

BIBLE HEROES



**JUNIORS SCRIPTURE
PROGRAMME**

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***DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE RESOURCE SHEETS
FOR EACH SESSION INSERTED AT THE BACK!***



Scripture Programme for use with the
Juniors in BB
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INTRODUCTION



BIG IDEA

An introduction to the Bible Heroes we will be learning about. We'll learn that Jesus is the ultimate superhero.



KEY VERSE

1 John 4:4
Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.



DISCUSSION

Using a flip chart or large piece of paper – ask the children the following questions and write down their answers: (Allow time for some discussion)

- Who is your favourite superhero?
- What makes them super?
- What special powers do they have?
- Can think of any superheroes in the Bible?



THE TALK

1 John 4:4 tells us, **“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”**

A superhero is a character with extraordinary powers that performs heroic actions.

We can watch them on TV or in the cinema or read about them in a comic



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Activity

Make up a Superhero



Game

Bean Bag Attack
Hero Hero Villain

or magazine. Maybe you have a dressing-up outfit from your favourite character.

We have all heard of Batman, Captain America, Iron Man, Superman, Wonder Woman and Spiderman. And there are many more!

Spiderman's secret identity is Peter Parker. A teenage high school student and an orphan raised by his aunt and uncle. He has superhuman spider powers.



Superman is known as the man of steel, a symbol of truth, justice and hope. He is the world's first superhero and a guiding light to all.

But these Superheroes are not real – they are fictional, made up!

Do you know what super means? (Very good, pleasant, excellent)

What does hero mean? A person who is admired for their courage, a hero is a real person who in the face of danger, shows courage and strength.

This year in BB we will be looking at some Bible Heroes - Daniel, Peter, Jonah, Elijah, Esther, Gideon, Jesus, Joshua and Paul. Unlike the superheroes we watch on TV, the stories we will hear from the Bible are true. The characters are real. Some we will read about in the Old Testament (which is the first half of the Bible – before Jesus lived on earth). Some we will read about in the New Testament (the second half of the Bible – which starts by telling us about the birth of Jesus).

The people we will read about have all done some amazing, heroic things.

Daniel stood strong for God, he was brave. Do you ever feel afraid to stand up for what you know is right, even when your friends are going with the crowd? We will learn from Daniel that God is always with us.

Peter showed dynamite power. He was a fisherman, but did great things through the power of God.

In the story of Elijah, we will hear how even heroes have bad days. Do you ever have a bad day? We will learn how God cares for us at all times.

Through the story of Gideon, we will learn about faithfulness, which is one of the fruits of the spirit we learnt about last year in BB. Joshua will teach us about trust and the importance of putting our trust in God.

We will hear how Paul's life was changed by Jesus.

All of these characters were ordinary men and women whose power came from God. Without God on their side they couldn't do anything. They were all amazing Bible heroes and gave us clues about a greater superhero that was going to come after them. They all point to Jesus.

We will hear the story of Jesus, our ultimate superhero. We will hear how Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin, how 3 days later He rose from the dead and is now with us every day. This shows us how much He loves us.

So come back to BB next week as we start our adventure, learning about some amazing Bible Heroes, real superheroes who have done some super (very good or excellent) things while showing strength and courage.

Notes:



DANIEL: Standing Strong for God



BIG IDEA

Daniel stood strong for God, even when it was difficult. We can stand strong for God at all times – He will never leave us or let us down.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Daniel 6



KEY VERSE

Psalm 18:1-2

“I love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in
whom I take refuge, my shield, and the
horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

RESOURCES



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Craft

Make a Lion Mask



Game

Angel in the Lion's Den



DISCUSSON

You can use these as prompts to chat about the story where you feel they'll work best in your lesson.

- Why did the other men want the King to make the new law?
- Why do you think the King liked their idea?
- How do you think the King felt when he realised that Daniel had broken the law?
- How do you think Daniel felt when he knew that he was going to be thrown into the den of lions?
- What challenges might you face when you live for God now?
- How can you stand strong for God at home?
- How can you stand strong for God at school?
- Who could help you or give you advice if you are finding it difficult to live for God?
- Remember that we will not get it right all of the time.
- It will not be easy to stand strong for God all the time but we know that even when we find it hard, God will not let us go when we belong to Him.





THE TALK

You may wish to ask the children to participate in this story by doing some actions.

- When they hear the name 'Daniel' they should put their thumbs up.
- When they hear the word 'King' they should pretend to bow or put on a crown.
- When they hear the words 'the jealous men', they should boo.
- When they hear the word 'lions' they should roar like a lion.

Darius was the King of Babylon. He was the most powerful King in the world at that time. His kingdom was very big, so he chose 120 men to help him. From these men, he chose three who would be their leaders. Daniel was chosen as one of these leaders. Daniel had been taken captive and brought to Babylon more than 60 years before, yet he had not forgotten about God. Daniel had lived for God for more than 60 years, through many difficult times.

King Darius soon saw that Daniel was very wise and trustworthy, so the King put Daniel in charge of the whole Kingdom.

Have you ever been jealous of anyone? Maybe your brother or sister gets a better bedroom, a more exciting toy or a bigger piece of cake than you do; and you feel jealous of them – you really want to have what they have. Being jealous is not a nice feeling and it does not please God.

Lots of the other men were jealous of Daniel's important job and they wanted to get Daniel into trouble. They tried really hard but they couldn't find anything wrong with Daniel – he was honest and always tried to do his job well. They knew that he served God and prayed to Him three times every day, so they decided to use that to harm Daniel.

The jealous men went to the King and told him that he should make a law, that no-one in his Kingdom would be allowed to talk to or worship any other God except him. The King liked this idea, maybe because he was proud and liked the idea of people worshipping him, so he agreed. Anyone who did not follow this law would be thrown into the den of lions. The jealous men were delighted, their plan to get Daniel into trouble was working!

When Daniel heard of this new law, do you think he stopped praying to God? No! He didn't hide away either. He knew that he should worship the one true and living God. He should not worship or pray to anyone else. Daniel continued to go to his room every day, open his window wide and talk to God, three times every day. When the sneaky, jealous men found out, they went straight to the King. They told the King that Daniel was still praying to God and that, because he had broken the King's new law, he should be thrown into the den of lions.

