

TEACHER
RESOURCE

UNIT 5

From the Prophets to Restoration

LEVEL TWO

SON SEEKERS

AGES 7-10



JONAH SPITS THE DUMMY



Name:



Hot time for three **COOL** friends

Teacher Resource

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Teaching Sonseekers ...

Dear Teacher

Teaching young people about God's Word is a great honour and privilege. We note God chose Abraham, a man of faith because he "would teach his children and his household after him, to know the Way of The Lord" (Gen 18:19)

One who undertakes such a task will understand they have accepted a responsibility to become a witness of God's great love and faithfulness. As an example of Christian faith and integrity they have a wonderful opportunity to share their love for God's Word. The tremendous blessing for those who commit themselves to this task is that the Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip you to shine as a light to your class.

Recent trends away from Sunday School structures towards child minding activities have, we believe, been unfortunate as they fail to recognise the impact and effect the message of God's love through Christ has on young people.

Children are the Church's future. As such they are precious and well worth any investment in quality resources and dedicated teachers.

The 'Sonseekers' curriculum offers children Sunday School material that gives them a sound background in Biblical events, people and places. Secondly it offers a pastoral approach for the children to know God is able to help them and change their lives.

Structurally, any program will operate effectively if those teaching are faithful, zealous and committed to a team approach that might include:

- regular prayer and discussion in relation to curriculum issues, student needs and upcoming events and presentations;
- organisation and management of resources;
- training and development needs of teaching staff.

Teaching Sunday School is a rich and rewarding task. May God bless and guide you as you serve in this way.

Yours in Christ

The Sonseekers Team

A teacher's guide to using the Sonseekers materials . . .

Timeline

4000BC	Creation Adam and Eve The Fall
2500BC	Noah The Flood Tower of Babel
2000BC	Abraham
1900BC	Isaac
1800BC	Esau and Jacob
1750BC	Joseph
1360BC	Moses
1280BC	Exodus from Egypt and Journeys Joshua
1240BC	Entry into and Conquest of Land
1220BC	Judges
1100BC	Gideon
1070BC	Samson
1063BC	Samuel
1020BC	Saul as King
980BC	David as King
940BC	Solomon as King
900BC	Kingdom Divided
839BC	Elijah Emerges; Mt Carmel Jehoshaphat
814BC	Elisha's Ministry
749BC	Jonah
662BC	Hezekiah; Isaiah
576BC	Josiah
540BC	Daniel taken to Babylon
527BC	Exile into Babylon
457BC	Restoration from Babylon
4BC	Birth of Jesus
26AD	Baptism of Jesus Call of Disciples
28AD	Feeding of 5000 Parables
29AD	Miracles; Transfiguration
30AD	Raising of Lazarus Parables Palm Sunday Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection Day of Pentecost Peter's Ministry
33AD	Conversion of Paul
45AD	Paul's Missionary Journeys
60AD	Paul as Prisoner to Rome

What are the Sonseekers materials?

The Sonseekers Sunday School materials are a four year course of 128 Bible lessons. The lessons are written with the twin aims of teaching the students an accurate chronology of Biblical events and also drawing from each lesson pastoral points relevant to the age and stage of each child. They are written at four levels to cover from Prep to Year 6 age groups. The 128 lessons are organised into 8 units, each of sixteen lessons. The table below indicates the suitable age group for each level:

Sonseekers Level	Student Age	School Level
Level One	5 - 6	Prep, Year 1
Level Two	7 - 10	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4
Level Three	11 - 12+	Year 5, Year 6

The Sonseekers materials comprise two related elements:

- **Teacher Resource** – including lesson plans & activity masters which can be photocopied;
- **Student Handbooks** – including homework activities.

There is also a Bible timeline showing chronology of major events, with the dates of the current unit's lessons highlighted, included in each Teacher Resource.

What's in my Sonseekers Level Two Teacher Resource?

Each Level Two Teacher Resource contains sixteen lesson plans for the relevant age of your students. Each lesson plan comprises:

- the key thought or focus for the lesson;
- a suggested way to introduce the lesson;
- a summary of the relevant bible story;
- a memory verse for the lesson, together with a suggested way of teaching that verse;
- an activity which can be used in the lesson;
- a number of extra ideas involving fun, practical activities.

Note: The photocopy masters for each activity are included with the lessons in this Teacher Resource book.

.../cont'd

... teacher's guide ...

How do I best use my Teacher Resource?

The art of serving as an effective Sunday School teacher is linked to the degree of diligence in preparing for each lesson. The Sonseekers materials are only designed to assist the teacher in this process. They do not take away from the teacher his or her responsibility to prayerfully consider the needs of the children in the class and to seek God's revelation and wisdom in presenting each Bible lesson. The following suggestions are then made with regard to using this resource.

Prior to the lesson

- ◆ Prayerfully read the Bible passage for the lesson. The reference is provided in the header on the first page of the lesson plan. All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version (1983 edition).
- ◆ Read through the lesson plan and decide which activities will be most appropriate for the students in your class. Generally, aim for a variety of activities over a unit.
- ◆ Think about how you will combine the various elements of your lesson. Refer to the suggested teaching approach for ideas if necessary. Link the activity to the story so that the significance of the activity is clear to the students.
- ◆ Prepare all activities thoroughly prior to the lesson. Rehearse any planned activity at home to make sure:
 - that you know how to do it yourself;
 - that you have all the relevant materials in the quantities you will need;
 - that you know the length of time that the children will need for the activity.

During the lesson

- ◆ Review the memory verse from the previous lesson with the children. Also check on the completion of the homework activity page.
- ◆ Revise the previous lesson before going on to a new story. You may like to use the timeline to help you do this.

The widow's oil, a boy raised

II Kings 4

Storyline

Elisha was visited by a widow who had two sons. She was troubled because her husband had left some debts which she could not pay. She asked Elisha what she should do. She followed his instructions fully, borrowing jars from her neighbours to fill with oil, which she sold to pay her debts, with enough left over to live on.

A rich woman from Shunem and her husband who were childless, built Elisha a room in their house where he could stay whenever he wished. To repay her kindness, Elisha told her she would soon have a son. This came to pass. The child later became ill and died. The mother went to Elisha, reminding him of his promise and brought him back to her home to pray for her son. He was raised from the dead and given back to his mother.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss different ways that help is available for every day needs in accidents, sickness, unemployment, etc, both great and small needs and who provides this help - comparing city/country needs now and in times past, comparing city/country and outback. Allow the children to discuss freely, then bring in the faith response of the women, and the role of prayer during these times.

Theme One

“God shall supply all your need”

The faithful widow came to Elisha in great need. Situations will come our way which could cause us to be worried; but the Lord wants us to talk to Him about these things and then to trust Him. God provided miraculously for the widow and saved her sons from becoming slaves. God also provides for us as we trust Him. Our faith is made stronger as we see God answer our prayers.

Key Thought

God does not want us to be worried about any situation but to ask and see Him provide for us as we believe and obey Him.

Aim

For the children to know we can trust God to supply all our needs.

Memory Verse

“God shall supply all your need.” (Philippians 4:19).

Theme Two

“Giving to others”

The woman from Shunem was not only interested in her own life, she also cared about the comfort and happiness of others. God saw her caring heart and was pleased. He wanted to bless her and He gave her a son. As we are willing to share our lives and what we have with others, we will know that the Lord is teaching us how to love one another.

Key Thought

God is pleased with those who give willingly, not expecting anything in return.

Aim

For the children to desire a willing and giving heart.

Memory Verse

“He who has a generous eye will be blessed.” (Proverbs 22:9).

Activity A - Getting Help

Materials

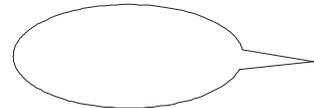
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Lead pencils.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

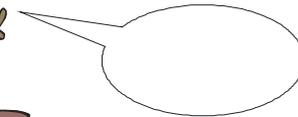
- Give each child an Activity Sheet.
- Discuss the first scenario together and explain that they can seek help from others in any situation.
- Children work individually or with a friend to complete the speech bubbles on the activity sheet.
- Children insert their own choice at the bottom of the page.
- Discuss the children's answers.

Getting Help!

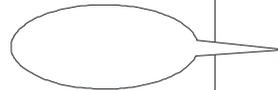
Write in the speech bubbles some suggestions as to what you could do to get help.



You are feeling worried about something at school. It may be homework difficulties or problems with some of your friends. Maybe you know someone who is being bullied.



Your friends at church have been talking about baptism. Some of them have been baptised and some of them want to be. You're not sure what baptism really is and if it is what you want. You do know that you love Jesus.



Activity B - Find the Words

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- Children find and circle the words in the puzzle, then colour the picture.
- Have the students explain the importance of the words they have just found in the story.

Find these Words!

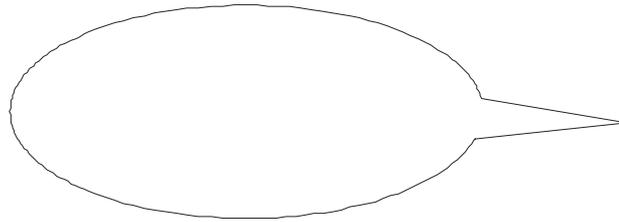
OBEY	SON	NOTHING	OIL	FILL
TRUST	GOD	IMPOSSIBLE	TO	WIDOW
RAISED	DEAD	POTS	DEBTS	HELPED
		ELISHA		

The widow's oil, a boy raised

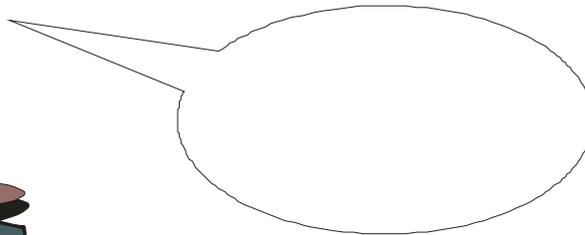
Activity A – Getting Help

Getting Help!

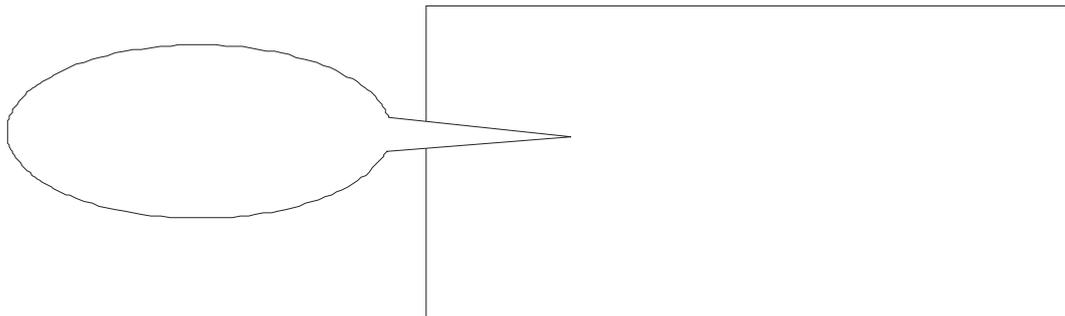
Write in the speech bubbles some suggestions as to what you could do to get help.



You are feeling worried about something at school. It may be homework difficulties or problems with some of your friends. Maybe you know someone who is being bullied.



Your friends at church have been talking about baptism. Some of them have been baptised and some of them want to be. You're not sure what baptism really is and if it is what you want. You do know that you love Jesus.



Naaman

II Kings 5:1-19

Storyline

Naaman was a powerful man in charge of the Syrian army but he was a leper. He had a young slave girl who was taken from her family in Israel. She told Naaman's wife that God's prophet in Israel could heal Naaman of his leprosy. The king of Syria told Naaman he could go to Israel to seek healing. He even wrote a letter of introduction to the king of Israel to help Naaman. When Naaman got to the prophet's house, Elisha did not even come out to meet him but sent a message telling Naaman to wash in the Jordan seven times. Naaman was furious. He expected Elisha to pray over him and perform a miracle. Naaman's servants spoke wisely to Naaman so that he humbled himself and became obedient to Elisha's word. Naaman was healed and returned to Elisha saying the Lord is the only true God. When Elisha refused payment, Naaman asked for earth to make an altar and said he would only worship the Lord from now on.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1 - Discuss what pride is and what it is motivated by - thinking of ourselves more highly than we should. Talk about being obedient with a humble heart.

Theme 2 - Ask leading questions, eg How would you feel if someone kidnapped you and took you away to be a slave in another country? Could you love them and still believe in God?

After discussion, read 2 Kings 5:1-19 to find the surprising answer. Make sure children understand the key thought.

Theme One

"Humble obedience"

Naaman, in his pride, could not accept that Elisha didn't come out and heal him personally. All that was expected of him was obedience to the word that was spoken. The Lord does not always come to us in a dramatic, personal way. Often He will meet us with a word that has been spoken by someone else. Our response is to be one of humble obedience.

Key Thought

When we consider ourselves better than someone else or more worthy of honour, we deny ourselves the blessings of God.

Aim

For the children to understand that the Lord requires humble obedience to His word as it comes to our lives.

Memory Verse

"He who humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12).

Theme Two

"A testimony of faith"

The young maid loved her master, Naaman, and wanted to help him. She believed God was able to heal him and told him so. When people we know are sick or unhappy, we want to help them, too. We can tell them that God loves them and is able to help them if they ask Him, and then obey Him, as Naaman did.

Key Thought

Just as the maid was willing to share her faith, we too can share our faith in a simple way that can bring God's love to others.

Aim

To encourage the children to tell their friends that the Lord loves them and is able to help them if they ask.

Memory Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." (Romans 1:16).

Activity A - Washing Naaman

Materials

- Plastic bottles, ice cream containers or milk cartons (all thoroughly washed) – plastic sleeves may work.
- Scissors.
- Paint brushes and water paint or non-permanent markers.
- A bucket or bowl full of water.

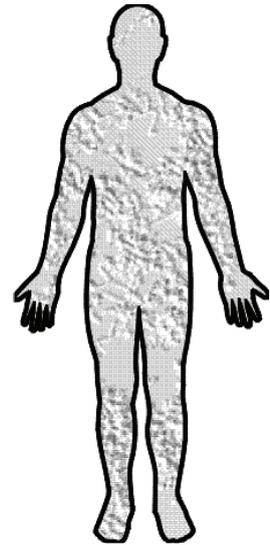
Steps

At Home

- Using a thick black waterproof marker and the doll shape provided, draw enough 'Naamans' on the plastic containers or plastic sleeves, to have one for each child.
- Cut out figures.

In Class

- Paint Naaman with the water paint to look like leprosy.
- Dip Naaman in the water seven times and watch the spots come off.
- Write the memory verse on Naaman in permanent felt pen.



Activity B - Word Puzzle

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

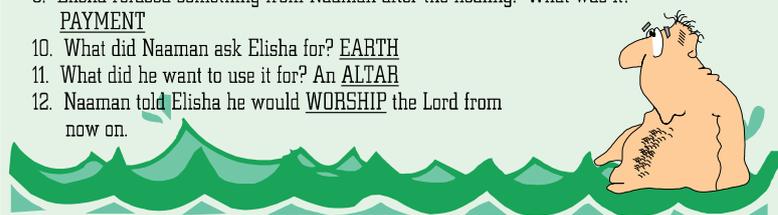
- The children find the words in the word square, then use those words to answer or complete the sentences/questions below.

Find these words in the puzzle, then use them to answer or complete the sentences below.

SYRIAN	ELISHA
ISRAEL	JORDAN
SEVEN	HUMBLE
EARTH	OBEDIENT
WORSHIP	PAYMENT
PROPHET	ALTAR

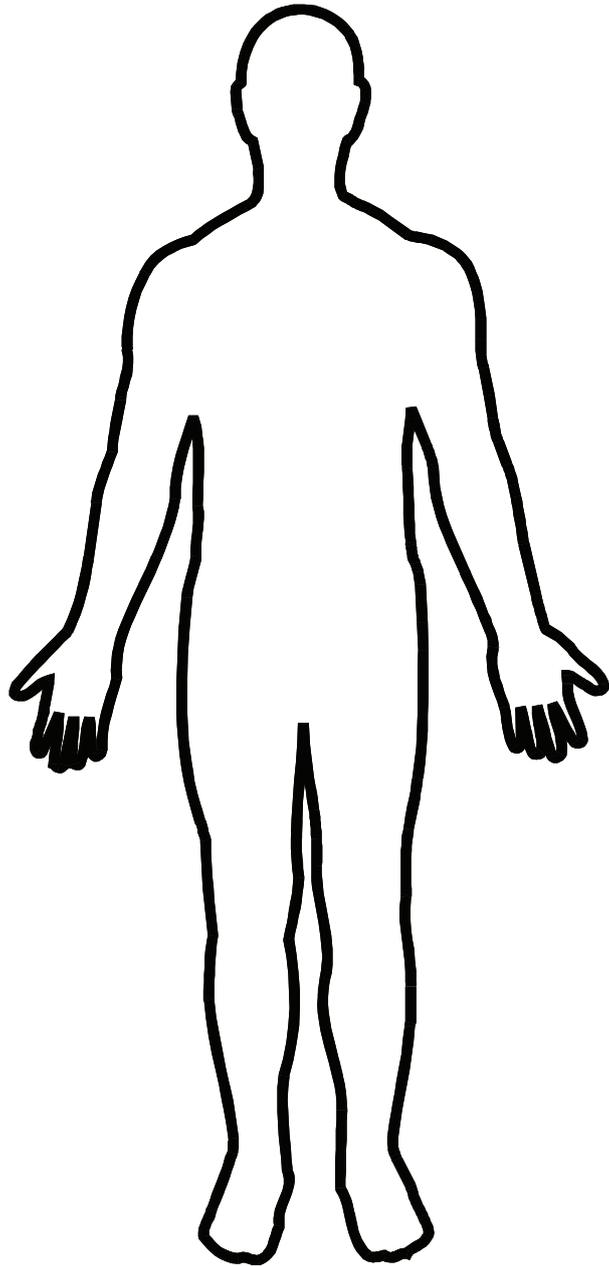


1. What was the name of the army that Naaman was in charge of? SYRIAN
2. A young girl told Naaman's wife about a PROPHET who would heal him.
3. Where did this person live? ISRAEL
4. What was his name? ELISHA
5. Naaman had to wash in the JORDAN.
6. How many times? SEVEN
7. Naaman had to become HUMBLE.
8. Also he had to be OBEDIENT to God's word.
9. Elisha refused something from Naaman after the healing. What was it? PAYMENT
10. What did Naaman ask Elisha for? EARTH
11. What did he want to use it for? An ALTAR
12. Naaman told Elisha he would WORSHIP the Lord from now on.



