at him and turned and took the warm bread out of the house and gave it to Elijah. Then she turned to go home wondering what to say to her son.

But her son met her at the door with a big smile. "Mum, mum, I was waiting for you to come back and then I saw it. There is flour in the jar again and there is oil in the jug - enough to make us food for weeks!"

So the widow, poor as she was, still chose to give away what she had. And she found that God's promise was true. She and her son did not starve.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Health - Naaman the leper**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** Puppets discuss what it is like to have a (long term, incurable) health problem.

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** Naaman the Leper (2 Kings 5)

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Naaman

Servant girl

Naaman's king

King of Israel

Elisha

Elisha's servant

Naaman's servants

**Materials needed:**

Stage left: Naaman at the King of Aram's palace

disposable gloves marked with blotches to simulate skin disease

gold, silver, clothing, letter

Stage centre-left: King of Israel's palace

Stage center-right: Elisha's house

Stage right: River Jordan

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** What kinds of long term illness have you met?

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, we all have little illnesses and recover from them. Please help us to care for those whose illness will not go away. Amen.”

**Sing a Song:**

## Health - Naaman the leper (2 Kings 5)

Naaman was commander of the king's army. He was a great man and highly respected. He was a valiant soldier. But he had a disease that affected his skin and his men would not shake his hand or touch him - in fact they did not want to come close to him at all.

But a young girl who was servant to Naaman's wife said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet Elisha in Israel he could be cured."

Naaman went to his king and asked permission to go and the king agreed. The king dictated a letter to the king of Israel saying, "I am sending you Naaman my trusted commander so that you can cure him of his disease."

So Naaman set off and his servants carried gifts of gold and silver and clothing for the king of Israel. When Naaman arrived at the palace he handed over the letter to the king of Israel.

When he read the letter the king became very upset. "I can't work miracles. Is this a trap? If I don't heal this man will it start a war? Who can help me?"

But when Elisha heard of this he sent a message to the King of Israel and said, "Send the man to me and he will see that God is at work in Israel".

When Naaman arrived at Elisha's house, Elisha sent a servant out to say to him, "My master Elisha says: Go wash yourself 7 times in the river Jordan and you will be healed."

On hearing this Naaman turned away angry. "Why didn't Elisha come out and see me himself. Why must it be the river Jordan, there are perfectly good rivers back at home." And stormed off in a rage.

But Naaman's servants ran after him and said, "If you had been asked to do something really difficult you would have done it, wouldn't you? Why can't you do this simple thing?"

Eventually Naaman calmed down and he went to the river Jordan and he dipped himself 7 times and his skin was completely cured.

He returned to Elisha's house and said, "I now believe in your God, he is the one with the power to heal."

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Bullying - Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What is it like to be bullied?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Bullying (Daniel 3)**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

King Nebuchadnezzar

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Spies, servants, soldiers

Mysterious extra figure in furnace

**Materials needed:**

Stage left: King's Palace (blue, purple cloth)

Stage centre: Gold statue (gold, yellow cloth)

Stage right: Furnace (red, orange cloth; allow entry from rear)

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** What kinds of bullying have you met?

(playground, street, internet; 1 person, group of people; calling names, physical hurt, demand money)

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to stand up to bullying and help others in trouble from bullying. Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

**Bullying Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego (Daniel 3)**

King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue and set it up in the square. "When you hear my musicians playing you must ALL bow down and worship this statue. If you do not bow down you will be thrown into a blazing furnace".

The punishment the king threatened sounded terrible. When people heard the music they instantly stopped what they were doing and bowed down to worship.

But the king's spies went to the king and told him, "O mighty king there were three people who are disobeying your decree - and the names of these three are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego".

The king was furious with rage and shouted out an order, "Bring me Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego". When they were brought to him he demanded an answer from them. "Is it true? I put you in charge of the whole of Babylon and this is how you repay me. I hear that you do not bow down to the statue I made?"

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego spoke boldly to the king, "O King, we will not offer any excuses. We have not bowed down. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace we believe that our God will save us. But even if he does not save us we want you to know that we WILL NOT bow down to your statue".

On hearing this the king became even angrier and his attitude to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego changed. He gave orders, "Make my furnace ten times hotter than normal". "Where are my strongest soldiers?" "Tie up these men as tightly as you can and throw them into the furnace".