The King was very sad, because he liked, trusted and respected Daniel; but he also knew that this law couldn't be changed. He tried to find a way to rescue Daniel, but he couldn't. Daniel would have to be thrown into the den of lions.

Before Daniel went into the den of lions, the King said, "May God, who you serve, rescue you!" That night, the King couldn't sleep and when morning came, he ran straight to the lions' den. He called out to Daniel, probably expecting to hear silence, or the snores of some lions who had eaten a tasty feast.

Much to his surprise, the King heard Daniel's voice. He told the King of how God had sent an angel into the lions' den. The angel had closed the lions' mouths and the lions hadn't harmed him at all. Daniel was safe and well. God had rescued him!



When Daniel was taken out of the lion's den, the sneaky jealous men who had tricked the King were thrown in. This time the lions' mouths were wide open!

King Darius knew that it was time for another new law. This time, his law said that everyone should worship the one true God, who had rescued Daniel from the lion's den.

Daniel stood strong for God, even when his life was hard. When the sneaky, jealous men tricked the King, Daniel could have turned away from God, or prayed in secret, because he was afraid of being harmed, but he didn't. This is because he knew that knowing and serving God is better than anything else. He knew that God would always be with him and would never let him down.

Will you stand strong for God just like Daniel did, even if your friends laugh and it's hard to live for God? He will never leave you and will never let you down. Knowing Him is better than anything else you could ever have.

This verse from the book of Psalms reminds us that we can always trust God:

Psalm 18:1-2

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

The story of Daniel is a wonderful story of rescue and it points forward to a time when God would rescue not just one man, but all of His people, through the death and resurrection of one man – His only Son, Jesus. Because of that great rescue, you can have your sin forgiven and you can be part of God's family. You can know God, just like Daniel did. Will you trust God today?

Notes:



Standing Strong for God

The story of Daniel, retold in rhyme.
By Shelley Spiers

The Bible tells of Daniel,
A man who lived for God.
The King saw he was wise
And so, he got a special job.

Some other men were jealous
and said, "That job is ours!
Let's get him into trouble
and strip him of his powers."

Now Daniel didn't break the rules.
Was there anything to say?
But soon the men remembered
Daniel prayed three times each day.

They plotted, then they brought their plan
To show the King that day.
To make sure he agreed with them,
They knew just what to say.

They said, "Oh King, you're wonderful,
So you should make a law
That no-one in your Kingdom
Should talk to other gods.
And if they do, let's throw them
into the lions' den."
The King agreed and said, "That's great"
which pleased the other men.

When Daniel heard about this law,
He did not change his way.
He opened up his window wide
and prayed three times each day.

The other men went to the King
To tell him what they saw.
They said that Daniel prayed to God
and broke the King's new law.

The King was sad because he knew
That this law had to stay.
He wanted Daniel to be saved
But couldn't find a way.

So, to the lions Daniel went,
Much to the King's dismay.
He said, "Oh Daniel, may your God
protect your life today."

That night, the King could hardly sleep.
His mind was filled with dread.
At break of dawn, he'd had enough
And jumped up out of bed.

He ran out to the lions' den.
His heart was filled with fear.
He shouted out to Daniel,
Afraid of what he'd hear.

To his surprise, he heard a voice.
"I'm well as you can see!
An angel shut the lions' mouths.
My God has rescued me!"

The King then made a brand new law
that, right across the land
They all should worship Daniel's God,
who'd saved him by His hand.

The King was also very cross
with all the sneaky men,
so he made sure that they were thrown
into the lions' den.

For Daniel, God was number one.
He lived for Him each day;
And even when his life was hard,
he didn't turn away.

To stand up firm and strong for God
is often hard to do.
Some days you'll feel discouraged
if no-one stands with you.

To know God and to live for him
Is the best thing you can do;
And just like He helped Daniel,
Our great God will help you too!



PETER: Dynamite Power



BIG IDEA

God never meant for us to live life alone, without any help. He gives us His Spirit to help us become the people of God that He wants us to be.

Anything is possible when the Spirit of God dwells inside of us. We can be real life superheroes, that make a difference to those that we come into contact with.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Acts 3:1-10



KEY VERSE

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



DISCUSSION

You can use these as prompts to chat about the story where you feel they'll work best in your lesson.

- What do some of Peter's actions, before being filled with the Spirit, tell you about him?
- How would these actions make him feel after they had taken place?
- What was the changing point in his life?
- How was he different after this happened?
- What does this tell us about the difference that God can make in our lives once He lives inside us?
- How can this affect those that come into contact with us?



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Craft

Craft Box Frame Art
Book Mark



Game

Blindfold Fetch





THE TALK

God has always wanted to have a relationship with us. More than you know your best friend, that's how God wants to know us. From the very beginning of time that has been His plan. He was friends with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but Adam and Eve did something that broke the friendship. Then God tried spending time with us in tents through His friend Abraham, but after many years, once again, we decided we didn't want to be friends with God, and did things that made Him upset. He again tried to be our friend and dwell with us in the temple of those times, but once again, we decided we didn't need God and did what we wanted. So finally, He came as Jesus to walk among us.

He wants to be your friend and help you live your life to the full. Peter is a really good example of how awesome it is to have God as your best friend and living inside of you.

Peter was a fisherman. That's how he made his money and how he fed his family. Now, he knew about God, but he didn't know him closely, until he met Jesus, and that changed everything.

Even after Peter met Jesus, he made many mistakes. He would say the wrong thing and also do the wrong thing, regularly.

He was always quick to speak, like some of us can be. When Jesus asked the question to His disciples "Who do men say that I am?" Peter was straight in there, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:16). Jesus commended him for getting it right, however, almost straight afterwards when Peter heard about what was going to happen to Jesus, regarding His death on the cross, Peter spoke out again and said that he didn't want it to happen.

Jesus was not happy with what Peter had said and told him off sternly. Before being filled with God's power, Peter would regularly say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Not only this but he would do the wrong thing at the wrong time, just like we do.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the place where the Roman guards came to arrest Jesus and take him away to be crucified, Peter took his sword and tried to defend Jesus. He swung the sword with all of his might and cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant. Now that wasn't very Christian of him was it?!