Naaman

Activity A – Naaman Healed



Naaman

Activity B – Word Puzzle

Find these words in the puzzle, then use them to answer or complete the sentences below.

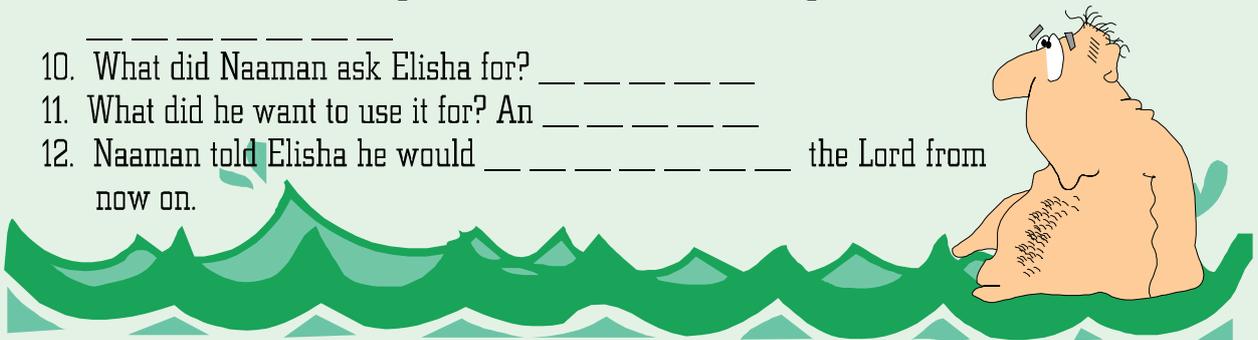
**SYRIAN
ISRAEL
SEVEN
EARTH
WORSHIP
PROPHET**

**ELISHA
JORDAN
HUMBLE
OBEDIENT
PAYMENT
ALTAR**

O	W	Z	S	R	E	Q	S	O
B	S	O	M	A	L	T	A	R
E	Y	P	R	X	I	A	H	D
D	R	S	L	S	S	G	U	J
I	I	N	E	F	H	L	I	Y
E	A	P	B	V	A	I	K	T
N	N	R	H	W	E	I	P	P
T	J	O	R	D	A	N	C	A
I	K	P	H	Y	T	D	S	Y
S	U	H	F	S	J	D	I	M
R	D	E	H	U	M	B	L	E
A	V	T	F	R	I	H	G	N
E	B	E	A	R	T	H	G	T
L	J	I	O	D	C	F	R	X

1. What was the name of the army that Naaman was in charge of? _____
2. A young girl told Naaman's wife about a _____ who would heal him.
3. Where did this person live? _____
4. What was his name? _____
5. Naaman had to wash in the _____.
6. How many times? _____
7. Naaman had to become _____.
8. Also he had to be _____ to God's word.
9. Elisha refused something from Naaman after the healing. What was it?

10. What did Naaman ask Elisha for? _____
11. What did he want to use it for? An _____
12. Naaman told Elisha he would _____ the Lord from
now on.



Famine in Samaria

II Kings 6:24 - 7:20

Storyline

The Syrian king laid siege against famine-ravaged Samaria. As the Israelite king walked along the wall a woman sought the king's help, and told him of the occurrence of cannibalism. This angered him, he declared that the disaster was from the Lord, and threatened to kill Elisha. A messenger went and told Elisha who prophesied of the city's salvation. An officer who heard this scoffed and Elisha foretold his death. Four lepers went to the enemy camp for food, and found it deserted for the enemy had heard the sound of a mighty army with chariots, and so they fled. They found food, clothes and riches and returned to tell the king who investigated. The people plundered the camp and carried the food back to Samaria. As the food was being sold in the gate the people trampled the disbelieving officer to death.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Write the following signs on the board or on cardboard.

God	H In M	we
comes		come

Ask the children what the signs say. (Answers: God overcomes, In Him we overcome). Tell the story.

Theme One

“Confidence in God”

Elisha was confident that his prophecy of salvation for the city was from God and that it would be fulfilled in spite of the desperate situation which existed. Elisha's confidence was maintained even when his own life was threatened. Just as Elisha trusted and relied on God for deliverance, we too in our day-to-day experience, can rely on God.

Key Thought

When we have a personal relationship with God, this brings a confidence in our ability to know His will, and to believe for strength to walk in it.

Aim

To help the children understand the Lord's greatness and how we can confidently trust Him.

Memory Verse

“In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence.”
(Proverbs 14:26).

Theme Two

“God is with us”

It is easy to believe that God is with us when all things seem to be going well. However just as in this story, sometimes we have to endure very testing times when, in spite of our faith, things seem to be going very wrong. We need to know and be able to confess in those times as well that God is with us.

Key Thought

We know that God is with us because of the relationship that we have with Him – not because of circumstances.

Aim

For each child to know that with every temptation and trouble, God is always there to help us through.

Memory Verse

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:20).

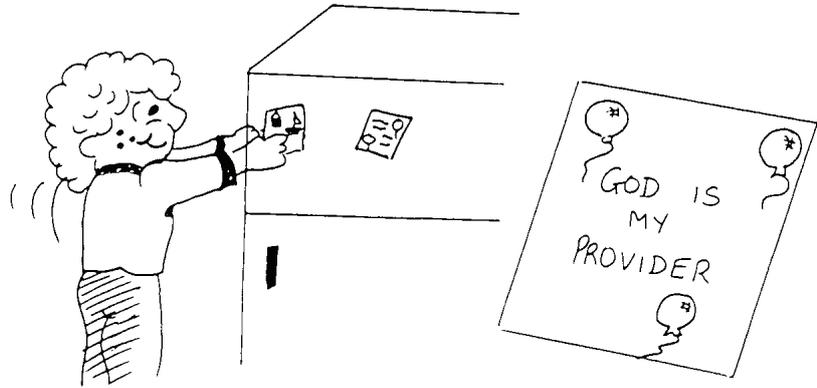
Activity A - Fridge Magnets

Materials

- 1 piece of very thick cardboard per child (5 cm x 5 cm).
- Scraps of coloured felt.
- Black permanent ink markers.
- Scissors.
- Coloured wool or string.
- 1 small magnet per child.
- PVC glue.

Steps

- Using the black markers, print 'God is my provider' on the front of the wood, tile or cardboard.
- Cut small shapes from the coloured felt to fit around the words, eg. circles for balloons, diamonds, triangles, squares for house, etc.
- Use string or coloured wool to decorate the shapes.
- Glue felt and string/wool to the tile/wood/cardboard.
- Glue small magnets to the back and allow to dry thoroughly.



Activity Suggestions: Use a peg that the children can decorate. Glue the magnet onto the back. The children can still clip up the quote but the peg can also be reused for different Bible verses.

Activity B - Play

Materials

- Dress up clothes if desired.
- Food/treasure (lollies, biscuits etc. to be shared for morning tea).

Steps

- The children act out the following scenes from the story.
 - Lepers sitting at the gates, starving. They decide to go to Syrian camp – going to die anyway.
 - They discover deserted Syrian camp and find food/treasure. (This would be food the children are going to have for morning tea later).
 - They become greedy and hide the food/treasure for themselves. Afterwards they decide to share.
 - They return to tell the good news to friends so they can share the food treasure.
- They conclude the play by sharing together the food they have found for morning tea (ensure the children wash their hands first).

Jonah

II Kings 14:23-25;
Jonah

Storyline

Some years after Elisha died, Jonah, a Hebrew prophet was called by God to go to Nineveh, a great city, and cry out against its wickedness. Jonah, instead, went in the opposite direction to Tarshish. In His displeasure, God caused a great wind and rough seas until Jonah's companions were forced to cast Jonah overboard to save their own lives. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish. Jonah repented and prayed. Jonah was spewed out onto dry land. Jonah was called by God again to go to Nineveh. The people and the king heard Jonah, and believed God and repented and fasted and God relented and did not bring disaster on Nineveh. The mercy and abundant loving-kindness of God towards the people of Nineveh made Jonah so angry he wanted to die. To teach Jonah a lesson, God provided protection from the weather for him with a plant, and then destroyed it. God then drew Jonah's attention to how much more precious the people of Nineveh were than Jonah's plant.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Teacher could talk to the children about obeying: why we are required to obey and who should we obey?

Have a chat about all sorts of big fish, their eating habits, what kind of fish may have swallowed Jonah.

Theme One

"A gracious and merciful God"

Jonah ran from God and risked many other lives, but when he cried out to God, he was saved from the belly of the fish. The people of Nineveh were so wicked that God wanted to destroy the whole city. When they repented, the Lord had compassion on them. This gives us great hope, for God's love and compassion are also towards us, when we repent and turn to the Lord. He loved us so much, He sacrificed His own Son to save us.

Key Thought

Our God is a God who wants to show us love and compassion when we turn to Him. His mercy and forgiveness is always towards us.

Aim

For the children to grow up in the Lord knowing that whatever their circumstances, the Lord will also deal with them in His love, drawing them into His purposes.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion." (Psalm 145:8).

Theme Two

"Repentance"

The people of Nineveh had so offended God that He decided to destroy them. When they repented, He relented but some years later they sinned again and this time He did destroy them. If our repentance is true repentance it will show fruit, if not we will fall into our old ways, perhaps even worse ones. We must not be like the people of Nineveh.

Key Thought

We have truly repented when we have turned from our wicked ways and turned to walk in a godly manner.

Aim

To show the children the importance of true repentance.

Memory Verse

"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance." (Matthew 3:8).

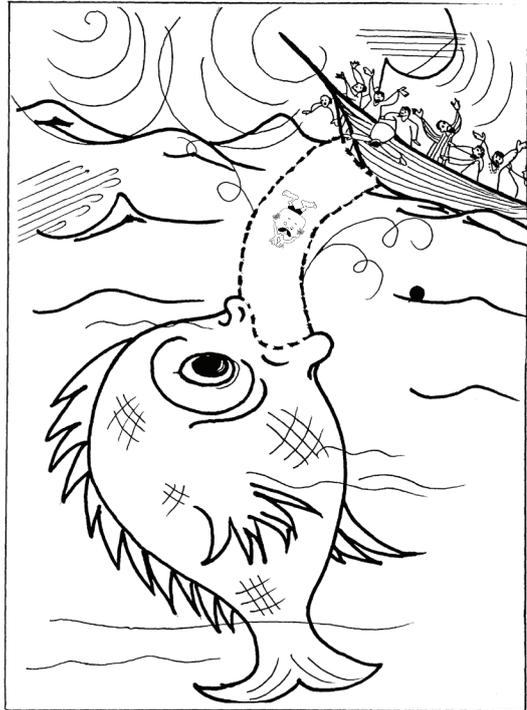
Activity A - Jonah into the Fish

Materials

- 1 of each 3 Activity Sheets per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Skewer to make holes.
- 1 split-pin per child.
- Stapler (optional).

Steps

- The children cut around the frames, then cut out around the dotted lines to remove the shaded part on the fish Activity Sheets.
- Glue or staple the two pictures back to back at the top and side edges. Leave the bottom (long) edge open. Ensure that both openings and the two Xs line up.
- Cut out the circles and glue them back to back, lining up the Xs and with Jonah on the outside of each.
- Make a hole with the skewer through the Xs in the centre of the circle. Make another hole through the Xs on the picture.
- Slip the circle up through the open end of the picture until the holes line up.
- Secure with a split-pin through the holes and observe Jonah's fate by revolving the wheel.



Activity B - Unscramble the Words

Materials

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- 1 piece of paper and pencil per child.

Steps

At Home

- Cut out the Questions and Answers into their individual triangles and squares.

In Class

Here are two suggested ways to play the game:

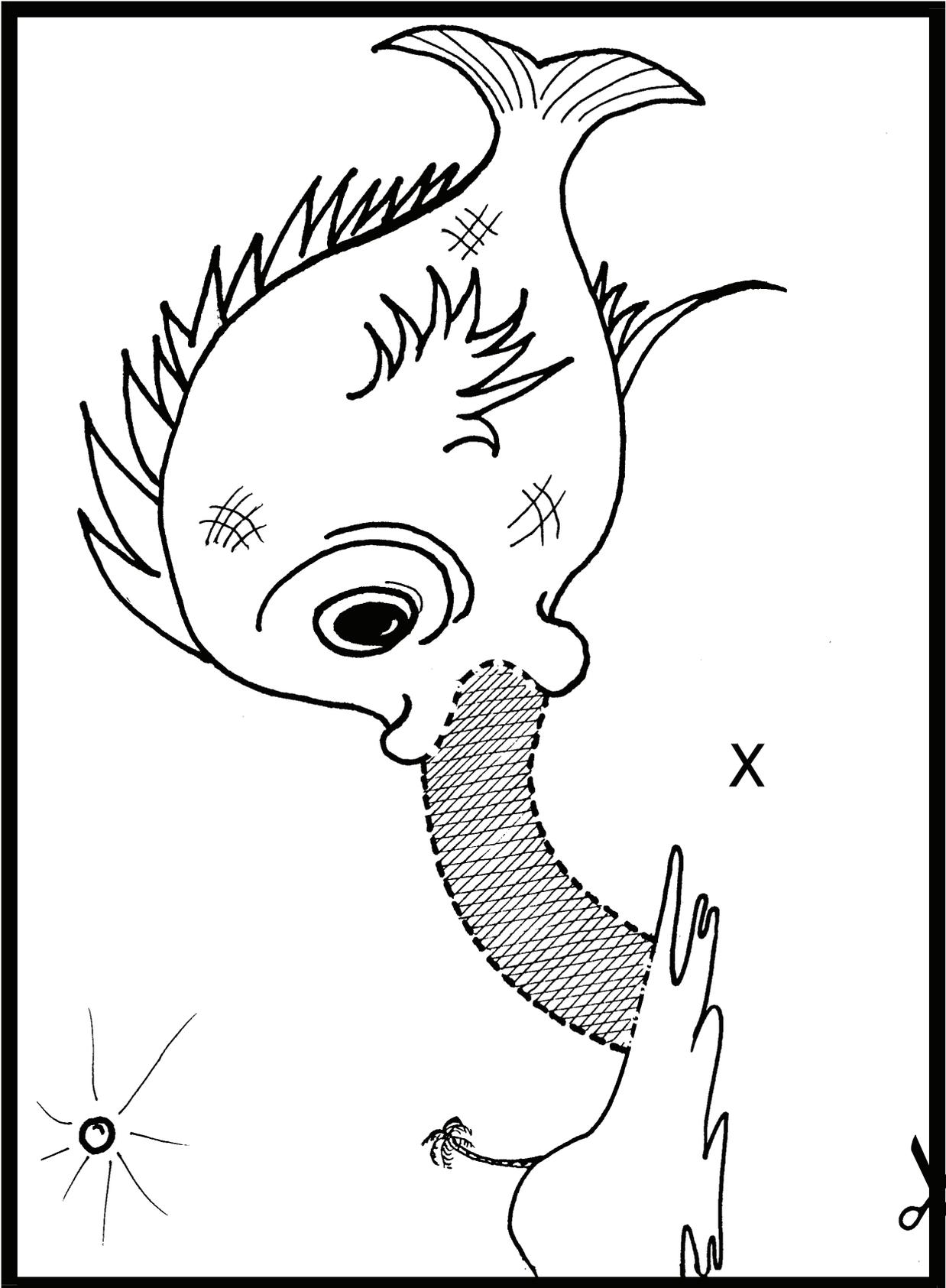
- Lay out all the squares so they can be read. Put the triangles in a hat. One by one each child takes a turn at choosing a card from the hat and reading it to the class, then matches the question to the correct answer card and reads out the choices. The rest of the class can write down the answer, eg Q7-(O)b. By the end each triangle should be laid on the desk in the order they were chosen, with matching square beside. The teacher can then go through the answers as the children mark their work.
- Each child chooses one or two questions and one or two answers (depending on the number of children in the class). One by one, the children read a question and the person who thinks they have the answer reads out all the options on their card. The rest of the class say if there is a match. When it is a match they are placed side by side on the desk. When all 16 are out, the children write on a piece of paper the correct answers, eg. Q12-(P)b.

Answers

- 1.(I)a, 2.(B)b, 3.(A)a, 4.(N)a, 5.(J)b, 6.(D)c, 7.(O)b, 8.(C)b, 9.(F)a, 10.(L)b, 11.(E)b, 12.(P)b, 13.(M)b, 14.(H)b, 15.(G)b, 16.(Q)c.