The king's orders were so urgent and the furnaces so hot that it killed the men who pushed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in.

Then the king leapt up and shouted, "Didn't I command you to throw 3 men into the furnace". The people close by replied, "Certainly, O King". The king continued, "So why do I see 4 men walking round, unbound and unharmed?" "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the most high God, come out."

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out and the crowd were amazed, "The fire has not harmed their bodies!" "Their clothes are not burned!" The king said, "You impress me by risking your lives to stay true to your God. I am going to promote you".

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Death - The Widow of Nain**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** How do you feel when someone close to you dies?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Death Luke 7:11-18**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Jesus

+Disciples of Jesus and a large crowd of followers(=children)

Widow

Widow's only son

+Large crowd of Mourners (1 speaker + children)

**Materials needed:**

Stage centre: Son's body lying on a bier

body wrapped in white winding sheet

with a white handkerchief over face

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** How do you comfort people in a family when someone dies?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, it is sad when someone dies. Please help us if we are sad and help us to be kind to others who are sad. Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

**Death Luke 7 The Widow of Nain**

The people of the town felt so sorry for the widow. The mourners were crying. The widow was crying:

"It wasn't so long ago when my husband died".

"Now my only son has died too". "What will I do?".

"I have no money and I will have to beg to keep myself alive".

Amidst all their grief and crying they didn't notice another large crowd coming down the road towards them. There was a buzz of excitement in this crowd. They were all talking about one man - the one they were following along the road.

"Did you see what Jesus did in the last town we passed".

"He healed that servant boy without even seeing him".

"I'm going to stay close to Jesus and find out what else he might do".

As he came closer to the widow, Jesus felt her pain and walked over to her. The noise from the crowd suddenly stopped and the only sound that could be heard was the sobbing of the poor widow. Jesus waited until she looked up at him and then he said to her, "**Don't cry**". Then he moved towards the body and held out his hand and touched it. Everyone in the crowd stood absolutely still and watched to see what Jesus would do. Jesus said, "**Young man, I say to you, get up!**".

There was an agonising pause when nothing happened at all. There was no sound - you could have heard a pin drop. Then suddenly the young man started moving - and there was a gasp from the crowd. The young man sat up:

"Where am I?"

"Who are you?"

"Where is my mother?"

Jesus smiled and helped the young man to stand up. He guided him over to where his mother was standing. She was too surprised at first to move. Then suddenly she was crying again - but this time the tears were tears of happiness. She stepped forward and hugged her son:

"Oh my son you have come back to me!"

"How could this be?"

"I thought I had lost you!"

"Thank you sir. Thank you Jesus."

"I don't know what I have done to deserve this." - So you see even the sadness of death can be taken away by Jesus.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Keeping Confidences - Jesus commands the healed not to talk**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** Can you keep a secret? (e.g. surprise party?)

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** Keeping Confidences Matt. 9:28-36

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Blind man 1

Blind man 2

Voice in the crowd 1

Voice in the crowd 2

Jesus

**Materials needed:**

Stage left: Blind men's house. Flowers on the table

Stage right: House for Jesus to visit

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Is it ever allowed to tell a secret?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, there may be things we know that we are not supposed to tell other people. Help me to be someone who can be trusted. Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

### **Keeping Confidences - Matt. 9:28-36 - Jesus commands the healed not to talk**

In a certain village there lived two men who had been blind from birth. The 2 men were feeling miserable. **"Its a lovely sunny day - I wish I could see the colours"**. **"These flowers smell wonderful and I can touch them but I wish I could see them"**.

While they were feeling sorry for themselves they heard the sound of a large number of people passing by outside their house . So they came to the window and listened. They heard people talking about a travelling teacher and the healing that he did. Someone outside in the crowd said, **"Who is this teacher?"**. A voice replied, **"His name is Jesus"**. **"I have heard him called Son of David!"**. **"Whoever he is, he can heal all kinds of illness"**.

One of the blind men said, **"Healing all kinds of illness! - I wonder if that includes blindness?"**. The other blind man said, **"Let's see if we can get someone to take us to him"**. So they went outside and said **"We are blind - will you guide us to where the healer is?"**.