Jesus picked up the ear of the servant and did a miracle, by placing it back on the side of the servant's head, just like it had never been cut off. Now that's power!

So there are just two examples of Peter saying and doing the wrong thing! Just like we do, we all make mistakes don't we? But here is the amazing thing. After Jesus left and went up into heaven, Peter and the disciples were to wait for the Holy Spirit before they told everyone about Jesus. They needed special power to do the job that Jesus had asked them to do. The word "power" in Acts 1:8 is actually the word from which we get our English word "dynamite". Jesus was basically saying wait until I give you dynamite power so that you can change the world!

On the day of Pentecost, God sent His Holy Spirit (the dynamite power) as they are praying in what was called the Upper Room, and guess who it is that tells all the people about what is happening? You guessed it, Peter.

Peter stands up and preaches to the people. He tells them that this is God's power, he tells them about what Jesus did for them and



most importantly, tells them what they need to do to have a relationship with God again. The dynamite power that God gives Peter, now helps him to say the right things to the right people. In the next chapter of the Bible, we see Peter now doing the right thing. He is on his way to pray at the temple with his friend John and they see a man who is lame sitting on the floor begging for money. The lame man asks Peter and John if they have any, and all of a sudden Peter begins to speak.

He says something like this, " I don't have any money, but I do have the power of God's Spirit, so in the Name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk". As Peter says this, the Bible tell us that he takes the lame man by the hand, lifts him up and power comes to the lame man's legs. He is totally healed. God used Peter to heal the lame man. The Bible tells us that the lame man went walking and leaping and praising God!

This is a far cry from chopping off ears and being told off by Jesus, isn't it?

So what made the difference in Peter's life? It was dynamite power. The power of the Holy Spirit that God promised to him and that God promises to us.

For Peter it changed what he said and what he did, and this can be the same for you and I.

God has always wanted relationship with all of us, from the beginning of time and this is why He promises that His spirit will be with us, to help us through everything we go through in life. Not only this, but just like Peter, with the power of God's Spirit you will be able to help others and make a difference to the people you know.

So, children? Are you ready to be filled with dynamite power like Peter?

It's time to get to know Jesus.

Notes:



JONAH: From Hero to Zero



BIG IDEA

Jonah was a Prophet of God. He was an important man because he told the people the words of God. But even heroes make mistakes, even heroes can sometimes have bad attitudes. However, despite all our failures and the mistakes that we make, God still forgives us and gives us a second chance. Just like He did with Jonah.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Jonah 1:1-17



KEY VERSE

Jonah 2:1

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish.

RESOURCES

- ▶ **Song**
He is the King, by Shelley Spiers
- ▶ **Activity**
Jonah & the whale science experient
- ▶ **Craft**
Jonah & the whale craft
- ▶ **Drama**
Jonah drama script, by Play it By Ear
- ▶ **Game**
Jonah & the Whales



DISCUSSION

You can use these as prompts to chat about the story where you feel they'll work best in your lesson.

- What was a Prophet?
- How would people expect a Prophet to live and conduct themselves?
- What did God ask Jonah to do?
- What did Jonah do instead?
- Why do you think that God rescued Jonah?
- What do you think Jonah did in the belly of the whale that caused God to act?
- How does this relate to our lives?
- What does God do when we ask Him to forgive us?
- Does it matter who you are when it comes to asking God for forgiveness?





THE TALK

Back in the Bible days Prophets were like heroes. They were known as “Men and Women of God” and they spoke for God. They told the people what God was saying at that time. We say that they were God’s “Mouthpiece” or “Spokesperson”.

In those times there was no Bible to refer to, so when they wanted to know what God said, they would ask the Prophets. This was a really important job.

It also worked the other way. When God was going to do something, or if He wanted to speak to the people, He would do so through His servants, the Prophets.

Some famous Biblical Prophets were Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. Our main character today was called Jonah, and he, like them, was a Prophet of God. However, the difference between Jonah and the others becomes very clear right at the start of this story.

One day God asked Jonah to go and give an important message to a city called Nineveh. God wanted to let them know that He was not happy with them and that they had to change the way that they were acting.

Well, we would expect a Prophet of God to say “Yes, Sir” and do it immediately. But not Jonah. Jonah didn’t want to go, so he decided that he would try and run away from God.

The word that we use for what Jonah did is “disobey”. Jonah disobeyed God because he didn’t want to deliver the message. What kind of hero is that?! When we know what God asks of us and we deliberately go against His instructions we are also disobedient.

In many ways Jonah wasn’t very much unlike us at all, because the Bible states that we all sin sometimes and make mistakes at some point!

Jonah runs to a place called Joppa where he gets on a boat to a place called Tarshish. His plan is to try and escape the Presence of God. Jonah must not have realised that you cannot run from the Presence of God, because the presence of God is everywhere! Even the Prophet David said that in the Psalms!

This so-called hero was so intent on doing what was wrong that he forgot how big our God is. The Bible tells us that God caused a storm to come onto the sea so that the other men on the ship thought that the boat was going to break and they would all be drowned. They were so afraid that they started throwing cargo overboard to lighten the load of the ship. Jonah on the other hand had found a nice spot down in the depths of the boat and had fallen fast asleep.

I think it’s important that we stop for a minute and realise what’s happening. Children, because of Jonah’s disobedience to God, other people were being affected. They were experiencing fear because of the storm, and it was all because of Jonah’s decision to disobey God. Many times, when we decide to disobey God, it isn’t just us that are affected, but it is those around us. This is why it’s always best to do as the Lord says! It makes life a lot simpler.

After casting lots the men realised that the storm is Jonah’s fault and Jonah confessed. They all agreed that the best decision for all of them was to throw Jonah overboard. Oh dear. The Bible tells us that the men on the ship did their best to cause this not to happen, but finally they were left with no option. Jonah was thrown overboard.



Kerplunk! In this moment our Prophet Jonah has gone from Hero to Zero. A man that once spoke for God, has now gone against God and he is left stranded in the sea, probably in his mind, waiting to pass away. In those days it would have been highly unlikely for someone to survive after falling overboard in the middle of a storm.