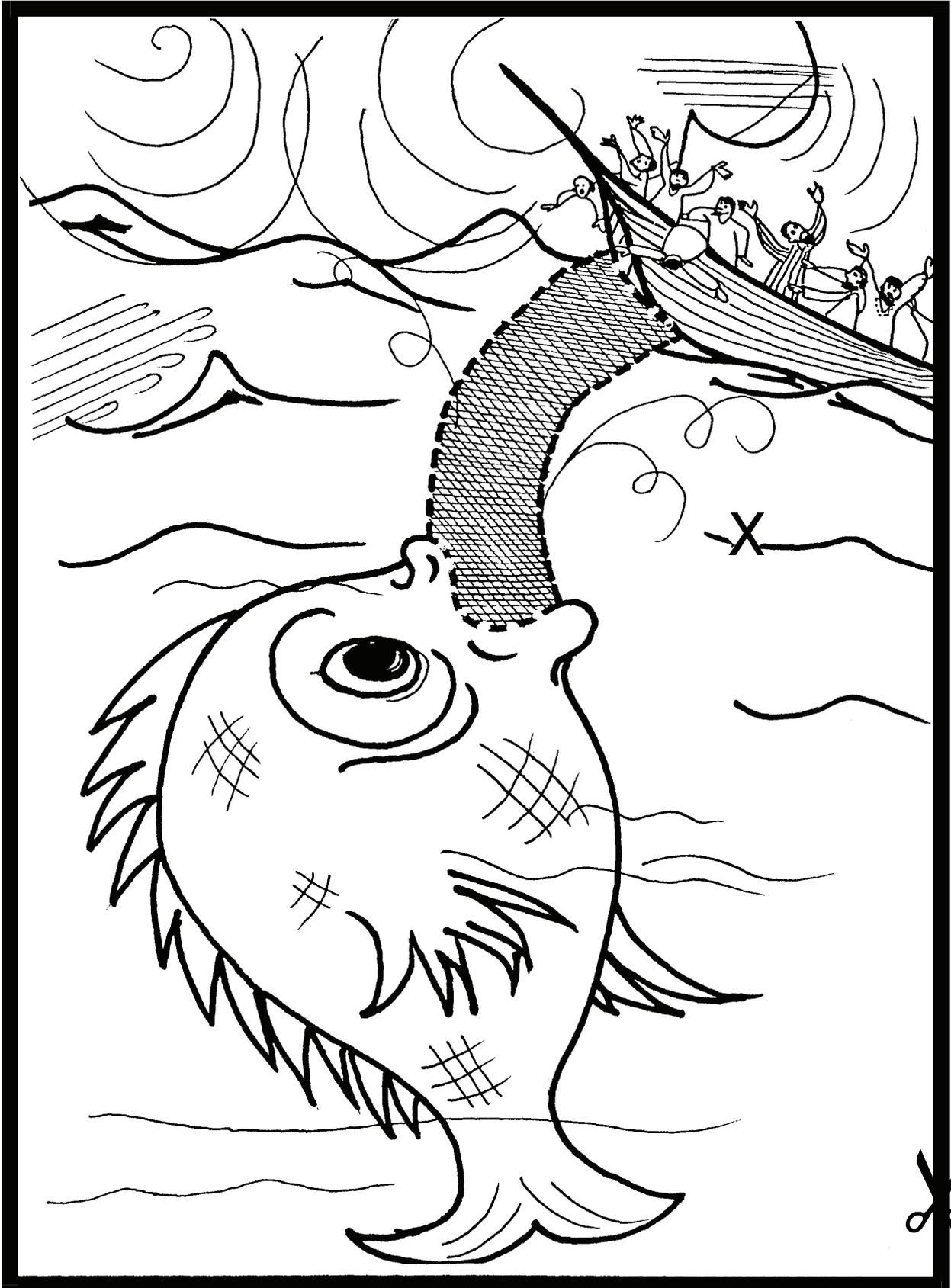
Jonah

Activity A – Jonah into the Fish



Jonah

Activity A – Jonah into the Fish



Jonah

Activity A – Jonah into the Fish



X



X

Jonah

Activity B – Multiple Choice Game

<p>1. Where did God tell Jonah to go.</p> <p>2. Nineveh was?</p>	<p>3. What did Jonah have to do at Nineveh?</p> <p>4. What did God do when Jonah went on a boat from Joppa?</p>
<p>5. What did the sailors do when Jonah told of his disobedience?</p> <p>6. What did Jonah do after he was swallowed?</p>	<p>7. Will God give us another chance if we eventually hear His voice and obey?</p> <p>8. When Jonah was cast overboard, he ...?</p>
<p>9. How did the people at Nineveh react to Jonah's message?</p> <p>10. If we don't obey, do we get away with it?</p>	<p>11. What did Jonah do when God spoke to him a second time?</p> <p>12. What did God do when the people of Nineveh repented?</p>
<p>13. How did Jonah feel about God forgiving Nineveh?</p> <p>14. Did God explain to Jonah what He had done?</p>	<p>15. How did God show Jonah why He had mercy?</p> <p>16. What do we learn from Jonah's experience?</p>

Jonah

Activity B – Multiple Choice Game

<p style="text-align: center;">(I)</p> <p>a. Go to Nineveh. b. Flee to Tarshish. c. Go to the park and fly a kite.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(A)</p> <p>a. Cry out against their wickedness. b. Teach them to play hopscotch. c. Don't worry about them, just walk through the city.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(B)</p> <p>a. A small town of peaceful, God-fearing people. b. A large city, taking three days to pass through, where sin was everywhere. c. A new type of dance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(N)</p> <p>a. Caused a big storm to come against the boat. b. Gave him a safe trip. c. Let the captain have a party.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">(J)</p> <p>a. They abused him and called him names. b. Tried to overcome the storm, but eventually cast Jonah overboard when the storm worsened, pleading that God would forgive them. c. Tried to pretend the storm wasn't happening.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(C)</p> <p>a. Sank to the bottom dead. b. Sank and was swallowed by a large fish, prepared by God. c. Went scuba diving.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(D)</p> <p>a. Kicked the fish until it coughed him up. b. Said, "Woe is me," and died. c. Repented and cried out to God for deliverance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(O)</p> <p>a. No! He just watches and punishes. b. Yes! Giving us grace to obey. c. He wants us all to be swallowed by a fish.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">(L)</p> <p>a. Yes. When it is dark. b. No. But God will lead us back to the right path, or we will only stumble on the wrong one. c. No. God blindfolds us and watches us make mistakes and fall.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(E)</p> <p>a. Fled to Joppa again. b. Did as God asked, preached to Nineveh. c. Protested and turned away.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(F)</p> <p>a. Repented, wearing sackcloth and ashes and cried out to God. b. Had a party in Jonah's honour. c. Took no notice of God's message.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(P)</p> <p>a. Destroyed them as Jonah said would happen. b. Heard them and had mercy, not destroying their city. c. Turned them all to pillars of salt.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">(M)</p> <p>a. Very happy and rejoiced. b. Grumbled and objected to God's decision and mercy. c. Decided to live in Nineveh.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(G)</p> <p>a. Showed him where to read in the New Testament. b. Grew a plant, then let it wither, explaining how Nineveh meant more to Him than Jonah knew, and how they needed God's mercy. c. Delayed the destruction till Jonah had a better view.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(H)</p> <p>a. No and Jonah is still waiting on the east side of the city next to a withered plant. b. Yes, showing Jonah God's wisdom and mercy. c. Yes, but Jonah is still arguing and not listening to God.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Q)</p> <p>a. That God never does what He says He will. b. That all people, no matter how evil, always obey God. c. That God really cares about all men.</p>

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The captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom)

II Kings 17

Storyline

The kingdom of Israel lasted just over 200 years. Eventually Assyria invaded Israel and surrounded the capital, Samaria. After three years, Assyria took the Israelites away to their land. Israel fell because the Israelites sinned against the Lord. They worshipped other gods, sacrificed to them, and refused to listen to God's warnings. In His anger, the Lord banished Israel and later, the kingdom of Judah. He handed them over to their enemies. The Israelites were taken into exile to Assyria. The Assyrians settled other people in Israel. These people worshipped their own gods as well as the God of Israel. The Lord had commanded people to worship Him alone, and promised that if they kept His covenant He would rescue them from their enemies, but they were stubborn and disobeyed.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss forgetfulness. What happens when you put off doing what your parents tell you until later? How many times do you later obey without being reminded or chased? How many times do we deliberately try to avoid doing what we were told?

Children briefly share their stories.

Theme One

"Fear God and obey Him"

God promised He would protect us and keep us safe if we obey Him and keep His commandments. This story shows us what happened when the Israelites disobeyed God and the trouble it caused them. When we forget to put the Lord first in our lives or deliberately disobey Him, we leave ourselves open to things going wrong. It is not what God wants us to do. He calls us to put Him first in our lives.

Key Thought

If we truly love God we will fear Him for who He is. God's desire is that we love Him and worship Him alone.

Aim

To teach the children to obey God and follow His commandments, and He will always be with us.

Memory Verse

*"You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him."
(Deuteronomy 6:13).*

Theme Two

"God is merciful and God judges"

When God sees His people sinning He wants to have mercy on them; so He speaks to the sinner through his/her parents or through someone else. God hopes the sinner will be sorry and change his/her ways. He is a merciful and forgiving God. However, He will not allow sin to continue in our lives and He will allow judgement to come to us, just as He judged the people of Israel when they would not listen to His prophets.

Key Thought

God loves us and therefore desires to judge our sin and to see us repent and change.

Aim

For the children to understand that their parents discipline them because they love them and want to see their lives changed.

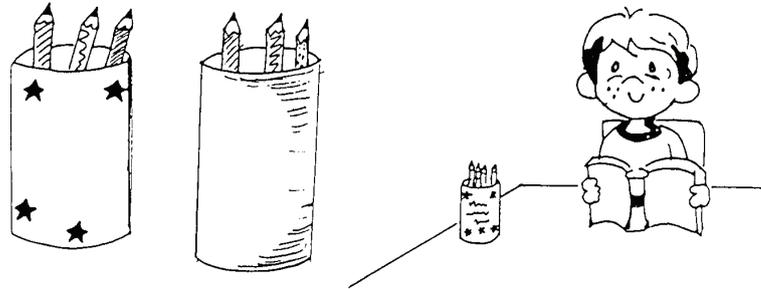
Memory Verse

*"But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord."
(1 Corinthians 11:32).*

Activity A - Pencil Holder

Materials

- 1 x 600ml or 1ltr milk carton or 1 empty soup can (or similar) per child. If using cans, make sure the lids have been removed in a way so that there are no sharp or jagged edges.
- Wallpaper, coloured contact, coloured paper and clear contact or material.
- PVC glue (for material only).
- Star shaped stickers.
- Felt pens.
- Scissors.



Steps

At Home

- If using milk cartons, cut them down to a suitable size for a pencil holder.
- Cut the wallpaper, contact or material to the right size to fit around the containers.

In Class

- The children attach the wallpaper, contact or material to the container.
- Using felt pens, the children write the memory verse on one side of the container.
- They can then decorate their pencil holder with stickers and/or felt pens.
- Suggest to the children that they fill their container with pencils and keep them on their desks or wherever they do their homework.

Activity B - Sorting Cards

Materials

- Cardboard.
- Felt pens.

Steps

At Home

- Prepare multiple copies of cards (enough for one set between two students) with the word HAPPINESS on one and TROUBLE on the other.
- Prepare a set of smaller cards with the words of Israel's sins on some, and God's commandments on the other eg.

Worshipped Baal	Love God
Fearing other gods	Turn away from sin
Worshipped two calves	Obey God
Did not listen to God	Listen to God's word
Listened to fortune teller	Don't copy other nations
Murder	Hear God's prophets
Hate	Fear God
- Prepare one set of blank cards for each pair.

In Class

- After telling the story of II Kings 17, divide the children into pairs. Give each pair the heading cards HAPPINESS and TROUBLE.
- Explain to the children that the next set of cards describe the choices that Israel could have made that would lead them to HAPPINESS or TROUBLE.
- Children are to sort the cards and place the phrases under the appropriate heading.
- Share and discuss how the children sorted the cards.
- Explain to the children how God wants us to sort through what is in our lives and separate ourselves to do His will. This will bring us true happiness and peace.

Hezekiah and Sennacherib

II Kings 18 - 20;
Isaiah 36 - 38

Storyline

Just before the northern kingdom of Israel went into captivity, Hezekiah became king of Judah. He faithfully served the Lord, destroying all the idols throughout the land and the Lord prospered him all his days. Later, the ungodly king of Assyria, Sennacherib, came against God's people. He craftily tried to persuade them to turn against their king and his God, boasting how powerful and undefeated his nation was. King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, sought the Lord in prayer for direction. God listened and answered their prayer for deliverance from the Assyrians and their boastful king. After this time, King Hezekiah became very sick and was dying; he pleaded to the Lord to spare his life. God listened and added 15 years to his life because of his loyalty over the years. As proof, God moved the shadow back on the sundial by ten degrees (a miracle act of God!). Hezekiah had a son Manasseh, who was born during his fifteen extended years of life. Manasseh was the worst king that Judah ever had.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Introduce the story with discussion: At school, sometimes other children can make life difficult by saying they will hurt us or by doing mean things to us. When this happens, what do we do? Sit down and cry? Run away and hide? Get help from a teacher or another adult? Which one of these things would truly solve our problem? Just as we can ask for help from adults who care about us, we can also ask for help from God because He loves us and cares about us even more. There was a king in the Bible who had a problem just like this one.
2. Relate the story to the class emphasising your chosen Theme.
3. Introduce an Activity.

Theme One

“Trust in the Lord”

King Hezekiah was a righteous man because he loved and trusted God and obeyed His commandments. He knew who God was and so he knew that he could put his trust in Him at all times especially when he was worried or afraid. We can trust the Lord too, and it is important that we learn all we can about Him so that we know Him as a friend who is always with us, watching over us every day.

Key Thought

God loves us and cares for us. As we trust God, He shows us the way we should go.

Aim

To encourage the children to turn to the Lord, trusting Him instead of worrying or being afraid.

Memory Verse

“I have put my trust in the Lord God.” (Psalm 73:28).

Theme Two

“Walk in God's ways”

God knew that His people would be tempted to follow the evil ways of their neighbours, but He loved them so much He wanted them to choose His way. When the kings attempted to walk according to God's way, He always backed them up and brought deliverance for His people. We too, can walk faithfully, even in the midst of an evil generation and God will prosper us.

Key Thought

We must guard our heart and mind and choose to walk in God's ways to know His guidance.

Aim

To express to the children that it is up to them to choose to be faithful to the Lord and walk in His ways.

Memory Verse

“Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.” (Psalm 128:1).

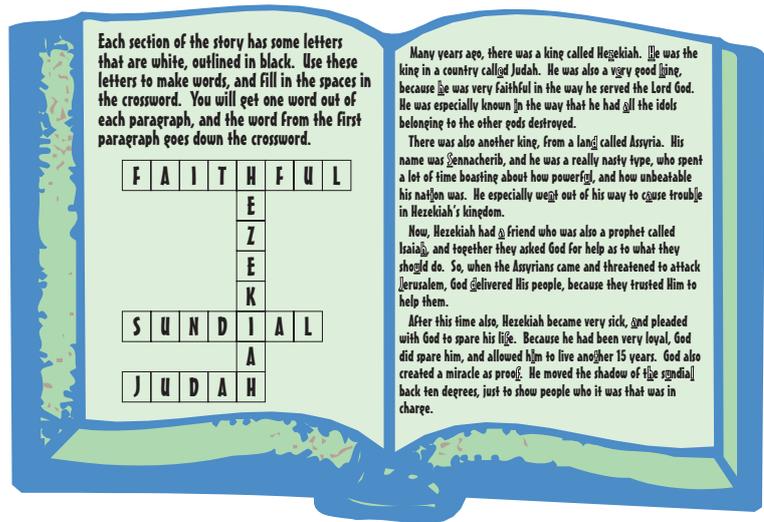
Activity A - Crossword

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- The children read the story, and note down the letters that are white and underlined. They then make those letters into words that fit in the crossword.



Activity B - Missing Words

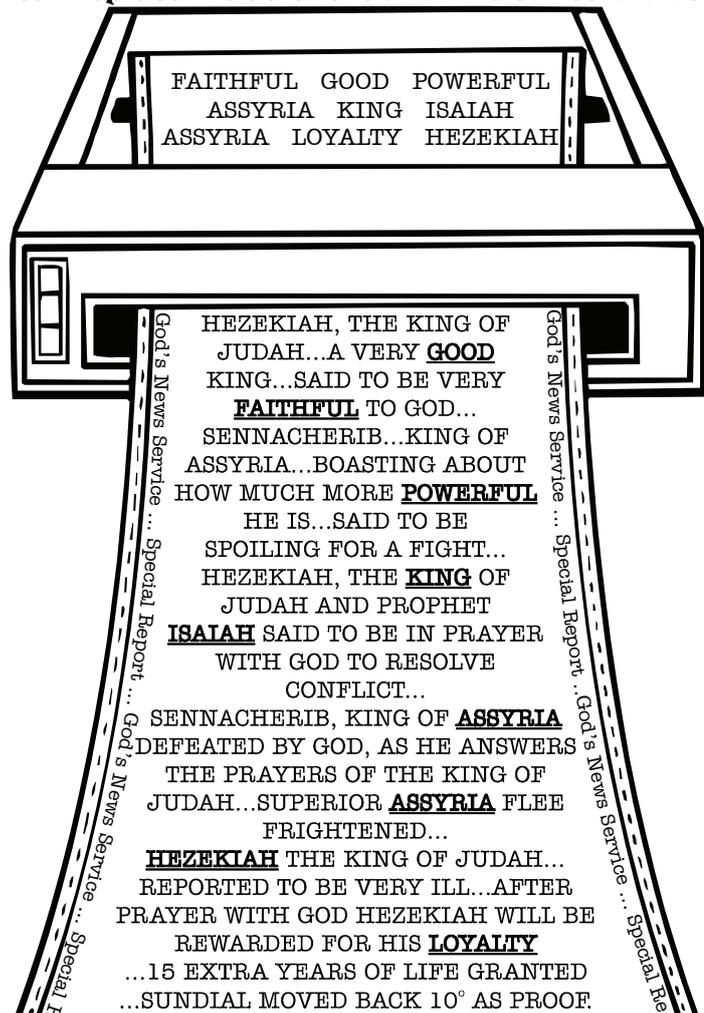
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- The children work out which words from the list replace the asterisks in the story.

The tickertape machine has gone on the blink again, and missed out a few words! See if you can replace the asterisks with the correct words.