Someone said **"We are all following Jesus. Both of you hold on to me and we will go together"**. So they joined the crowd that was following Jesus around. The 2 blind men wanted Jesus to heal them, so they started calling out to him, **"Have mercy on us, Son of David"**. **"Have mercy on us, Son of David"**.

Jesus came to a house and went indoors. This worried the blind men, **"Where has the healer gone?"** **"We can't hear his voice anymore."** **"Take us to where the healer is"**. So the blind men were helped inside the house and taken close to Jesus. Jesus turned to the blind men and said, **"Do you really believe that I am able to heal you?"**. They replied, **"Yes, Lord"**. **"Yes, Lord"**.

Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, **"Because you believed, it will be done for you"**. And suddenly they were able to see again. The men started shout out what had happened, **"Its wonderful, I was blind but now I can see."** **"Jesus did this for me"**. But Jesus warned them sternly, **"SEE THAT YOU TELL NO-ONE ABOUT THIS!"**.

But they were so happy they couldn't understand why they should keep it a secret and they went out of the house and told everyone they met, so the news spread about the whole region.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Generosity - Father and Prodigal Son**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** What does it mean to be generous? (more than just giving?)

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children):** Generosity Luke 15:11-32

**Cast needed:** Narrator

Father

Older son (non-speaking part)

Younger son

**Materials needed:**

Stage left: Father's home

bag of money (or equivalent)

Stage right: Distant country:

a) place of partying

b) pig pen

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** In what ways can we show generosity? (time, money, possessions)

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, Help us not just to be givers but to be generous givers Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

**Generosity    Luke 15:11-32    Father and Prodigal Son**

There was once a father who had two sons. He was very proud of his older son. The older son was strong and fit and worked long hours looking after his father's herds. His younger son was a bit of a problem. Compared to his brother the younger son appeared lazy and seemed to spend all his days dreaming about far off places. One day he came up to his father and said:

**"Father, you know that you said that when you die, half of all this will be mine and half will go to my brother".** His father said, **"Yes, son"**. The son replied, **"Well can I have my half share now?"** Reluctantly the father agreed, **"Yes, my son if that is what you want you can have half the sheep, half the goats, half of everything I own - but what are you going to do?"**

With tears in his eyes the father watched his son selling his share and taking all the money and setting off for an adventure in a distant country.

But the son did not spend the money wisely. He held big parties night after night and soon the money was all gone. When a famine struck the country and he could not afford food, he took the only job he could get, looking after pigs. He was at rock bottom. **"Look at me now. I have no money. I am starving hungry. Even the pigs are eating better than me."** That night, as he was crying himself to sleep, he had an idea, **"The workers at my father's place are better off than me."** **"Perhaps I could go back to my father and tell him how sorry I am. Perhaps he will take me back as a paid worker?"** And so in the morning he set off home.

But while he was still a long way off his father sensed something and looked up. **"Surely it can't be?" "My son?" "Coming back?"** And he set off running to meet his son. And when the two met the father hugged his son and kissed him. And the son said, **"Father what I did was wrong, so very wrong. I'm sorry. I don't deserve to be taken back as your son. But will you just give me a job ....?"**

But the father said to his servants, **"Quick, kill the fatted calf, make preparations for a great feast - you are all invited. Give my son some fine clothes to wear and seat him at the head of the table with me. We must celebrate this wonderful day. I thought my son was lost, but now he is back with us again."**

It was a wonderful, happy party and everyone joined in and had a great time celebrating the return of the father's younger son. Everyone that is except the older son.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Breaking the rules - Jesus heals on the Sabbath Day**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** Couldn't I break the rules, just a little bit? Drive the car a little bit too fast otherwise I would be late?

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Breaking the rules - Luke 13:10-17**

**Cast needed:** Narrator (speaking the thoughts of the disabled woman)

Disabled woman

Voice/Helper in crowd

Jesus

Temple leader(s)

**Materials needed:**

The temple:

its Doorway

its Back Wall

its Teaching Platform

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Is it ever right to break the rules?

**Short Prayer:** "Dear God, Help us to try to be rule followers, not rule breakers. When things get tough help us to see clearly what is most important. Amen."

**Sing a Song:**

**Breaking the rules Luke 13:10-17 Jesus heals on the Sabbath Day**

Look at the state of me. No, I am not searching for a lost coin. I am stuck like this. In fact I have been stuck like this for 18 years. It is a miserable existence. I talk to people's feet and they talk to the back of my head. I go to the temple every week and pray that something will happen to release this lock in my back. In fact I am going in now - why don't you come in with me?

