UNIT 3 TEACHER RESOURCE From Aaron's Rod to Eli LEVEL ONE HEY. STOP HITTING **AGES 5-6 GOD'S PEOPLE** PROMISED LAND ENTER A NEW LAND Name: RUHH, NAOMI AND BOAY Teacher Resource - Unit 3 Level One

# Teacher Resource

# **Contents**

Teaching Sonseekers 1			
A teacher's guide2			
Unit 3 (Lessons 33-48):			
33. Aaron's rod 4			
34. Moses hits the rock 8			
<i>35. The bronze serpent 12</i>			
36. Balaam and his ass 18			
37. Joshua and Rahab 24			
38. Crossing the Jordan,			
<i>Jericho30</i>			
<i>39. The sin of Achan</i>			
40. The sun stands still 40			
41. Gideon's fleece 44			
42. Gideon and his army 48			
43. Samson			
44. Samson and Delilah 56			
45. Ruth, Naomi and Boaz 60			
46. Hannah 64			
47. Samuel hears God speak 68			
48. Eli, Hophni and Phinehas72			
Unit 3 Awards 78			
Curriculum Outline 90			



# **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

<u>Timel</u>	ine	
	Creation	
4000BC	Adam and Eve	
4000BC	The Fall	
2500BC	Noah	
2300DC	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 980BC	Saul as King	
980BC 940BC	David as King Solomon as King	
940BC 900BC	Kingdom Divided	
839BC	Elijah Emerges; Mt Carmel	
03700	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	
20.45	Parables	
29AD	Miracles; Transfiguration	
30AD	Raising of Lazarus	
	Parables	
	Palm Sunday Jesus' Crucifixion and	
	Resurrection	
	Day of Pentecost	
	Peter's Ministry	
<i>33AD</i>	Conversion of Paul	
45AD	Paul's Missionary Journeys	
60 1 D	Dayl as Duison on to Dome	

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	Student	School
Level	Age	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 One Teacher Resource?

Each Level One 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

60AD

# . . . 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.

# **Storyline**

Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On and 250 other men rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. They wanted to be the leaders instead of Moses and Aaron because they did not believe that God had chosen these two men to lead His people. Moses cried to the Lord. God was very angry with the rebellious men. He caused the earth to swallow Korah. Dathan and Abiram, and the other 250 men were killed by fire. The Lord said He would choose the leader who would approach Him. He told Moses to ask each of the heads of the twelve tribes to bring rods to the tabernacle. The next day they found that Aaron's rod had blossomed and produced almonds. This was God's sign that Aaron was the chosen leader.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story.

Explain that a rod was a dead stick and what it was used for.

Discuss the miracle that occurred when Aaron's rod came to life and grew flowers and almonds.

Play "Follow the Leader" and observe the children's reactions when a leader is chosen. Use this example in relating the story. Talk to the children about things that make them grumpy. Make a list of them and then discuss what can be done in order to resolve the issues, emphasising the importance of prayer and seeking guidance from parents.

# Theme One

#### "Submit to those who lead"

God had set Moses and Aaron as His authority over the children of Israel. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On despised and rejected Moses and Aaron's leadership. In spite of Moses and Aaron's imperfections, God nevertheless was with them. In rejecting Moses and Aaron, they were rejecting God's order. We need to be aware of God's order in His church and in our families and be willing to respect and honour God's order and authority in spite of the imperfections we may see in those set over us.

### **Key Thought**

God honours and blesses the person who is prepared to submit to His order in the family and in the church.

#### Aim

For the children to develop a respect and a responsive attitude towards God's established order in the church, and also in the family and society in general.

### **Memory Verse**

"Obey those who rule over you" (Hebrews 13:17).

# Theme Two

### "The Lord chooses"

The Lord chose Moses and Aaron to lead His people. He chose others to be heads of their tribes. God had a place for each one. He has a plan for each one of us. We do not have to fight or argue with others when we are playing or working together. Like Moses, if we pray to God and talk to our parents, the ones God chose to look after us, He will show us the way of wisdom that He has chosen for

# **Key Thought**

God's people are like His sheep and He chooses leaders who will be shepherds to take good care of them.

#### Aim

For the children to know that the Lord has a special place in His body for all of us.

# **Memory Verse**

"I chose you." (John 15:16).

# Activity A - Make Aaron's Rod

# **Materials**

- 1 broom handle (these are available fairly inexpensively in discount supermarkets).
- Cotton wool/cotton wool balls/crepe paper.
- Glue/sticky tape.

# **Steps**

- As a class project, glue or stick tape 'buds' made from either cotton wool or crumpled crepe paper to the broom handle.
- If each child is to make his/her own rod, use small long, dead branches.

Note: The thought with children is that as we know Jesus and His love, only then can our attitudes (eg. anger, hate, jealousy) be changed and we can show love.

# Activity B - Word Puzzle

### **Materials**

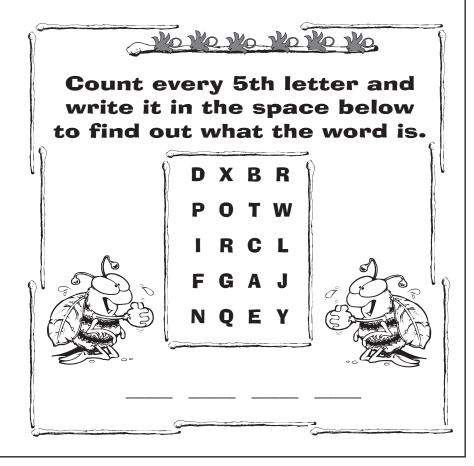
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- · Pens/pencils.

### Steps

• The children count every 5th letter and place the letters in the spaces provided.

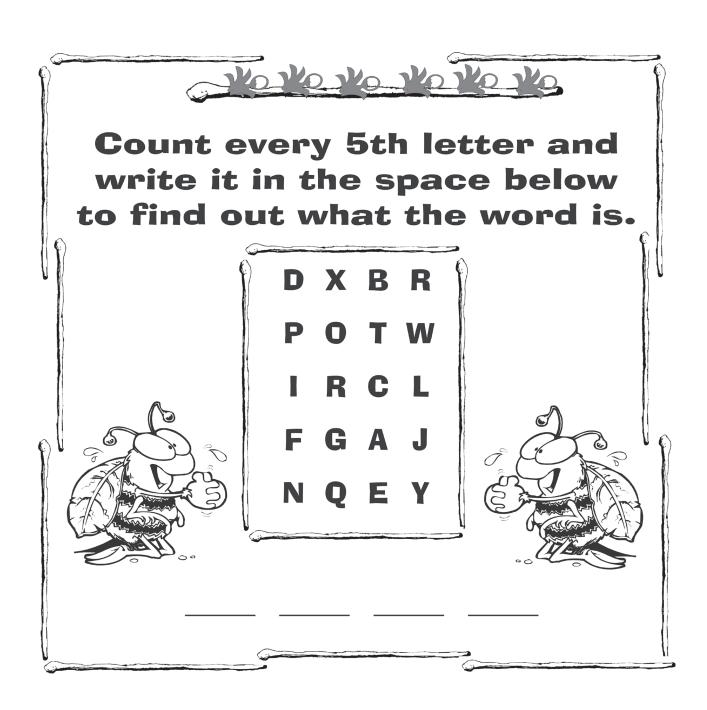
# Answer

· Pray.



# Aaron's rod

Activity B – Word Puzzle



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# Moses hits the rock

Numbers 20:2-13

# **Storyline**

The children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness and because they had no water to drink they complained to Moses saying that they wished they were dead or back in Egypt. Moses and Aaron then prayed to the Lord who told Moses to speak to the rock and it would provide water for all the people and their animals. However, when Moses gathered the people together he was angry with them and he struck the rock twice with his rod instead of speaking to it. Water did flow from the rock for everyone to drink, but the Lord told Moses that He would not allow him to take the people into the promised land because he had struck the rock instead of doing as God had told him.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Ask the children if they have ever felt angry and how they behaved while feeling this way. Introduce the story of Moses and the rock by saying how Moses became angry with the people he was taking to the promised land. Relate the story. A rock shaped sponge full of water apply he wood to demonstrate the

of water could be used to demonstrate the miracle of water from the rock, or the water balloon activity could be used.

Do the chosen activities.

# Theme One

### "Believe and obey God's word"

Moses recognised the children of Israel's need for water, so he and Aaron spent time with God seeking God's answer. God spoke to Moses and told him exactly what to do. He was to speak to the rock. However, Moses rose up in anger towards the people and, in disobedience to God, hit the rock twice with his rod. We need to be obedient to what God has instructed. Here we see Moses judging the people, and reacting to the people, rather than simply obeying God's command and allowing God to work His purpose through the circumstances.

# **Key Thought**

God saw the need of His people. He told Moses what to do to meet that need. Moses disobeyed, and we see that God did not give any special treatment to Moses, but in fact disallowed him from entering the promised land.

#### Aim

To teach the children to hear God's voice and to be obedient to His instruction.

### **Memory Verse**

"Believe in the Lord your God." (2 Chronicles 20:20).

# Theme Two

#### "God is faithful"

God intended to reveal His holiness, even though the children of Israel continued to rebel. By looking at this story in the light of the faithfulness, love and mercy of God, we see how God displayed His great love to the children of Israel. We see how He is tolerant to His people throughout the ages, and how faithful God is. God had promised to deliver them, and meet all their needs. Even though Moses was disobedient and the children of Israel were rebellious, God met their needs, and God continues to meet the needs of His people. He is continually faithful to those who are called by His name.

### **Key Thought**

We should never lose sight of God's continued faithfulness and His mercy towards us, even when we fail.

#### Aim

To help the children see that God's mercy and love is able to save them, even though at times they are like the children of Israel (when they grumble and murmur). God continues to be faithful.

### Memory Verse

"The Lord is gracious." (Psalm 145:8).

# **Activity A - Drama**

# **Materials**

- 1 balloon, brown paper and masking tape to make a water bomb 'rock'.
- 1 ruler or stick with a thumb-tack stuck through one end.
- Costumes (old towels make wonderful head-gear and help the children to feel more the part).

# **Steps**

#### At Home

- Construct the 'rock' by filling a balloon with water. Cover the balloon with brown paper and secure with masking tape.
- Take time to practise the balloon bursting to ensure it works effectively.

#### **Before Class**

• Determine a place outside where the scene could be acted out, and place the 'rock' on the ground, with rocks around it to secure it.

#### In Class

- Have the children act out the scene of the Israelites complaining to Moses and Aaron that there is no water. Have
  the children suggest how the Israelites, Moses and Aaron would have felt at the time. Have one child be the voice
  of God and instruct Moses to speak to the rock. Discuss how Moses reacted to this command from God, then have
  the child playing Moses strike the 'rock' twice. (The thumb-tack should pierce the balloon and water should gush
  out.)
- · Discuss how they all felt now.
- Discuss how God provided water for them and relate how God provides for us today.

# **Activity B - Multiple Choice Questions**

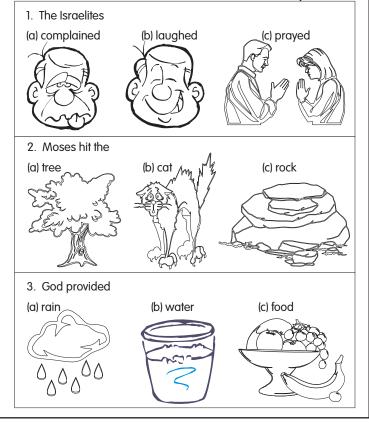
# **Materials**

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

#### Steps

- Read out the questions to the children and have them circle the correct answer.
- They can then colour the pictures.

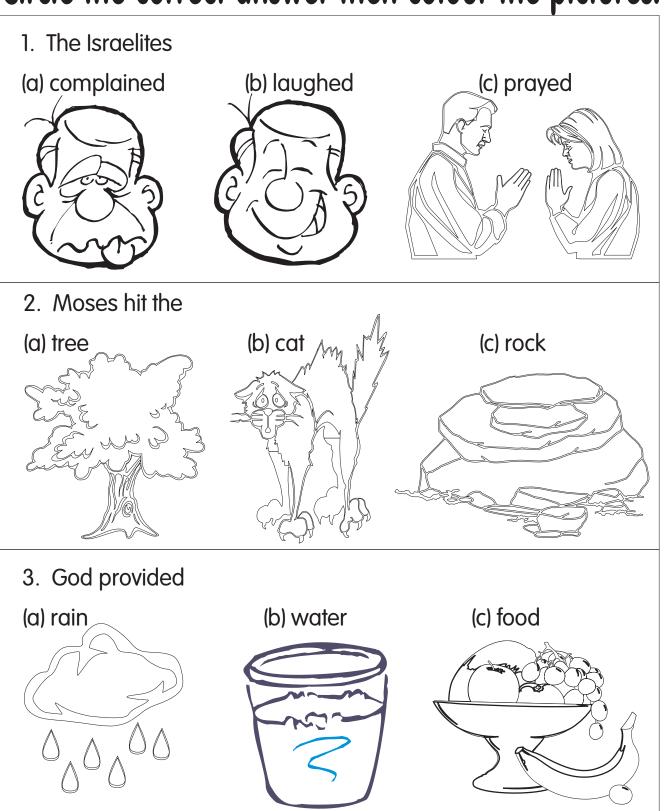
# Circle the correct answer then colour the pictures.



# Moses hits the rock

**Activity B – Multiple Choice Questions** 

# Circle the correct answer then colour the pictures.



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# The bronze serpent

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15

# **Storyline**

The children of Israel travelling to the promised land became very discouraged and murmured against God and Moses and against God's provision for them. God sent His judgement among them with fiery serpents and many of the children of Israel died. Those who had not yet died repented of their sin and asked Moses to pray for them. God told Moses to make a bronze fiery serpent and set it on a pole, so that everyone who was bitten and looked upon the bronze serpent would live. Moses obeyed God and all who looked on the bronze serpent lived. In the same way Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Those who believe in Him receive everlasting life..

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Use visual aids such as a felt-board, blackboard or pictures of healthy food and junk food in telling the story. Actual food examples such as fruit vs. biscuits or a bread roll in a commercial hamburger packet vs. slice of bread would be very memorable.

Ask the children which food they would choose and why?

Explain how quite often we can choose the thing that 'looks' best and appeals to us, but it may not be what the Lord wants for us, or what is best for us.

Discuss with the children their attitude to the provision of the Lord and when we ask the Lord for something we have to be prepared to accept what He provides for us and not what we choose or expect to get.

Encourage the children to be thankful for the good food they receive and point out God's love for us and the way He has made available for us to receive forgiveness and life.

# Theme One

### "Look upon Jesus"

The children of Israel deserved to be punished for the way they grumbled constantly. But God was merciful and He provided a remedy for those who were bitten by the snakes. Those who looked at the bronze serpent on the pole were healed. We deserve to be punished for our sin, but Jesus died on the cross for our sin. If we look to Him and believe in Him we shall receive true life.