Hezekiah and Sennacherib

Activity A - Crossword

Each section of the story has some letters that are white, outlined in black. Use these letters to make words, and fill in the spaces in the crossword. You will get one word out of each paragraph, and the word from the first paragraph goes down the crossword.

Many years ago, there was a king called Hezekiah. He was the king in a country called Judah. He was also a very good king, because he was very faithful in the way he served the Lord God. He was especially known in the way that he had all the idols belonging to the other gods destroyed.

There was also another king, from a land called Assyria. His name was Sennacherib, and he was a really nasty type, who spent a lot of time boasting about how powerful, and how unbeatable his nation was. He especially went out of his way to cause trouble in Hezekiah's kingdom.

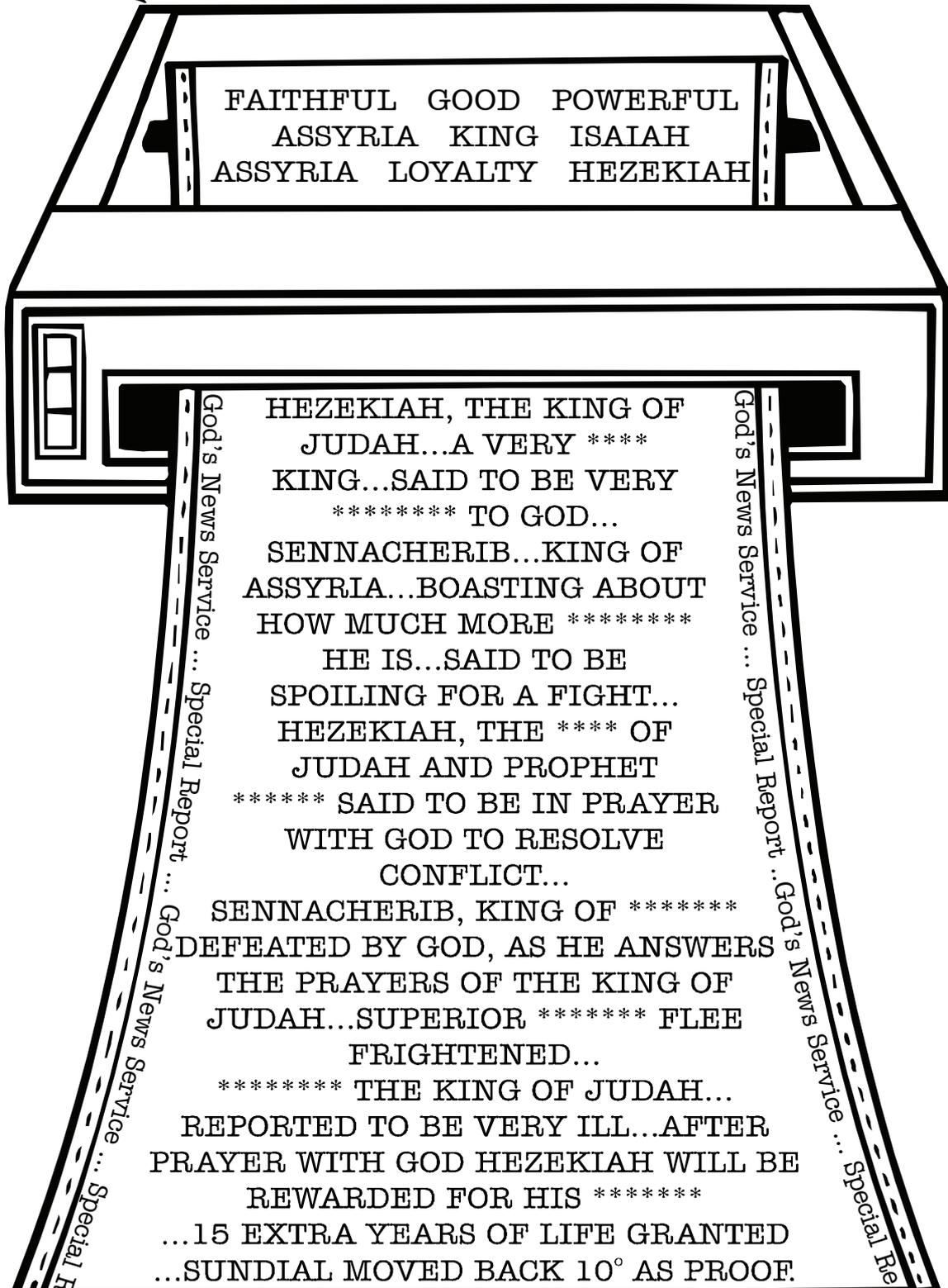
Now, Hezekiah had a friend who was also a prophet called Isaiah, and together they asked God for help as to what they should do. So, when the Assyrians came and threatened to attack Jerusalem, God delivered His people, because they trusted Him to help them.

After this time also, Hezekiah became very sick, and pleaded with God to spare his life. Because he had been very loyal, God did spare him, and allowed him to live another 15 years. God also created a miracle as proof. He moved the shadow of the sundial back ten degrees, just to show people who it was that was in charge.

Hezekiah and Sennacherib

Activity B – Missing Words

The tickertape machine has gone on the blink again, and missed out a few words! See if you can replace the asterisks with the correct words.



Storyline

Isaiah was called to be a prophet in the year that King Uzziah died. He prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah's son Jotham, Jotham's son Ahaz and Ahaz's son Hezekiah, and possibly into the reign of Hezekiah's son Manasseh. He saw a vision of the glory of the Lord and the Lord sitting upon the throne. Isaiah was so moved that he realised that he was dwelling in a world of people with unclean lips, of which he was one. Then one of the seraphim that stood above the throne came with hot coals from the altar and cleansed his lips and purged his sin. From that time, Isaiah was willing to go and take the word of the Lord to His people, whether a word of judgement or a word of deliverance.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Pour clean water into an obviously dirty container. Transfer the water into a clean glass. Ask the children who would like a drink. Point out the pollution and how this contaminates the water. Clean the container and repeat the demonstration. Liken the container to us, both in our sinful and our cleansed state.

Have a box, with a lid on it with something interesting inside. Point out that it is not known what is inside as it is dark – no light. Take the lid off. Liken the box to our hearts and how, without God's glory shining in, we would never be able to see what is really in our hearts.

Theme One

“Called to be a messenger”

God met with Isaiah, showed him his sin, cleansed him, and called him to be His servant. His holy presence brings a great conviction of His lordship and of our own sin. Only through a genuine repentance can God bring His cleansing, which gives us confidence before Him, and allows His enabling to flow to us to do what He is calling us to do.

Key Thought

A true encounter with God will reveal to us our own wretchedness and the need to be changed.

Aim

For the children to consider their own response to the Lord's call on their lives.

Memory Verse

“Be even more diligent to make your call and election sure.”
(2 Peter 1:10).

Theme Two

“Sin is revealed in God's presence”

Isaiah was given a vision of the Lord's glory and holiness. In God's presence, Isaiah became very aware of his sin. In the same way, God's presence makes us aware of our sin. We can then confess our sin and repent of it.

Key Thought

As we are aware of God and how holy He is, only then can we see our own sinful being.

Aim

To encourage the children to deal with their sin as it is revealed by God's presence.

Memory Verse

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” (1 John 1:9).

Activity A - Car Wash

Materials

- 1 dirty car.
- Buckets of water.
- Sponges/rags.
- Windex.
- Paper towels.

Steps

- Arrange beforehand for someone to park their dirty car in a convenient spot for the children to wash. Make sure the windows are dirty inside and out.
- The children use the buckets, sponges and rags to wash and dry the car.
- Discuss what sort of water they are throwing away (dirty), and which sort of water is useful to wash the car (clean).
- When the car is clean, discuss if it is really clean if only the outside of it is washed and looking good, eg. the windows still look dirty if only wiped clean on the outside.
- The children now clean inside of the windows and notice the difference.
- Discuss this activity in relation to the cleansing of our lives. Also in relation to how we can look good on the outside but be unclean still.

Activity B - Unscramble the Words

Materials

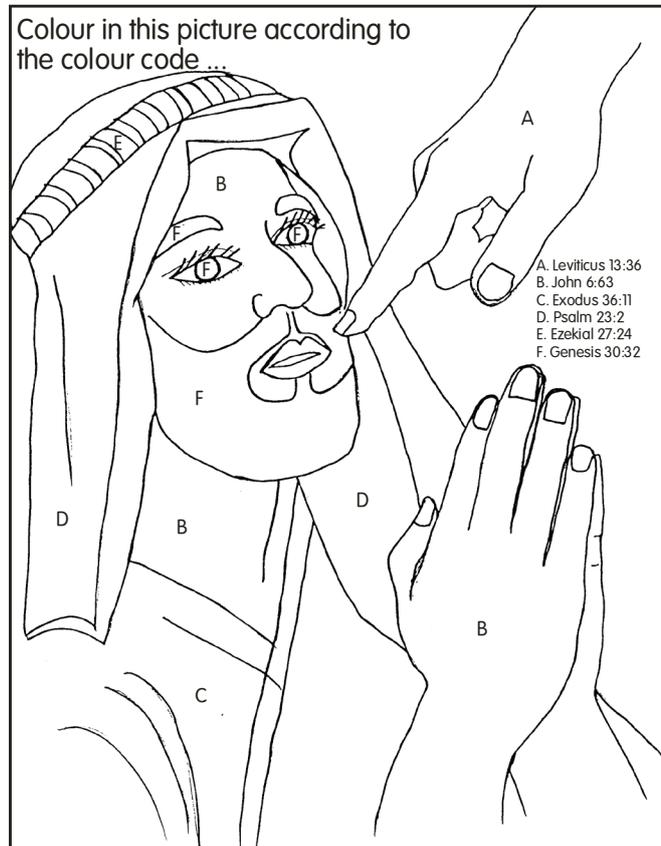
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.

Steps

- Children look up the scriptures in the Bible to find the colour to use in order to complete the picture.

Answers

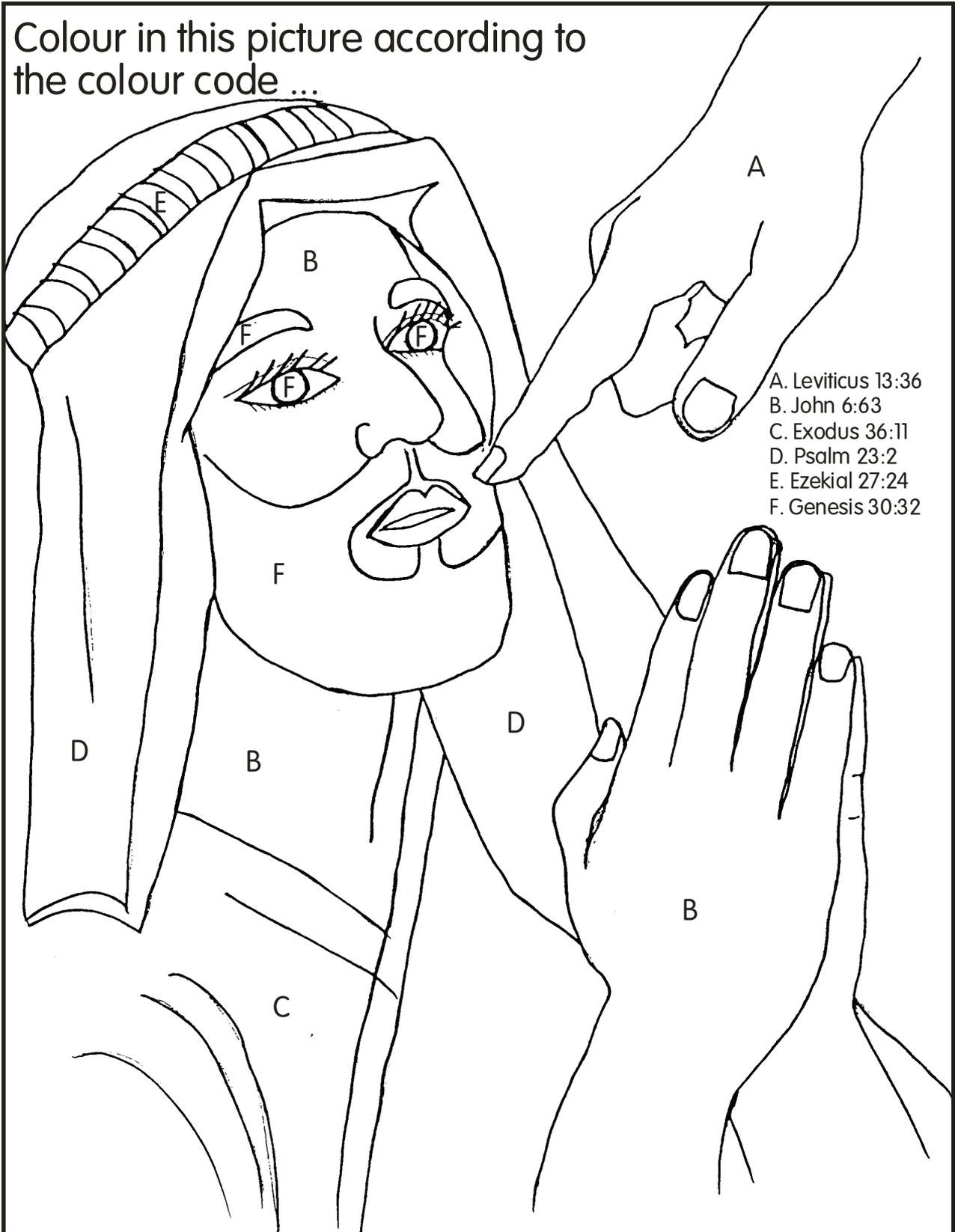
- A - Yellow
- B - Flesh
- C - Blue
- D - Green
- E - Purple
- F - Brown



Isaiah

Activity B – Colour the Picture

Colour in this picture according to the colour code ...



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Josiah

II Kings 22:1 – 23:25

Storyline

After King Hezekiah died, two generations passed who behaved very wickedly and led God's people astray. Then Josiah, who was only eight years old, was made king over Judah. Even at this young age, his heart was towards serving the Lord. Some years later, he felt inspired to restore the house of the Lord and it was there that the Book of the Law was rediscovered and read to the king. It was prophesied that God intended destroying this nation because of their idolatry. Because King Josiah's heart was soft and he'd been so faithful over the years, God promised him peace throughout his days. He cried unto the Lord and removed all idolatry from within the nation and re-established the feast of Passover according to the Scriptures that had been found.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss children, besides Josiah, whom God used when they were young, eg. Joshua, Samuel, David, Naaman's handmaiden, the lad who gave his lunch to Jesus to feed the 5000.

Introduce the story, following the theme of your choice.

Theme One

"A heart to serve the Lord"

God raised up Josiah as a child to serve Him by leading the nation of Judah. Although he was young, Josiah was faithful in serving God. God calls us as children to serve Him, even in small ways, in our homes and at school. He wants us too to be faithful.

Key Thought

God is very interested in seeing children serve the Lord and being committed to Him.

Aim

To encourage the children to understand that they are not too young to serve the Lord.

Memory Verse

"If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour." (John 12:26).

Theme Two

"Living according to God's word"

Josiah knew it was important to live the way God intended so he taught the people about the laws of God and the feast of Passover. Jesus has told us that the way to live as God lives is by loving one another. We show our love for one another in many ways – giving, helping, forgiving, etc. We show our love for God when we worship, pray and gather together to learn more about Him.

Key Thought

Josiah re-discovered God's word and restored God's way to Judah. God has given us His word, which shows us how to live.

Aim

To encourage the children to live according to God's word.

Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105).

Activity A - Make a Scroll

Materials

- 1 of each 3 Activity Sheets per child.
- Dowel or thin sticks or tightly rolled cardboard suitable to make the ends of a scroll.
- Scissors.
- Glue/Sticky tape.
- Candle and matches.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Decorative stickers/glitter.

Steps

- Children use the Bible reference Psalm 19:7-11 to complete the missing words on the activity sheet.
- The children cut out around the lines of each Activity Sheet.
- Glue or sticky tape the three Activity Sheets together to form a long piece of paper, keeping them in the right order so the Scripture follows through.
- If time permits the children can colour or decorate their scroll.
- To give the effect of it being aged, you could scorch the paper by holding it and moving it just above the flame of a lit candle. This must be strictly supervised to make sure the paper does not catch alight.
- Attach the ends of the paper to the dowel or whatever you are using for the ends of the scroll.
- The children wind up the scroll from both ends.

Psalm 19:7-11

“The law of the Lord is perfect,
 converting the soul:
 The testimony of the Lord is sure,
 making wise the simple;
 The statutes of the Lord are right,
 rejoicing the heart:
 The commandment of the Lord is pure,
 enlightening the eyes:
 The fear of the Lord is clean,
 enduring forever:
 The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold,
 Yea, than much fine gold:
 Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
 Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
 And in keeping them there is great reward.”

Activity B - Coded Message

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- The children use the code to decipher the message, and then fill in their name and suburb in the appropriate places.

USE THE CODE TO FIND OUT THE SECRET MESSAGE.

MY NAME IS
 13 25 14 1 13 5 9 19

I LIVE AT
 9 12 9 22 5 1 20

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR
 15 14 5 13 5 13 15 18 25 22 5 18 19 5 6 15 18

IT IS
 20 15 4 1 25 9 19

CREATE IN ME A
 3 18 5 1 20 5 9 14 13 5 1

CLEAN HEART TO GOD
 3 12 5 1 14 8 5 1 18 20 15 7 15 4

AND REWAVE
 1 14 4 18 5 14 5 23 1

STEFAN SPIRIT
 19 20 5 1 4 6 1 19 20 19 16 9 18 9 20

WITNESS ME
 23 9 20 8 9 14 13 5.

CODE:
 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, 5=E, 6=F, 7=G, 8=H, 9=I, 10=J,
 11=K, 12=L, 13=M, 14=N, 15=O, 16=P, 17=Q, 18=R,
 19=S, 20=T, 21=U, 22=V, 23=W, 24=X, 25=Y, 26=Z.

