

Mission Impossible

Learning to take Initiatives

Learning from Impossible Missions in the Bible

For KS2 (8-11 year olds)



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2 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Table of Contents

Mission Impossible.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
Basic Structure	4
Materials Needed for RE Assemblies.....	5
Mission 1: Be Helpful - Noah Saves His Family	6
Mission 2: Be Generous - Joseph Feeds the World	8
Mission 3: Ask for Help - Gideon and his 300 men.....	10
Mission 4: Honour Heroes - Samson Protects His Country (Remembrance Day)	12
Mission 5: Be Brave - A Big Sister Saves Her Brother	14
Mission 6: Accepting Challenges: A Young Woman Says, “Yes!” (Christmas).....	16
Mission 7: Be True to Your Friends - Joshua Tells the Sun to Stop.....	18
Mission 8: Show Respect - Messenger Boy	20
Mission 9: Listen to Good Advice - Solomon and the Baby	22
Mission 10: Be Strong - Jeremiah’s Burnt Up Scroll.....	24
Mission 11: Do the Best You Can - Wise and Foolish Builders	26
Mission 12: Tell the Truth (Easter).....	28
Mission 13: Care for the Poor - Rich man and Lazarus	30
Mission 14: Keep those Promises - Parable of the Great Banquet.....	32
Mission 15: Help the Sick - The Blind Beggar.....	34
Mission 16: Choose Good Friends - The First Followers.....	36
Mission 17: Don’t Give Up - Peter Escapes from Prison	38
Mission 18: Choose a Job – Paul on the Road to Damascus.....	40

Welcome to Fun Fish RE Assemblies!

Children will have some challenges in life, sometimes like in the “**Mission Impossible**” movies. Their “mission” might seem impossible – to live in this world as well-adjusted individuals, but if they are given the right resources, it becomes a “**Possible Mission.**” And if fun is added in, they can enjoy it.

In this RE Assemblies series the children will look at how various people in the Bible succeeded with impossible missions in their lives. In each RE Assembly the children are given opportunities to investigate the mission and see what they can learn from it. They are given space to reflect on the challenges of each mission, and are given the forum to express how they think it would apply to their lives.

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 props are bold coloured 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 for us on the Fun Fish Website: www.funfish.org or e-mail: funfish@navigators.co.uk

Enjoy this exciting adventures of “**Mission Impossible.**”

4 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Basic Structure For a 15 minute RE Assembly

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

Welcome: (½ minute)

Introduce the RE Assembly Theme.

Introduce Bible Theme with Puppets: (2 minute)

The puppets act out a short sketch giving an example of the theme, or on occasion review the memory line. (a flash card PDF file of the memory line, a verse from the Bible, is available for download)

Bible Story (Spontaneous Drama): (8 minutes)

Present the story by:

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

Reflective Time with Puppets: (2 minutes)

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

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

Always take seriously what they say.

Prayer: (½ minute)

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

Closing Theme Song: (2 minutes)

Materials Needed for RE Assemblies

Remember to arrive early and set up!

What to bring to every assembly:

- Memory line:
- Puppets
- Safety pins, tape, string
- Name Badges for each one on the assembly team
- Words for songs: memory stick, or acetates for an Overhead Projector

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

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

6 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 1: Be Helpful - Noah Saves His Family

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Welcome: Introduce team and welcome children

Sing a Song: “Your Mission Is This, If You Accept” – use drums to keep the rhythm

Puppets Introduce Idea of Missions: Introduce the idea of life being full of impossible missions. The Bible tells of many people who had to do impossible things, but they did them. We too can go out there and do the impossible.

Game: A blind-folded child is guided through obstacles by another child, but only by speaking instructions. It shows how impossible missions can be.

Materials needed: blind fold; obstacles, like pylons or balls

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Noah Builds a Boat (Genesis 6 -8)

Cast: Narrator

Noah and Noah’s wife

Three Sons

Mockers

Children to hold toy animals

Materials needed:

A book – “Ark Building for Dummies” for Noah, given by God

Brown cloth for boat in centre stage

Blue cloth for flood

Rainbow

Puppet animals or cuddly toy animals to go in the ark

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is it a good idea to be helpful? If you have ever been helpful, how did it make you feel?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to help others and not be afraid. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

7 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 1: Noah and the Boat (Genesis 6-8)

Things couldn't get much worse. Murder. Stealing. Lying. There was no end to evil, and God tried to stop it. But people didn't listen and did what they wanted.

But one man was good, Noah. He caught God's attention. "Noah," said God, "There is evil everywhere. I'm going to flood the earth and start over again. You must build a boat."

God showed Noah how to build the boat. It had to be big enough and strong enough to carry Noah and his family (He had a wife, three sons and each son was married) and two of every animal on earth. God showed Noah how to paint the boat so water couldn't get in.

Noah listened and did exactly what God said. But in those days they had no skill saws or sawmills. Everything had to be done by hand. It took Noah and his family 100 years to build that boat. But then the ark was huge, 450 feet (137.2 meters) long, 75 feet (22.9 meters) wide and 45 feet (13.7 meters) high. It was as big as a school!

People came to watch Noah build the boat. They laughed at him. They even made jokes about him. But Noah didn't stop. He just looked up from his work and said, "God says that the world is evil and he is sending a flood. Maybe you should build a boat as well."

"What a lunatic," shouted the people.

Finally Noah and his sons finished building the boat and filled it with food for themselves and the animals. They had done their job, now it was God's turn. Suddenly animals appeared two by two and climbed into the boat. Then the first rain drops started to fall. Noah and his family ran into the boat and God shut the door behind them.

Rain started pouring down in torrents. The earth burst open and water gushed up from below. It began to rise, higher and higher. The boat shifted. It started to float. But it kept on raining and soon the mountains disappeared.

For a whole year Noah and his family floated in that boat, waiting for God to do something. God remembered them and made the flood go down. They finally hit a mountain side. They still had to wait.

Finally God spoke. "Noah, the land is dry. You can get off the boat. But I am sad about the flood and never want to do that again. I will put a rainbow in the sky to remind me to never flood the earth again."

Imagine the noise as everyone ran off the boat? Imagine how Noah felt? He had fulfilled his mission. He had saved his family and thousands of animals.

8 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 2: Be Generous - Joseph Feeds the World

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Welcome: Introduce team and theme: Missions are always a challenge, especially when things go wrong. Introduce the idea that we can always share.

Sing a Song: “Your Mission is This if You Accept” (with drums and clapping)

Puppet Introduces Theme: Memory Line Game: Read the memory line through and then remove one card at a time. Can the children still say it with no cards visible? See which ones can say it loudest afterwards, boys or girls.