### **Key Thought**

God judges sin, but has provided a way of forgiveness through His Son Jesus. As we turn and look to Jesus we will receive His life.

#### Aim

For the children to know that God has made a way for us to be forgiven when we are sorry for our sin and turn to Him.

### **Memory Verse**

"He who has the Son has life." (1 John 5:2).

# Theme Two

### "Confess our sins"

The people soon realised they had sinned when the judgement of God came upon them in the form of deadly snakes. They admitted their sin and asked for deliverance. God's answer was to have them lift up their eyes to look at a symbol of their sin - a snake on a pole. The penalty of our sin is death. In confessing our sin and looking to Jesus who became sin for us (He was nailed to a cross), we escape the judgement of God that would otherwise come.

# **Key Thought**

Open confession brings God's mercy to us instead of His judgement. Our sin is forgiven by God who is faithful and just in His dealings with us.

#### Aim

For the children to understand clearly the importance of recognising, admitting and confessing their sin in order to experience God's forgiveness.

### **Memory Verse**

"Confess your trespasses to one another." (James 5:16).

# Activity A - Spiral Serpents

# **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Yellow or orange colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.
- Glue
- Gold glitter/gold foil or paper.
- · Safety scissors.
- 1 piece of dowel, stick or bamboo skewer approx. 30cm long, per child.

# **Steps**

### At Home

• Cut gold foil/paper into small squares for collaging.

#### In Class

- The children can colour and decorate their serpents with the pencils, glue, glitter and foil or paper.
- The children can then cut out the serpent by following the lines, starting at the head. (The younger children may need help with this).
- Stick tape or pin the tail of the serpent to the top of the dowel stick/bamboo skewer



# **Materials**

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child.
- 1 skewer to punch a hole in the centre of each wheel.
- 1 split-pin per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.
- · Scissors...

# **Steps**

### At Home

• Cut out each of the circles and punch a hole in the centre of each one with the skewer, ready for the split-pin.

#### In Class

- The children can colour in each of the pictures on the picture wheel.
- Then, if capable, they can cut out the two sections on the cover sheet.
- Place the cover sheet on top of the picture wheel and secure it with the split-pin through the holes already punched.



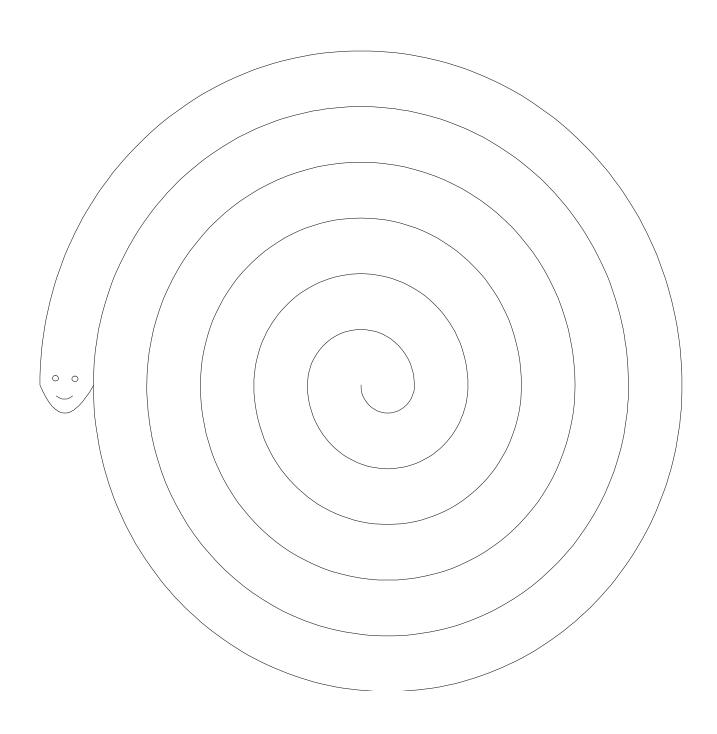
- The children can turn the wheel and talk about the behaviour:
  - Eg. Dog & Cat fighting or getting on.

Children – fighting or playing together.

Children – building sandcastle together or destroying the sandcastle.

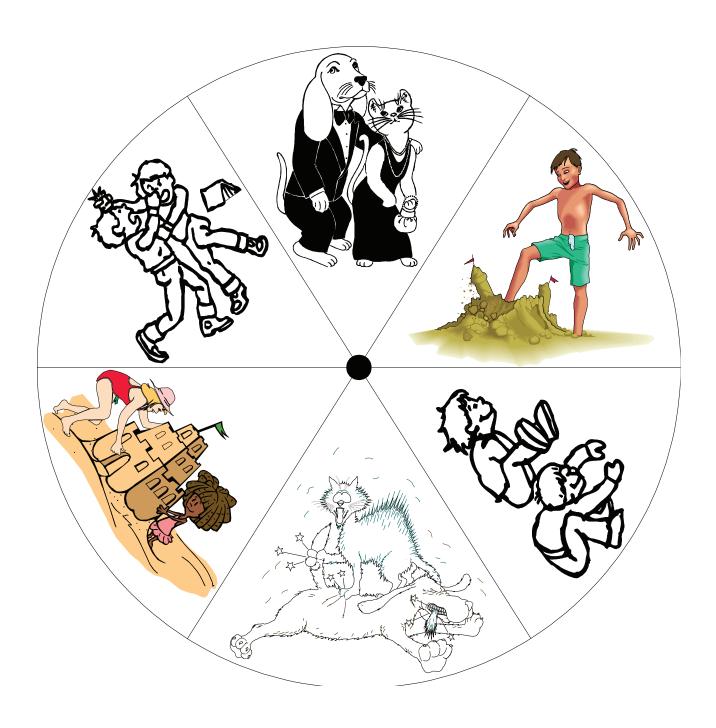
# The bronze serpent

Activity A – Spiral Serpents

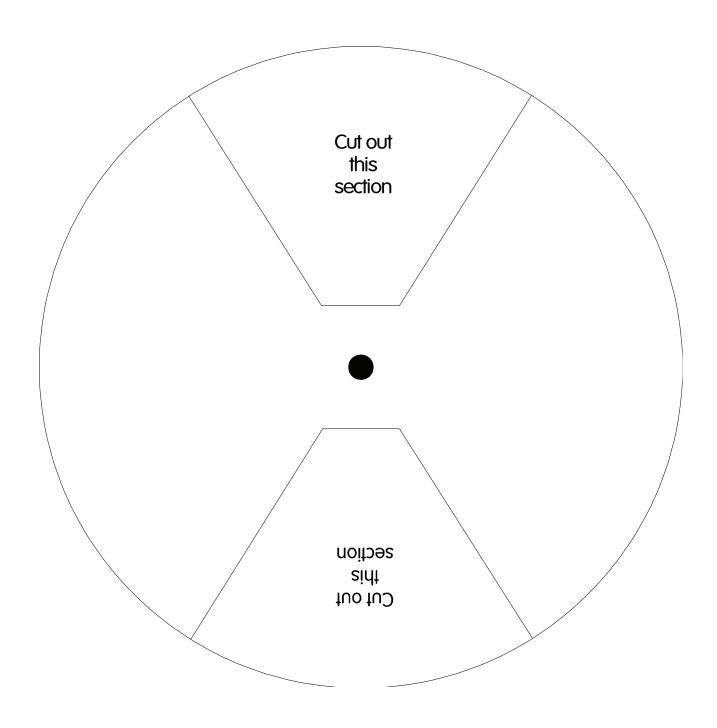


# The bronze serpent

Activity B – Turn the Dial – "God's Way or the Selfish Way"



# The bronze serpent Activity B – Turn the Dial – "God's Way or the Selfish Way"



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# Balaam and his donkey

Numbers 22 - 24

# **Storyline**

The Israelites came into Moab and Balak, the king of Moab, was worried. He sent his men to bring Balaam the prophet to put a curse on the Israelites. At first Balaam refused to go with them as God had told him not to go. Again the king sent his men to ask Balaam to come to him and this time he went with them. God was angry with Balaam for going against His wishes and He sent His angel with His sword drawn to stand in his way. Balaam's donkey behaved in an unusual way when it saw the Angel of the Lord. Three times the donkey behaved in an unusual way. Balaam scolded the donkey and struck it with his staff. God caused the donkey to speak to Balaam about his sin. Balaam then went on to the king, where he blessed the people instead of cursing them.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

Have the children mime the story as it is being told, using dress-up clothes, or

Use a backdrop picture and add felt or magnetic pictures of the characters as the story is told.

# **Theme One**

### "Obey God's word"

God spoke to Balaam directly, but Balaam did not want to obey God. Then God spoke to him through his donkey. God doesn't usually speak to us through animals, but He speaks in many other ways. He speaks through our parents, our teachers, the elders, and sometimes through our brothers and sisters. God also speaks to us through the circumstances of life. We need to listen to those whom God has sent to speak to us.

### **Key Thought**

God spoke through a donkey to get Balaam's attention. He speaks to us in many different ways and He wants to get our attention too.

#### Aim

To show the children that if our heart is not willing to go God's way we cannot do His will or hear His voice.

### **Memory Verse**

"Listen carefully to Me." (Isaiah 55:2).

# Theme Two

# "God's promise is unchangeable"

When God brought His people out of Egypt, His purpose was to bring them into the promised land. God would not allow the enemies of His people to thwart His purposes. God's purpose today is to change His people to be like Himself and to join them perfectly together. There are many things which oppose the fulfilment of God's plan today also, but His purpose will not change and, by His power, He will bring it to pass.

# **Key Thought**

Satan and man have their own plan, but God's purpose will prevail and God sometimes uses Satan and man to fulfil His own plan and purpose.

#### Aim

For the children to begin to understand God's purpose for His people and acknowledge His capacity to bring it to pass.

# **Memory Verse**

"I am the Lord, I do not change." (Malachi 3:6).

# **Activity A - Donkey Book**

# **Materials**

- 1 of each Activity Sheet per child, photocopied onto cardboard.
- · Hole punch.
- 2 curtain rings per child, or 2 pieces of ribbon approx. 5 cm long per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.

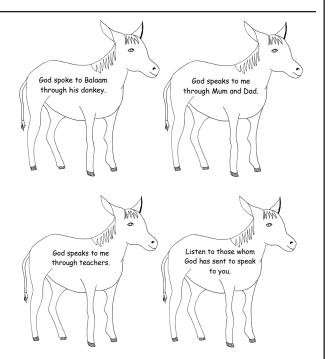
# **Steps**

### At Home

• Cut out one of each 4 donkeys per child.

#### In Class

- Punch 2 holes in the backs of the donkeys.
- The children can colour each of the donkeys.
- Have the children put the donkeys in the right order and thread curtain rings or ribbon through the holes, so each donkey may be turned over like a page and read like a book.



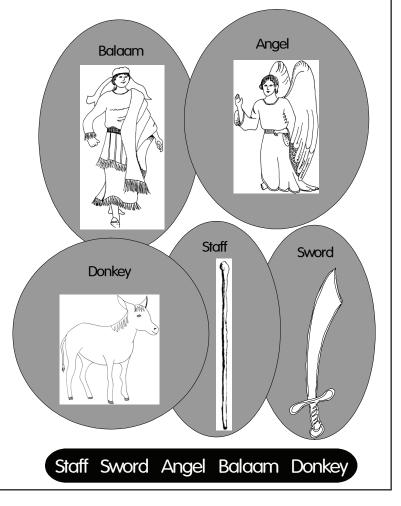
# **Activity B - Word Puzzle**

# **Materials**

- 1 of each Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.
- Glue.
- · Safety scissors.

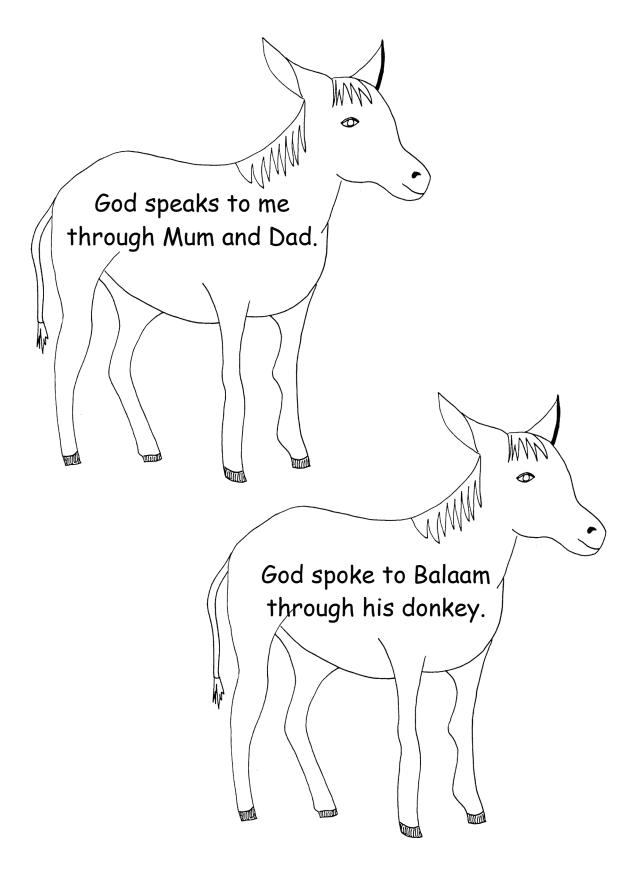
# Steps

- The children colour the pictures.
- Then copy the words from the list into the correct circles.
- They can then cut out the pictures and glue them in the correct circles.