However, this is where the real Hero of this story steps in....God! Even though Jonah has gone against Him, even though Jonah has sinned against Him, He still makes a way for him to be saved. The Bible tells us that God organises for a great fish to swallow up Jonah... without chewing him! So, Jonah stays alive, in the belly of that big fish for three days and three nights, just like Jesus was in the tomb for three days and three nights.

Can you imagine how it smelt down there? Can you imagine what was going through his mind? Can you imagine how scared he would have been travelling through the deepest parts of the sea in the belly of a big fish? But God protected him, even though he made a big mistake in disobeying God.

From within the belly of the big fish Jonah begins to pray unto God. He says, "When

my life was fading away, I remembered the Lord and prayed to him". He said " Salvation," (which means 'the power to save') belongs to the Lord. Jonah remembered where his help came from.

It was after he had prayed that God caused the fish to vomit Jonah up onto dry land... (Yuk, he must have stunk, and tasted bad for a fish to vomit him up!)

The Prophet Jonah then went on to do as God had asked him. God's hero had another chance to prove himself to the Lord.

Children, there will be times even when you think that you are one of God's heroes that you will fall short of what God asks of you. Maybe you will do it on purpose like Jonah, maybe you will be tricked, or maybe you will not realise what you have done. What is important in times like this, is not for you to try and run away from God, but for you to run to Him. Do as Jonah did while in the belly of the big fish and say sorry for what you have done, and the Hero of Heroes, God himself will always make a way of escape! Jonah made it to Nineveh and because he did as God had asked; a whole city was saved!

Notes:



JONAH DRAMA SCRIPT

This script was written for BBNI by local Christian drama company, Play It By Ear. To find out more about them or to book a drama workshop, visit www.playitbyear.com



In the middle of the stage there is a sign pointing in two directions, one way says 'Nineveh', the other says 'Anywhere Else'. The actors line up at the back of the stage, some will have small individual roles and will come forward when given their cue by the narrators, while the rest will form a chorus and will say their lines all together.

Narrator 1: In the Bible there are people called prophets

Narrator 2: Amazing people who did amazing things for God

Narrator 1: Like Moses, who did what God said and helped free the Israelites from slavery
Moses points to the side and says

Moses: Let my people go!

All: Yay!

Narrator 2: Or David, who knew that God was on his side and so defeated the giant Goliath
David punches the air and shouts

David: He's dead!

All: Yay!

Narrator 1: And then there's Jonah
Jonah steps forward from the line and strikes a heroic pose

Narrator 2: Poor old Jonah

Narrator 1: Who was a prophet

Narrator 2: But not a very good one

Jonah drops his heroic pose

Narrator 1: God gave Jonah a very important job

All actors pointing in the direction of Nineveh

All: Go to Nineveh!

Narrator 2: And so Jonah went...in the opposite direction

Jonah starts walking towards Nineveh and then quickly turns to 'Anywhere Else' and runs away

All: What!

Narrator 1: That's right, Jonah disobeyed God

Narrator 2: And this is how it happened

Narrator 1: When God told Jonah to

All: Go to Nineveh!

Narrator 2: Jonah got scared

Jonah looks scared

Narrator 1: You see God wanted Jonah to announce his Judgement against Nineveh



DRAMA SCRIPT contd



Narrator 2: But Jonah couldn't stop thinking about everything he'd heard about the people of Nineveh

Narrator 1: How they were really mean

All: Grrrr

Narrator 2: And wicked

All: Grrrrr (louder this time)

Narrator 1: And just generally horrible people

All: Grrrrrrrrrr (louder and with fists shaking)

Narrator 2: And so Jonah came up with a cunning plan

Jonah looks excited and says:

Jonah: Eureka!

Narrator 1: And he ran away as far away from Nineveh as he could

Jonah runs off. The actors come forward and form a huddle as the sailors

Narrator 2: He found a boat leaving for Tarshish

All: Ahoy there!

Narrator 1: The sailors welcomed him on board and off they went

Sailors and Jonah start to row

All: Heave ho, heave ho, heave ho, heave ho

Sailors keep rowing but stop speaking as narrator speaks

Narrator 2: And while they were sailing Jonah fell asleep

Jonah starts to snore as the sailors keep rowing

Narrator 1: And while Jonah was snoring and the sailors were sailing, the boat was struck by a violent storm

Narrator 2: They rocked from side the side as waves crashed against them

Sailors rock from side, you could have people splash them with water

Narrator 1: The sailors were absolutely terrified

All: Aaaaaaaahhhhhhh

Sailors hold the scared looks and keep rocking from side to side

Narrator 2: As Jonah continued to sleep

Jonah snores

Narrator 1: So they woke Jonah up

Sailors gather round Jonah and shake him

Narrator 2: They said 'Who are you?'



DRAMA SCRIPT contd



All: Who are you?

Narrator 1: 'And where are you from?'

All: And where are you from?

Narrator 2: And so Jonah said:

Jonah: I'm Jonah and I worship the God of Heaven

Narrator 1: The sailors realised that the storm was all Jonah's fault because he had run away from God

All: Oh no!

Narrator 2: So Jonah said:

Jonah: Throw me into the sea

Narrator 1: And the sailors said

All: No way!

Narrator 2: But soon they had no choice, they threw Jonah into the sea

Throw Jonah and all say 'Splash!'

Narrator 1: Where he was swallowed up by a giant fish!

Everyone turns into waves, splashing around Jonah and then forms an arch over Jonah to represent the fish

Narrator 2: Inside the fish for three whole days and three whole nights, Jonah felt scared and alone

Jonah looks scared

Narrator 1: But then he started to pray

Jonah: Father God, I'm sorry for running away and not doing what you asked

Narrator 2: And then the inside of the fish started to shake

Everyone making up the fish starts stamping their feet repeatedly

Narrator 1: And Jonah was spat out onto the beach!

Jonah jumps out of the fish. Everyone making up the fish turns out and says 'Yay!'

Narrator 2: Jonah had been given a second chance

Jonah: Thank you God! I guess I'm off to Nineveh!