Materials needed: memory line cards

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Joseph Feeds the World (Genesis 37 -44)

Cast needed for story:

- Narrator
- Joseph
- Cupbearer
- King
- Soldiers
- Eleven brothers

Materials needed:

- Swords and Helmets for the soldiers
- Crown and Robe for king
- Goblet and jug for the cupbearer

Puppet Chat on Theme (interactive): If you are hungry, where do you go to get some food? What if the fridge is empty? The cupboards? How would you feel?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to share the good things we have. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

9 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 2: Joseph Feeds the World (Genesis 37 – 44)

Twelve brothers lived in the same house, but they hated Joseph. They sold him as a slave. Someone else hated him when he was a slave. They threw him into prison, but God kept helping Joseph. Soon he was in charge of the prison.

One day the king’s cupbearer was thrown into a cell. He had a dream and it bothered him. “Tell me your dream,” said Joseph. “God knows the meaning of every dream.”

The cupbearer looked up at Joseph. “My dream is this,” said the cupbearer. “I picked three bunches of good grapes and squeezed them into the king’s royal cup.”

“That is a good dream,” said Joseph. “God says that in three days you will be set free.” Three days later the king called the cupbearer back to work, just like Joseph had said.

Not long after the king woke up from a dream. “I had a terrible dream,” he cried. “Get me someone to explain it.” But there was no one who could.

Suddenly the cupbearer remembered Joseph. “O king,” said the cupbearer, “I almost forgot. There is a man in prison who explains dreams. He explained mine. God helps him.”

“Well!” cried the king. “Get him!”

Soldiers charged from the palace. They charged into prison. “Joseph, the king wants you RIGHT NOW!” They carried him to the king.

The king didn’t wait a minute. “I had a dream,” he said. “In it I saw seven nice fat cows, but seven skinny cows ate them up. Then I saw seven nice fat heads of grain, but seven skinny ones gobbled them up. Tell me what this means?”

Joseph nodded. “O King, God just gave me the answer. This is a warning. The fat cows and grain are seven good years. The thin cows and grain are seven bad years. There will be a horrible famine in seven years’ time, and it will last for seven years.”

The king smiled. “Joseph, you’re the man. I want you to get ready for this famine. I put you in charge of the country. Do whatever you need to do.”

The famine came seven years later and the country was ready. Soon Joseph’s brothers arrived to buy food. They met Joseph and their eyes almost popped out. “We are so sorry we sold you,” they cried. “We are SOOOO sorry.”

Joseph nodded. “I know. You meant to do bad, but God turned it around. He sent me ahead to keep you alive. He is so generous to you.”

10 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 3: Ask for Help - Gideon and his 300 men.

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song: “You’re Mission is this...”

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Memory Game: Pay attention. There is a pop quiz at the end.

Show the children a Bible... “Bible” comes from Greek word “Biblia,” and means “Books.” It has 66 books written in 3 languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. All the stories in these assemblies come from the Bible.

Materials needed: a BIG Bible

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Gideon and his 300 men

Cast needed: narrator

Gideon and his army

God

Enemy Army

Materials needed: Gideon’s army on one side of stage with torches and plastic bowls to cover the torches

Trumpets

River in centre stage (a blue cloth)

Enemy army with swords on other side of stage (wooden spoons, paper tubes are alternatives)

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What do you do when things go wrong? Do you ask for help? Memory Quiz: See if children can remember the Bible information.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to ask the right people for help. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

11 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 3: Gideon Leads an Army – His Mission: To Defeat the Enemy (Judges 7)

There was a problem. The enemy had invaded the land, but God wanted them out. He found a man to do it. “Gideon,” said God, “please rescue my people. I will help you.”

Gideon knew how big the enemy army was. They spread out in a valley like grasshoppers. They had so many camels, no one could count them. But Gideon only had 30,000 men in his own army. With God’s help they might just be able to win.

God had another plan. “Gideon,” said God, “you have too many men. If you win the battle, your men will take all the credit, instead of giving it to me. I want you to tell everyone who is afraid to go home.”

Gideon did and 20,000 men went home. Only 10,000 men wanted to stay with him. “You still have too many,” said God. “Take your men to the river.”

Gideon did what God wanted and took his men down to the river. The men flocked around the water to drink. “Gideon,” said God, “look at the men. Keep the ones who bend down and scoop up the water. Send home those who get down on their knees.”

Gideon watched them carefully. Only 300 men scooped up the water in their hands. Now only God could save them! Three hundred men was no army!

That night God woke Gideon. “Get up,” said God. “Take your 300 men and go fight the enemy. I will give them into your hand.”

Gideon woke his 300 men. “We must fight tonight,” he whispered.

He divided them into three groups and gave them each a trumpet, and a clay jar with a torch inside. He didn’t give them a sword. “Circle the enemy camp,” said Gideon. “Do exactly what I do, and then shout, ‘For God and for Gideon.’”

At midnight Gideon and his men tiptoed around the enemy camp, just after the changing of the guard. Suddenly Gideon blew his trumpet, broke his clay jar, and lifted the torch. “For God and for Gideon,” he shouted. The 300 men did the same. They stood there blowing, shouting and waving their torches.

The enemy woke up from deep sleep. They grabbed their swords and ran out of their tents. They started killing each other instead. They finished killing each other. So you see, God saved his people, just like he said he would.

12 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 4: Honour Heroes - Samson Protects His Country (Remembrance Day)

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Welcome: Introduce the theme of honouring heroes. Introduce the team and puppets.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Hero Game: Ask the children who is their hero. Choose three to come to the front and tell the school why these heroes are important to them. Everyone claps and cheers for each hero.

Materials needed: three children

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Samson Protects His Country. (Judges 16)

Cast: Narrator

Samson

Enemy

Servant

Materials needed:

A bed on one side of stage where Samson gets a haircut

A mill stone in centre of stage (a chair with a cloth over it)

A party on the other side of the stage. (two piles of chairs as two pillars)

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we remind ourselves to be thankful for our heroes, for those we look up to?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to be thankful for our heroes. Help us to be heroes in everything we do. Amen.”

Sing a Song: Your Mission is This if You Accept

13 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 6: Samson Finishes His Mission (Judges 16)

Samson, the strongest man on earth, had a mission. He had to protect God's people from the enemy. Samson also had a secret. If his hair was ever cut he became weak like any other man. He shouldn't have told anyone his secret, but he did. The enemy found out and tiptoed up to him one night. They cut off his hair.