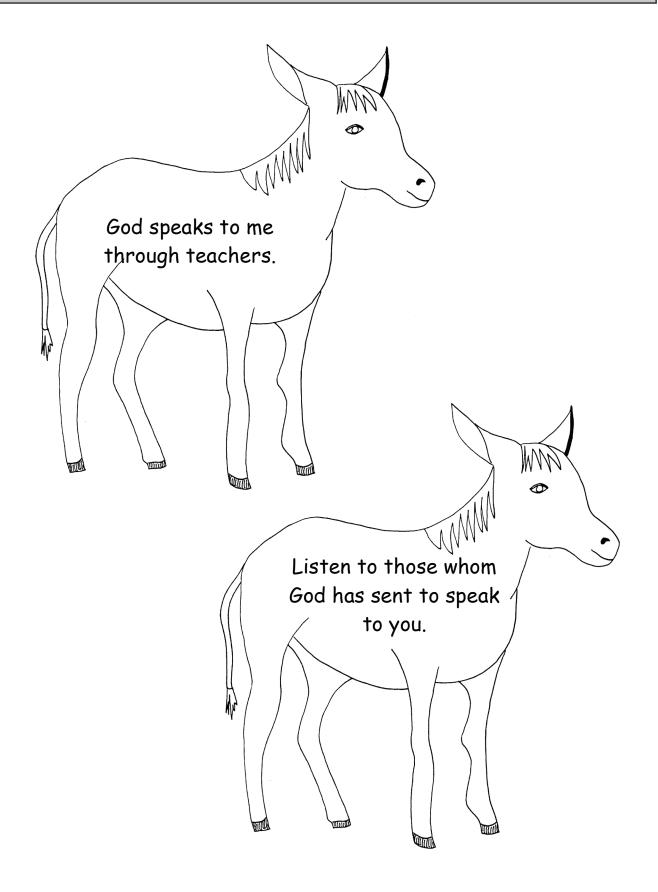
# Balaam and his donkey

Activity A – Donkey Book

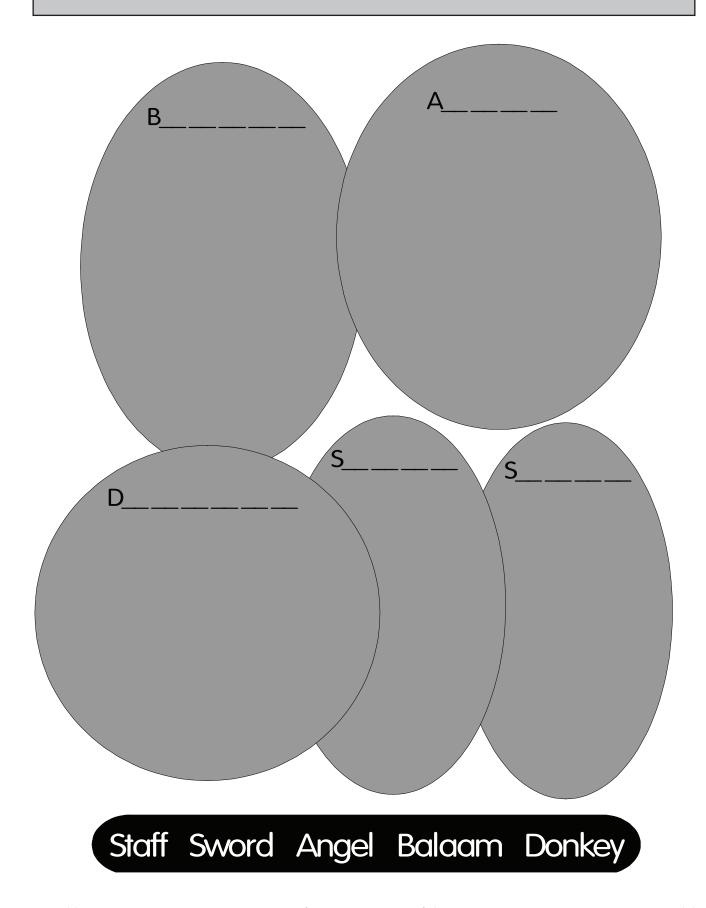


# Balaam and his donkey

Activity A – Donkey Book



# Balaam and his donkey Activity B – Word and Picture Puzzle



# Balaam and his donkey Activity B – Word and Picture Puzzle



Joshua 1 & 2

# **Storyline**

When Moses died, Joshua was the man chosen by God to replace Moses. God told Joshua that the children of Israel were to cross the Jordan and take Jericho. Joshua sent two spies into Jericho. The spies went to Rahab's house. The king wanted her to deliver them up to him, but she hid them in the stalks of flax on her roof. Then she asked the spies that her life and the lives of her relatives would be spared in exchange for the kindness she had shown to the spies. Rahab let the men down from the wall by a scarlet cord and they told her to put the cord in her window and she and her family that were inside the house would be spared.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

For this age group, keep the theme, as mentioned above, in view. Tell the story of Joshua and Rahab emphasising Rahab's fear of the Lord and the trustworthiness of God to protect and save as promised. When dramatising the story, perhaps it could be helpful to act out the opposite scenario had Rahab not been obedient to the instructions given, so that the negative effects of disobedience to God can also be seen.

# Theme One

# "Saved through faith"

The city of Jericho and all the people living in it were to be destroyed because of their wickedness. Rahab, however, had come to trust in God. She showed that she had faith in God by receiving the Israelite spies. She obeyed their instruction and put the scarlet cord in her window. As a result, she and her whole family were saved. The scarlet cord is a picture of the blood that Jesus shed for us. When we trust Him we, too, can be saved.

# **Key Thought**

Obedience to God's word and His instruction will lead us to salvation.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that through faith and obedience they can be saved.

# **Memory Verse**

"Your faith has saved you." (Luke 7:50).

# Theme Two

# "Choosing to be different"

Everyone in Jericho was afraid of God's people but they didn't want to live God's way. Rahab, knowing the greatness of God and His people, went against her own leaders to help God's spies. She knew that to secure her own salvation and that of her family, she had to obey every instruction given by God.

#### **Key Thought**

It is always important to be loyal to God, even though we may be unpopular or different from others around us because of our loyalty to Him.

#### Aim

To help the children to learn that to be loyal to God is an everyday way of life for a Christian.

### Memory Verse

"No one can serve two masters." (Matthew 6:24).

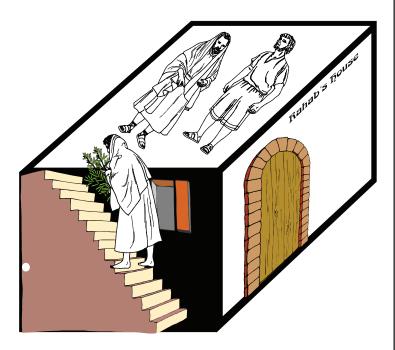
# **Activity A - Colour and Glue**

# **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 set of Rahab and the two spies per child.
- Strips of paper, material, leaves or straw.
- · Safety scissors.
- Glue.
- Crayons/colouring pencils/felt pens.

# **Steps**

- If possible, let the children go outside and gather leaves, grass etc.
- The children colour the pictures of Rahab, the spies and Rahab's house.
- They then cut out the figures of Rahab and the spies.
- Glue the figure on the roof of Rahab's house with the spies lying down.
- · Cover the spies with leaves, straw, paper or material.



# **Activity B - Escaping Spies**



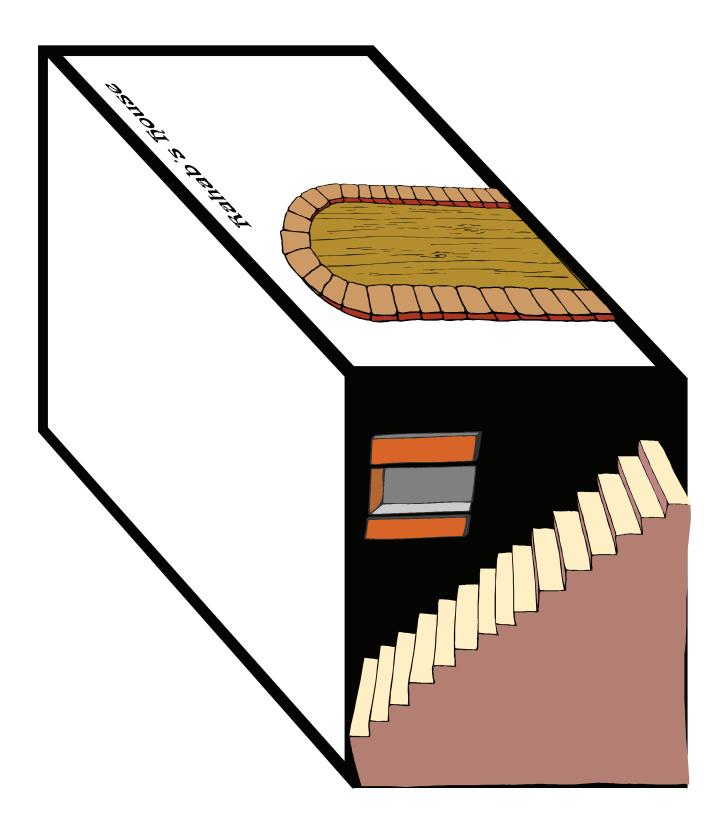
# **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 set of figures per child.
- Glue.
- · Safety scissors.
- 2 lengths of red wool per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons/felt pens.

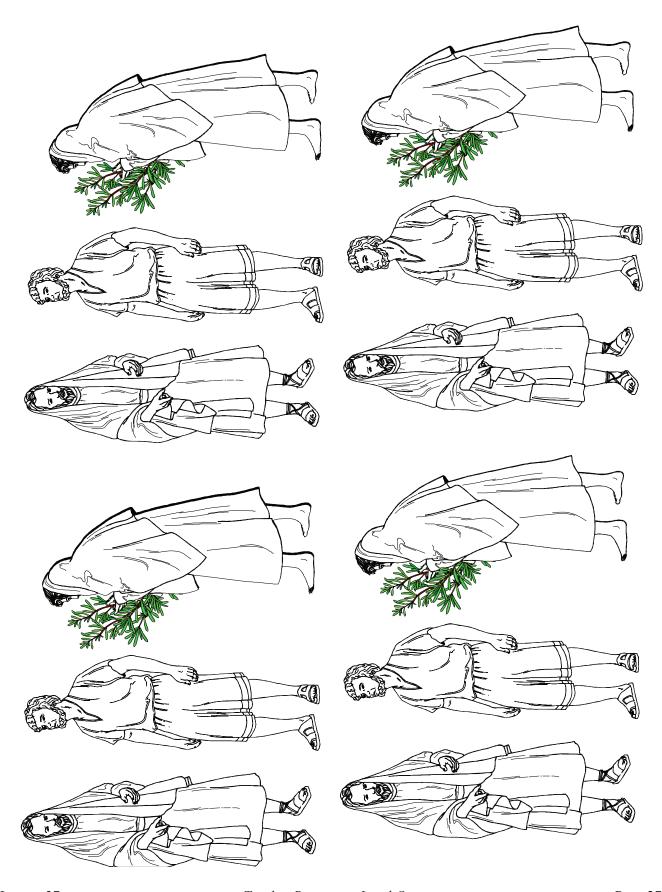
# **Steps**

- The children colour the picture of Rahab, cut it out and glue it in the window of her house.
- Glue the two lengths of red wool from the window to the ground.
- Colour in the two spies, cut them out and glue them to the side of the wool as if they were climbing down the rope.
- Colour Rahab's house if time permits.

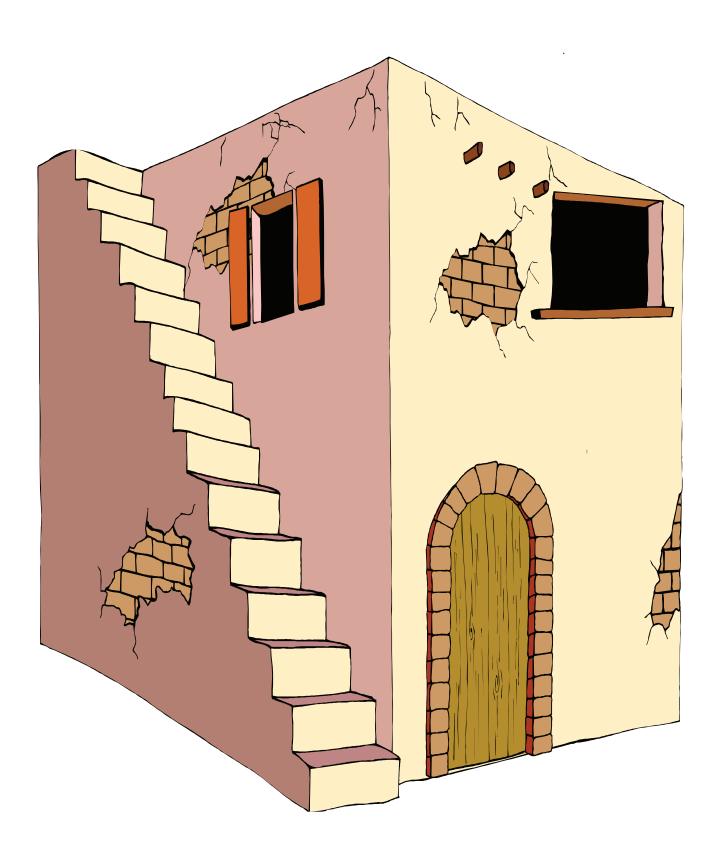
Activity A – Colour and Glue



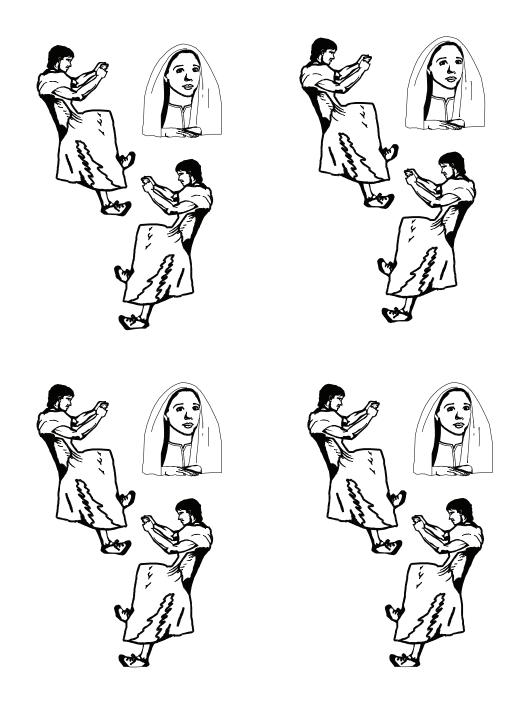
Activity A – Colour and Glue



Activity B – Escaping Spies



Activity B – Escaping Spies



# Crossing the Jordan, Jericho

Joshua 3 – 6; I Kings 16:34

# **Storyline**

After 40 years the time had come for Joshua to lead God's people across the Jordan River into the land God had promised them. Joshua ordered the people to follow the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As the priests stepped into the river the water stopped flowing and began to pile up like a great wall. Joshua and the children of Israel all crossed safely to the other side. God then told Joshua to select twelve men, one from each tribe, and have them take a stone each out of the Jordan River and place them where they camped. This was to mark the spot where God stopped the waters so that the children of Israel could cross safely. Joshua was now ready to attack the city of Jericho that was surrounded by a high wall. God gave Joshua special instructions to follow. Joshua and the people followed these instructions and the walls of Jericho crashed to the ground. God was faithful.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

This lesson lends itself to an outdoor dramatisation. The Jordan can be two blue towels parted as the children march through. Jericho can be built of a circle of cardboard boxes, the more the better. Trumpets can be made from sheets of paper rolled into cone shapes and secured by the tape. The children will enjoy blowing the trumpets, shouting and destroying the city. If you decide to include Rahab, make sure the spies get her out quickly, before the city is destroyed.