Josiah

Activity A – Make a Scroll

Psalm 19:7-11

“The law of the
_____ is perfect,
converting the
soul;

The testimony of
the Lord is _____,
making _____ the
_____;

The statutes of the
Lord are right,
rejoicing the
_____;

Josiah

Activity A – Make a Scroll

The
commandment of
the Lord is _____,
enlightening the
eyes;
The fear of the
Lord is clean,
_____ forever;
The judgments of
the Lord are true
and _____
_____.

Josiah

Activity A – Make a Scroll

More to be desired
are they than _____,
Yea, than much
fine _____;
_____ also
than honey and
the honeycomb.
Moreover by them
Your servant is
_____,
And in keeping
them there is
_____.”

Josiah

Activity B – Coded Message

USE THE CODE TO FIND OUT THE SECRET MESSAGE.

13 25 14 1 13 5 9 19

9 12 9 22 5 1 20

15 14 5 13 5 13 15 18 25 22 5 18 19 5 6 15 18

20 15 4 1 25 9 19

3 18 5 1 20 5 9 14 13 5 1

3 12 5 1 14 8 5 1 18 20 15 7 15 4

1 14 4 18 5 14 5 23 1

19 20 5 1 4 6 1 19 20 19 16 9 18 9 20

23 9 20 8 9 14 13 5.

CODE:

1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, 5=E, 6=F, 7=G, 8=H, 9=I, 10=J,
11=K, 12=L, 13=M, 14=N, 15=O, 16=P, 17=Q, 18=R,
19=S, 20=T, 21=U, 22=U, 23=W, 24=X, 25=Y, 26=Z.

Storyline

Jeremiah began his work as a prophet in the reign of Josiah and continued for 40 years through the reigns of the last five kings of Judah. God told him to go to the potter's house and watch a vessel being made and then flawed and re-made. God informed Jeremiah that He wanted to re-make Israel, if they would repent. Then God told him to take a potter's flask and break the vessel while some of the elders watched. He was to tell them that God would bring catastrophe on the people and break them so they could not be made whole again. Pashur, a chief governor in the house of the Lord, put Jeremiah in stocks, but Jeremiah continued to warn of disaster to come.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Using soft playdough/clay, demonstrate how pliable and easily moulded it is. Then use hard playdough/clay to demonstrate the reverse. Throw it to the floor to show how it breaks.

Linking to Theme 1, discuss how we can let God mould us or go our own way and be broken.

Linking to Theme 2, discuss the types of opposition that we will face as we live as Christians.

Theme One

"Clay in the Potter's hands"

God showed Jeremiah two types of clay - likened to His people at that time. The first was still malleable in the potter's hand, and though it was marred, the potter was able to work it into the form that He wanted. The second was hard and brittle, could not be reworked, and was fit only to be broken in pieces. As long as we remain soft towards God, He is able to change us. However we can reach a point where our hearts are so hard that we are unable to respond to the fashioning of God.

Key Thought

Our heart attitude towards the Lord determines what use we, as His vessels, will be.

Aim

For the children to understand the meaning of a 'soft heart', and how God can use us.

Memory Verse

"But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter." (Isaiah 64:8).

Theme Two

"Suffering for speaking God's word"

Jeremiah prophesied God's word in an uncompromising manner. The people opposed and rejected the word and Jeremiah felt the full impact of this opposition to the point of physical hurt. When we align our lives with the will of God and are obedient to His call, we too may find that we face opposition as we stand firm in our commitment.

Key Thought

People will oppose God's word, but that should not deter us from being faithful to it.

Aim

For the children to be aware of the likelihood of persecution and ridicule from some of their peers as they declare their faith in God.

Memory Verse

"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12).

Activity A - Modeling with Clay or Playdough

Materials

- Clay/playdough.
- Pencils.

Steps

- Give each child enough clay or playdough to mould a small pot.
- Allow the children to decorate their pots by scratching a design on them with a pencil.
- If using clay, explain to the children that the pots are not water tight, but they could be sun dried by placing them in a sunny position for a few days, eg. a window ledge.
- Alternatively, "Fimo" jewellery making clay is excellent and has the added benefit of being able to be baked in a normal oven. The children could make jewellery or pots and the teacher could take them home, bake them in his/her oven and return them to the children the following week.

Activity B - Coded Message

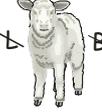
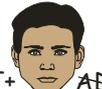
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Extra paper.

Steps

- Children interpret the picture words to reveal the message.
- Suggest to the children that they make their own coded message for Lamentations 3:40.

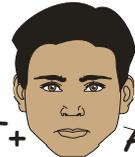
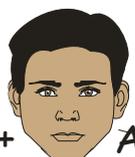
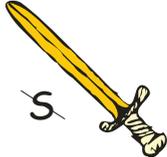
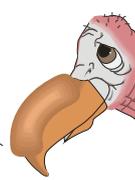
Can you solve the picture puzzle and write the correct word under each picture to find out what the message is?

 "F O R	 I	 A M	 T H E
 L O R D.	 I	 S P E A K.	
 A N D	 T H E	 W O R D	
 R H	 I	 S P E A K	
 W I L L	 C O M E	 T O	 P A S S."

Jeremiah

Activity B – Coded Message

Can you solve the picture puzzle and write the correct word under each picture to find out what the message is?

4		L B 	T+ AD 
''	_____	_____	_____
L+SW 		SP+B 	
_____	_____	_____	
H 	T+ AD 	S 	
_____	_____	_____	
R+ WH 		SP+B 	
_____	_____	_____	
W+R 	B+E 	2	P+GR 
_____	_____	_____	''

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The captivity of Judah

(the southern kingdom)

II Chronicles 36:1-21;
Jeremiah 52; Daniel 1

Storyline

All through history, God had provided guidance on how His people should live but they continually disobeyed God. Jeremiah the prophet repeatedly warned the people but they would not listen. As a result, God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to attack them. King Zedekiah's sons were killed and Zedekiah was blinded. Later, Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. Nearly all the people were taken into captivity in Babylon. From these captives, King Nebuchadnezzar chose some intelligent young men to learn the Chaldean's language and literature. One of these young men was Daniel. He, with his three friends, chose not to eat the king's meat which might have been offered to idols. Instead they ate vegetables. After ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and fatter than all the other young men. God gave them more knowledge and wisdom than any other person alive.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Ask the children, "Why do bad things sometimes happen in our lives?" Discussion points may include:

- the consequences of our disobedience
- God's will for our lives is not always what we may choose – or think it should be.

Then tell the story, showing how each of these points apply.

Theme One

"God's judgement is true"

Judah had witnessed the destruction of Israel and still did not repent and be reconciled to God. They had ridiculed God's prophet and treated His word with contempt. There came a time when God chose not to restrain His hand of judgement any longer. We need to take heed to the dealings of God in the lives of others and to respond positively to the word of God as it comes to us. His patience and longsuffering is to bring us to repentance and will be followed by judgement if we do not respond.

Key Thought

Whilst God may not immediately punish those who sin, His judgement upon sin is sure.

Aim

For the children to understand the danger of not responding when God begins to call forth repentance.

Memory Verse

"The judgements of the Lord are true." (Psalm 19:9).

Theme Two

"Sanctified to God"

Sometimes when we are with other people who do not love God, it seems easier to do exactly as the rest do. God is very pleased with us when we are faithful to Him, especially when others are not. Daniel and his three friends were brave and did what God wanted and not what the others did, and God blessed them. God wants us to be faithful to Him. We can be sure that if we are faithful to God, He will bless us.

Key Thought

When we are faithful to God, He will be with us and bless us and we will know His life.

Aim

To encourage the children always to do what God requires and not what others say they should do.

Memory Verse

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification." (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

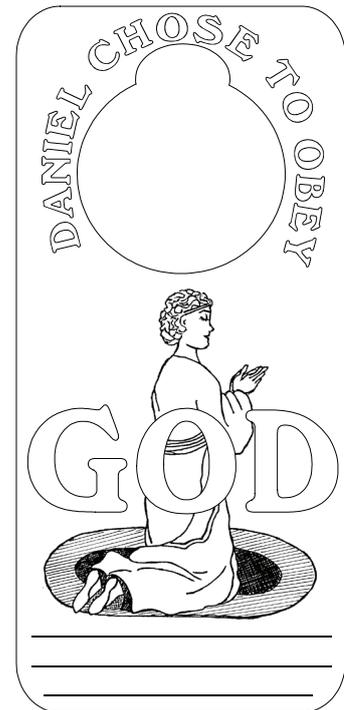
Activity A - Door Knob Hanger

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Pens/pencils.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

- Children cut around the outline and hole of the door knob hanger.
- Colour the picture of Daniel and the lettering.
- Ask the children to choose one of these suggested captions to write on the hanger, or encourage them to write a prayer in their own words:
“Lord, help me to obey You even when others don’t.”
“Lord, help me to love You as Daniel did.”
“Lord, help me to put You first in my life.”



Activity B - “The Destruction of Jerusalem” Book

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Staples.
- Cardboard.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- Cut each picture from the page (the black border is to be used as space for the staples).
- Make a cover with a separate piece of cardboard and print on it, “The Destruction of Jerusalem.”
- Staple the pictures and the cover into a booklet.
- The children can colour the pictures and write about the picture on the opposite page.



The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom)

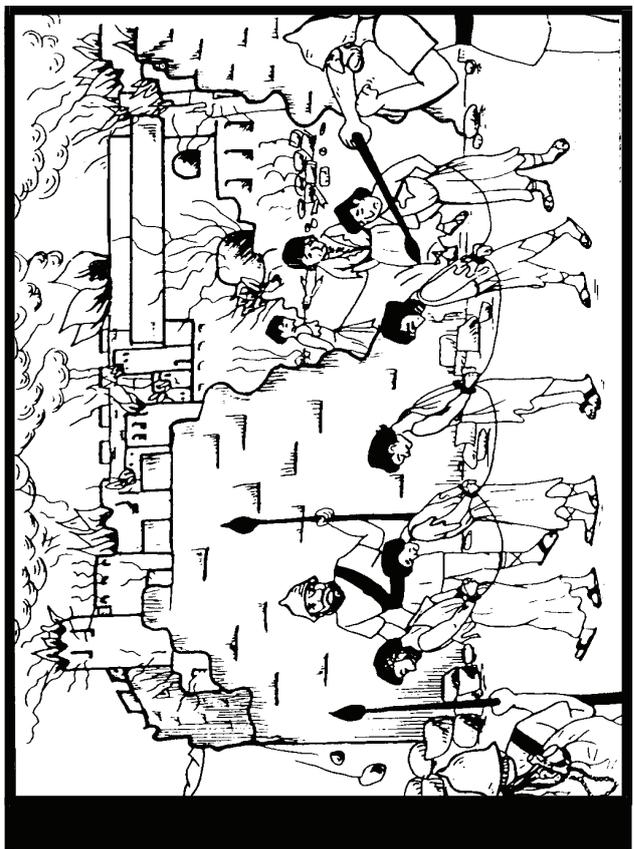
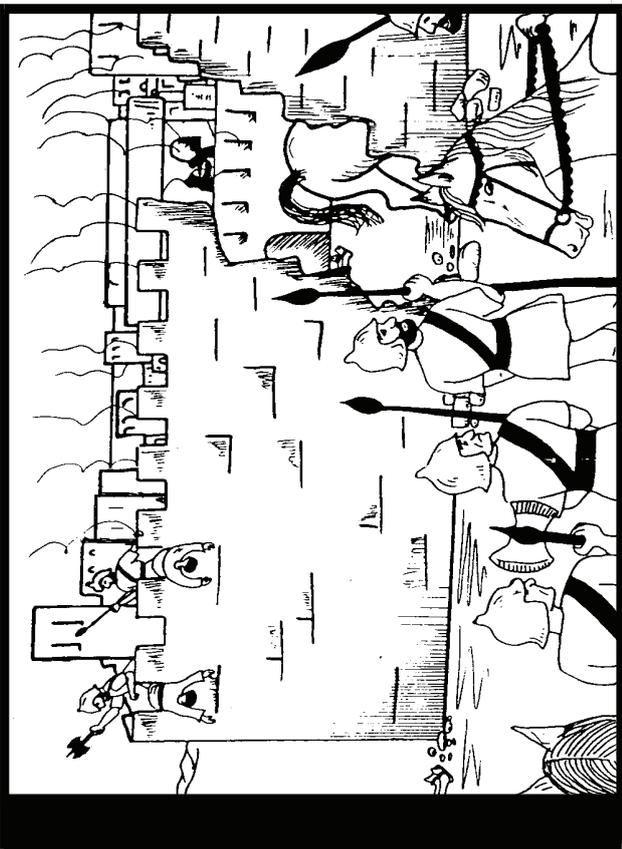
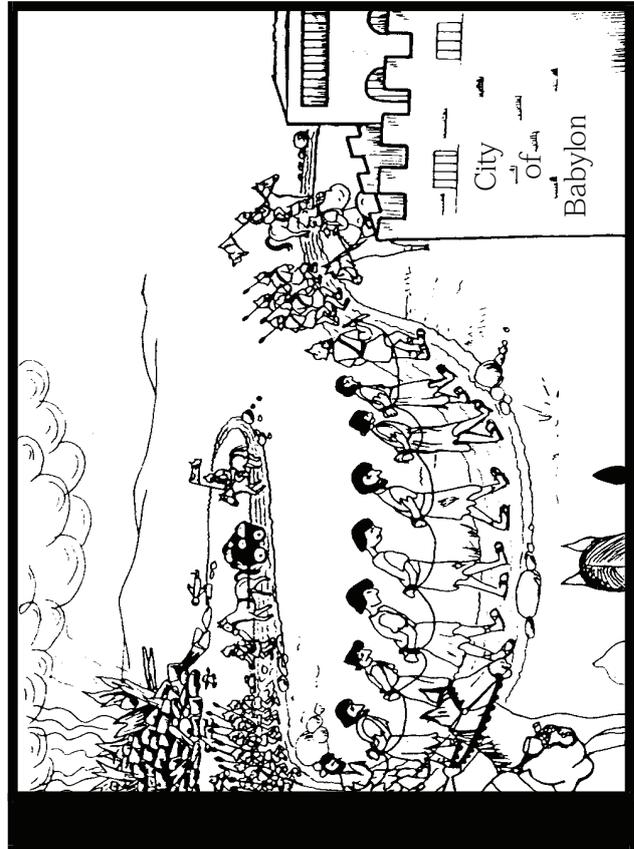
Activity A – Door Knob Hanger

DANIEL CHOSE
TO OBEY



The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom)

Activity B – “The Destruction of Jerusalem” Book



Daniel interprets the king's dream

Daniel 2

Storyline

The king of Babylon had a dream which worried him so much he couldn't sleep. He asked all the wise men to interpret it. When the wise men asked the king to describe his dream, he refused. The king instructed them to tell him both the dream and its interpretation so that he knew they weren't lying. When the wise men couldn't do it, the king was angry and he ordered all of the wise men to be killed. When Daniel found out, he told the king that if he waited he would tell him the dream and its interpretation. Daniel and his friends prayed, and God revealed the dream to them. Daniel met with the king and told him that the dream was about an image with a golden head, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of both iron and clay. A stone had struck the image's feet, which caused the iron, clay, bronze, silver and gold to be crushed and become like chaff. The stone then became a great mountain which filled the earth. Interpreting the dream, Daniel said the king was the head of gold but after his kingdom, four more great kingdoms would arise, each being portrayed by the silver, bronze, iron, and iron and clay. Daniel said that the stone was a kingdom that God would set up, which would defeat all other kingdoms and stand forever.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story emphasising that God helped Daniel interpret the dream because he prayed asking for help. Discuss with the children that the interpretation of the dream has come to pass including the various kingdoms.

Theme One

"God gives us wisdom"

Daniel and his friends had been trained in all manner of worldly wisdom. However, this was not sufficient to save their lives, and Daniel knew that the only solution to their predicament would be to seek God. The Lord expects us to avail ourselves of the best possible education and training, however, we must remember that He is the source of true wisdom which He reveals to the humble.

Key Thought

God knows that we lack wisdom. He is the source of all wisdom and delights to give us wisdom, if we ask Him.

Aim

For the children to understand that God gives answers for situations which we find impossible.

Memory Verse

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6).

Theme Two

"Seek the Lord in prayer"

Daniel knew his God to the degree that he could seek Him on behalf of Nebuchadnezzar and then with confidence stand before the king and declare what God had said. We also can know our Lord intimately and declare with confidence who He is and what He has done if we are prepared to seek Him earnestly in prayer.

Key Thought

It is not possible to get to know God unless we spend time with Him.

Aim

For the children to understand that God wants us to have a living understanding of, and relationship with, Him.

Memory Verse

"Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield." (Psalm 33:20).

Activity A - A Message Revealed

Materials

- 1 blank piece of white paper per child.
- 1 candle (eg. a small birthday candle) per child.
- 1 paintbrush per child.
- A small amount of paints diluted with a lot of water.

Steps

- Have the children recall important points/aspects of the king's dream or the story and discuss it together.
- Have the children use their candle to write a word or sentence from the discussion onto the white paper.
- Collect and distribute sheets back to the children at random.
- Have the children use a coloured wash to paint over the paper to reveal the message.
- Have the children share the 'revealed' words with the class.
- Relate back to the story.