Now Samson was weak. The enemy dragged him away. They poked his eyes out so he couldn't escape. Then they chained him to a giant millstone and made him grind flour. He pushed that stone around all day, every day. The enemy jeered at him. "Hey, Samson, you weakling, you can't escape us anymore."

Samson didn't answer, instead he prayed. "God," he said, "I was wrong to tell my secret. I'm sorry. Please give me back my strength." The years went by. Samson's hair grew.

One day the enemy rulers had a great party in their temple. It was packed full of enemy people. There were even three thousand people partying on the roof. They looked at their god, a half man, half fish statue, and raised their glasses. "Our god gave Samson to us. Our god is great," they shouted.

Someone had a bright idea. "Let's get Samson in here to show us his muscles."

The people cheered. "We want Samson! We want Samson!" A servant ran out to get him and led him to the middle of the temple, by the two pillars that held up the roof.

"Put my hands on the pillars," Samson told the servant, "so I can rest against them." The servant did.

Samson prayed in his heart to God in heaven, "O Lord, remember me. Please strengthen me once more and let me destroy the enemy for taking my eyes."

Samson braced himself against the pillars, one hand on each pillar. "Let me die with the enemy," he cried and he pushed with all his might.

The temple crashed down and dust filled the air. Everyone die. The enemy was destroyed, and Samson became a great hero. He had saved his country.

14 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 5: Be Brave - A Big Sister Saves Her Brother

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Welcome: Introduce the team and theme that everyone gets scared once in a while

Sing a Song: “Your Mission is This if You Accept”

Puppet Introduction of Theme: One of the puppets is scared of snakes. He sees one and hyperventilates... (story will be resolved at end of assembly)

Game/Competition on Theme: Who is the bravest in the school? A girl? A boy?

Blind fold the children and ask them to hold their arms out. Who can last the longest without reacting?

- Hop a pretend frog up their arm.
- Slide a fake snake across their arm
- Ask them to hold something – maybe a soggy paper towel

Materials needed: blind folds, frog, snake, soggy towel.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): A Big Sister Saves Her Brother (Exodus 1-2)

Cast needed: Narrator

Baby Moses

Princess and slaves

Miriam

Mother

Materials needed: basket, blanket and doll

River on one side of stage

Moses’ home on other side of stage.

Reeds to hid in for centre stage

Puppet Discussion about Theme (interactive): Puppet who is scared of snakes asks his friends for help. They aren’t afraid of snakes. They help him not to be.

Is there anything the children are afraid of? What would help them to be brave?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to learn how to be brave. Help us to help others be brave. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

15 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 4: A Big Sister Saves Her Brother (Exodus 1-2)

Long ago there was a slave girl called Miriam. She lived in terrible times. The king of the land had just made a law. He knew there were too many slaves in his country. He told all slaves mothers to throw their baby boys in the river. They could keep the girls alive.

Miriam saw lots of babies disappear. Then one day her mother had a baby. It was a boy! What would her mother do? “Please don’t throw him in the river,” Miriam whispered.

Miriam’s mother didn’t want to either. She was scared, but she hid her baby for three months. But the bigger babies get, the louder they get. Miriam’s mother couldn’t hide him anymore. “Miriam, come here,” she whispered. “Help me make a basket.”

Miriam and her mother made a basket. They covered the outside with tar. “What are you going to do?” asked Miriam.

Her mother sighed. “I’m going to put your brother inside and put him on the river. The basket will be like a boat. Maybe God will protect him.”

Miriam’s mother picked up her baby. She wrapped him in a blanket and put him in the basket. She put a lid on top. Then she and Miriam carried him to the river.

“I don’t want to leave him,” said Miriam’s mother, “but I have to go back to work.”

Miriam shook her head. “I’ll stay and keep an eye on him and see what happens.” Miriam hid in the reeds so no one could see her.

Miriam heard noise. She peeked through the reeds. It was a princess and her slaves. They were taking a walk along the shore. They would walk right by her brother.

Suddenly the princess spied the basket. “Slave,” she called, “bring that basket to me. I wonder what is inside.” The slave splashed in and gave the basket to the princess.

The princess opened it up. The baby was crying. “This is a slave baby,” she said.

Miriam suddenly felt brave. She had an idea, but it might cost her life. She ran up to the princess and bowed. “O Princess,” she said, “do you want me to find a slave woman to take care of this baby?”

The princess smiled. “Yes, go,” she said. “I shall adopt this baby and call him Moses.”

Miriam ran to her mother. “Come, Mum. A princess wants you to take care of our baby. She already gave him a name. Moses.” So Miriam saved her brother. She was brave.



16 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 6: Accepting Challenges: A Young Woman Says, “Yes!” (Christmas)

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce theme: Accepting Challenges. Introduce Fun Fish Team

Puppet Bible Facts: Did you know: 50 Bibles are sold every minute around the world. The Bible is the world’s bestselling book, but it is also the world’s most shoplifted book. Strange, because the Bible tells us not to do wrong.

This assembly is about how things went wrong, and someone accepted the challenge to set it right.

Materials needed: Show a Bible

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): A Young Woman Says, “Yes!” (Genesis 3, Luke 1)

Cast needed: narrator

Adam and Eve
God
Snake
Angel Gabriel
Mary

Materials needed: A garden on one side of stage (a green cape for snake)

A child to hold some branches as a tree, and a piece of fruit

Heaven in centre stage (A throne for God)

Mary in a house on other side of stage (blue cloth for Mary)

White cloth for Angel

Discussion on Theme (interactive): What challenge would you really like to accept in life?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for Jesus’ birth on Christmas day. Thank you for Mary accepting the challenge to be his mother. Help us to accept the challenges that come our way. Amen.”

Sing a Song: Mission Impossible Song

17 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 7: A Young Woman Says, “Yes!” (Christmas) (Genesis 3, Luke 1)

The Bible says God created a good world. He made everything we see on earth and he also made people. But people polluted the earth, they even hurt each other. God was sad, even though he still loved them. He came up with a plan on how to save the world.

Let’s start at the beginning... God made Adam and Eve and he gave them everything they needed. But he also gave them a rule, one little rule. It wasn’t a hard one to keep. God said, “Adam and Eve, it is so good to have you here. You can eat any fruit you want, except for one.” God pointed to it. “That one over there. If you eat it you will die.”

Adam and Eve nodded and did what God said, that is, until a serpent slithered up to them. “What did God actually say to you?” it hissed.

Eve answered. “God said we could eat anything we want, except the fruit on that tree over there. He said we mustn’t touch it or eat it, or we will die.”