# **Theme One**

### "Trust and obey God"

If we follow the Lord's commands, He will fulfil His promises made to each of us. Just as the Israelites obeyed the directions God gave and were blessed in the receiving of His promises, so we can know the blessings of God by trusting Him for the direction He would have us take in our lives. He will provide all our needs when we, in faith, obey His direction.

#### **Key Thought**

Faith and obedience are both necessary if we want to receive God's promises. In fact, we cannot separate faith and obedience.

#### Aim

To show the children that if we have faith in God to lead us as our Father, and obey His commands, He will guide our life.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart." (Proverbs 3:5).

# Theme Two

#### "God keeps His word"

The Israelites had been wandering around the desert for 40 years waiting to enter the promised land. God kept His promise of years ago and the Israelites entered the land. We, too, can rely on God to keep His promises to us, and they will be fulfilled in His perfect time. Sometimes we have to be patient and live our lives in the assurance and knowledge of these promises. We also should note that God, having spoken through Joshua, said that the walls of Jericho were never to be rebuilt. Six hundred years later, we see a disobedient man building the walls, and as it had been prophesied, his firstborn and youngest sons died.

# **Key Thought**

Even though we may be required to be patient, the Lord is faithful and will keep His promises.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that God is reliable, trustworthy and will not forget anything He has promised.

# **Memory Verse**

"He who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23).

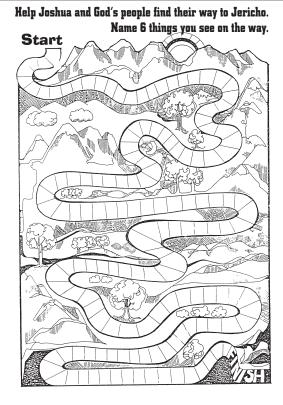
# Activity A - Find the Way to Jericho

# **Materials**

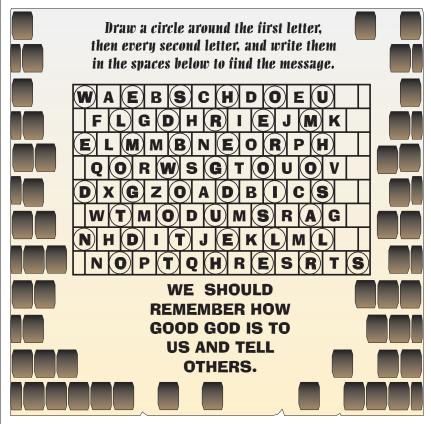
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Crayons/colouring pencils/felt pens.

# Steps

- The children follow the path with a brightly coloured crayon.
- If time permits, the children can then colour the rest of the picture.



# Activity B - Word Puzzle - A Wall of Letters



# **Materials**

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

# Steps

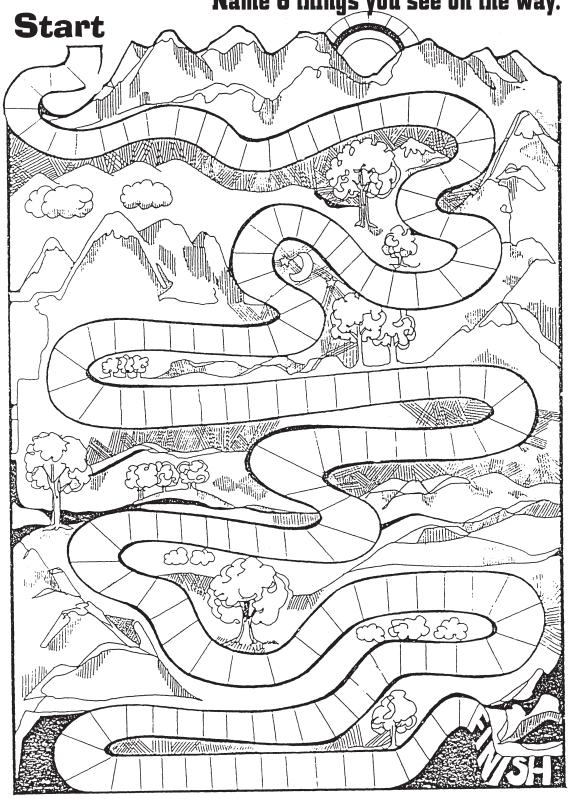
• Have the children circle every second letter on the wall, then write them in the spaces below the wall to make a sentence.

# Crossing the Jordan, Jericho

Activity A – Find the Way to Jericho

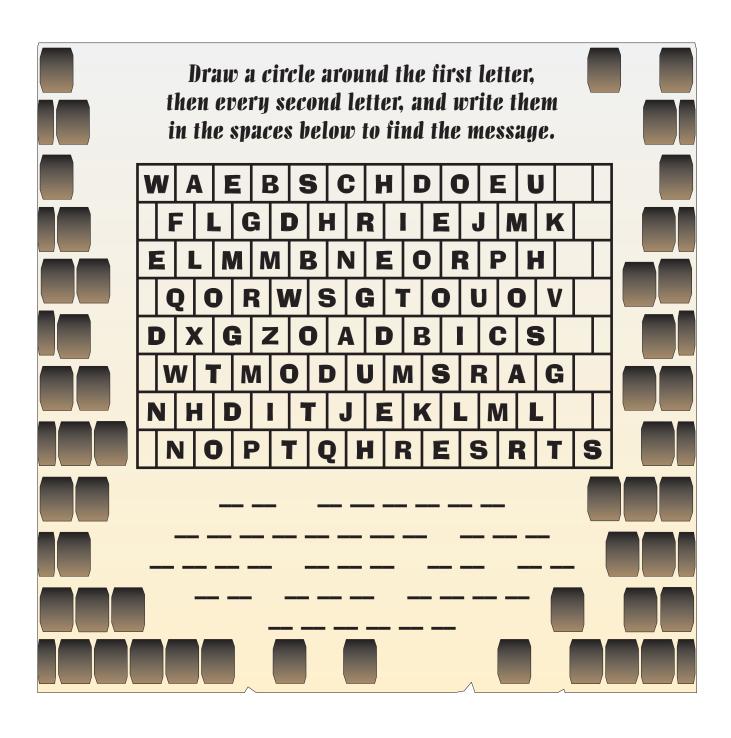
Help Joshua and God's people find their way to Jericho.

Name 6 things you see on the way.



# Crossing the Jordan, Jericho

Activity B - Word Puzzle - A Wall of Letters



# The sin of Achan

Joshua 7

# **Storyline**

One man in Israel, Achan, was not trustworthy. He and his family disobeyed God by taking treasures from Jericho which the Israelites were told not to take. God was not able to protect the whole nation of Israel because of this man's disobedience and covetousness. As a result, some of the people of Israel died at Ai in battle. Joshua fell down and cried out to the Lord for help. The Lord told Joshua to destroy the family that had disobeyed Him. Achan and his family confessed to taking a garment, a bar of gold and some silver coins. Achan and all of his family were killed so that the nation of Israel could again be protected by God.

# Suggested Teaching Approach

The story of Achan can be linked to the children's own experience by a number of anecdotal stories about children their own age who sin and then face the consequences. Bring out the points about (a) hiding sin and (b) the consequences of sin. Use the following examples or think of your own:

- Billy's mother told him on no account was he to play with the dishwasher. One day when she was out shopping, he thought he'd see if he could make the dishwasher work and broke it. He said nothing about it (after all, it could have been ready to break in any case). When his mother tried to get the dishwasher to work that night, it would not go, and the family had a huge amount of washing up to do by hand.
- Mary's shoes are missing because she didn't put them away when she was told. The whole family is kept late for a function while Mary searches for her shoes. Sin affects others.

# Theme One

# "Temptation can lead to sin"

Achan was obviously a greedy man. When he was helping to destroy Jericho, he saw a good garment and some silver and gold. He knew that God had said they were not to touch anything or take it for themselves. But he allowed his greed to become a temptation and then temptation became sin. We must be very careful not to give way to temptations because they can easily end up by making us sin.

# **Key Thought**

Temptation is not a sin, even Jesus Himself was tempted by Satan but did not sin. When temptation comes, reject it quickly.

#### Aim

To encourage the children to deal with temptation before it leads them to sin.

# **Memory Verse**

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation." (James 1:12).

# Theme Two

# "Our sin affects others"

Achan sinned privately and thought that he could hide the loot away and no one would know. But God knew. The resulting judgement of God touched not only him but also his family and, of course, the thirty-six men of Israel. Although we may hide our sin from other people, God knows all about it and will judge it. But we need to remember that our sin, even though it is unknown to other people, affects others. God judges our sins as He sees fit and sometimes His judgements may seem very severe. However, although Achan confessed, there is no record of his repenting and asking for mercy.

# **Key Thought**

Let us beware of the secret sins of the heart and remember that our sin affects other people as well as ourselves.

#### Aim

For the children to realise that when they sin, others are hurt too, and to encourage the children to quickly confess their sin and repent of it.

### **Memory Verse**

"We are members of one another." (Ephesians 4:25).

# **Activity A - Link the Pictures**

# **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 blank sheet of paper per child.
- Crayons/colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Glue.

# **Steps**

### At Home

• Cut out the pictures and place 1 set in an envelope for each child.

#### In Class

- The children are each given a set of cut-out pictures.
- They colour in each picture and glue them at random on their blank sheet of paper.
- Ask the children to draw a line between the pictures that go together, ie. the action and the reward/punishment.
- Use a different coloured pencil to link the different sets of pictures.
- · Have the children talk about what happened in each picture and the consequence of this action

# Activity B - Magic Painting

# **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- White crayon or candle.
- Thin water based paint.
- · Paint brushes.
- Protective clothing.
- Drop sheet.

# **Steps**

### At Home

• After photocopying the Activity Sheet for each child, draw or trace Achan's stolen treasure in white crayon or candle in the opening of Achan's tent.

# In Class

- The children are given the picture of Achan's tent and asked if they can see Achan's stolen treasure and do they think God can see it?
- Children paint over the entire picture to reveal Achan's treasure.
- Relate this to them not being able to hide things from God.











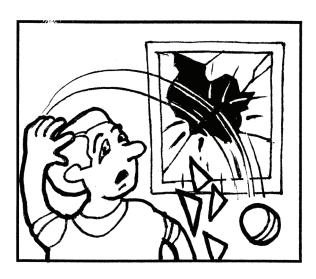


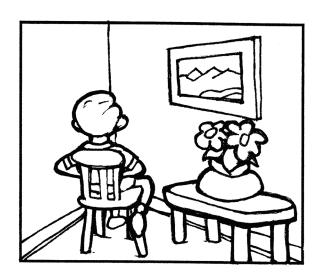
## The sin of Achan

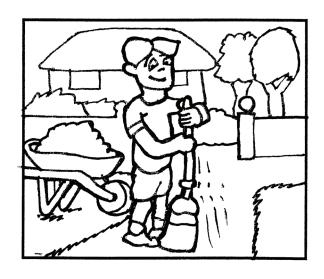
Activity A – Link the Pictures







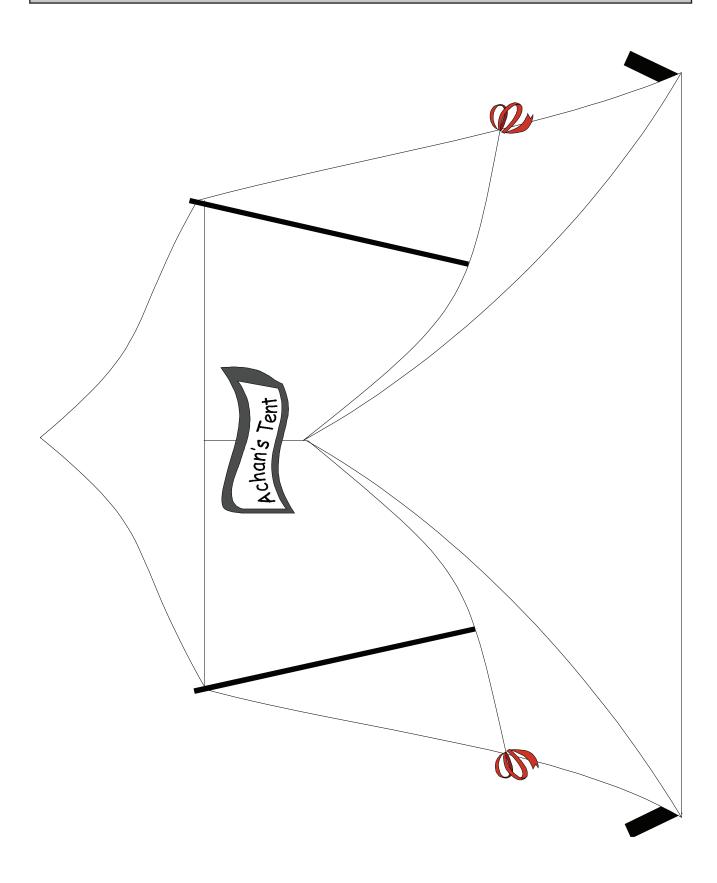






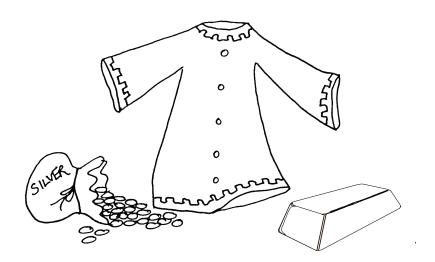
## The sin of Achan

Activity B – Magic Painting



## The sin of Achan

Activity B – Magic Painting



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## The sun stands still

Joshua 10:1-15

### **Storyline**

Five kings of the Amorites banded together and came against Joshua and his army. God told Joshua not to be afraid because He was going to fight the battle with Joshua. Joshua and his army killed many of the enemy. God then sent hailstones from heaven which killed more of the enemy. When Joshua asked, God made the sun and moon stand still so that he could finish the battle without stopping for the night. The Lord fought the battle for Joshua and the people of Israel.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story of Joshua and the battle, making sure you express the incredible power of God in making the sun stand still.

Remind the children that it was God who created the sun, and night and day, and therefore He is certainly able to do this miracle. God is able to meet the needs in their lives.

Tell them how important it is to get to know this wonderful God. One way is through prayer.

#### Theme One

#### "God answers prayer"

When we are doing what God has asked us to do, He will give us what we ask of Him. All we have to do is to ask Him. When Joshua was unable to complete the task God had given him to do, he asked God to help him. Even though the request was 'out of the ordinary,' God was faithful in answering Joshua's request because Joshua was faithful in doing the work God had asked him to do.

#### **Key Thought**

When we are doing what God has asked us to do, the Lord hears our voice when we ask in prayer according to His purposes.

#### Aim

To help the children to understand that God answers prayer when we are doing His will.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Hear my prayer, O Lord." (Psalm 39:12).