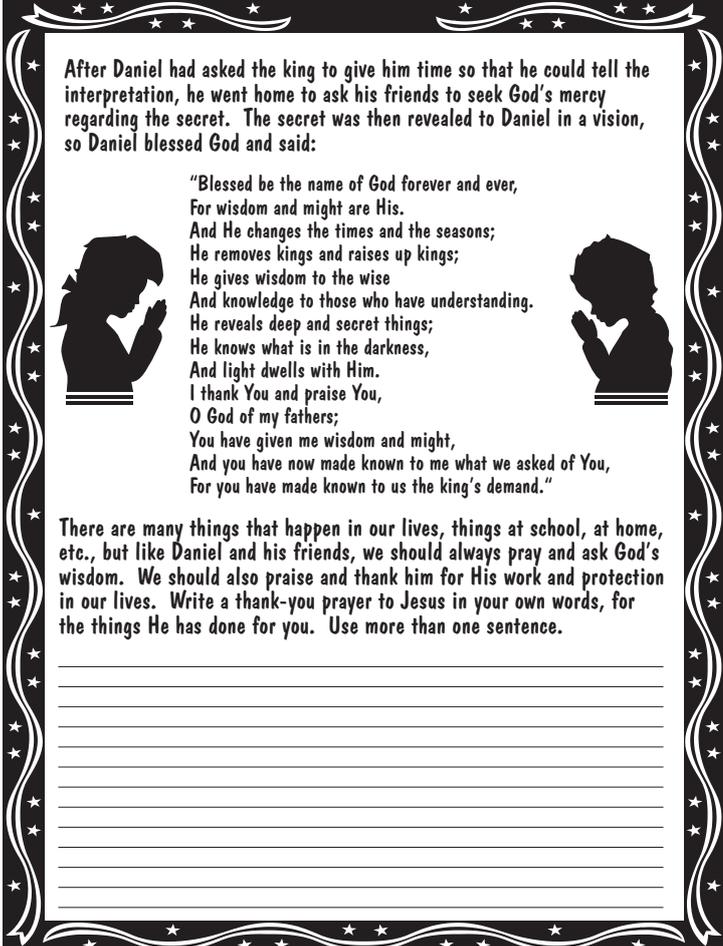
Activity B - Prayer

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- Read the Activity Sheet aloud to the children.
- Have the children write their response in the space provided.



After Daniel had asked the king to give him time so that he could tell the interpretation, he went home to ask his friends to seek God's mercy regarding the secret. The secret was then revealed to Daniel in a vision, so Daniel blessed God and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
For wisdom and might are His.
And He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those who have understanding.
He reveals deep and secret things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And light dwells with Him.
I thank You and praise You,
O God of my fathers;
You have given me wisdom and might,
And you have now made known to me what we asked of You,
For you have made known to us the king's demand."

There are many things that happen in our lives, things at school, at home, etc., but like Daniel and his friends, we should always pray and ask God's wisdom. We should also praise and thank him for His work and protection in our lives. Write a thank-you prayer to Jesus in your own words, for the things He has done for you. Use more than one sentence.

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The fiery furnace

Daniel 3

Storyline

The king of Babylon made a very large golden idol and commanded everyone to bow down and worship it whenever they heard special music being played. He said if they didn't, they would be thrown into a great fiery furnace. All the people did what was commanded except Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. When the king found out, he immediately sent for them and asked them to serve his god and bow down and worship the idol. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego refused and told the king that their God was able to deliver them and that even if He didn't, they still would not obey the king. The king was angry and commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than normal. The furnace was so hot that as the soldiers threw the three men in, the soldiers were killed. The king was astonished as he could see four men and not three walking around in the fire. The fourth man looked like the son of God. The king told them to come out. When they emerged, not one hair on their heads was singed, although their ropes were burnt off. The king then made a decree that no one could say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.

Suggested Teaching Approach

After presenting the story, encourage the children to share a testimony (if they have one) of the Lord helping them in a difficult or frightening situation. Discuss with the children practical things they can do in difficult situations, eg. pray, talk with parents, talk with church leaders.

Theme One

“God is always with us”

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were arrested and thrown into the fiery furnace, God was with them. The king realised this too. Before Jesus left His disciples, He promised to be with those who love Him and follow Him. In all situations, God is with those who follow Him.

Key Thought

During difficult times, even when we think we are alone, God is always with us.

Aim

To teach the children that God is always with them. They can turn to Him for help in any situation.

Memory Verse

“The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9).

Theme Two

“Putting God first”

Who or what is number one in our lives? Are we putting the Lord first? Other things can take up all our attention. We can enjoy doing these things and be happy when Jesus is at the centre of our lives. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego loved the Lord more than themselves and were willing to die rather than deny Him. They brought glory to God and were blessed. The Lord will bless us if we love Him more than anything else.

Key Thought

When Jesus has the most important place in our hearts, we are happy and free to enjoy all things.

Aim

To encourage the children that their love for God and His ways must be first in their lives.

Memory Verse

“Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:33).

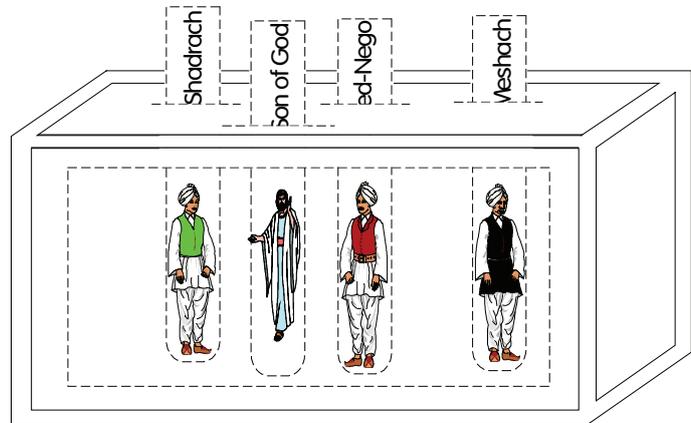
Activity A - Four in the Furnace

Materials

- 1 plan of furnace and 1 set of character pictures per child.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Red cellophane.
- Paddlepop sticks (4 per child).
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- Colour in and cut out the pictures of the three men and the Son of God along the dotted lines.
- Glue them onto the paddlepop sticks, so they can be poked through 4 slits in the top of the furnace.
- Cut out the dotted section on the front of the furnace.
- Glue the cellophane to the inside of the front section of the furnace.
- Cut the slits in the top of the furnace.
- Assemble the furnace.
- Insert the paddlepop characters into the fiery furnace.



Activity B - Make a Statue

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Bibles.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

Steps

- Have the children follow the clues provided on their Activity Sheet to discover this week's memory verse.

Mystery Bible Clues

Use your Bible to find out the answers to the clues below. Put your answers on the lines provided at the bottom of the page.

- Clue #1 = Y (this one has been done for you).
- Clue #2 = 1st letter of the 31st book of the Bible.
- Clue #3 = 2nd letter of the 2nd last book of the Bible.
- Clue #4 = 1st letter of the 5th book of the new testament.
- Clue #5 = 1st letter of the last book of the Bible.
- Clue #6 = 1st letter of the 2nd book of the Bible.
- Clue #7 = 1st letter of the 1st book of the new testament.
- Clue #8 = Last letter of the 5th book of the old testament.
- Clue #9 = Last letter of the 1st book of the new testament.
- Clue #10 = 1st letter of the 23rd book of the Bible.
- Clue #11 = 1st letter of the 11th last book of the Bible.
- Clue #12 = 1st letter of the 16th book of the old testament.
- Clue #13 = 1st letter of the 15th book of the old testament.
- Clue #14 = 1st letter of the 9th book of the old testament.
- Clue #15 = 1st letter of the 10th book of the old testament.
- Clue #16 = 1st letter of the 10th book of the new testament.
- Clue #17 = 1st letter of the 22nd book of the old testament.

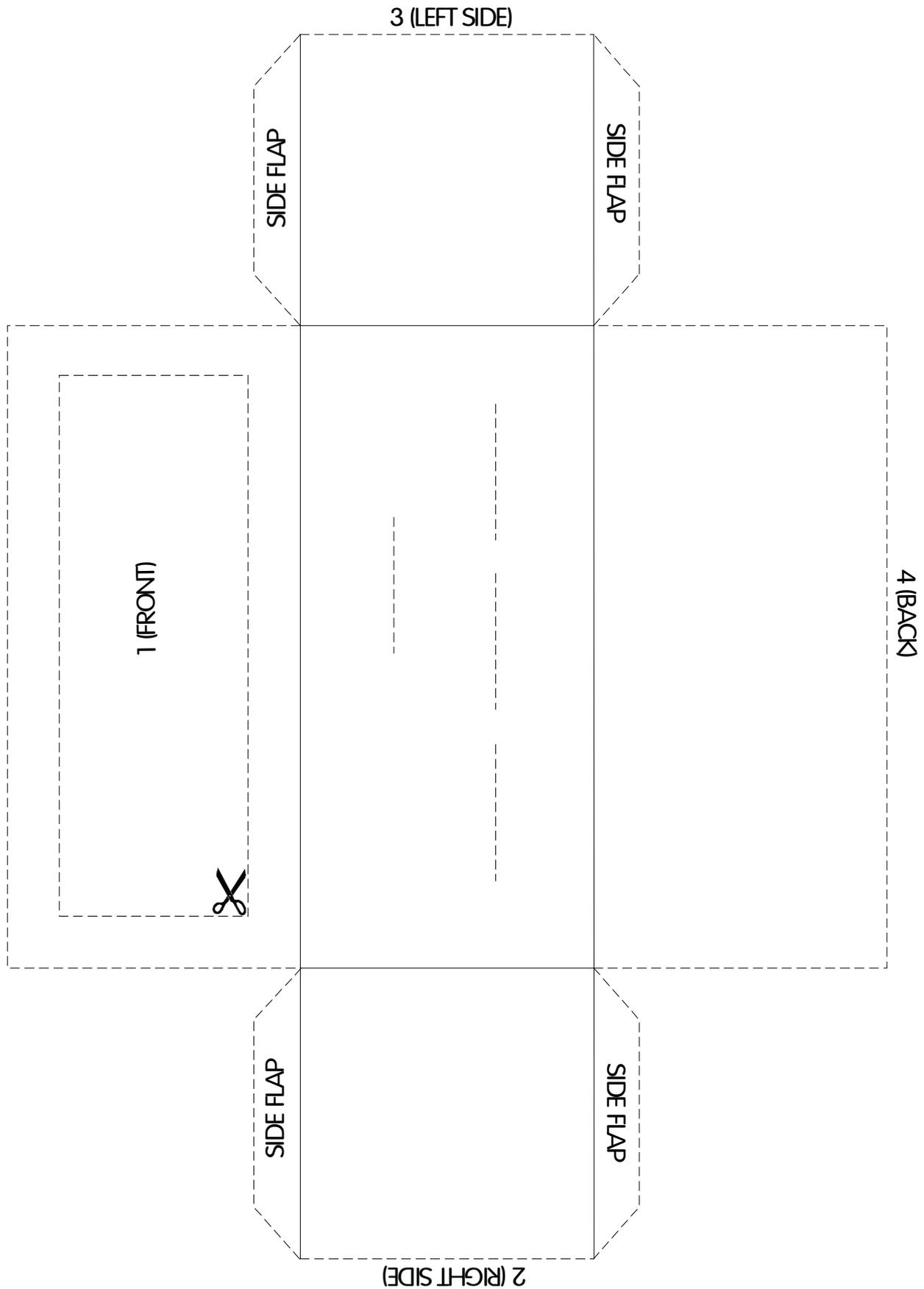
"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," says the Lord.

Check in Isaiah 43:10 to see if you are correct.



The fiery furnace

Activity A – Four in the Furnace



The fiery furnace

Activity A – Four in the Furnace

Son of God



Abed-Nego



Shadrach



Meshach



Son of God



Abed-Nego



Shadrach



Meshach



Son of God



Abed-Nego



Shadrach



Meshach



The fiery furnace

Activity B – Mystery Bible Clues

Mystery Bible Clues

Use your Bible to find out the answers to the clues below. Put your answers on the lines provided at the bottom of the page.

- Clue #1 = Y (this one has been done for you).
- Clue #2 = 1st letter of the 31st book of the Bible.
- Clue #3 = 2nd letter of the 2nd last book of the Bible.
- Clue #4 = 1st letter of the 5th book of the new testament.
- Clue #5 = 1st letter of the last book of the Bible.
- Clue #6 = 1st letter of the 2nd book of the Bible.
- Clue #7 = 1st letter of the 1st book of the new testament.
- Clue #8 = Last letter of the 5th book of the old testament.
- Clue #9 = Last letter of the 1st book of the new testament.
- Clue #10 = 1st letter of the 23rd book of the Bible.
- Clue #11 = 1st letter of the 11th last book of the Bible.
- Clue #12 = 1st letter of the 16th book of the old testament.
- Clue #13 = 1st letter of the 15th book of the old testament.
- Clue #14 = 1st letter of the 9th book of the old testament.
- Clue #15 = 1st letter of the 10th book of the old testament.
- Clue #16 = 1st letter of the 10th book of the new testament.
- Clue #17 = 1st letter of the 22nd book of the old testament.

"Y _ _ _ _ _," says the Lord.

Check in Isaiah 43:10 to see if you are correct.



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The writing on the wall

Daniel 5

Storyline

Belshazzar became king after Nebuchadnezzar died. He made a great feast one day to impress his lords. He commanded the holy vessels of gold taken from the temple in Jerusalem to be brought out so he could use them to drink from. Then he and the lords praised gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly a man's hand appeared and wrote on the wall. Belshazzar was terrified. Daniel was summoned to interpret the message. He began by telling the king the reason for the writing which meant, "God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it, you have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel was honoured and that night Belshazzar was killed and his kingdom was taken by Darius the Mede.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Before telling the story, catch the children's attention in a dramatic way. Before class, write out the message "MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN" on a piece of paper, put it inside a balloon and blow the balloon up. In class, the children sit in a circle and pass the balloon around. After a few times around the circle, the teacher bursts the balloon with a pin and out comes the message. Read it out to the children and then proceed with the story.

Theme One

"God resists the proud"

Belshazzar was a proud, wicked man who did not love God. He could have learned from his father, Nebuchadnezzar, who had a proud heart but turned to the Lord after he was disciplined. However, Belshazzar continued in his own ways and did not want to humble himself. We are disciplined by the Lord (and parents) in order to change our behaviour. As we are willing to be obedient the Lord is able to change us.

Key Thought

Our parents discipline us to change our proud hearts so we will be obedient to God's way.

Aim

To let the children know a soft and obedient heart is well pleasing to the Lord.

Memory Verse

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6).

Theme Two

"A witness to the world"

Daniel was known to the queen because of the way he lived - in the wisdom and knowledge of God. The queen knew that the Spirit of the holy God was in Daniel and she was confident of his ability to interpret the writing. The challenge to us, then, is to live in the grace, wisdom and power of God so that our lives are a living testimony to our non-believing friends and acquaintances.

Key Thought

If God's Holy Spirit is living in us, our witness should be like a beacon to those around us.

Aim

For the children to understand that we are known by the way we live.

Memory Verse

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14).

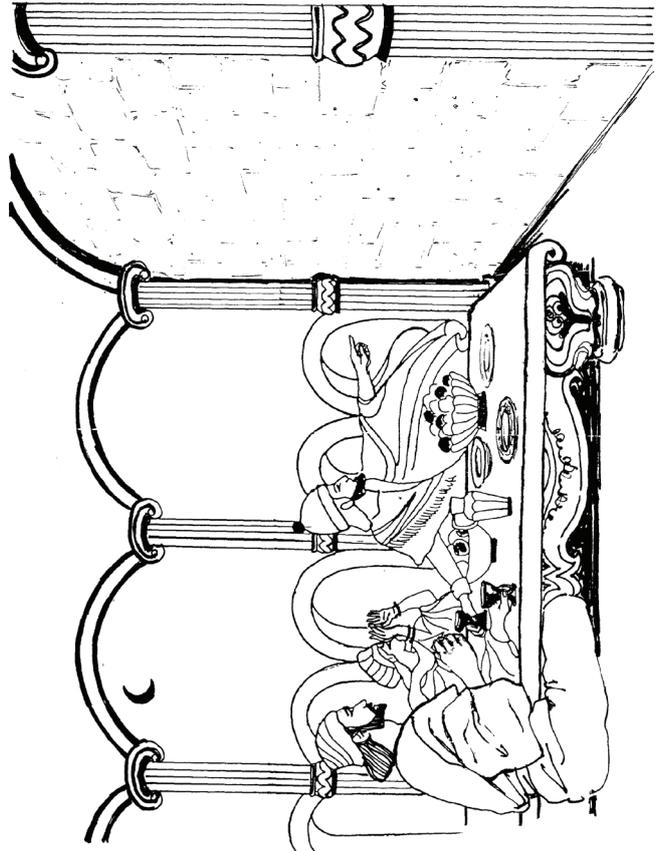
Activity A - Invisible Letters

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Candles.
- Water paints.
- Brushes.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

- On a black/whiteboard or large piece of paper, write the words: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN, in large letters so the children can easily copy it.
- On the wall of the Activity Sheet, the children write the above words with the point of a candle.
- When they are finished, they can brush over the writing with a paintbrush and water paint. The writing should then appear.
- The children can then colour the picture and draw a hand above the writing.



Activity B - Questions and Answers

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- The children choose the correct answer or answers to each questions.