Jonah walks off in the direction of Nineveh

Narrator 1: So off Jonah went, this time doing exactly what God told him to do

Narrator 2: The end.



ELIJAH: Even Heroes Have Bad Days



BIG IDEA

Life is full of good day and bad days, of happiness and sadness – things change but God remains the same and so we can face each with the confidence that God is with us.



BIBLE REFERENCE

1 Kings 19:3-12



KEY VERSE

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

RESOURCES



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Activity

Identify the Sound



Craft

Paper Plate Craft



DISCUSSION

You can use these as prompts to chat about the story where you feel they'll work best in your lesson.

- What can ruin your day?
- One of the most common commands that God gives His people in the Bible is "Do not be afraid." What difference does God make when we are afraid?
- What does the story of Elijah teach us about God that we need to remember, especially when we're having a bad day?
- God tells us that He will never leave us or let us down – can we trust that promise? Why or why not?





THE TALK

Tonight we are going to think about a Bible hero called Elijah, and we're going to think about a time in his life when he was both really happy and really sad around the same time. First though, let me suggest a few different scenarios and you can respond by either showing me a happy face, or a sad face:

- When you're enjoying an ice cream, but it accidentally slips out of your hand and falls on the ground.
- When you score a goal playing football at BB.
- When you get full marks in a spelling test.
- When your best friend is sick, so can't come to your house and hang out at the weekend.
- When you enter an art competition and come in first place.

Happiness and sadness (you may want to show both emojis on a screen or use the resource provided) are emotions that we experience all the time. Sometimes we even feel happy and sad all in the same day – and that's totally normal. In fact, lots of people from the Bible felt happiness and sadness throughout their lives, including heroes like Elijah who we are going to think about today. Before we come to our Bible passage that shows Elijah in sadness, let's first think about a moment that made him really happy.

During the time of Elijah, there was a King in Israel who was called Ahab, and King Ahab was not a good king at all (crown and thumbs down emoji). He was so evil that he would kill someone just so he could take their land. Ahab did not love God or worship Him and because of that, lots of God's people were led away from the worship of the true God under his rule. Over and over in the Bible we see bad kings making a negative impact on their people, and Ahab's story was exactly the same – there were many people who wanted

nothing to do with the Lord and who instead loved and worshipped false gods and idols that meant nothing. This brings us to Elijah.

God told His prophet Elijah (show a microphone emoji) to go and face up to Ahab. So Elijah went to see Ahab and he offered him a challenge. "Let's have a contest," he said. "Each of us will build an altar and prepare a sacrifice and place it on an altar. Then you will ask your god to set fire (show fire emoji) to your sacrifice and I will ask my God, the true God, to set fire to my sacrifice—and we'll see who wins." So the stage was set for a big showdown. Elijah stood on Mount Carmel as the only prophet of the Lord, while there were over 450 prophets of Baal and some of the other false gods. Anyone want to guess who won that contest?

There was only ever going to be one outcome – Baal wasn't real, but the true God of the Bible was and is. The prophets of Baal were embarrassed and defeated while Elijah experienced this incredible victory (show happy emoji). He was happy – but that happiness didn't last long.

BIBLE READING

I wonder what can ruin your day or your mood? It can be the tiniest of things can't it? It could be a sudden change in the weather (show rain emoji) that means a lovely walk becomes a sprint to the car as your clothes drip in the rain. It could be something your friend says (show sad face) because they aren't in a good mood themselves. It could be a class test that you forgot was happening (show panic face) and so you weren't prepared for it. Lots of things change our mood pretty quickly, but for Elijah, it wasn't something quite so small as a bad test result.

Did you notice what happened to change Elijah's mood? Even though he had just been part of an incredible victory for God, he quickly forgot all that God had done when this woman called Jezebel threatened his life (show angry emoji) because she was



really angry about what had happened at Mount Carmel. Because of this, Elijah's mood changed so drastically that we are told he runs away (show running emoji), comes to a tree and prays that he might die. It doesn't get much worse than that – Elijah was having the worst of days (show sad emoji) – and yet there is good news for him even when he is feeling so low. You see, as he sat at that tree, God came to him, showed compassion, and took care of him. When he was strengthened, God sent Elijah to Mount Horeb where he arrived after 40 days and 40 nights – and he spent the night in a cave. It was here at this cave that God passed by Elijah and spoke to him – not in an earthquake, not in the wind, not in a fire, but in a gentle whisper (show whisper/shush emoji). God speaks and tells Elijah to go back where he came from and to continue to work for Him. Even though Elijah wasn't feeling good about himself, he listened and did what God asked him because he trusted that God knew what was best for him.

Elijah's story shows us some really important truths about God doesn't it? We are reminded that God is always in control. Even when it seems like everything is going wrong, we can trust that God is in charge and that He knows what He is doing. Even when Elijah was being pursued by enemies and worried for his life, we see that God was there to be his strength and protector. We are reminded that God speaks to us. Through His word, God shows us how to live as His people and how to please Him. And finally, we see that God cares about us, in our good days and our bad. In fact, the cross proves how much God cares about us, because it was there that Jesus took our place, died for our sins and then rose back to life so that we could be set free when we trust in and follow Him.

We all have good and bad days in life – even the heroes of the Bible did – but we can be encouraged by the truth that the God who doesn't change is with us and for us.

Notes:



ESTHER: The Old Testament Wonder Woman



BIG IDEA

Trust that God has everything under control, even when things seem to be at their worst.



BIBLE REFERENCE

The book of Esther



KEY VERSE

Psalm 37:5

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and He will act.”

RESOURCES



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Animated Story

<https://youtu.be/D3lsMSEEuG4>

Esther Bible Story, by Saddleback Kids



Activity

Crossword
Wordsearch



Craft

Esther Crown Craft
Esther Sceptre



DISCUSSION

Give the children some scenarios and ask how they would approach them.

The options are:

1. Ignore it and hope it goes away
2. Ask someone else to help you deal with it
3. Don't take time to think, do the first thing that comes to your mind.

Scenarios:

1. Someone is spreading rumours about you.
2. Your friend has fallen and badly hurt their leg
3. You see young child/ toddler, lost in a shop

Feel free to use your own scenarios. The aim is to help the children think about what options are available.