“You won’t die,” said the serpent. “Your eyes will be opened and you will be able to see things like God.”

Eve looked at the fruit. It looked harmless enough. She took a bite and gave it to Adam. He ate it too.

Suddenly Adam and Eve knew they had done wrong. They didn’t drop dead that very instant, but they ruined their friendship with God. God was so sad. Adam and Eve hadn’t respected him, and it was like a wall between them and God.

But God still wanted to be friends. He came up with a plan, the best plan in the world. “Angel Gabriel,” called God.

Angel Gabriel, the chief angel in heaven, he came and bowed down to God. “Gabriel, It’s time to save the world. I want you to take a message to a young woman called Mary.”

Gabriel flew down. He stopped at Mary’s poor little house. “Mary,” said Gabriel, “God is with you.” But Mary started to tremble.

“Don’t be scared, Mary,” said Gabriel. “God wants you to have a baby and call him Jesus. He will be a king and save this world. He will set wrong things right.”

Mary stopped trembling. Gabriel kept talking. “Mary, God will put that special baby inside you. That baby will be called the Son of God. Okay?”

“Yes!” said Mary. “I will do what God wants.” Mary became a part of the mission, even though she was young and poor. She joined the adventure because she said, “Yes!”

18 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 7: Be True to Your Friends - Joshua Tells the Sun to Stop

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Welcome: Introduce the theme of helping each other. Introduce the team and puppets.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Helping Game: Two teams of three need to build a tower each. From blocks in centre stage the two teams must get their blocks to their side of the stage without moving their feet. The one with the biggest tower wins. The rest of school counts down from twenty. Puppets can help.

Materials needed: building tubs

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Joshua Tells the Sun to Stop. (Joshua 9–10)

Cast: Narrator

God

Joshua

Bad kings

People of Gibeon

Messenger

Materials needed:

Six crowns and their kings on one side of stage

Joshua and army with weapons on other side of stage

Gibeon in centre stage. With a messenger for the messenger (chairs with a brown cloth thrown over the top)

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): How can we help our friends? How can we be true to them?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to help others when they need it. Help us to be true to our friends. Amen.”

Sing a Song: Your Mission is This if You Accept

19 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 5: The Sun Stands Still (Joshua 9-10)

When God's people were finally freed from slavery, God chose a new leader, Joshua. "Joshua," God said, "your mission is to settle my people in their new land."

But there was a problem. The land had six cities and each city had its own king and army. These kings didn't like God's people living nearby and shook their spears at them. Only one city, Gibeon was smart. They made a treaty with Joshua.

The five other kings exploded. "Traitors!!" they shouted. "Gibeon will pay! Let's join armies and destroy that city. We will not let those traitors go over to the enemy side."

Those five kings attacked Gibeon, but somehow Gibeon managed to get a messenger out. "Please save us, Joshua," begged the messenger, "Five kings are attacking us."

Joshua pounded his fist into his hand. He called up his army. "We must go and save Gibeon," he said, "and we must leave tonight." The whole army scrambled to get ready.

Then Joshua remembered something important. He prayed to God. "God, I'm scared. I know we must go because we made a treaty with Gibeon, but we can't fight five kings."

"Don't be afraid," said God. "I have given those five kings and their armies into your hand. Not a single one of them will escape."

Joshua suddenly felt brave and he marched with his army twenty miles that night. They surrounded those five kings and their armies. They were all in their beds. "Attack," shouted Joshua.

What confusion! The five kings gave orders. The orders got mixed up. The kings did the wrong things. The soldiers panicked. They dropped their swords and ran. But by now the sun was going down again. The enemy would escape in the night.

Joshua looked up at the sun. "Stop!" he shouted. "Sun and moon, stop right where you are."

Guess what happened? God stopped the sun and moon. They didn't move for 24 hours. Never had this happened before. Never had God listened to a man like that. God was really fighting for his people.

At the end of the battle Joshua waved his sword. "God helped us and we helped Gibeon. God never lets us down." Joshua was true to God. He was true to his friends.

Mission 8: Show Respect - Messenger Boy

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song: “Your mission is this...”

Welcome: Introduce theme and team

Introduce Theme with Puppets: Puppets talk about respect. What is it?

Memory Line Game: Read the memory line through and then remove one card at a time.

Can the children still say it with no cards visible? See which ones can say it loudest afterwards, boys or girls.

Materials needed: memory line

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Messenger Boy (1 Samuel 3)

Cast needed: Narrator

God

Eli

Samuel

Material needed: a bed and pillow and blanket on one side of stage (a bed can be two chairs side by side)

Another room with a chair on other side of stage

Use a sheet as a wall between the two rooms

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Who are some people you respect? Why do you respect them?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to be respectful to people. Help us to encourage respect. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

21 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 8: Messenger Boy (1 Samuel 3)

Samuel was only a boy, but he lived in the temple and helped take care of things there. He even slept in the temple at night. One night God called to him. “Samuel! Samuel!”

Samuel didn’t recognize God’s voice. He jumped out of bed and ran to the chief priest’s room. “Here I am, Eli,” he said. “You called me,”

“No, I didn’t,” said Eli. “Go back and lie down.” So Samuel went back to his bed.

“Samuel! Samuel!” called God again.

Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. “Here I am, Eli. You called me.”

“My boy,” said Eli, “I did not call you. Go back to bed.”

Samuel was confused. Who could be calling him? Then he heard the voice a third time. “Samuel! Samuel!”

Samuel got up, because he respected Eli. He ran next door. “Here I am. You called.”

Eli suddenly realized God was calling Samuel. God hadn’t spoken to anyone in a long time and no one knew His voice. “Samuel,” said Eli, “go back and lie down. If you hear your name called again say, ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.’”

That was good advice. Samuel hurried back to his bed. When he lay down God came and stood before him. “Samuel! Samuel!” called God.

Samuel sat up. He knew what to say. “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

“I have a message for you” said God. “Eli’s sons have done bad things. I told Eli to tell them to stop. They didn’t, so now they are in big trouble.”

Samuel was scared. In the morning he got up and opened the temple gate, hoping Eli wouldn’t ask him what God had said. But Eli did. “Samuel,” called Eli.

Samuel ran to Eli. “Here I am,” he said.

“Samuel, tell me everything God told you.” Samuel gulped, but he told Eli everything.

Eli nodded. “God is the Lord. He is good and I respect what He does.” Eli knew he and his sons deserved to get in trouble.

After that God spoke to Samuel often. Soon the whole country knew that Samuel as his messenger. Samuel taught those people how to respect God.