I can hear a new voice doing the teaching today. You can tell he is a good teacher because there is absolute hush - everyone is paying attention to what he is saying. I'll just stand quietly here at the back, up against the wall.

(Jesus) **"Woman come over here to me"**. What's this he is saying? He wants someone to go to him. (Voice beside woman) **"Its you, he wants you to go to him. Here let me help you"**.

(Jesus) **"Woman, you are set free from your infirmity"**. I can feel his hands touching me gently on the back. Oooh, that feels good. If only I could see his face. Could I lift my head a little? Yes! **"Look, I can stand upright! Oh, thank you God!"**

(Temple leaders) **"Stop!, we are in charge in this temple". "Have you all forgotten the law". "That's not allowed". "There are six days in the week to work". "It is breaking the rules to heal someone on the Sabbath". "Come for healing on the other six days"**.

(Jesus) **"So you don't do any work at all on the Sabbath?"**. **"Is that what you are saying?"**. **"You did not feed your animals this morning?"**. **"You are not going to let anyone in your house cook a meal for you today?"**. **"What about if someone had a bad accident today, would you call a doctor?"**. (Temple leaders) **Umm...**

(Jesus) **"I thought so." "Well then, you should not try to stop me from healing this woman on the Sabbath day"**.

Later on, when things had quietened down, I found out that the teacher's name was Jesus. He healed me on the Sabbath day. And I am eternally grateful that he did. And I found out that the rule about the Sabbath wasn't really about NOT doing things, but more about what I SHOULD be doing - keeping the Sabbath day special, holy, a day to be close to God.

**FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:**

**Social Issue: Ambition - James and John being next to Jesus**

**Memory line:** The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.

(John 15:13)

**Sing a Song:**

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

**Bible Facts with Puppets:** When I grow up I want to be... (puppets try to outdo each other in wanting to achieve even higher goals) [e.g. Be the best athlete in the school, in the county, in the country, at the Commonwealth games, at the Olympic Games]

**Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Ambition - Mark 10**

**Cast needed:** Narrator

James

John

Jesus

Other 10 companions of Jesus

**Materials needed:**

Stage left:

James and John, washing before the meal

Stage right:

Other 10 companions around a table

**Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive):** Are their good ambitions and bad ambitions? [Is it good to admire someone and to want to be as good as them at what they do. Is it bad to see someone doing a job that you want to do and planning to take it from them?]

**Short Prayer:** “Dear God, Help us to be the best we can at what we do, and always looking out to help others be the best they can too. Amen.”

**Sing a Song:**

**Ambition     Mark 10:35-45 - James and John being next to Jesus**

(James) Us two brothers have been following Jesus from the very beginning, right, John?

(John) Yes, James, we are 2 of his 12 closest companions.

(James) So what do you think will be our reward for staying with Jesus?

(John) Well, I hadn't really thought about it, but it ought to be pretty special.

(James) I think we should have a word in his ear, make a suggestion...

When Jesus enters the room and comes over to James and John, they decide the time is right...

(Jesus) Hello James. Hello John.

(James) Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask.

(Jesus) What is it you want me to do for you?

(John) When you are crowned king, we want to have the best places beside you, one on the right and one on the left.

(Jesus) What! You don't understand what you are asking. Can you go through all that I have to go through?

(James & John) We can!

(Jesus) Truly, you will go through all that I have to go through. But it is not for me to say who is to sit on my left and right.

Now the other 10 close companions of Jesus had come over to listen in to the conversation and the more they heard the angrier they got with James and John for trying to get the best places. Jesus held up his hands for quiet and started to teach them.

(Jesus) You think that 'to be great' means you have power and authority to command people to do exactly as you say. But I say that in my kingdom the mark of greatness is to want to be a servant to all. I, myself, did not come to be served, but to serve.

All 12 of Jesus close companions were stunned by what Jesus said. Once again he seemed to be taking things they thought they understood and turning them upside down. So, was it allowed to be ambitious - or not? What was it they were supposed to do to please him?

**THE END – If you would like to view other assemblies' series – [www.funfish.org.uk](http://www.funfish.org.uk)**