Answers

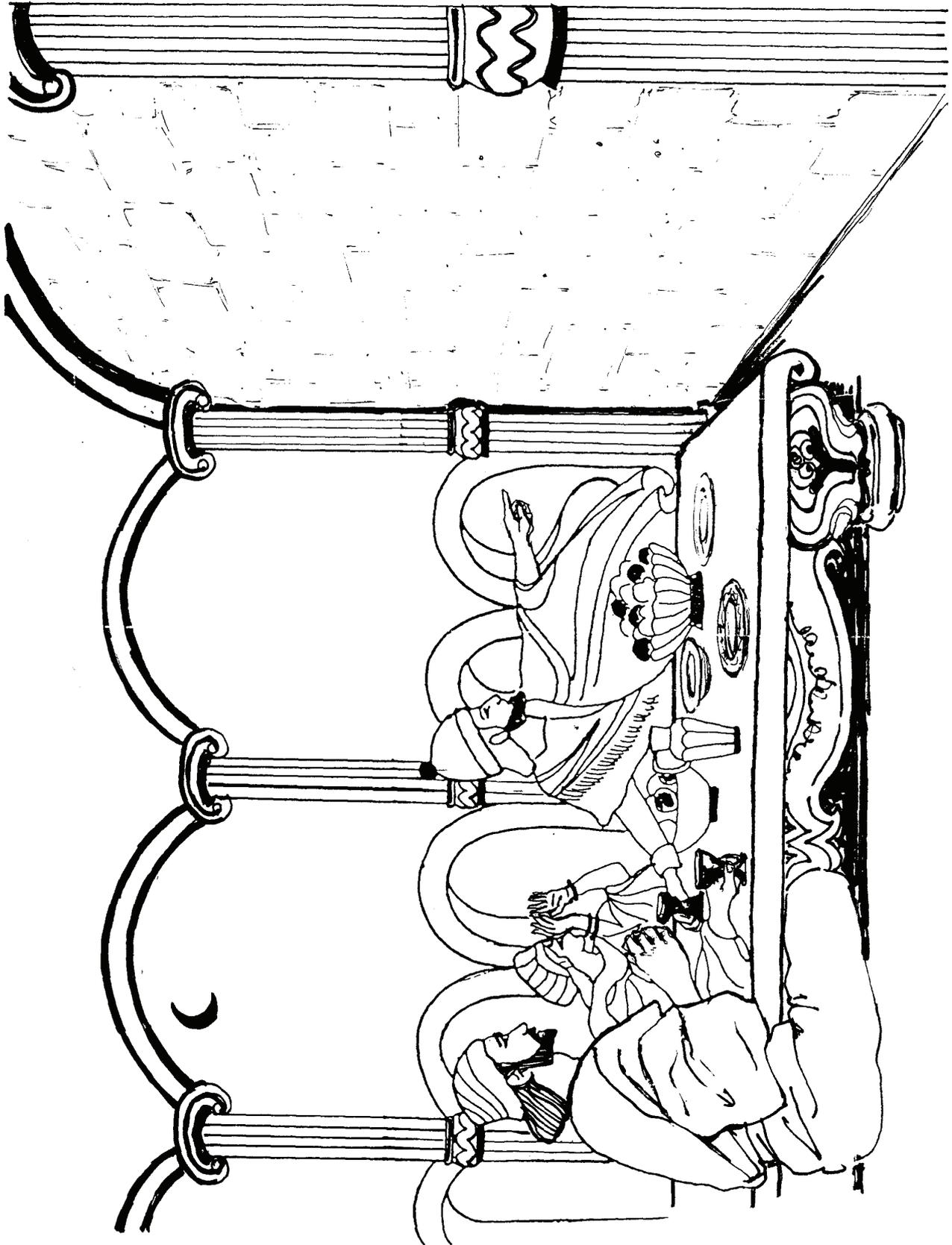
1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (c)
4. (a); (c)
5. (c)

Choose the correct answer to these questions!
There may be more than one correct answer to each one.

1. Why was Daniel wiser than the king's wise men?
(a) He was older.
(b) He had the wisdom of God.
(c) He read a lot.
2. Daniel was known as a man of prayer with the ...
(a) bright red cloak;
(b) big white house;
(c) Spirit of God.
3. How can we know God as Daniel did?
(a) Think about Him.
(b) Read about Him in a book.
(c) Spend time with Him in prayer.
4. The way Daniel acted, showed he was a man of God. What should we do to show we are Christians?
(a) Be obedient.
(b) Eat good food.
(c) Be loving and kind.
5. When he was worried, the king turned to Daniel for help. Who can we trust to help us when we are worried?
(a) Our school friends.
(b) The neighbour.
(c) Our parents and church leaders.

The writing on the wall

Activity A – Invisible Letters



The writing on the wall

Activity B – Questions and Answers

Choose the correct answer to these questions.

There may be more than one correct answer to each one.

1. Why was Daniel wiser than the king's wise men?
(a) He was older.
(b) He had the wisdom of God.
(c) He read a lot.
2. Daniel was known as a man of prayer with the ...
(a) bright red cloak;
(b) big white house;
(c) Spirit of God.
3. How can we know God as Daniel did?
(a) Think about Him.
(b) Read about Him in a book.
(c) Spend time with Him in prayer.
4. The way Daniel acted, showed he was a man of God.
What should we do to show we are Christians?
(a) Be obedient.
(b) Eat good food.
(c) Be loving and kind.
5. When he was worried, the king turned to Daniel for help.
Who can we trust to help us when we are worried?
(a) Our school friends.
(b) The neighbour.
(c) Our parents and church leaders.

Daniel in the lions' den

Daniel 6

Storyline

Daniel became a governor when King Darius ruled. The other officials became jealous of him and worked out a scheme to destroy him. They knew the only way to do that was to charge him regarding his worship of God. They persuaded King Darius to sign a decree that no one was to pray or ask anything of any person or god other than the king for 30 days, knowing that Daniel would pray just the same. Because of the unchangeable decree, King Darius had no choice but to throw Daniel into the lions' den, hoping God would deliver him. The next morning the king called to Daniel who answered that God had delivered him.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Present the story to the class.

Have a brainstorming session with the teacher writing children's suggestions on a blackboard or chart as to:

- Daniel's characteristics eg. honest
- His enemies characteristics eg. jealous.

Compare Daniel with those who were his enemies.

Theme One

"Trusting God through trials"

Daniel had every reason to be afraid, especially when he heard the lions roaring in the den. He also knew that he was innocent of any wrongdoing before God and King Darius. He also knew that the other officials had found nothing wrong with him except that he worshipped God, so he was not afraid. If we trust God we do not need to be afraid of what may happen to us or what others may do to us.

Key Thought

Our heart attitude needs to be one that chooses to trust God even though we are afraid.

Aim

To teach the children that God can be trusted no matter what happens in whatever situation we find ourselves.

Memory Verse

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3).

Theme Two

"Standing firm in faith"

Daniel had a close relationship with God. When his enemies plotted to get rid of him, he continued to be faithful to God, even if it meant dying. Because Daniel was innocent, God saved him. Jesus said that evil will come against us. Will we stand for the Lord and keep trusting Him no matter what happens? If we trust the Lord, He will save us.

Key Thought

We need not fear when people or things are against us. God will help us to stand firm for Him.

Aim

To encourage the children to grow in faith, knowing that He watches over those who trust and obey Him.

Memory Verse

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Activity A - Play

Materials

- 1 cardboard crown for the king.
- Several manes made from yellow crepe paper, for the lions.
- 1 cloak.
- Safety pins to attach the manes.

Cast

- Daniel.
- The King.
- Lions (depends on class numbers).

Steps

- As the teacher narrates, the children act out the play.
- The lions roar at the start, but stop roaring when Daniel is thrown into the den.
- The king looks worried and sad.
- Daniel gets on his knees to pray.
- Have the class change roles if there is time.

Narration

Daniel became a governor when King Darius ruled. The other officials became jealous of him and worked out a scheme to destroy him. They knew the only way to do this was to trick him regarding his worship of his God. They persuaded King Darius to sign a decree that no one was to pray or ask anything of any person or God other than the king for 30 days, knowing that Daniel would pray just the same. King Darius had no choice but to throw Daniel into the lions' den, hoping God would deliver him. The lions stopped roaring when Daniel was thrown into the den, because their mouths were shut by an angel. The next morning, the king called to Daniel, who answered that God had indeed delivered him.

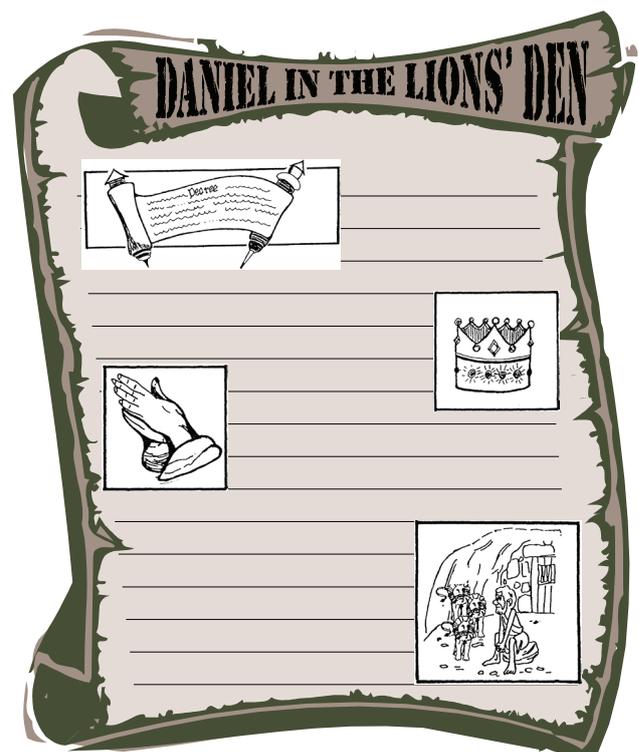
Activity B - Story Writing

Materials

- 1 'Scroll' Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 set of pictures from the second Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Pens/pencils.

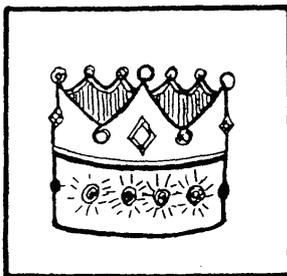
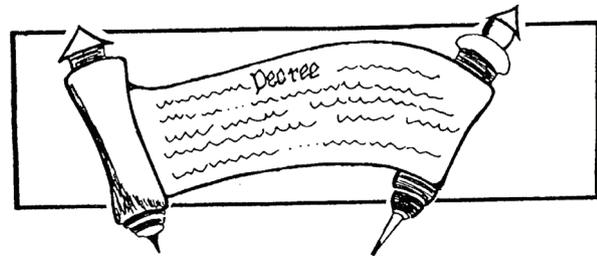
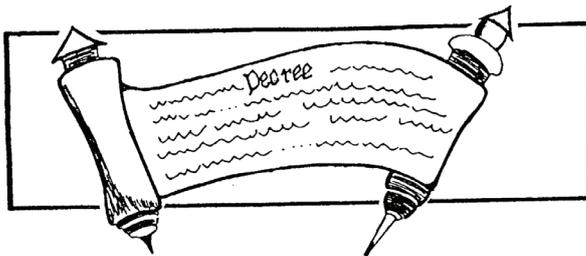
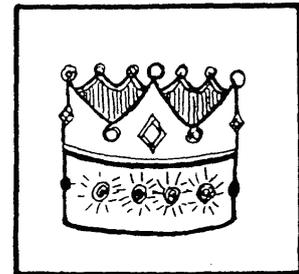
Steps

- The children colour the pictures.
- Cut the picture boxes out and glue them onto the second Activity Sheet in the correct order.
- The children then write the story of Daniel in their own words, to match the pictures. If this would be a bit difficult for the children, the teacher could write four sentences on the board for the children to copy.



Daniel in the lions' den

Activity B – Story Writing



Storyline

About 70 years after Babylon fell, Ahasuerus (or Darius Hystaspes) became king of the Medo-Persian empire. His queen was Vashti. The king became angry because Queen Vashti disobeyed him. He decided to choose another queen. Esther was chosen from among all the beautiful women to be his queen. The king truly loved her. Mordecai, Esther's cousin, told her not to reveal her faith. One day, Mordecai saved the king from a treacherous plot, and so became well trusted by the king. Haman, the king's highest official, hated the Jews and schemed to have them killed. Mordecai sought Esther's help to save their people. She knew she had to go before the king, although this could have cost her life. She prepared a banquet for the king and Haman, during which she revealed to the king Haman's evil plot. The king was angry and hanged him from the gallows that Haman had built to kill Mordecai. The Jews were saved and Mordecai became the highest official in the land.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk about how hard it is sometimes to be obedient, especially when children are in the middle of a game and Mum or Dad call out, "It is time to come inside and have your bath", or "Turn the T.V. off, it is time for dinner." Then talk about Esther's obedience.

If the "praying" theme is chosen, after the lesson, spend some time praying. Have the children suggest people with needs.

Theme One

"Obedience to God's word"

Esther was put on earth at that point in time to save the Jewish nation. She was obedient to what was asked of her, even when she knew she risked being put to death because she approached the king. Sometimes we are called to do difficult things by the Lord and we need courage and faith as Esther showed, to be obedient to the call of God.

Key Thought

Esther was willing to risk death to be obedient to the call God placed on her life. How much are we willing to risk to obey God's call to us?

Aim

For the children to choose to follow what God is asking of them even when it is not easy.

Memory Verse

"You shall obey the voice of the Lord your God."
(Deuteronomy 27:10).

Theme Two

"Praying for one another"

All the Jews in Shushan fasted for three days and nights before Esther approached the king. We can support other Christians facing difficult circumstances by praying and fasting for them. God hears the prayers of His people and is able to make a way for them even when the situation seems impossible.

Key Thought

The Lord made a way for Esther after she and the Jews prayed and fasted. We, too, can pray and fast and see God answer our requests.

Aim

For the children to know the purpose of prayer and fasting.

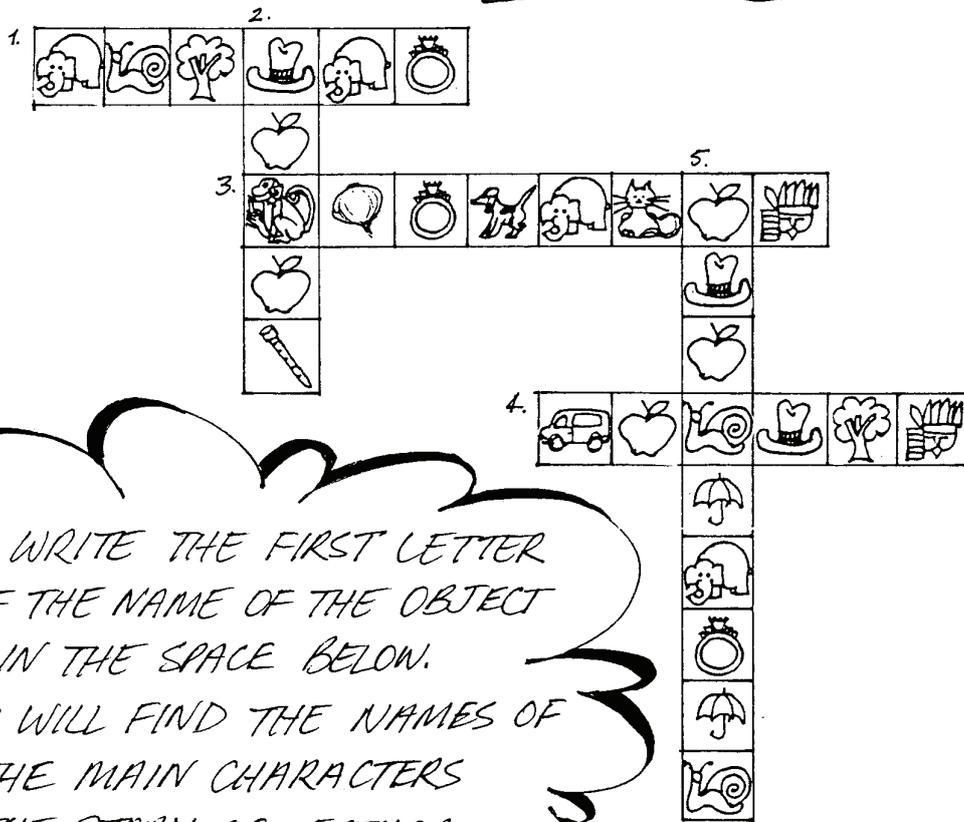
Memory Verse

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."
(James 5:16).

Esther

Activity B – Crossword Picture Puzzle

Crossword Picture Puzzle



WRITE THE FIRST LETTER
OF THE NAME OF THE OBJECT
IN THE SPACE BELOW.
YOU WILL FIND THE NAMES OF
THE MAIN CHARACTERS
IN THE STORY OF ESTHER.

- 1. ACROSS
- 2. DOWN
- 3. ACROSS
- 4. ACROSS
- 5. DOWN

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**Ezra 3; 5:1-2; 6:15;
Haggai 1:3-6; 2:6-9;
Zechariah 4;
Nehemiah 1:1-3;
6:15-16**

Restoration

Storyline

After 70 years in captivity in Babylon, some of the people returned to Jerusalem and Judah under Zerubbabel. After their return, they gathered together in Jerusalem. They rebuilt the altar and began to worship God with sacrifices. After several months, they laid the foundation of the temple. During this time, opposition came from the Samaritans, who were foreigners settled in the area after the capture of the northern kingdom of Israel. Their letter to the king resulted in his refusing permission for the building to continue. Fifteen years later, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the Jews to continue building. Zechariah told Zerubbabel that he would rebuild the temple by the power of the Holy Spirit. Haggai foretold a greater temple in which God's glory would dwell. As a result of the encouragement by the prophets Zechariah and Haggai, the temple was completed. Some years later, Nehemiah encouraged the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, so they would be protected.

Suggested Teaching Approach

The teacher, using cardboard shapes or appropriate building material, starts erecting a structure. Then each child takes card/s and adds to the structure until complete.

Alternatively, two teachers can pretend to be clowns and use shoeboxes, milk cartons etc. to build their own structure, continually robbing each other of materials. Because this doesn't work, discuss the need for co-operation and working together.

Lead into the story about the restoration/ rebuilding of a very important building in the Old Testament - God's temple.

Theme One

"Repentance brings restoration"

After seventy years of God's judgement on His people were over, the Lord brought restoration and freedom to them. When the Lord's hand is upon us in judgement because of sin in our hearts, we must turn to Him in repentance so that our relationship with Him and with those against whom we have sinned may be restored.

Key Thought

When we truly repent of our sin and broken relationships, the Lord will restore us.

Aim

For the children to understand the Lord's process of judgement (discipline), repentance and restoration.

Memory Verse

"For He restores to man His righteousness." (Job 33:26).