22 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 9: Listen to Good Advice - Solomon and the Baby

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce theme “Listening to Good Advice.” Introduce Fun Fish team

Introduce Theme with Puppets: **Game:** Line up some children at the front and play Chinese Whispers. Give an instruction and see how it changes at the end.

Materials needed: lots of children

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Solomon and the Baby (I Kings 3)

Cast needed: narrator

King Solomon

Two mothers

Courtiers around the throne

Materials needed: A throne in centre stage

Baby doll

Sword

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Lots of people give us advice. How do we know when advice is good? Which people should we listen to for advice?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to listen to good advice. Help us to stay away from bad advice.” Amen.

Sing a Song:

23 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 9: Solomon and the Baby (I Kings 3)

When Solomon became king, the first thing he did was pray to God. “O God, I am only a child and I don’t know how to be a king. Please give me a wise heart so I can know how to rule this great people.”

God heard King Solomon’s prayer and liked it. “Solomon,” said God, “Since you asked for wisdom, and not long life or wealth or that your enemies would disappear, I will give you what you want and even more. I will make you the wisest person the earth has ever known. I will give you wealth, and if you obey me in everything, I will give you long life.”

This was wonderful news. King Solomon went straight to the temple to thank God. He threw a party to celebrate. God wanted him to give good advice to his subjects.

Not long after two women came to King Solomon. “O King,” said the first woman, “this woman and I live in the same house. We both had baby boys born to us at the same time. But one night this woman’s baby died, so she swapped it with mine. I woke in the morning to find her dead son beside me.”

“No!” cried the second woman. “The dead one is yours. The living one is mine.” They argued before King Solomon.

The king leaned forward in his chair. “Hmm,” he said. “This one says ‘My son is alive and your son is dead.’ The other one says, “No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.”

King Solomon straightened up. “Bring me a sword,” he said. So they brought him a sword. What was the king going to do?

“Cut the baby in half,” said King Solomon. “Give half to one mother, and half to the other mother.” Everyone stared at King Solomon in horror. What was he thinking?

The first woman to whom the baby really belonged, she cried out in agony. She loved her son. “Please don’t kill him. Please give this woman the living baby.”

But the woman who had lied, shrugged her shoulders. “Cut him in two! Then neither of us can have him.”

King Solomon nodded. Now he knew who the real mother was. “Give the living baby to the first woman,” he said. “Do not kill him. She is the mother.”

Everyone in the whole country heard what King Solomon had done. Now they knew that God had given him wisdom. King Solomon would always give good advice.

24 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

FUN FISH RE Junior Assembly Date:

Mission 10: Be Strong - Jeremiah's Burnt Up Scroll

Memory Line: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart." Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce theme: "Be Strong." Introduce Fun Fish team

Bible Facts with Puppets: The first book in the Bible is Genesis. The first words are, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The last book in the Bible is Revelation. The last word is, "Amen."

Game: Have 18 -20 boxes as food parcels. Ask two children to stack as many boxes as they can on two other children, filling their arms. See who can stack the most food boxes in 20 seconds.

Materials needed: lots of tubs

Introduce Theme: This story is about a man who dared to be strong and stick to his convictions, even when everyone was against him.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Jeremiah's Burnt Up Scroll (Jeremiah 36)

Cast needed: narrator –

Jeremiah

Baruch

King

Officials

Materials needed:

A desk with scroll and pen on one side of stage

A fire and throne on other side of stage

Crown for the king

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Have you ever had to stand up for what was right? Sometimes it can be scary. How can we help others do what is right?

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us to be strong and stand up for what is right. Please help us not to be afraid. Amen."

Sing a Song:

Story 10: The Burned Scroll (Jeremiah 36)

For twenty years God spoke to Jeremiah, and he went from town to town telling what God said. But people refused to listen. Even the king hated him and wanted him in jail.

“Jeremiah,” called God, “I want you to write down everything I have told you. If the people hear it all together, they might stop doing bad things and truly be sorry.”

Jeremiah called his servant, Baruch. “I will dictate God’s word to you,” he said. “Write it down exactly as I tell you.” So Baruch found a quill and paper.

Jeremiah spoke. Baruch wrote. “Listen, O people, this is what God says: ‘Why don’t you listen to me? Why don’t you not obey my words? I want you to do good.’”

Jeremiah spoke for a long time. When he finished, he turned to Baruch. “Baruch, go to the temple and read the scroll. There is a celebration and many people will hear.”

Baruch did exactly what Jeremiah said, and one of the officials from the palace heard him. The official ran to the palace to tell his friends. “Hey guys,” he shouted, “there’s someone in the temple reading scary things. Let’s get him to read it to us.”

They took Baruch to the palace. “Read us the scroll,” commanded the officials. So Baruch read it and the officials trembled. “The king must hear this as well,” they said. Then they looked at Baruch. “Who told you to write this?” they asked.

“Jeremiah,” said Barack.

“You and Jeremiah better go and hide. Give us the scroll and we will read it to the king.” So Baruch hurried away and the officials went to the king.

“O king,” said the officials. “Listen to this.” They read the scroll to the king.

The king sat beside a roaring fire. Every time the official read a bit of the scroll, the king cut it off and threw it into the fire. “This is a load of rubbish,” said the king. “Find Jeremiah and Baruch and arrest them.”

But the officials couldn’t find Jeremiah and Baruch. God had hidden them away. “Jeremiah,” said God, “I don’t want to punish this people. But if they keep on doing bad I will have to. Write down those words again.”

Jeremiah did what God told him. He was strong. He would do what was right no matter what.

26 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 11: Do the Best You Can - Wise and Foolish Builders

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce theme: “Do the best you can.” Introduce Fun Fish team.

Introduce Theme: Do-Your-Best Game: How many skips can a boy and girl do in 20 seconds. Different children – how many hops can they do on one foot in 20 seconds. Puppets do the counting. Children encourage their side of the room.

Materials needed: two skipping ropes.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Wise and Foolish Builders (Luke 6)

Cast needed: narrator –

- Wise man and servants
- Foolish man and servants
- Children to hold flood waters

Materials needed:

- Blocks for building a house one side of stage
- Card board box for building a cheap house on other side of stage
- Tools to build the house
- Blue cloth for river (two children to hold each end, and lift it up for rising water)

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is it good to do our best? What can we do to remind ourselves to always do our best?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to do our best at everything. Help us to encourage others to do their best. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Story 11: Wise and Foolish Builders (Luke 6)

This is a story Jesus told... There were once two men. The first one was smart. He was strong, and he wasn't scared. What wasn't he scared of? Hard work. The second one was smart. He was strong. But there was one thing he didn't like – work.