#### Theme Two

#### "Nothing is impossible with God"

Joshua knew that God was with the Israelites and would help them win the battle. He had seen the hailstones the Lord had sent to kill many of the Amorites. He knew God had power over all things because He made all things. So he had no hesitation in stepping out in faith and asking God to make the sun and moon stand still. We too can pray knowing that nothing is too hard for God to deal with.

#### **Key Thought**

When we call on the Lord to help us with a problem, we should believe He can help us, no matter how impossible it may seem.

#### Aim

To have the children realise they shouldn't limit God only to what seems possible to them.

#### **Memory Verse**

"With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).

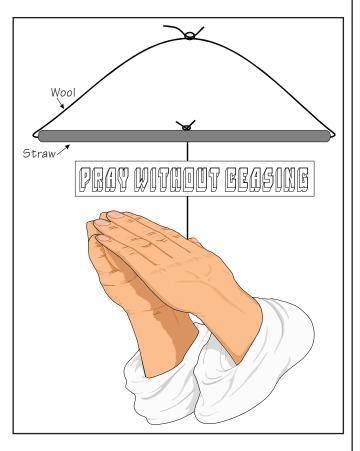
### **Activity A - Praying Hands Mobile**

#### **Materials**

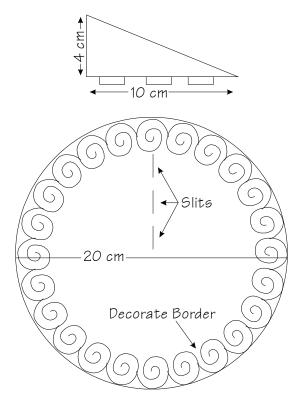
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- 1 plastic straw per child.
- · Wool or string.
- · Bodkin or wool needle.
- Hole punch or stapler.

#### **Steps**

- The children colour in the hands and the heading.
- With the aid of a bodkin, thread a piece of wool (at least one and a half times longer than the straw) through each straw and tie the ends together, to make a hanger for the mobile.
- Punch two holes in the centre of the heading, one at the top, one at the bottom. Punch one hole in the top of the hands.
- Make the mobiles by joining the heading to the centre of the straw with a short length of wool, then the prayer hands to the heading with a short length of wool.
- These last three steps could also be done with a stapler rather than a hole punch, if desired.



### **Activity B - Sun Dial**



#### **Materials**

- · Cardboard.
- · Scissors.
- · Felt pens.
- Stanley knife for the teacher to use.

#### Steps

#### At Home

- Draw circles with a diameter of 20 cm on the cardboard, enough for the whole class.
- Draw enough triangles to match with a base of 10 cm, and a height of around 4 cm. On the baseline draw three small tabs.

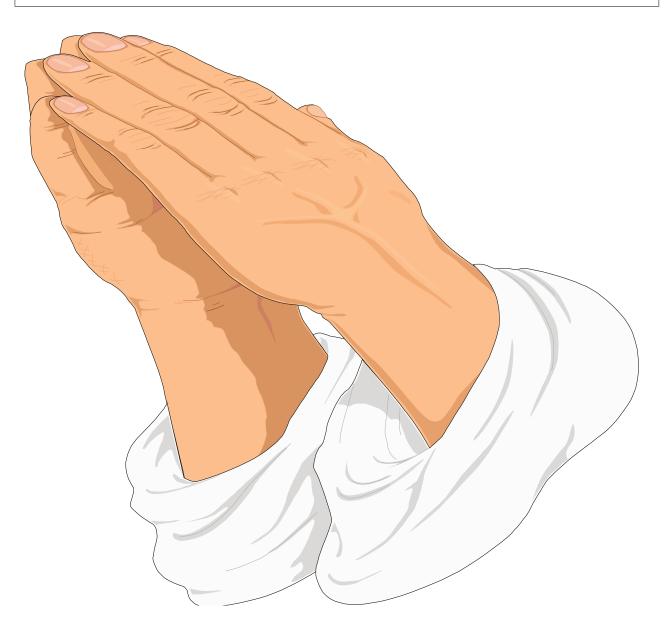
#### In Class

- The children decorate the edge of the sun dial, then slip the tabs on the triangle through the slits in the circle (with the pointed end facing the outside of the circle) and bend the tabs underneath (two one way and one the other).
- Take the children outside and show them how the sun dial works, by pointing it to the north.
- Perhaps they could be given a project of marking the shadow every hour during the week.

## The sun stands still

Activity A - Praying Hands Mobile

# PRAT WITHIT BEASING



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## Gideon's fleece

Judges 6:36-40

### **Storyline**

God sent the Angel of the Lord to Gideon to tell him that God would use him to save the people from the enemy. Gideon didn't believe God could use him to do this, so he tested God by putting a fleece out on the ground overnight. He asked God to wet the fleece and leave the ground dry. This happened, but Gideon wanted more proof, so he put the wool out again, this time wanting the fleece dry and the ground wet. Once again, God performed the miracle.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Take two trays with sand/dirt and two pieces of cloth/sheepskin to the lesson. Using a spray bottle to wet (a) 'the fleece' and (b) 'the ground.' When spraying, show the children how hard it is to just wet one thing and not the other.

If the lesson is early in the day, or on a cool enough day, some dew may be found in a still shady spot outside. Encourage the children to notice where the dew has appeared.

#### **Theme One**

#### "Believing and seeing"

Gideon found it hard to believe that God could use him. He was asked for signs to strengthen his faith. This was because Gideon thought if he could see God's power in action, he could believe and obey God. God is calling us to obey Him first and then He will let us see and understand whatever He is doing in our lives.

#### **Key Thought**

God wants us to trust Him and obey His word.

#### Aim

For the children to learn that the only way to understand what God is doing in their lives is to be obedient first.

#### **Memory Verse**

"We walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7).

### **Theme Two**

#### "God helps us"

Although Gideon did not feel adequate for the task the Lord had called him to, God nevertheless chose him. God was able to use him despite his failings and fears. Gideon's enabling was to come, not from his natural abilities, but from the Lord. God knew him and provided the necessary reassurance and the Holy Spirit, sufficient to complete the task.

#### **Key Thought**

When God asks us to do something, He gives us the ability we need to do it. When we are weak or inadequate, the Holy Spirit has come to strengthen and enable us.

#### Aim

To show the children that once God has given His word concerning something, He never forgets and can be relied on to do it.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Our sufficiency is from God." (2 Corinthians 3:5).

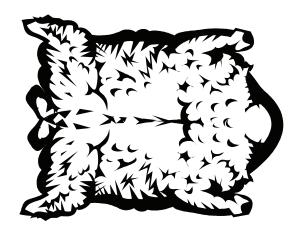
### Activity A - Make Gideon's Fleece

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- 1 roll of cotton wool.
- Glue.
- Glitter (to illustrate dew).

#### **Steps**

- The children glue cotton wool onto the fleeces on the Activity Sheet.
- They then place glue around the outside of one fleece and sprinkle glitter on the glue.
- The second fleece has a small amount of glue spread on top of the fleece.
- Sprinkle glitter onto the glue on the fleece.



### Activity B - Coded Message

#### **Materials**

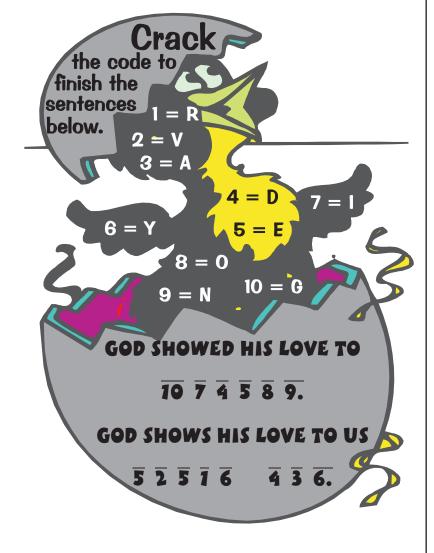
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

#### **Steps**

- Explain to the children, that what happened with Gideon and the fleece is something special that God did, but God can show Himself to us in the things that happen to us everyday.
- Discuss with the children how God shows Himself and His love to them in every day things.
- The children work out the coded message.

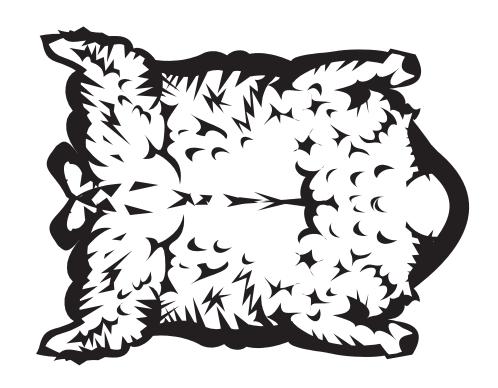
#### **Answer**

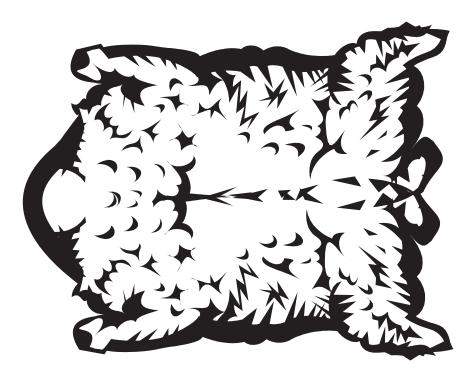
- GIDEON
- EVERY DAY



## Gideon's Fleece

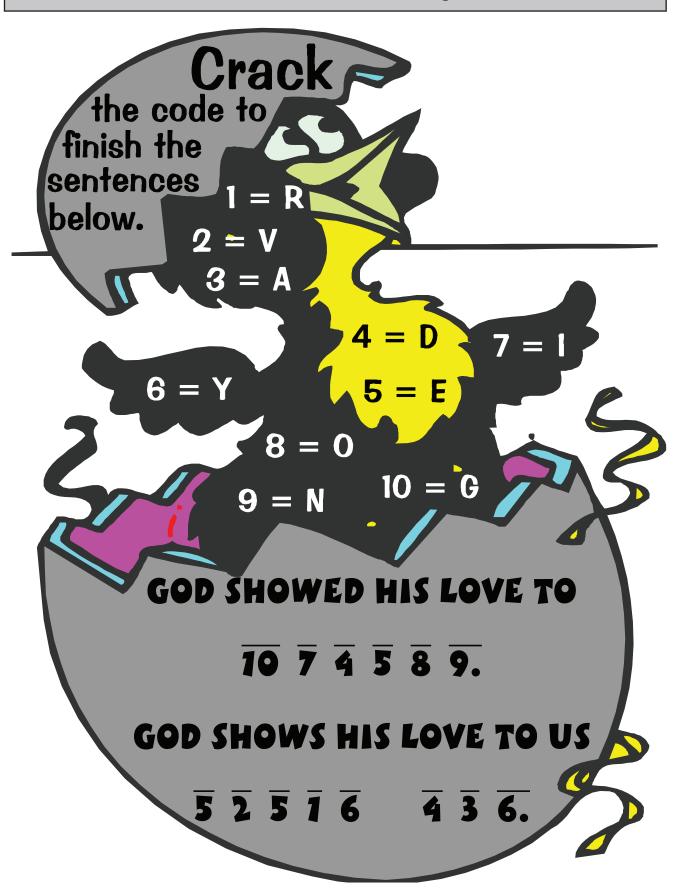
Activity A – Make Gideon's Fleece





## Gideon's Fleece

Activity B – Coded Message



## Gideon and his army

Judges 6:11-35; 7:1 - 8:28

### **Storyline**

The Lord told Gideon that he was a valiant warrior, and that he should deliver the Israelites from their enemy. Gideon found it hard to believe that God would choose him to defeat the enemy, as his family was the least in their clan and he was least in his family. The first thing God told him to do was to destroy the altar and idol that the people worshipped. Later, God wanted Gideon to march on the enemy, but first God had to choose just 300 men out of the whole land, to march with Gideon. God said to send home all those who were afraid and a lot of people left. Then God told Gideon to have all the men go down to the water for a drink. God told Gideon to separate all those who lifted water up to their mouths with their hand from all those who got down on their knees to drink. There were 300 men who lifted water up to their mouths to drink and these were the men God chose. It was night time and Gideon gave each man an empty pitcher with a torch in it, to hold in his left hand, and a trumpet to hold in his right hand. On Gideon's signal, they broke the pitchers, blew the trumpets and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon" and the enemy either killed each other, or ran away, pursued by Gideon's army.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

During the course of the story, encourage the children to participate by acting out the various stages of the story, eg:

- The choosing of soldiers: look fearful and walk away; kneel down and pretend to lap water like a dog; bend over and put hand to mouth, as if drinking water from it.
- The attack on the Midianites: blow trumpets; break pitchers; call out in big voices, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

Finish with a marching song such as, "God's got an army."

#### **Theme One**

#### "God is always with us"

Because Gideon's army was not able to rely on being heavily armed or on their numbers, they stood in the name of the Lord and were victorious. God is our defence if we'll put our trust in Him. This may be difficult for us to do as we look at the battles we have to face, however, we should trust in the Lord to give us the victory.

#### **Key Thought**

We can have the victory if we stand in faith and rely on the Lord's power to overcome.

#### Aim

To emphasise to the children that if they are obedient to the Lord, He will win their battles.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God is with us." (Isaiah 8:10).

#### Theme Two

#### "When we are weak, God is strong"

Gideon could not lean on his own strength or cleverness to win the battle, because he had none. Yet with a small number of men, obedient to God's instructions, he and his men won an amazing victory. It is the same for us. God often allows us to feel weak, so that we realise it is not our ability that helps us. At times, He will ask us to do things that we think we cannot do. We must trust Him to help us to do what He wants.

#### **Key Thought**

Gideon found that the battle was won by God's tactics, not man's. He knew God wanted him to do the job, but knew he could not do it in his own strength.

#### Aim

For the children to learn that even though we are weak, God can still use us.

#### Memory Verse

"When I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10).

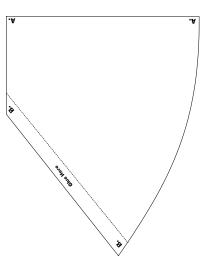
### Activity A - Make a Trumpet

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- · Safety scissors.
- Glue or sticky tape.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens, glitter, or any other things with which to decorate a trumpet.

#### **Steps**

- The children colour or decorate the trumpet.
- Cut the trumpet out and place glue along side "B".
- Attach side "A" to side "B".
- If using sticky tape, simply place side "A" on side "B" and tape together.