Theme Two

"God is our defence"

Nehemiah was very sad when he visited Jerusalem and found the walls broken down. He realised that the people had no protection from the enemies. He knew, too, that the enemies despised them. Satan and his demons despise us, but God has provided protection for us. God Himself protects us and our being in His church is also a protection from the enemies outside.

Key Thought

The Lord has provided the body of Christ, His church, as a place of protection for us.

Aim

For the children to understand that God protects us from our enemies and we can safely trust in Him. He has provided others in the body of Christ to protect us.

Memory Verse

"You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy." (Psalm 61:3).

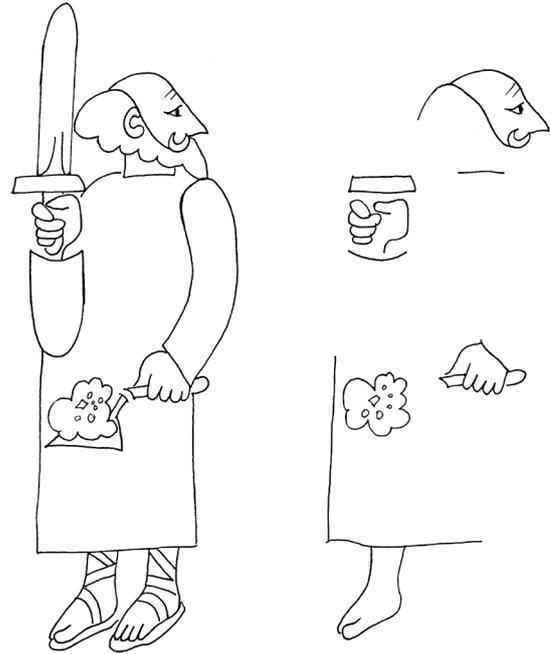
Activity A - Picture of Nehemiah

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

- The children complete the second drawing of Nehemiah by copying from the first.
- They can then colour the picture.
- On the back of Nehemiah, write a brief description of his role in the restoration of Jerusalem.



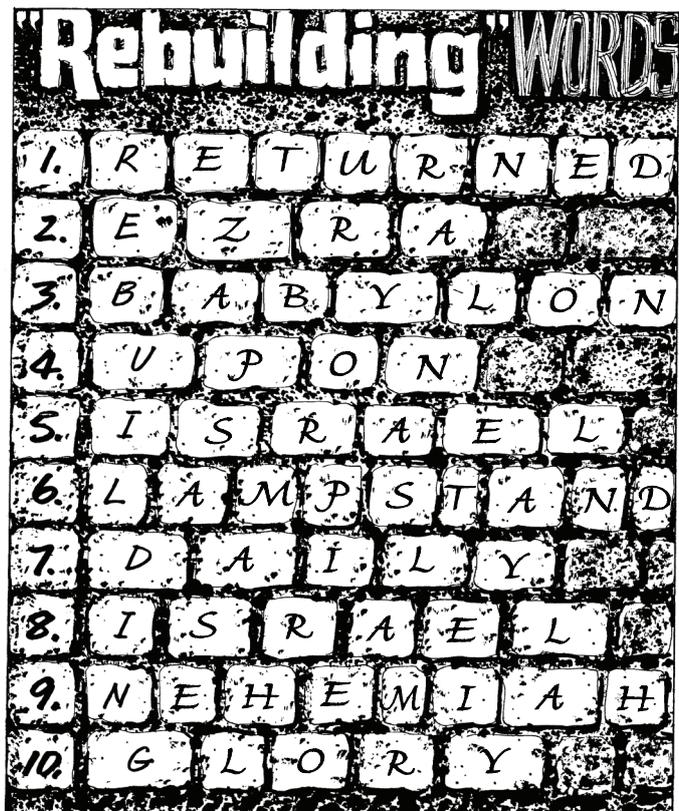
Activity B - "Rebuilding" Words

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Prizes.

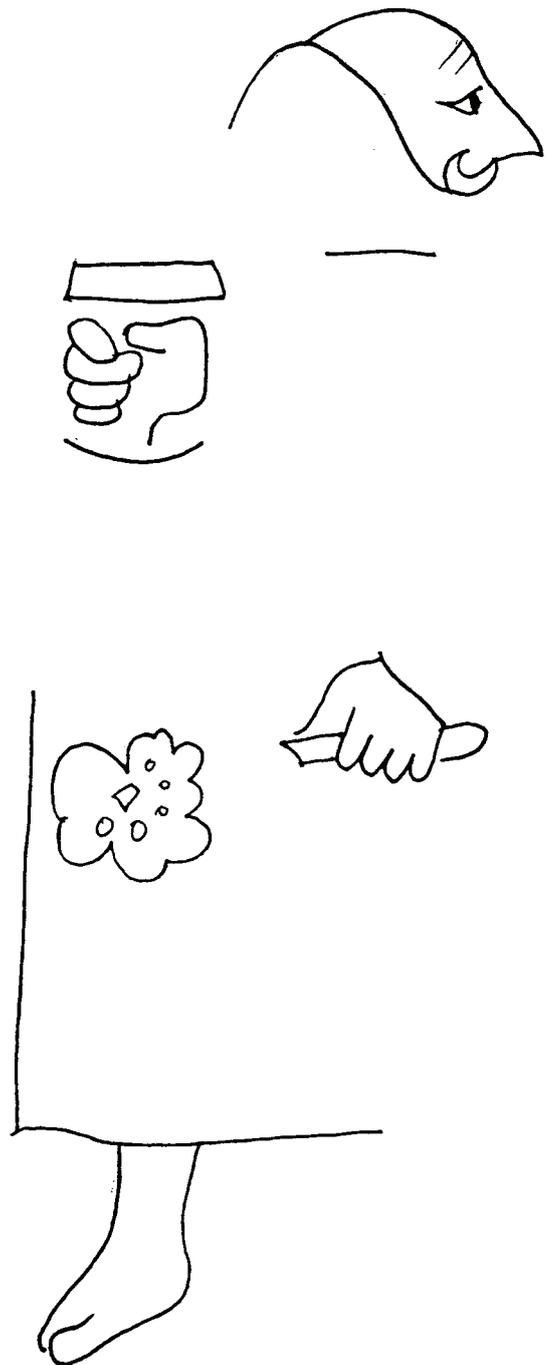
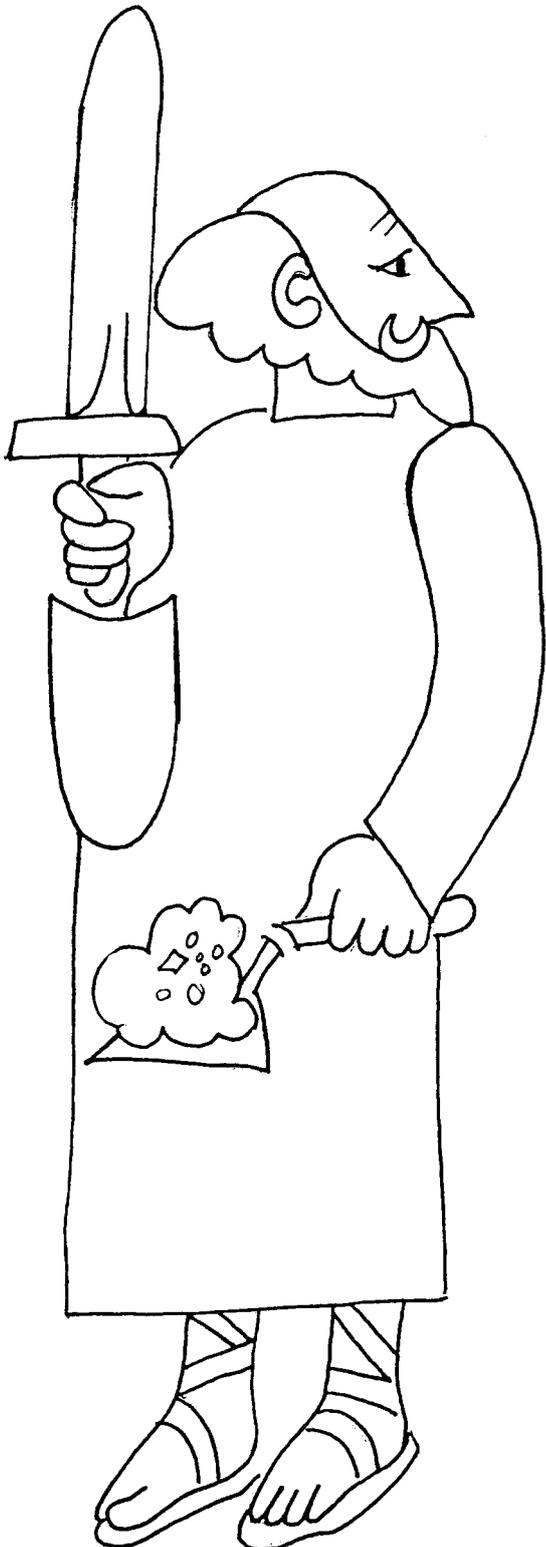
Steps

- The idea is to have the children work out/guess what each word is.
- Working one word at a time, have a child guess one letter. If the letter appears in the word, the children can all write it in the correct space. The child then has another turn. When the child chooses a letter that isn't in the word, the turn moves on to the next child. At any time where one of the children think they know the whole word, they can put their hand up and have a guess at it. They could receive a prize if they get it right, or could be disqualified from participating any more in that word if they guess the wrong word.



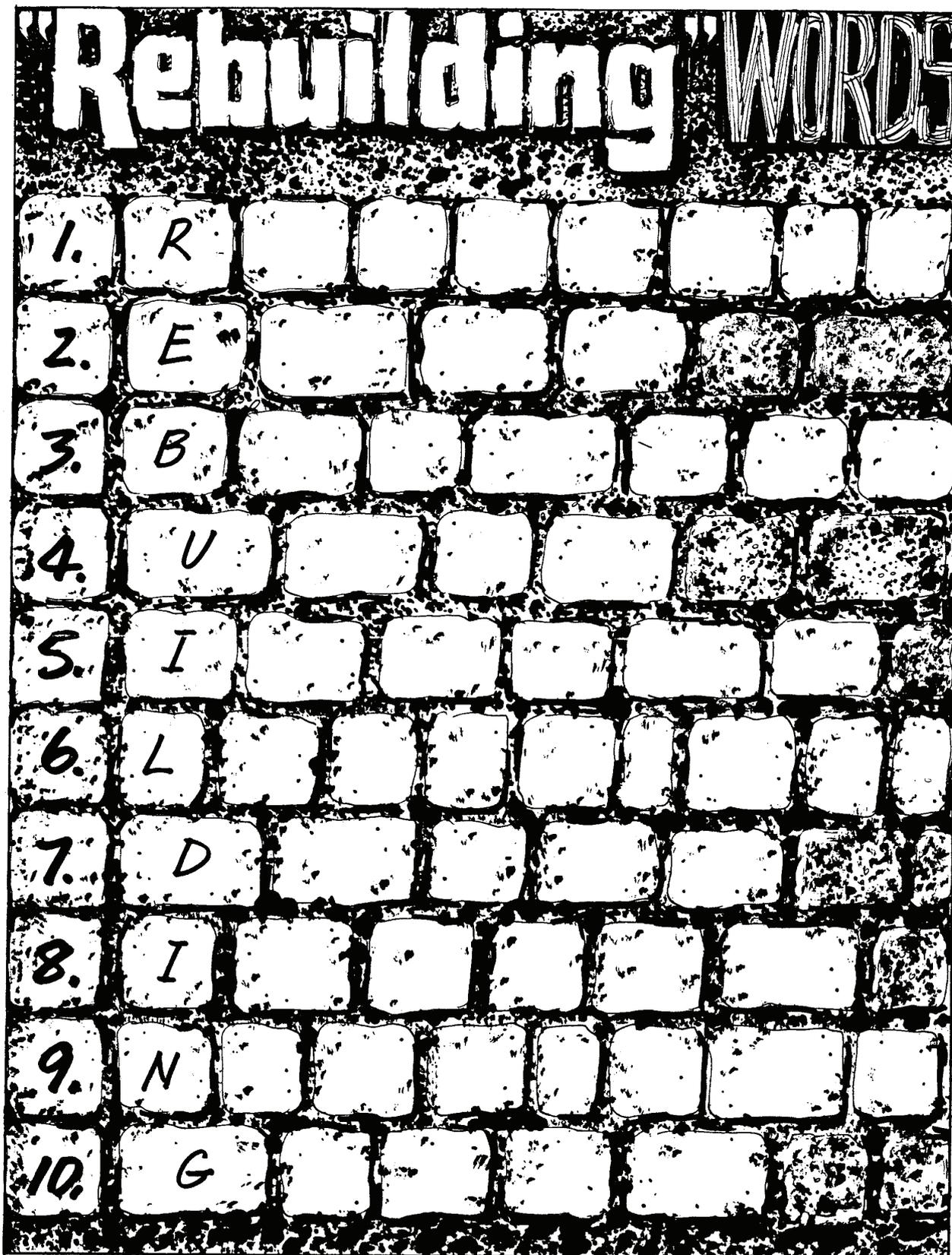
Restoration

Activity A – Picture of Nehemiah



Restoration

Activity B – “Rebuilding” Words



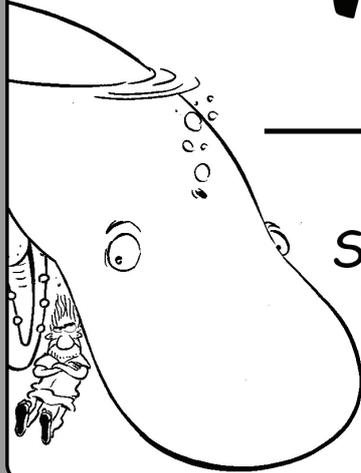
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SON SEEKERS

Well Done!

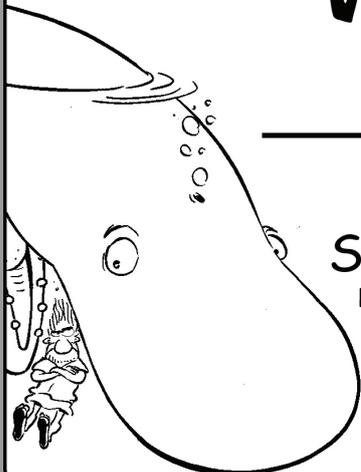


for completing
SonSeekers Unit 5
From the Prophets to Restoration



SON SEEKERS

Well Done!



for completing
SonSeekers Unit 5
From the Prophets to Restoration



Sonseekers Curriculum

Unit One

1. Creation 1
2. Creation 2
3. Adam and Eve
4. The fall
5. Cain and Abel
6. Noah builds an ark
7. The flood, Noah and his sons
8. The tower of Babel
9. Abram called, Abram and Lot
10. The covenant with Abraham
11. Ishmael and Isaac
12. Sodom and Gomorrah
13. The sacrifice of Isaac
14. Rebekah, Isaac's bride
15. Jacob and Esau
16. Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Unit Five

65. The widow's oil, a boy raised
66. Naaman
67. Famine in Samaria
68. Jonah
69. The captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom)
70. Hezekiah and Sennacherib
71. Isaiah
72. Josiah
73. Jeremiah
74. The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom)
75. Daniel interprets the king's dream
76. The fiery furnace
77. The writing on the wall
78. Daniel in the lions' den
79. Esther
80. Restoration

Unit Two

17. Jacob becomes Israel
18. Joseph, the favourite son
19. Joseph goes to Egypt
20. Joseph interprets the dreams
21. Joseph's brothers
22. Israel in Egypt
23. Israelite slaves, Moses born
24. Moses flees and returns to Egypt
25. "Let My people go"
26. The first passover, Israel delivered
27. Crossing the Red Sea
28. Manna, water from the rock
29. Sinai and the ten commandments
30. Moses and the tabernacle
31. The golden calf
32. Twelve spies, 40 years of wandering

Unit Six

81. Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John
82. The birth of Jesus
83. Jesus in the temple
84. John the Baptist
85. Jesus baptised and tempted
86. The call of the disciples
87. Water turned to wine
88. The temple cleansed, Nicodemus
89. The woman at the well
90. Healing of the paralysed man
91. The house built on the rock
92. Jesus stills the storm
93. The feeding of the 5000
94. The centurion's servant
95. Forgiveness in Simon's house
96. The sower and the seed

Unit Three

33. Aaron's rod
34. Moses hits the rock
35. The bronze serpent
36. Balaam and his donkey
37. Joshua and Rahab
38. Crossing the Jordan, Jericho
39. The sin of Achan
40. The sun stands still
41. Gideon's fleece
42. Gideon and his army
43. Samson
44. Samson and Delilah
45. Ruth, Naomi and Boaz
46. Hannah
47. Samuel hears God speak
48. Eli, Hophni and Phinehas

Unit Seven

97. Jairus' daughter, a woman touches Jesus
98. Jesus walks on the water
99. Miracles of healing
100. The transfiguration
101. A boy is healed
102. The unmerciful servant
103. A man born blind
104. The good Samaritan
105. Prayer
106. The raising of Lazarus
107. The lost sheep, coin and son
108. Attitudes of a servant
109. The marriage of the king's son
110. The ten lepers
111. The ten virgins
112. The talents

Unit Four

49. Saul chosen
50. Saul and the Amalekites
51. David chosen
52. David and Goliath
53. David and Jonathan
54. David and Saul
55. David crowned
56. David and the ark
57. Absalom
58. Solomon becomes king
59. Solomon's temple
60. Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam
61. Elijah and the widow
62. Elijah on Mount Carmel
63. Good King Jehoshaphat
64. Elisha and the double portion

Unit Eight

113. Palm Sunday
114. The last supper and Gethsemane
115. The crucifixion
116. The resurrection
117. Peter restored
118. The risen Christ and His ascension
119. The day of Pentecost
120. Peter and John
121. Peter and the Gentiles
122. Stephen
123. Philip
124. Paul's conversion
125. Paul's first missionary journey
126. Paul's second and third missionary journeys
127. Paul's capture and imprisonment
128. Paul's final journey

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