“I'm going to build a house strong and safe,” said the first man.

“I'm going to build a house quick and easy,” said the second man. “I will have it done in no time at all.”

The first man set to work. He dug deep, way down to rock. He laid his foundations on solid ground. He sweated in the heat, but he kept right on working.

The second man, built his house on the sand. It was easy – no digging a foundation, no hard work, but the house looked wonderful. In no time at all he moved in. He called his friends in for a party.

“Look at that man over there,” he said to his friends. “He's wasting his time building a house like that. Ha! Ha! He doesn't have his head on straight.”

The first man didn't stop. He didn't compare himself to the other man. He kept on working, building brick walls. Finally, months later he finished his house. He sat down and smiled. “This is a good house,” he said. “It will be able to take anything.”

The second man looked out his window and laughed. “I'm the smart one around here,” he said. “I have my priorities right. Life is all about Fun, fun, fun.”

All seemed fine until the rain started falling. The storm that came was incredible. The rain fell so fast, the river overflowed. The river grew. It crept closer and closer to the houses.

The second man closed his door and sat inside. The water started to seep in under the door. “What am I going to do?” he cried. He climbed up on to the table. “I will have to climb up onto the roof,” he wailed.

He never got as far as the roof. The house collapsed. It wasn't built to take a storm. He and his house disappeared.

The first man saw the rain as well. He closed his door as well. The water seep in under his door. “This house is strong,” said the first man. “It will take anything. I will be safe.”

That first man's house stood up strong. All the work paid off. He did his best and lived.

28 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 12: Tell the Truth (Easter)

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Introduce Theme: Puppet sketch: This story is about a man who dared to tell the truth, even when people didn't believe him. Puppets discuss what it means to tell the truth. Is it a white lie? Or leaving out information? Or is it saying it as it is?

Materials needed: none

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Tell the Truth (Luke 22-23)

Cast needed: narrator –

Jesus

Angry crowd

Pilate

Materials needed:

Olive grove where Jesus is captured on one side of stage

Pilate's house centre stage

Hill with crosses on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It is hard to tell the truth, especially if we might be into trouble? It takes a hero to tell the truth. How can we learn to tell the truth?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to be truthful with those around us. Help us to help others to tell the truth. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Story 13: Tell the Truth (Easter) (Luke 22-23)

Wherever Jesus went he always told the truth. If sisters were fighting he showed them the right thing to do. If brothers wanted to get even with their enemies, Jesus told them to love their enemies. He always said what was true.

But one of the things he said seemed a bit crazy. “In a little while I will die,” said Jesus, “but three days later I will rise again.” Jesus’ helpers wondered... was this the truth?

Not long after Jesus’ enemies set a trap. They would find him and catch him and kill him. One night they found him and dragged him away. They beat him and spit on him.

The next morning those wicked leaders had second thoughts. “Maybe we should get some proof that Jesus is bad,” they said. But they couldn’t find a single thing wrong. Jesus was a good man. He had done good things.

Those wicked leaders had an idea. “Jesus,” they asked, “are you the Son of God?”

Jesus never lied. “Yes,” he said.

That was enough for those wicked leaders. “We don’t need any more proof,” they shouted. “We have heard with our own ears that he claims to be God. He deserves to die. Let’s get the governor to execute him.”

Those angry leaders dragged Jesus to the governor. “This man is evil,” they shouted.

The governor asked Jesus some questions. But then the governor turned to the wicked leaders. “You leaders, this man has done nothing wrong. He doesn’t lie.”

Those angry leaders almost exploded. “Crucify him! Crucify him!” they shouted.

“Why?” said Pilate. “He has done nothing wrong.”

“Crucify him!” screamed the leaders. “Crucify him!” They started a riot.

Pilate gave in and sentenced Jesus to death. They took Jesus and hung him on a cross. But Jesus never lied. Before he was killed, remember what he had said? It was something very important. “Soon I will die, but three days later I will rise again.”

Sure enough three days later, Jesus rose again. He met with his helpers and they had meals together. The helpers remembered what Jesus had said. Jesus always told the truth.

Mission 13: Care for the Poor - Rich man and Lazarus

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song: Your Mission is This if You Accept

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme

Bible Facts with Puppets: Memory Game: See if anyone can remember the memory line.

Talk about where it comes from in the Bible. A man called Paul wrote a letter to some friends. This quote is from that letter.

Materials needed: memory line

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16)

Cast needed: narrator –

Jesus

Rich man

Lazarus

Dogs

Angels

Great hero

Materials needed:

Table with a feast on one side of stage

Heaven on the other side of stage (white cloth draped over some chairs)

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Have you ever seen someone who is very poor? Maybe on television? In a city? What can we do to help the poor?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to notice the poor. Please help us to be kind to them. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

31 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 11: Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16)

One day Jesus told his helpers a parable, (a story that isn't true, but has a good meaning) about how important it is to help the poor...

There once was a rich man who dressed in designer clothes. He ate like a king every day. He lounged in his mansion enjoying his riches. But out front a beggar sat on the street.

This beggar had a name, Lazarus. He was sick, with sores all over his body. But he sat at the rich man's gate every day, wishing he could somehow eat the crumbs that fell from the elegant table. Instead dogs kept Lazarus company. They licked his wounds and face.

Lazarus finally died, and angels carried him to heaven. He sat beside a great hero. The rich man died as well. He was buried in a fancy coffin. He didn't go to heaven.

The rich man looked up to heaven, but it was far away. "Hey, you up there," he shouted. "I'm thirsty. Tell Lazarus to get down here and give me a drink."

The kind hero spoke up for Lazarus. "O rich man, what are you saying? All your life you lived in luxury, but Lazarus had nothing. Now he is happy and you are thirsty and hungry. It is only fair. Besides, even if Lazarus wanted to, he can't get to you. There is an enormous chasm between you and us."

The rich man fell silent for a moment. Then he shouted again. "Alright! I accept that. But I have an idea... Send Lazarus back to earth. I have five brothers. Tell Lazarus to warn them that they must take care of the poor. Otherwise they will end up like me."

The kind hero replied. "Your brothers know what is right. They just need to do it."

"No!" the rich man shouted. "If someone came back from the dead and gave them that message, then they would believe."

The kind hero sighed. "No, they wouldn't. They would only see a poor beggar."

So you see, Jesus wanted people to learn that life is full of choices. We can choose to help the poor and give them what they need. Everyone deserves to eat and be warm.

Mission 14: Keep those Promises - Parable of the Great Banquet

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce theme: “Keep those promises.” Introduce Fun Fish team.