THE TALK

Esther was a Jew living in a foreign land. The King, Xerxes ruled over the Jews after his people defeated the Jews. Esther wasn't really a slave, but she wasn't totally free either. Esther was probably an orphan, her parents are never mentioned in the story, her only relative mentioned is her cousin Mordecai.

Xerxes was a king who was used to getting his own way. Whatever the King said had to be done. His wife didn't want to listen to him though and he got rid of her. But he needed a new Queen. It would have been an honour for any girl in the kingdom to be the Queen, but remember, Xerxes wanted everything his own way and if she disobeyed, she would no longer be the Queen.

Esther was chosen and while she probably felt very important, she was probably also quite afraid of how she might be treated by Xerxes. She also had to spend an entire year taking part in competitions to become the Queen! That was probably not very pleasant.

Xerxes isn't really the villain in this story though. In reality, Xerxes wasn't that clever and he allowed other people to rule his country for him. He trusted these people to do what was right and so they had power. The real villain was the King's number 2, a man called Haman.

Haman hated the Jews. The Jews had won a war against his people a long time before and so he was looking for an opportunity to get revenge. This came when Mordecai refused to bow to him or the King and he wrote a law to have all the Jews killed. Xerxes of course signed it because he trusted Haman to rule his kingdom. He probably didn't need the law. He definitely didn't know Esther was a Jew.

Mordecai found out about this plan and he hoped Esther could save the Jews. He asked her to have the King change the law again.

Esther was afraid though, the King had to give people permission to actually speak to him, even the Queen! If the King did not give permission then Esther could be killed. Remember, he got rid of his last Queen!

Esther took some time and prayed and came up with a plan. She made the King feel important and pleased him with a meal and then told him all about Haman. She also told the King that she was a Jew. He would have to watch his own wife and Queen being killed!

Of course the King realised Haman was not to be trusted and he changed the law. The Jews were saved and Haman was defeated.

Esther found herself as Queen at exactly the right time. If the King did not have Esther as his Queen then the Jews would surely have been wiped out. Esther 4:14 tells us that Esther, 'came to this kingdom for such a time as this.' That means God ensured Esther, who was the right person, was in the right place at the right time in order to save his people.

The story of Esther is quite dramatic, but it's a series of smaller events that would not be so dramatic on their own. The centre of the story is a dinner, and dinners are usually boring! The book of Esther never actually mentions God, but we can see God's plan throughout the story. Mordecai and Esther followed God even when it was dangerous to, and God protected them and saved their people. Esther did not have any incredible super powers like Wonder Woman, but she was able to trust God. Because of her trust in God and her bravery when facing the King and Haman, she saved thousands of lives. Wonder Woman has saved thousands of people, but only in stories, Esther really saved thousands of people!

Do we ever have to face things we are afraid of? Do we ever get afraid to tell our friends about God, the Bible and what we learn here in BB? The story of Esther reminds us that God will always be with us, even when things seem really bad.



GIDEON: From Zero to Hero



BIG IDEA

It can be normal to have doubts. Even Gideon did! God will follow through on his promises. God can and will use all of us, even if we don't think we are good enough. God's plans will always succeed.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Judges 6-7



KEY VERSE

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Craft

Trumpet
Gideon's Torch



Drama

Gideon drama script, by Play it By Ear



Game

Hide and Seek



DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been told you can do something and not been able to believe it?
- Do you ever compare yourself to other people?



THE TALK

Summarise the story. Key points to draw out:

- Gideon was the youngest in his family from the smallest clan.
- Gideon had his doubts and kept asking for signs from God
- God ensured the army was so small that everyone would know they could only win through God's power

Ask the children:

Who would win in a fight? Batman or Superman? You can have them vote on who they think might win. Allow some of the children to tell you why they think that.

Superman is the strongest superhero, he is almost invincible. Almost! You see Batman has a way of beating Superman. He can't beat him with strength, because Superman is stronger. He can't beat him for speed because Superman is



quicker. Instead he has to use a special material called Kryptonite because that is Superman's weakness. If Batman does not have Kryptonite to help him, then he will never beat Superman!

Gideon was a young man from a small and weak tribe. He should never have been the leader of his people. His people were called the Israelites. Pause here, emphasise that the Israelites are 'good guys'. Their country is called Israel.

The Israelites had it tough though because they had lots of enemies! One of their enemies was a group of people called the Midianites. They lived in a country called Midian which was close to Israel.

(Pause here, emphasise that the Midianites are the 'bad guys'.)

For years the Midianites had been attacking the Israelites and for years they kept winning. When the Israelites called out to God for help, God told them that they had abandoned God years ago and yet they come back to Him only when they are in trouble.

Ask the children:

Have you ever been asked for help by someone you weren't friends with or you did not know? How did you feel? Did you help them?

(The children do not need to answer, just help them understand that the Israelites were treating God badly by only following Him when they were in trouble.)

The people might have felt hopeless, believing that God would not help him, but God was already empowering his chosen hero. His hero was not the man Israel expected. He wasn't the strongest man in Israel, he wasn't the most intelligent man in Israel, he wasn't the most popular man in Israel. He did follow God though, even when everyone else abandoned God. Gideon was going to be God's hero!

When God sent His angel to speak to Gideon, Gideon could not believe it. He was in shock and needed proof! He asked for a sign and the angel set an offering on fire! Gideon was then told the plan, he had to put together an army.

Gideon was probably afraid. He could not believe God was asking him to do this. He needed proof again and God sent the signs Gideon asked for. Gideon was ready and he built his army, but there was a problem. He had too many men! How is it possible to have too many men in the army? Surely that was a good thing! Well, God said it was too big, so some had to go. He sent away those who were afraid and then he sent away those who drank from the river like a dog drinks from a bowl rather than drinking it out of their hands. In the end Gideon had 300 men.

Those 300 men hid in the mountains with their torches and when the time came to attack... (Pause for drama)... they didn't attack. Instead the Midianites panicked and attacked themselves! You see the Israelites stood on the mountains with lamps, and the Midianites believed there were tens of thousands of Israelites. The battle was won and Israel was saved. Gideon looked like the hero, but he only won because he followed God's instructions.