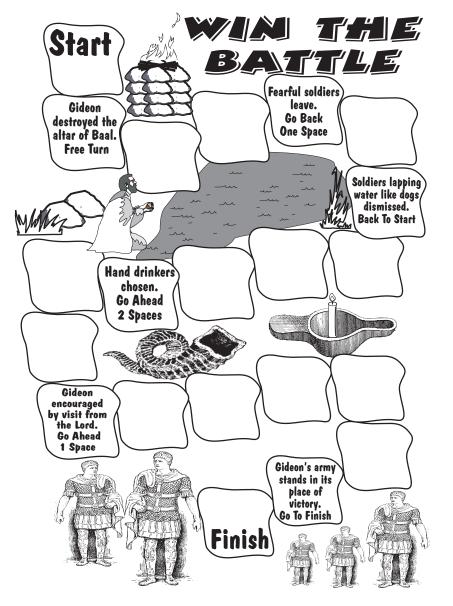
### Activity B - Board Game "Win the Battle"

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.
- Glue (spray glue is best, otherwise use a glue stick).
- 1 Activity Sheet enlarged to A3 size and mounted on cardboard.
- 1 marker per child and a dice

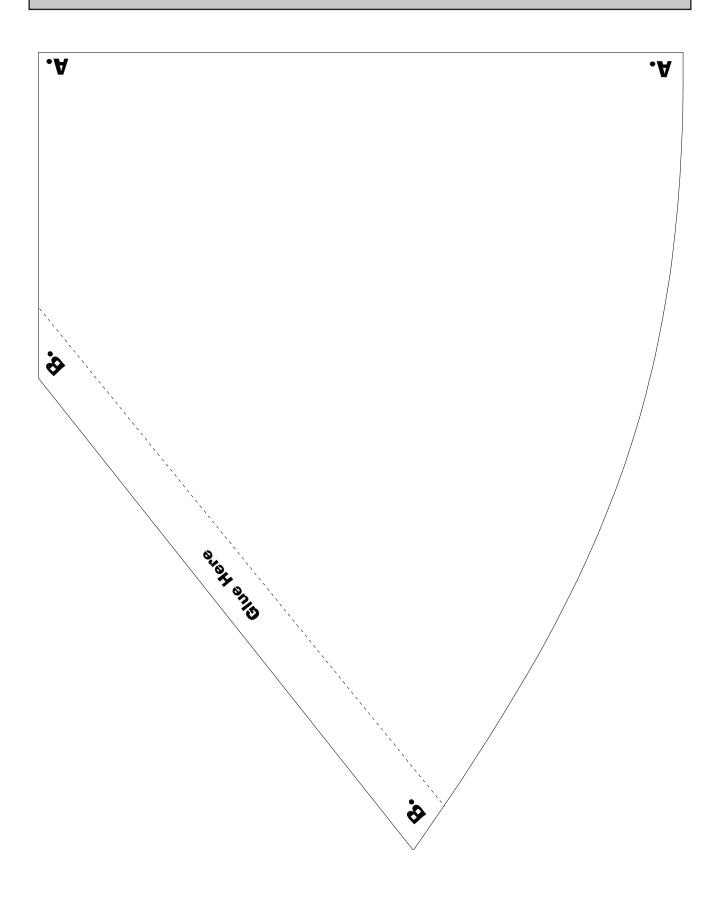
#### **Steps**

- The children colour their take home copies of the game as brightly as possible.
- If time permits, play the game in class using the A3 size copy.



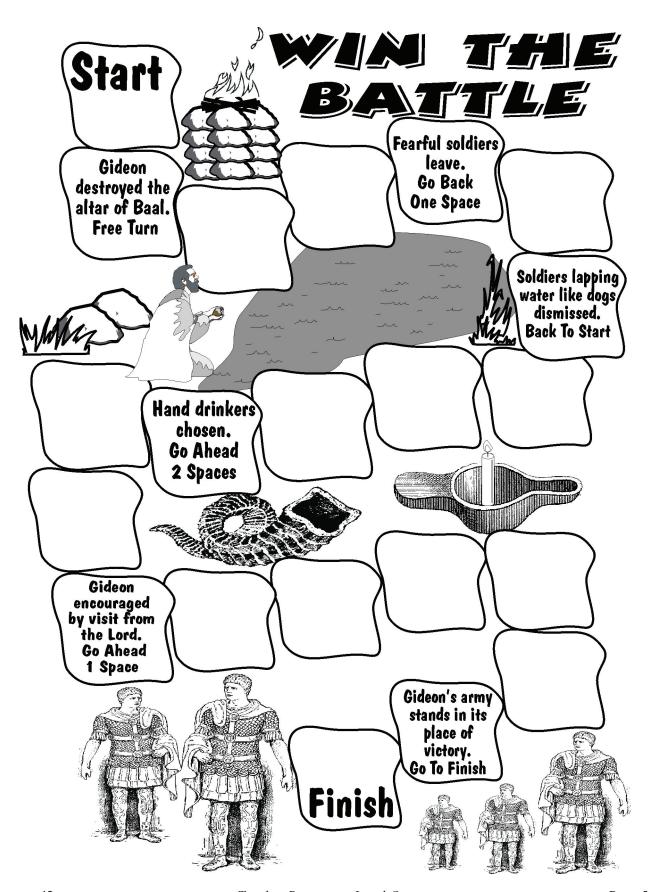
## Gideon and his army

Activity A – Make a Trumpet



## Gideon and his army

Activity B – Board Game "Win the Battle"



Samson Judges 13 & 15

### **Storyline**

The Israelites had been ruled by the Philistines for forty years when the Angel of the Lord came to Manoah's wife, who could not have children, and told her she would have a son. Her son was going to be a Nazirite and was never to cut his hair. Manoah asked God to send the Angel again and this time, Manoah spoke with Him. When the baby was born he was named Samson and as he grew up, whenever the Spirit of God came upon him, he had great strength and was able to kill large numbers of Philistines. One time, Samson caught 300 foxes, put a fire between their tails and burned all the crops of the Philistines. This made the Philistines very angry and when they came after Samson, the Israelites tied him up and gave him to them. However, God gave Samson great strength and he broke free from the ropes, picked up the jawbone of a donkey and killed one thousand Philistines. Afterwards he was very thirsty and he asked God for water. God split the ground and made water come out of it for Samson.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the children that part of the Nazarite vow was to never use a razor.

Tell the children about some examples of great strength in followers of Christ known to you.

#### **Theme One**

#### "God has a plan for us"

Samson's parents were prepared by the angel of the Lord for their son's life purpose. As he grew, the Lord blessed Samson and the Spirit began to move upon him. Samson clearly used every opportunity to provoke and kill the Philistines. When God calls us, He provides us with the grace and strength to perform His will in our lives. God was faithful to Samson by demonstrating His power through Him.

#### **Key Thought**

God does not only call a few special people like Samson. He also calls us and He has a purpose for our lives.

#### Aim

For the children to know that even as young people, they are being called by God to fulfil His purposes.

#### **Memory Verse**

"He who called you is holy." (1 Peter 1:15).

#### Theme Two

#### "God's Spirit makes us strong"

Being strong in the Lord does not always mean we have physical strength. Samson had to wait for the Spirit of the Lord to move upon him, before he could use his amazing, God-given strength. The Holy Spirit can give us a different kind of strength that we don't usually have, to enable us to do God's will. We need God's amazing strength to be able to love the person who is difficult, to be kind to the person who is unkind, to forgive the one who hursts us, and to pray for our enemies.

#### **Key Thought**

Samson's strength came from the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has not changed. He can move in us too, as we learn to live God's way.

#### Aim

For the children to know that we can do nothing for God in our own strength. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to do His will.

#### **Memory Verse**

"The Lord is my strength." (Psalm 28:7).

### Activity A - Put the Muscles on Samson

#### **Materials**

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child, mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- String.
- Scissors (if Samson figure is to be cut in class).

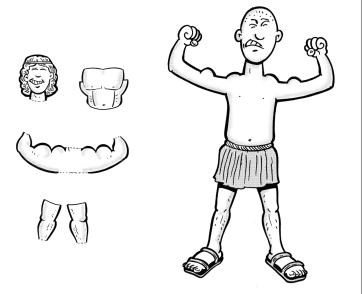
#### **Steps**

#### At Home

• Pre-cut the Samson and the pieces from the Activity Sheets if the children would not be capable of doing this in class.

#### In Class

- The children glue the muscles and head onto the scrawny Samson.
- "Bind up" Samson with a length of string.



### Activity B - Make Bar Bells

#### **Materials**

- 2 balloons per child.
- Masking tape for attaching balloons.
- 1 cylinder per child, eg: plastic food wrap rolls, manilla cardboard rolled into cylinders, or strips of strong cardboard box approx. 30 cm long.

#### **Steps**

#### At Home

- Write in permanent marking pen, one word of strength on each balloon, eg: prayer, love, kindness, forgiveness, hope or faith.
- Write on cylinder or cardboard strip as follows, leaving enough blanks for the children to write in the word 'strength,' eg: The Lord is my \_\_\_\_\_\_.

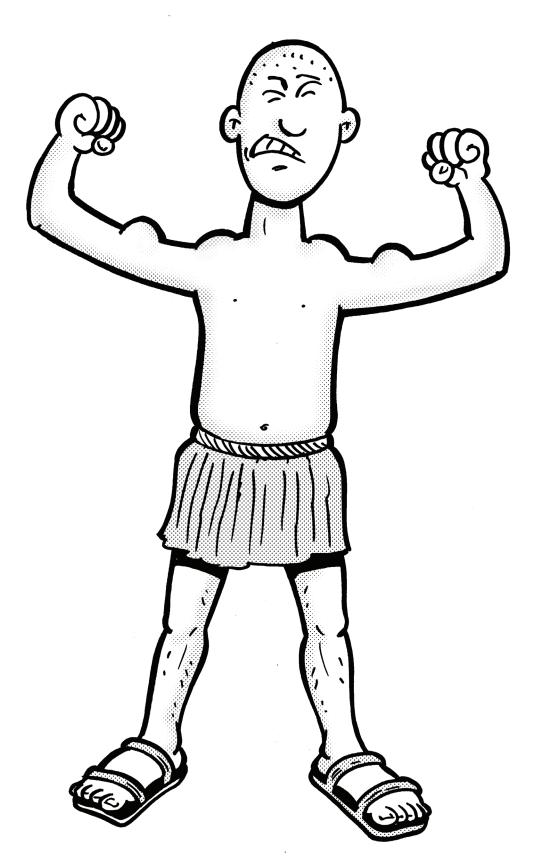
#### In Class

- Have the children fill in the blanks on the cylinders or cardboard strips.
- Have the children blow up 2 balloons each.
- Help the children to tape a balloon to each end of their cylinder or cardboard strip.



## Samson

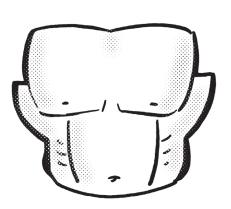
## Activity A – Put the Muscles on Samson

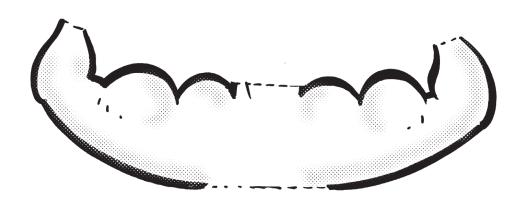


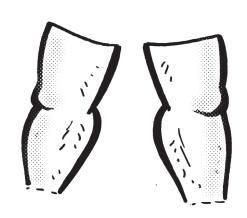
## Samson

Activity A – Put the Muscles on Samson









## Samson and Delilah

Judges 16

### **Storyline**

Samson loved a Philistine woman called Delilah, but she loved money more than she loved Samson. When the Philistines offered her lots of money if she would find out how Samson got his great strength, she quickly agreed. Samson lied to her three times, but after she pestered him day and night, he finally told her if his head was shaved, he would lose all his strength. Delilah lulled Samson to sleep on her lap, and then called a man to shave his head. When the Philistines came to get him, the Spirit of the Lord had left him and he had no strength to fight them. They took him away, poked his eyes out and put him in prison. Samson's hair began to grow, while he was in prison and one day, when the Philistines wanted him to perform for them, he asked God to strengthen him just once more. When the Lord did, Samson pushed out the two main posts of the building they were in and it crashed down, killing more Philistines at one time, than he had killed in his whole life. Samson was also killed when the building crashed down.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss how the Lord strengthened Samson one more time, and to illustrate how strong Samson was, have the children all together push against a wall of the building you are in to see if they can push it over!

Discuss how the children feel when they have been tricked by someone.

Ask the children how they choose their friends.

#### Theme One

#### "Repent and turn to God"

Samson thought he would always have his amazing strength. We can take God's presence and power for granted, too. God cannot strengthen us if we are not in His will. God gave Samson back his strength, when Samson, blind and bound, repented and cried out to Him. Sometimes things happen in our lives that we let take us away from the Lord, but when we turn back to Him with a soft heart, he can give us a second chance.

#### **Key Thought**

When Samson turned back to God, he was given a second chance to defeat the enemy. When we fail, God is merciful and will give us a second chance, if we repent and turn to Him.

#### Aim

For the children to know that God can give us a second chance, even when we don't deserve it.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Godly sorrow produces repentance." (2 Corinthians 7:10).

#### Theme Two

#### "Separated to God"

God had blessed Samson with great physical strength. Samson's weakness of moral character however, cost him his eyesight and his life. He chose to mix God's strength with the pleasures of the world, and suffered judgement personally, even as God's purposes were fulfilled. Samson stands as a solemn warning to us. If we want to serve God and live for Him, we must separate ourselves from the sinful ways of the world. The pleasures that this world gives are nothing compared with the joys that the Lord gives.

#### **Key Thought**

We have to make a decision, whether we will follow the Lord and walk separated to His ways to fulfil His purpose.

#### Aim

For the children to realise that everything they choose to do, will affect their walk with God.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Do not love the world." (1 John 2:15).

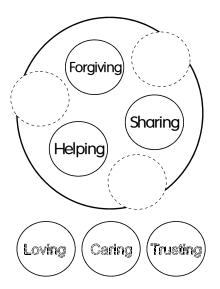
### Activity A - Make a Circle of Friends

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils or crayons.
- · Safety scissors.
- Glue.

#### **Steps**

- Children trace over the dotted letters.
- Colour the circles with the words on them, in different colours.
- Cut out the circles on the bottom of the page and glue them over the dotted circles.
- Discuss these friendship traits with the children while they are doing the activity.



### Activity B - The Two Faces of Samson

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 Piece of card the size of half an A4 sheet per child.
- Craft glue.
- · Coloured wool.
- · Safety scissors.
- · Hole punch.

#### **Steps**

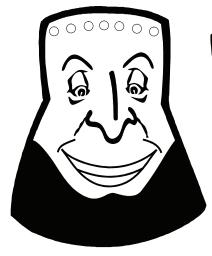
#### At Home

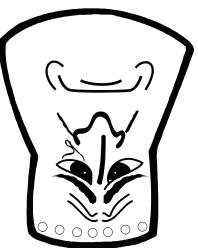
- Cut out the two faces on the Activity Sheet and glue one on each side of a piece of card, making sure you line them up correctly.
- Repeat this process for each child in your class.
- Cut the card around the shape of the faces.
- Punch 7 holes to represent Samson's 7 locks of hair on top of the face.
- Cut 7 pieces of wool to tie through holes for each child.