Introduce Theme with Puppets: Puppets think about a question: Why should they keep their promises? People will trust them. People will believe them. People will want to be their friends.

Promise Game: Ask three children to promise not to move. Sit them on the floor in centre stage and get the puppets to distract them in anyway possible, trying to get those children to move.

Materials needed: balls, cuddly toys, sweets

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Great Banquet (Luke 14)

Cast needed: narrator –

Master preparing for a banquet

Servant helping him

Invited guests, the field buyer, the oxen buyer, the newlywed

The poor, the crippled, the blind

Materials needed:

Long table cloth and candles in one side of stage

Town on other side of stage

Cloak for master

Invitations to banquet

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It is easy to promise to do something and then back out of it. What can we do help us keep our promises?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to keep our promises and do what is right. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

33 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 14: Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14)

There was once a rich master with a giant banquet hall. “I want to have a party,” said the master to his servant, “Bring me some paper and a pen.”

The master wrote invitations and gave them to his servant. “Servant, take these to my friends. We will have the best party ever.” The servant ran to each friend’s house, knocked on their doors and handed them the invitations.

The rich land owner read it. “Wonderful,” he said. “I’ll be there.”

The cattle farmer read it. “Fantastic. I wouldn’t miss it for anything.”

A newly married friend read it. “Great. I’ll bring my wife along.”

So the servant ran home and helped his master get ready. They set the table, cooked the food, and made the puddings. It looked delicious. “Everything is done,” said the master. “Servant, go and call the guests.”

The servant knocked on each door. “The party is ready,” he called.

The rich land owner shook his head. “Sorry, I can’t make it. I just bought some more land and need to inspect it.”

The cattle farmer shook his head. “Sorry, I can’t make it. I just bought myself ten oxen. I’ll come another time.”

The newlywed shook his head. “You know. I would rather spend time with my wife.”

The servant ran back. “Master,” he cried, “nobody wants to come. What are we going to do with all this food?”

The Master was angry. “This party cannot go to waste,” he cried. “Servant, go to town. Ask anyone, the poor, the crippled, the blind. I want this banquet hall filled.”

The servant hunted in the streets and alleys. Everyone he asked came. The crippled and poor had never seen anything like it. The blind had never smelled anything like it.

“There’s still more room,” the servant said.

“Go into the country, down the lanes and roads. My house must be full. I only want those who will keep their promises.”

34 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 15: Help the Sick - The Blind Beggar

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme: “Helping the Sick.”

Introduce theme with puppets. Blind Fold Game: Blind fold a girl and boy and put some objects into their hands. See if they can identify them.

Materials needed: two blindfolds, and objects. Examples: ball, cuddly toy, cup, apple...

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Blind Beggar (Luke 18)

Cast needed: narrator –

Jesus

Blind Beggar

Crowd

Materials needed:

A road in centre stage. A tree and maybe a house.

Beggars clothes and tin can for money

White robe for Jesus

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): It is easy to overlook those who are sick. What can we do to help them feel better? Suggestions... make a card, give flowers, help carry their groceries...

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to notice when others are unwell. Help us to be caring. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

Story 15: Help the Sick (Luke 18)

Jesus was on the move again, but it seemed the whole world wanted to go with him. Huge crowds followed him everywhere. They ran in front of him and behind him, all wanting to be near him.

Now there was a man sitting on the side of the road, listening to the crowd as it drew near. But the crowd didn't see him, a poor blind beggar. The blind beggar turned his head this way and that, wondering why all those people were passing him. "Please," he shouted, "will someone tell me what is happening?"

"Shush," someone said. "Jesus should be coming any second."

"Jesus!" said the blind beggar. "You mean the one that makes sick people well? The one who makes sad people happy?"

"Yes," replied the person. "Now, be quiet."

This was a chance the blind beggar couldn't miss. He reached out his hands and yelled, "Jesus, have mercy on me."

"Quiet!" scolded the crowd.

But the blind man didn't listen. He tilted his head back and bellowed, "Jesus, have mercy on me."

Everyone heard that shout, even Jesus. Jesus stopped and the whole crowd stopped with him. "Bring that blind beggar to me," said Jesus.

The people around the blind beggar patted him on the back. "Jesus is calling you, lucky duck. Come on, we'll take you to him." The blind beggar was pulled up and led to Jesus.

"What would you like me to do for you?" asked Jesus.

That blind beggar knew exactly what he wanted. "Lord, I want to see," he cried.

Then Jesus did something amazing. All he did was speak. "Receive your sight," said Jesus. "Because you believe, I can heal you. Now you are healed." Suddenly the man could see. His eyes worked. Jesus' words had made him well.

The man shouted for joy and followed Jesus. "Thank you, Jesus," he cried. "Thank you!" The man suddenly started singing at the top of his lungs. So did everyone else. Jesus had helped a very sick man.

36 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 16: Choose Good Friends - The First Followers

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome: Introduce theme: “Choose Good Friends.” Introduce Fun Fish team.

Puppets Introduce Theme: Friend Game: Get four Year Six children to choose a friend and see how many times they can throw a bean bag to each other, as the school counts down from 20. Can they do it with one hand behind their back and not get annoyed with each other.

Materials needed: eight bean bags

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The First Followers (Luke 5)

Cast needed: narrator

Jesus

Peter and Andrew

James and John

Materials needed:

Fishing nets and fish

Jesus in a white robe

Two boats in centre stage (three chairs covered with a brown cloth)

Blue cloth for lake

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What are good things to look for in a friend?

How can we be good friends?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, please help us to choose good friends. Help us to be good friends too. Amen.”

Bible Quiz with Puppets: How do you make good decisions?

Sing a Song:

37 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Story 16: The First Followers (Luke 5)

One evening two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew, James and John took their boats out into the lake. They fished all night. “What’s going on?” asked Peter. “There isn’t a single fish out here?”

“I don’t know,” said Andrew, “but I sure am tired. Let’s go back and wash the nets.” They signalled to the other boat and sailed back as the sun came up.

They had dragged the nets to shore and started washing them. “What’s happening on over there?” said Andrew, pointing to a crowd by the side of the lake.

“It must be Jesus,” answered Peter. “I hear that crowds follow him everywhere.” Suddenly the crowd came close and Jesus climbed into Peter and Andrew’s boat. Peter jumped up and ran to Jesus.

“Can you push me out into the water a little way,” asked Jesus. “It will be easier teaching the people from there.”

Peter pushed the boat out and climbed in, and Jesus sat down and began to teach. When Jesus finished he turned to Peter. “Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

“Sir,” said Peter, “we worked hard all night and caught nothing. There is nothing out there, but because you ask I will do it.”