Gideon has a superpower, it's called faithfulness. Do we know what faithfulness means? Faithfulness is when we do what we say we will do, and when we trust that someone else will do what they say. If I say I will give you all a sweet if you do ten star jumps then I will do it. Gideon doubted and asked for proof. But he did follow God's plan. He knew he could not win himself and so trusted God. He was faithful and so was God. It was only because of this faithfulness that Gideon was able to win!



GIDEON DRAMA SCRIPT

This script was written for BBNI by local Christian drama company, Play It By Ear. To find out more about them or to book a drama workshop, visit www.playitbyeardrama.com



Props: Torches and party blowers for the Gideon's army

Narrator 1: The Israelites were the people of God

Israelites: Hello!

Narrator 2: But they also disobeyed God constantly!

Israelites shrug and say

Israelites: Ooops

Narrator 1: So God handed them over to the nasty Midianites for 7 years

Midianites run on shouting and chasing the Israelites

Midianites: ATTACK!

Israelites: Aaaaahhhh

Narrator 2: And in those 7 years the nasty Midianites caused the Israelites no end of trouble

Midianites chase the Israelites the other way

Midianites: ATTACK!

Israelites: Aaaaahhhh

Narrator 1: So, the Israelites moaned to God

Israelites drop to their knees and say

Israelites: Why God?

Narrator 2: But God reminded them of all the good things he had done for them and how they never listened to him.

Israelites shrug and say

Israelites: Ooops

Narrator 1: But in amongst the Israelites

Israelites look at each other

Narrator 2: Amongst the weakest tribe

Most Israelites exit, leaving a few on stage

Narrator 1: Was the person who thought of himself the least in his family

Everybody else exits, leaving just Gideon on stage

Narrator 2: A man by the name of Gideon

Gideon waves and speaks timidly

Gideon: Er...hi

Narrator 1: And God chose him to be the hero of this story

Gideon: Me? Are you sure?

Narrator 2: And God was sure, even when Gideon kept asking him if he was sure



DRAMA SCRIPT CONTD

Gideon: God, if you're sure, then make the fleece wet and the ground dry
Gideon lays a towel on the ground, someone comes on and pours water on it. Gideon then wrings out the towel on the ground

Gideon: Impressive

Narrator 1: But Gideon still wasn't convinced

Gideon: But I'm still not convinced

Narrator 2: So he asked God again

Gideon: God if you're really sure then make the fleece dry and the ground wet
Someone comes on with a dry towel and sprays water on the ground around it, Gideon picks up the dry towel

Gideon: Hmm, I guess we better go and save Israel then!

Narrator 1: And so off Gideon went with lots and lots of soldiers
All other actors march on and form a semi-circle with Gideon in the middle. They hold brave, valiant poses and shout

Israelites: Charge!

Narrator 2: But God didn't want the Israelites to forget that He was on their side

Narrator 1: So he said that anyone who was scared could go

Israelite 1: Let's get out of here!
Approx two thirds of the soldiers run off

Narrator 2: But God still thought there was too many so God set up a test

Gideon: Alright lads, take a drink!
Most of the army gets on their knees and puts their faces in the river but a few cup the water in their hands and drink

Narrator 1: And so the ones who were drinking straight from the river were sent away

Gideon: But that leaves us with only 300 men!

Narrator 2: That's right Gideon had just 300 soldiers to take on the nasty Midianites
All actors that have been sent away now come on as Midianites. They form a large group in the middle of the Israelite semi-circle so that the Israelites surround them. Throughout the next section the 'Grrrr' and the 'Aaaaahhh' sounds get progressively louder

Narrator 1: And boy, were they nasty

Midianites: Grrrrrrrrr

Israelites: Aaaaahhhh

Narrator 2: They were big



DRAMA SCRIPT CONTD



The Midianites make themselves look bigger and say

Midianites: Grrrrrrrr

Israelites: Aaaaahhhh

Narrator 1: They were tough

Midianites: Grrrrrrrr

Israelites: Aaaaahhhh

Narrator 2: And there was an awful lot of them

Midianites: Grrrrrrrr

Israelites: Aaaaahhhh

Narrator 1: But God reassured the Israelites and that night as the Midianites were sleeping, Gideon acted out God's plan

If possible, it might be good to turn the lights off at this point. Gideon's men then turn on torches and blow their horns while surrounding the Midianites

Israelites: For God and Gideon!

Narrator 2: At that point the Midianite army became very confused, thinking that they were surrounded by thousands of soldiers.

Narrator 1: They were so confused that they started fighting against themselves
Midianites run around, bumping into each other and falling over until they're all on the floor

Narrator 2: Which gave the Israelites the victory

Israelites: We did it!

Gideon: But only because God was with us

Narrator 1: And that's how Gideon helped the Israelites to defeat the nasty Midianites

Narrator 2: Not by having the biggest, bravest army

Narrator 1: But by trusting that God was on their side

Narrator 2: The end.



JOSHUA: Trusting God in his Battle



BIG IDEA

We need to be careful what we put our trust in. We do it every day without realising. Knowing that putting our trust in God becomes our ultimate personal goal and the most trustworthy goal for life.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Joshua 6:1-17, 20-21



KEY VERSE

Joshua 6:15-16

“On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city.”



RESOURCES

- ▶ **Song**
He is the King, by Shelley Spiers
- ▶ **Activity**
Scientific Experiment
- ▶ **Craft**
Joshua Picture
- ▶ **Game**
Jericho's Walls Fall



DISCUSSION

These discussion points /questions could come after the children have dramatised the story.

1. Would you trust God that He would lead you to the promised land? (After all, you have been in a desert for 40 years now and are beginning to run out of food).
2. Would you trust your leader, Joshua? (After all, he had sent 12 spies to Canaan and only 2 came back with a good message).
3. Would you have joined the army to march around the walls?
(After all, you had just crossed the Jordan river without a boat!)
4. How did you feel as you were walking around the walls on the 6 quieter days?
5. What about the 7th day? (The noise must have been deafening.....the trumpets, the shouting, the crumbling walls)
6. How do you feel now? Would this Bible story make you put your trust in God?