#### In Class

- Have children tie a length of wool through each punched hole.
- Ensure that the sad face has a short length of wool and the happy side has a longer one for each hole.

#### HAPPY, LONG HAIRED SAMSON

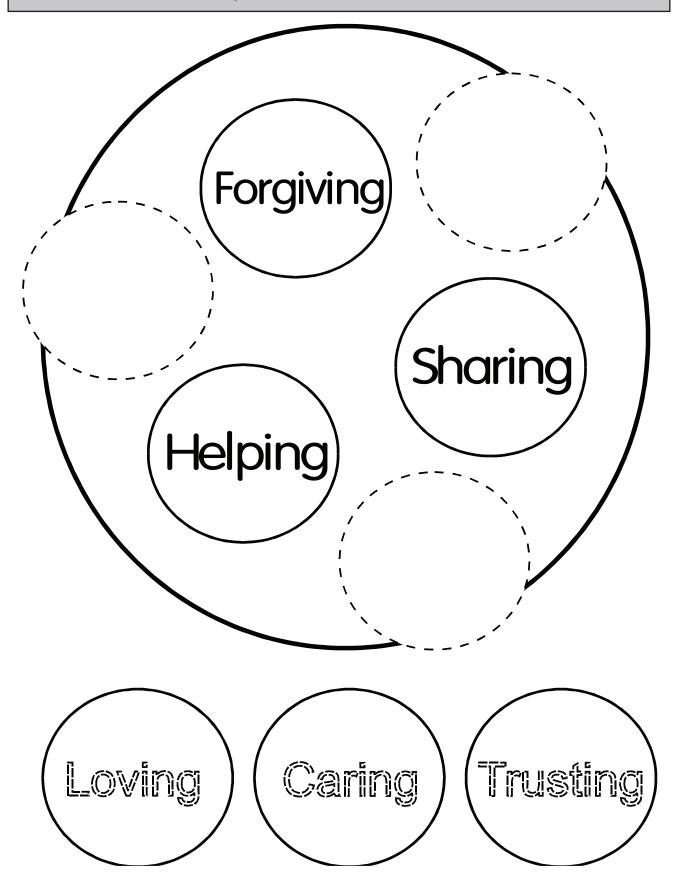




SAD, SHORT HAIRED SAMSON

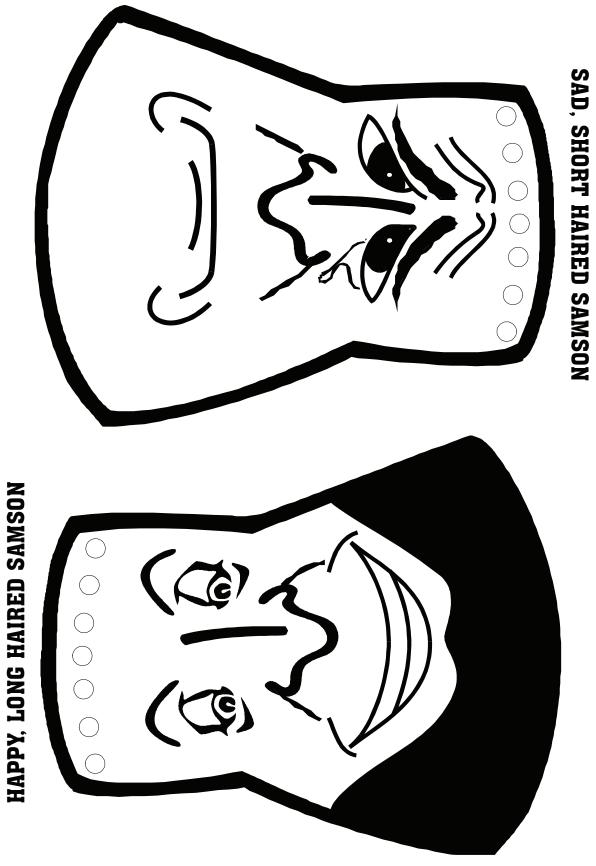
## Samson and Delilah

Activity A - Make a Circle of Friends



## Samson and Delilah

Activity B – The Two Faces of Samson



## Ruth, Naomi and Boaz

Ruth

### **Storyline**

There was a famine in the land of Israel, so Elimelech took his wife Naomi and his two sons to live in the land of Moab. While they were there, the two sons married Moabite women. Their wives' names were Orpah and Ruth. Naomi's husband and sons died in Moab and she was very sad. She heard that the famine was over in her own land, so she decided to go home to Bethlehem. Orpah and Naomi wanted to go with her, but Naomi encouraged them to return to their own families. Orpah returned, but Ruth refused. So Ruth and Naomi travelled together to Bethlehem. Ruth left everything behind to be with Naomi. When the women arrived in Bethlehem, Ruth worked in the fields belonging to a relative of Elimelech, named Boaz. She would walk behind the reapers, picking up the wheat and barley they dropped. Boaz liked Ruth and took care of her by telling his reapers to drop more grain for her to pick up. Naomi told Ruth to go to Boaz one night and sleep at his feet for protection. Ruth asked Boaz to buy back the field which Naomi had sold. There was a closer relative than Boaz, but he was not willing to do this as it involved also marrying Ruth. To confirm this, he took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz. Boaz then purchased the land and married Ruth.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk about who looks after people in our society today. Explain that when we work, the government keeps some of our pay, to help look after us when we can't work eg when we are sick, old, widowed, or really can't find a job. You might refer to retired grandparents, etc. Explain that in the days of Naomi and Ruth, families had to look after their own old, or sick, or widowed people, as there was no government help them.

### Theme One

#### "Trust and obey"

When Naomi told Ruth to go and sleep at the feet of Boaz, Ruth did not know how it would turn out, but she was obedient to her mother-in-law. Sometimes we are called to be obedient, but cannot see the purpose of what we are being called to do, or how it will turn out. For instance, we may not even like playing a musical instrument, or think that we will be musicians, but Dad and Mum are calling us to practise every day. Obedience does not depend on whether we know how something will turn out, or not.

#### **Key Thought**

Ruth trusted Naomi and did what Naomi told her to do, even though she may not have understood why. We must trust and obey our parents even if we don't understand why they ask us to do certain things.

#### Aim

For the children to know that by simply obeying their parents, they can trust God to work all things together for good.

#### **Memory Verse**

"I trust in You." (Psalm 25:2).

#### Theme Two

#### "Our life is a testimony"

Ruth went quietly about following Naomi's instructions and caring for her. The community noticed Ruth's hard work, caring lifestyle and worth. God saw too and blessed her with a husband and child and she became King David's great grandmother. Neighbours, school friends, teachers, will notice your lifestyle - what you do, say, and how it matches your actions if you say you are a Christian. God will also notice.

#### **Key Thought**

We need to be aware that people around us, and God, observe our lives and notice any contradictions in them.

#### Aim

To impress upon children the importance of their lifestyle as a witness to those around them.

#### Memory Verse

"Let your light so shine before men." (Matthew 5:16).

### Activity A - Role Play Story

#### **Materials**

#### This activity is best done outside where the birds can benefit from the dropped popcorn.

- A few tea towels or similar, that can be rolled down at the top and used as head dresses.
- 1 large apron or similar, for "Ruth" to tie around her waist.
- A fairly large amount of popcorn.
- Several ice-cream containers or similar.
- 1 large plastic drop sheet, or a blanket, if doing this activity indoors.

#### **Steps**

#### At Home

• Make lots of popcorn.

#### In Class

- Reserve enough popcorn to have for morning tea, then divide the rest up into containers.
- Choose one child to be Ruth, one to be Boaz, one to be Naomi and the rest to be reapers.
- Put tea towels on the reapers and Boaz, and the apron on Ruth.
- Show the children the actions of reaping.
- Narrate the story as the children do all the actions.
- Have clean popcorn for morning tea.

#### Narration

- Naomi told Ruth to go into the field and pick up the grain that the reapers dropped. (Have the reapers drop just a few pieces of popcorn as they reap.)
- Ruth was gathering the grain in her apron, when Boaz noticed her picking up the little that was dropped. Boaz spoke to the reapers and told them to leave more for Ruth to pick up. (Boaz speaks to the reapers and they begin dropping lots of popcorn.)
- Ruth gathers as much as she can in her apron and takes it home to Naomi.

### Activity B - Guess Who

#### **Materials**

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.
- · Safety scissors.
- Stapler and staples.

#### **Steps**

#### At Home

• If your class does not have the skills yet, pre-cut the Activity Sheets – cut only along the dotted lines around the pictures, leaving one side uncut.

#### In Class

• Staple the Activity Sheet with the pictures, on top of the Activity Sheet with the letters, so that when you fold back the pictures, you reveal the place for the answer to be written underneath.

#### Answer

- Ruth.
- · Naomi.
- · A close relative.



## Ruth, Naomi and Boaz

Activity B - Guess Who

# eas Myos



## Ruth, Naomi and Boaz

Activity B – Guess Who

R \_\_\_\_ \_\_ N

A C\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hannah I Samuel 1 & 2

### **Storyline**

Elkanah lived in Ephraim and had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. However, Hannah was unable to have children and because of this. Peninnah was mean to her. Hannah was not mean back to them, but she cried a lot and was very sad. One day she went into the temple and prayed for a long time, very quietly. She was just moving her lips as her heart really cried out to God for a baby, promising, if the Lord gave her a son, to give him back to the Lord, to serve Him. The old priest, Eli, thought she was drunk, but she explained to him that she was just very upset. God heard Hannah's prayers and gave her a son, whom she called Samuel. Hannah was very happy, and when Samuel was still a little boy, she took him to the temple and gave him back to God.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the children that in the time when Hannah was married, people had babies within a year or two. If they did not have a baby in the first year or so, it was thought that God was not pleased with them.

Hannah prayed silently in the temple. Have the children suggest different ways and places where they can pray, eg. eyes opened, eyes closed, on knees, hands together, out loud, in a group, by yourself, at the meal table, in the playground, etc.

Take a teddy bear (or similar) into class and hold it tightly to your chest. Say things like, "He's so soft," or "Isn't he beautiful?" and the like. Start to hold him out to someone, then clutch him back to yourself saying, "No, you can't have him, he's mine." Lead into the story.

#### Theme One

#### "God hears our prayers"

Hannah's heart cried out to the Lord for a son. She had felt some sort of reproach due to the mocking by Elkanah's other wife. We can sometimes feel a lack in our own lives which others (not necessarily mockingly) may bring to our attention. The Lord wants to answer our cry and see our situations change. We can know wholeness and fulfilment, as Hannah did, when we cry out to God.

#### **Key Thought**

God understands how we feel, but we must be prepared to bring our needs to Him.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that God hears our sincere cry and will meet our needs.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God has heard me." (Psalm 66:19).

#### Theme Two

#### "Giving to God"

Hannah was a godly woman, who loved the Lord. She was unable to have children, but she desired a son who would serve the Lord. She promised with all her heart to give this son to God before she had even received from Him. She honoured the Lord by keeping her vow and gave back to Him the son whom He had given her. Are our hearts willing to give back to God what He gives to us?

#### **Key Thought**

A willingness to be a giving person is a foundation we need in our lives. Be prepared to give what God has given us.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that we can never out-give God, and by giving freely God will add more to us.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

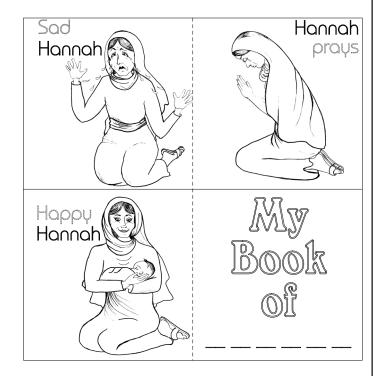
### Activity A - My Book of Hannah

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Glue.
- Stapler.
- · Safety scissors.

#### **Steps**

- The children colour the pictures, and write over the faint/dotted words.
- Cut along all solid lines on the Activity Sheet.
- Place the two blank sides together, and glue or staple around the edges.
- Fold in half and staple down the centre to form a booklet.



### Activity B - Pipe cleaner Activity

#### **Materials**

• Pipe cleaners of various colours.

#### **Steps**

#### At Home

• Assemble a prototype for the children to see.

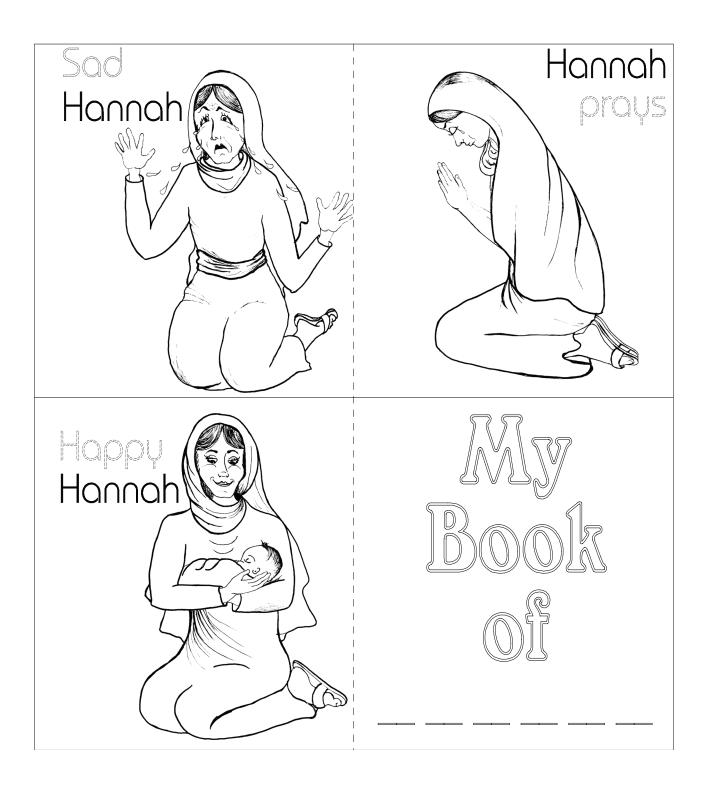
#### In Class

- Have each of the children make four shapes out of five pipe cleaners.
- One heart (red), and the letters J O Y out of any colours. Note the letter Y needs two pipe cleaners of the same colour
- Hang the letters from the heart as per below:



## Hannah

### Activity A – My Book of Hannah



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## Samuel hears God speak

I Samuel 3

### **Storyline**

As Samuel was going to sleep one night in the temple, the Lord called him by name and he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am," but Eli had not called him. This happened three times, until Eli realised it was God calling Samuel and told him to answer, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." Samuel did this, and God told him of all the things that were going to happen to Israel, and also to Eli's wicked sons. Eli persuaded Samuel to tell him all the things that God had said, even though Samuel was scared, and in time, all these things happened as God said they would. Samuel grew in the Lord and became known throughout all Israel as a great prophet of the Lord..