Peter ran to get his brother and the nets and they sailed out into deep water. “Peter, what are we doing here?” whispered Andrew. “There are no fish.

“Fishing,” whispered Peter. “Jesus told me to do it.”

They let down their nets and then pulled them up. “Fish!” shouted Peter. “Where did these come from?” There were so many, the nets began to break.

Peter waved his arms to James and John. “Help us!” he called. They did, and filled both boats to the brim. In fact there were so many fish the boats began to sink.

Peter looked at the fish and fell to his knees. He knew it was a miracle. “Lord,” said Peter, “you shouldn’t even be in my boat. I don’t deserve this.”

“Don’t be afraid,” said Jesus. “From now on you will catch men.” The fishermen sailed back to shore. They knew just Jesus wanted. He wanted to be their friend. The fishermen left their nets and boats and followed Jesus everywhere he went.

38 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 17: Don't Give Up - Peter Escapes from Prison

Memory Line: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart." Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team. As you start the summer holidays there may be times you really need help...what are you going to do?

Bible Facts with Puppets: Don't Give Up Game: Have two groups of children on stage. Two other children are blindfolded and must arrange the groups from shortest to tallest.

Sometimes we can't see what to do, but others can help us. Rules: you cannot move unless the blindfolded one moves you, but you can tell him what to do.

Materials needed: blindfolds and two groups of children of different heights

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): Peter Escapes from Prison (Acts 12)

Cast needed: narrator –

- Peter
- Guards in cell, at door, at gate
- Angel
- Servant girl
- Friends

Materials needed:

- White cloth for angel
- Prison and chains on one side of stage (Black cloth for prison cell)
- House on other side of stage

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What should you do when you feel like giving up? How can you help others not to quit.

Short Prayer: "Dear God, please help us when we feel like giving up. Please help us to help others who want to give up too. Amen."

Sing a Song:

Story 17: Peter Escapes from Prison (Acts 12)

Just before Jesus went up to heaven, he gave his helpers a message. He said, “Go to all the world and tell people about me. Tell them everything I told you. Tell them I will always be with them. Don’t give up.”

Peter, one of Jesus’ helpers, did just that. He went to the temple every day. He told people about Jesus. Soon thousands believed. But the temple leaders saw this and grew jealous. They wanted Peter dead. Even the king wanted him dead.

One day as Peter talked in the temple, soldiers seized him and dragged him to prison. Sixteen soldiers guarded him. But the believers started praying day and night. “Please, God,” they said, “free Peter from prison. Don’t let him get killed.”

The night before the trial, Peter was sound asleep in the prison. It didn’t matter that he was chained to two guards, he slept anyways. An angel appeared and poked Peter in the side. “Wake up,” said the angel. Suddenly Peter’s chains fell off. “Put on your clothes and shoes, and follow me,” said the angel.

Peter did everything the angel told him, but he thought he was in a dream. The angel led him past one set of guards and then another. Then the prison gates opened up all by themselves. The angel led Peter out into the open and down the street. Then the angel disappeared.

Peter stood there in the dark all alone. Suddenly he realized it was real. “God sent an angel to rescue me,” whispered Peter. “He saved me from death.”

Peter hurried through town, to the house where everyone was praying. He knocked on the door. Finally a servant girl called out, “Who is it?”

“It’s me,” said Peter.

The servant girl recognized Peter’s voice and shrieked with joy. She forgot to open the door and ran to tell the others. “Peter is outside,” she cried.

“Don’t be crazy,” said the people. “You’re just dreaming.”

Peter, meanwhile, waited on the street. He kept on knocking. Finally the people opened the door. “Peter,” they cried, “it really is you. God listened to our prayers.”

Peter raised his hands for them to be quiet. “God rescued me,” he said. “He can do anything.” Peter didn’t give up because of this trouble. He kept talking about his best friend, Jesus.

40 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

Mission 18: Choose a Job – Paul on the Road to Damascus

Memory Line: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.” Colossians 2:23

Sing a Song:

Welcome and Introduce Theme: Introduce Fun Fish team and theme: “Choose a job.”

Bible Facts with Puppets: Charades: The Fun Fish team act out different occupations and children have to guess what they are. For example: Fire fighter. Teacher. Nurse. Chef. Artist.

Materials needed: none

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Paul on the Road” (Acts 9)

Cast needed: Narrator

Paul

Soldiers

Ananias

Materials needed:

A road on one side of stage

House on other side of stage

Cloak for Paul

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Paul had a big surprise. He thought he knew what he wanted to do, but it all changed? How can we figure out what we should do in our lives?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you that you care about what we do for the rest of our lives. Help us to do our best, no matter what. Amen.”

Sing a Song:

41 | Mission Impossible – Impossible Missions in the Bible

“Paul on the Road to Damascus” (Acts 9)

There was a man called Saul. He hated Jesus. He hated anyone who followed Jesus. He hated them so much he threw them into prison. He went from city to city hunting them down. He wanted to do this for the rest of his life.

One day he headed for the city of Damascus. He knew followers of Jesus lived there. He would drag them out of their houses and throw them into prison. It didn't matter if they were men or women. If they believed in Jesus, that was their problem.

Just as Saul and some soldiers came up to the city, a bright light flashed around him. He fell to the ground in shock. He covered his face. “Saul, Saul,” came a voice, “why are you persecuting me?”

“Who are you, Lord?” said Saul.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” said the voice. “Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do.”

The soldiers stood there speechless, looking around. They heard the voice, but could see no one speaking. Then they looked at Saul, flat out on the ground. They helped him get up on to his feet.

Saul opened his eyes, but he couldn't see. “I can't see!” he cried, and the soldiers grabbed his hands. They led him into Damascus, and into a house on Straight Street. Saul sat there for three whole days, praying and thinking about what Jesus had said to him on the road. He didn't eat a thing.

Meanwhile in the city lived a man called Ananias. God came to him in a dream. “Ananias,” said God. “Yes, Lord,” said Ananias.

“Go to the house on Straight Street. Ask for a man called Saul. He just had a dream that a man called Ananias will come to him and make him see again.”

“But God?” said Ananias. “Saul came here to kill anyone who follows you.”

“Go!” said God. “This man will bring my fame to kings and countries. I will show him what it means to suffer for me.”

Ananias went and placed his hands on Saul. “Brother Saul, Jesus appeared to you on the road, and he sent me to you so you can see again.”

Suddenly scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see. Suddenly Saul knew what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. He would follow Jesus.

The End. If you would like to view other assembly series, go to www.funfish.org.uk