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk to the children briefly about the ordinary jobs they do at home. Then mention the ordinary nature of Samuel's jobs in the tabernacle. He would have been asked to help with the sacrifices, trim the wicks for the lamps, change the showbread and clean up under the bronze altar.

Now tell the children the story, pointing out how Samuel was spoken to by God in the middle of an ordinary night and was ready to listen and obey.

The story lends itself to group re-enactment.

#### **Theme One**

#### "Hearing the Lord's voice"

Samuel grew before the Lord. He served in the house of the Lord under Eli, yet did not recognise the Lord's voice when God spoke to him. How important it is for us to hear God's voice to our own hearts. Would Samuel have grown spiritually had he only served and not heard? Eli had to instruct Samuel in recognising God's voice. Sometimes we may need instruction from others to help us to recognise God's voice.

#### **Key Thought**

We can know 'of' or 'about' the Lord without truly knowing Him. Growth comes from being able to hear.

#### Aim

To encourage the children in a growing relationship with the Lord, and to know Him through His word.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears." (1 Samuel 3:9).

#### Theme Two

#### "A willing heart"

When the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel responded, the Lord told him of the terrible judgements that would fall on Eli and his sons. When Eli asked him the next morning what God had said, Samuel told him everything. From that day, the Lord was with him and he became known as a prophet in Israel. The Lord requires us, not only to hear His voice, but also to declare His message without fear. In that way, the Lord will share more things with us.

#### **Key Thought**

No matter how young we are, God can speak to us, but He requires us to have a willing heart to speak out the message He gives us.

#### Aim

To encourage the children to have the same heart attitude as Samuel – that when the Lord calls they will respond with a willing heart.

#### **Memory Verse**

"I delight to do Your will." (Psalm 37:4).

### Activity A - Eli and Samuel in the Tabernacle

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- · Cereal boxes for backing.
- · Safety scissors.
- · Glue.
- · Colouring pencils.
- Aquadhere.
- · Paddlepop sticks.
- · Cut-out of Samuel.

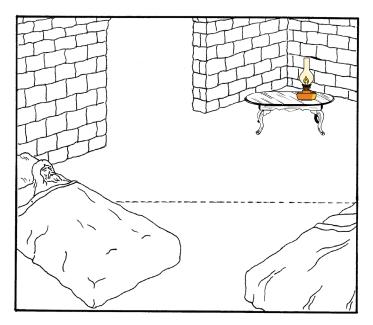
#### **Steps**

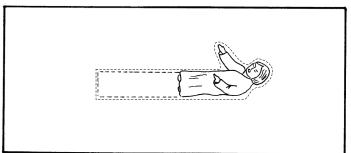
#### At Home

- Glue the Activity Sheets onto card early in the week, to allow time to dry.
- Place them under heavy books to prevent curling.
- Cut along the dotted line with Stanley knife.

#### In Class

- The children colour the scene and Samuel.
- · Cut out Samuel figure.
- Insert figure of Samuel through slit and place next to his bed.
- Move figure back and forth from the bed to Eli.





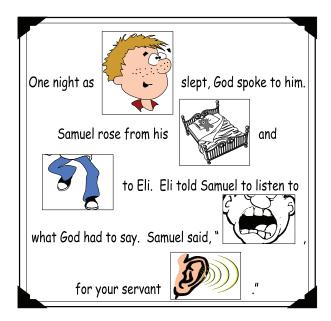
### Activity B - Match the Pictures

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Glue.

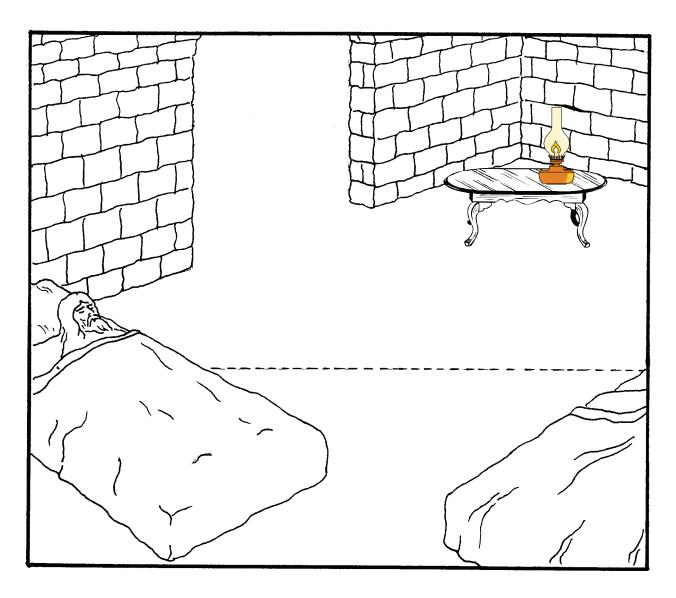
#### **Steps**

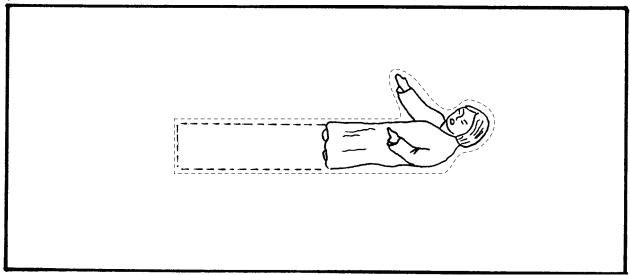
- Teacher reads the first line of text.
- Children decide which picture fits in the space, cut it out and glue it in the appropriate place.
- Teacher continues in this fashion until completed.



## Samuel hears God speak

Activity A – Eli and Samuel in the Tabernacle





## Samuel hears God speak

Activity B – Match the Pictures

One night as \_\_\_\_\_\_ slept, God spoke to him.

Samuel rose from his \_\_\_\_\_ and

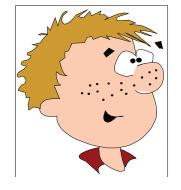
to Eli. Eli told Samuel to listen to

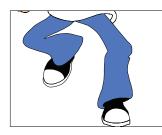
what God had to say. Samuel said, "\_\_\_\_\_,

for your servant \_\_\_\_\_."











## Eli, Hophni and Phinehas

I Samuel 4 - 6

### **Storyline**

Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests in God's tabernacle. They were disobedient and God warned Eli of their sin, through Samuel and said that both Hophni and Phinehas would die on the same day. Israel was being defeated in battle. They decided to bring the ark of the covenant to the place of battle, to help them win, but they were still defeated. Hophni and Phinehas both died that day along with many others, and the ark was captured by the enemy. When Eli heard all the bad news, he fell down dead also. The Philistines kept the ark for seven months, but returned it when many of them were killed because of God's judgement on them.

## Suggested Teaching Approach

Take your Bible into class, and ask if anyone is sick or has a sore leg or anything else. Lay your Bible on the trouble and ask them if this will make it better. Explain how the Bible could be used by some people as a good luck charm.

Think back into your past. There is bound to be a testimony of your own childhood, where an act of disobedience has led to another child's pain. Tell the children about it.

#### **Theme One**

#### "Fear the Lord"

The ark of the covenant was a very holy thing and only the high priest was allowed to approach it once a year. But the Philistines captured it and put it in the temple of their god. The result was that their god fell and was broken. Wherever the ark went there was illness. Eventually the Philistines realised that God's hand was against them and they sent the ark back to Israel. When the ark arrived back in Israel, the people looked inside the ark and over 50,000 were killed. Only then did they realise how holy God is. We must never treat the things of God lightly, but give honour and respect to God.

#### **Key Thought**

It is very important that we understand that our God is a holy God. We must give Him reverence, honour and respect.

#### Aim

For the children to appreciate the holiness of God and the things of God. We must never treat God or His things lightly.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Fear the Lord." (Psalm 34:9).

#### Theme Two

#### "The judgement of God"

God judged Israel because of their idolatry. He used the ungodly Philistines to execute this judgement. However, because of their contempt for God, they too were subsequently subject to His wrath. We must understand that the same principle applies today whereby God sometimes uses worldly people and situations to bring about awareness of ungodliness in His people. The ungodly are also subject to the judgement of God.

#### **Key Thought**

Judgement begins at the house of God and so God judges His people for their ungodliness before He judges others.

#### Aim

For the children to understand that God will continue to judge His people for their unrighteousness, and that He often uses worldly people and situations in such judgement.

#### **Memory Verse**

"God is a just judge." (Psalm 7:11).

### **Activity A - Construct an Ark**

#### **Materials**

- 1 ark template per child mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- 2 paddlepop sticks or straws per child.
- Glue.
- · Safety scissors.
- Sticky tape.
- 2 cherubim per child, photocopied or mounted onto cardboard.

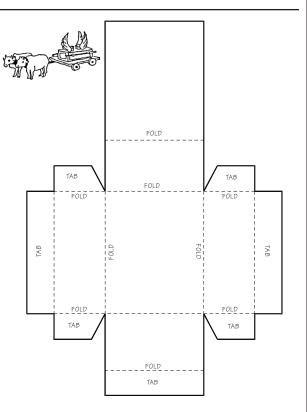
#### **Steps**

#### At Home

· Cut out the arks and cherubim.

#### In Class

- Construct the ark by folding as instructed, and gluing or sticking tabs to form a box shape.
- Stick the 2 cherubim to the top with sticky tape.
- Glue paddlepop sticks or straws to the sides of the ark.



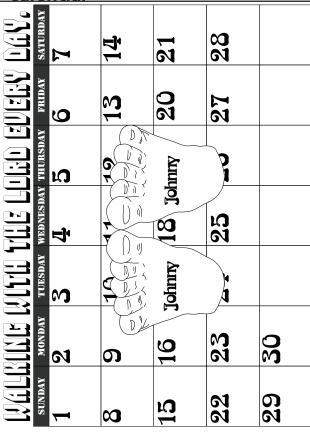
### Activity B - "Walking with the Lord" Calendar

#### **Materials**

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Brightly coloured paper. Enough for each child to draw and cut out their footprints and also for a strip across the top of the calendar page.
- Glue.
- · Safety scissors.
- Felt pens or markers of some sort.

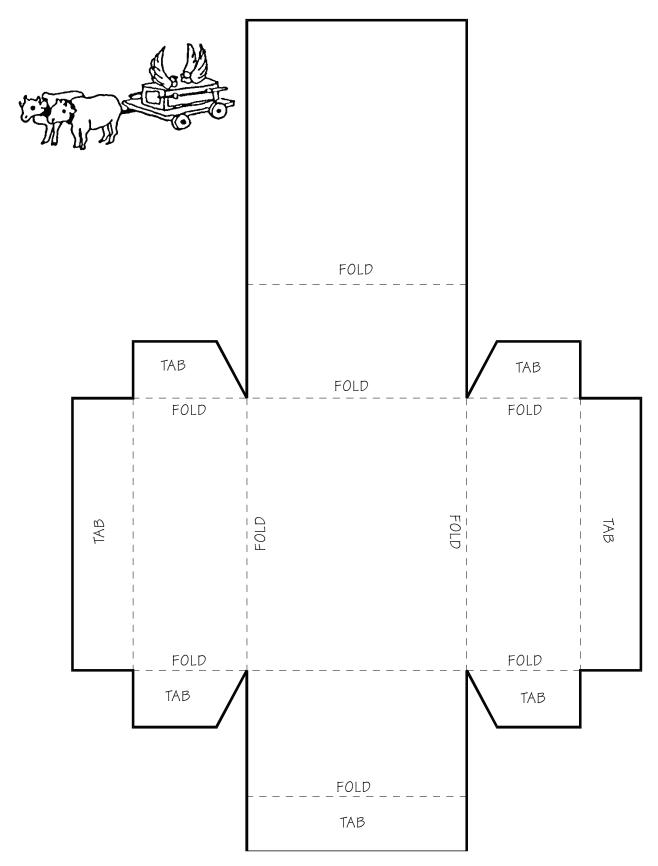
#### Steps

- Divide the children into pairs and give each child a piece of brightly coloured paper and a marker of some sort.
- Each child stands on their piece of coloured paper while their partner draws around their bare feet.
- Have the children write their names on their footprints.
- Children cut out their own footprints and glue them onto the calendar sheet on the Activity Sheet.



## Eli, Hophni and Phinehas

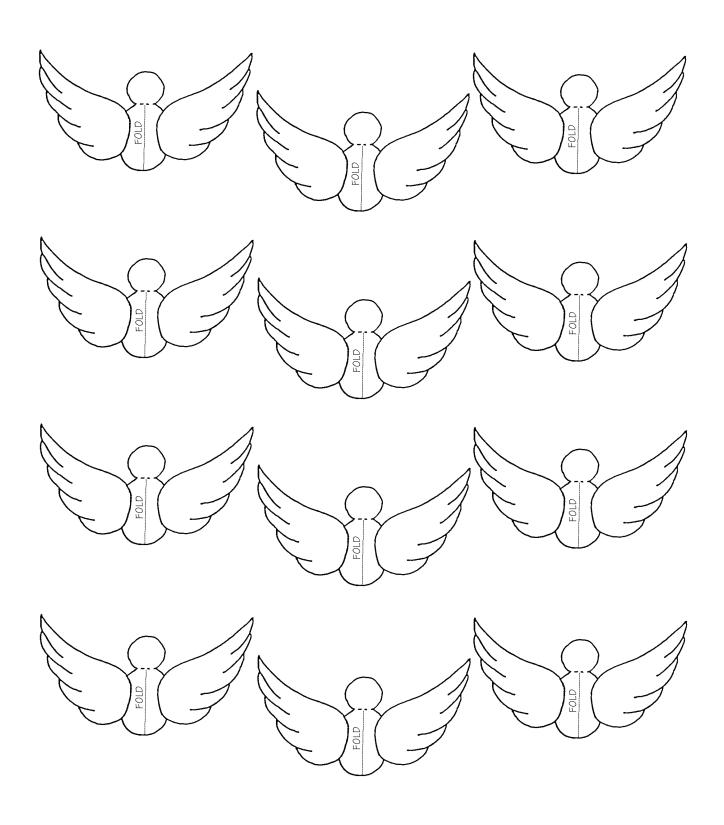
Activity A – Construct an Ark



Page 74

## Eli, Hophni and Phinehas

Activity A – Construct an Ark



# Eli, Hophni and Phinehas Activity B – Walking with the Lord Calendar

SUNDAY MONDAY	TUBSBAY 3	TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY  3 4 5		VULLIV FRIMAN 6	ULU LUL LULU LULU LULU LULU LULU LULU
	10		7	5	77
	17	100	10	200	21
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## **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 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 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 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 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 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 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
- 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 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