THE TALK

Joshua was the Israelites' hero. He put his trust in God. Who do you put your trust in? Each day we have to put our trust in many things...

- The bricks which hold your house up
- The car/bus engine which brought you to school
- The electricity which works for you to boil a kettle
- The pilot who flies the aeroplane or the captain who steers the boat
- Your teachers who help you learn
- Your carers/parents who buy you clothes to keep you warm
- Our creator God who allows us to live in a world full of seasons
- Or.....
- Even the chair you are sitting on and that the floor you stand on can really hold you up!!

Dramatise the story.

Set the scene... in your room/hall, place a set of chairs in a circle shape in the centre to represent the walls of Jericho. One of these chairs will represent Rahab's house. Place the Jericho folk inside the circle.

The BB leader will be the facilitator of the drama by prompting the children with their lines to say.

Characters: Angel, Joshua, Priests, Soldiers, Jericho folk (including Rahab's family)

Props:

- Sword (for the Angel)
- Rope (Lowering down from Rahab's house)
- Red ribbon (for Rahab's house)
- A large cardboard box (the Ark of the Covenant for the priests to carry)
- Kazoos (for the soldiers to use)/Trumpets

BB Leader: "The children of God had been wandering in a desert for 40 years now. It was a long journey. Can you imagine? Moses had led them out of Egypt but he had died and now Joshua had become their leader. They were now on their way to the promised land. After all, they had just crossed the river Jordan amazingly. Joshua had already sent out spies to scout the land ahead and find out what the defences of Jericho were like. Two of these spies ended up in Rahab's house. She was kind and protected them. They were lowered down safely by her over the city walls with a rope. God would look after her household later."

Rahab: should put the red rope/ribbon over a chair.

Practice walking around the walls with the children before any action takes place!

Talk about the walls with the children. Ask them to imagine...

- how big were they?
- how tall were they?
- how thick were they?
- how would you get into the city?

(Wait for the children's responses)

BB Leader: "Joshua wondered how he would get in. Wouldn't you?"

Angel: (prompted by the leader to 'repeat after me.' Phrase by phrase) "God will lead you to Jericho. He has a secret plan. All you have to do is trust Him."

The Angel swings his sword around and around. He showed everyone that he was the Captain of the Guard sent by God.

Joshua: "We are going to walk around the city now six times. We will do it once for every day of the week. The priests are to go to the front of the procession with the ark of the covenant and the soldiers are to walk behind



The children can get themselves into order and process around the walls six times. They can act this out by blowing their kazoos/ trumpets and carrying the ark/box.

Remind the children that the walls hadn't fallen down yet and the people inside Jericho were probably laughing at them! Yes they were.....

Joshua: "We have risen early this morning. It's the seventh day. Let's march around the city seven times."

March around the city walls with the children seven times playing your trumpets and counting out each rotation....make it fun! Sometimes stamping, sometimes quietly... vary it. Tell the children to shout as loud as they can after they've walked around the city 7 times.

Joshua: "Raise your voices now and shout. Make a powerful roar. Everyone do it! Make as much noise as possible!"

The chairs can come crumbling down (they can be pushed away or knocked over)....the children can pretend to be at war.....

Joshua: "Save Rahab's family. Take only precious gold and silver for our temple. Everyone can now be happy. The city of Jericho is ours. God is our helper. He will never let us down."

Dancing and cheering can take place!

BB Leader: "Joshua and his army did just as God had commanded. Perhaps the people in Jericho laughed at them. But, after the seventh march on the seventh day, the priest blew the ram's horn. And just as God had promised, the great walls of Jericho had crumbled. Their trust in God was reliable. God had not let them down.

Only Rahab's house was safe. She had left the red ribbon hanging from her window so she and her family were rescued. The gold and silver were used for God's service and soon everyone in the land of Canaan heard what had happened to Jericho."

Notes:



PAUL: Transformed by Jesus



BIG IDEA

Paul did great things for God, but only because his life had been transformed by Jesus.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Acts 9:1-22



KEY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

RESOURCES



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers



Activity

Identify the Sound



Craft

Saul's Glasses

Transformation Paper Luminaire



Game

Building Blind

Blind Building



DISCUSSION

You can use these as prompts to chat about the story where you feel they'll work best in your lesson.

- What was Saul like before he became a Christian?
- What had changed after he met Jesus?
- Can you think of examples of transformation? eg
 - Caterpillar into butterfly
 - Night into day
 - Room conversion...loft into bedroom.
 - Clark Kent into Superman (or other superhero examples).
 - Transformers... lorry into robot
- Why were people so confused by Paul?
- Why was Paul able to do all the great things he did later in his life?
- If we ask Jesus to be our Saviour, how will we be changed?





THE TALK

Our Bible hero today is Paul who is one of the most famous people in the New Testament. He travelled all around places like Turkey, Syria, Greece and Cyprus telling people about Jesus. He was brave when people were against him and when he went through hard times. He was really clever and great at explaining why Jesus was God's son, so big crowds came to listen to him. He set up churches in many different places and saw amazing things happen by the power of Jesus. Wow!! What a guy was Paul! But, do you know that Paul was very different when he was young? All those amazing things that he did, he was only able to do because one day he met Jesus. Let's hear the story.

When Paul was young he was called Saul. He was a Jewish religious leader in Jerusalem, and he hated Jesus. He had heard that some people thought Jesus was the Son of God, but Saul didn't believe it at all. How could a man from Nazareth, a carpenter's son, be the promised Messiah, the Son of God. It was impossible! Jesus had been crucified and Saul was glad! But then, sometime later, the followers of Jesus began to say that Jesus was alive again. Saul was furious! Were they never to be free of this man, Jesus?

Saul began finding these followers of Jesus and persecuting them (treating them badly because they believed in Jesus). Some were put in prison, some were even killed, and Saul was glad! When the followers of Jesus began to move away from Jerusalem to other cities, Saul wanted to go after them and bring them back to face their punishment. "Many followers of Jesus have moved to Damascus," he said to the High Priest. "Let me go after them and arrest them and bring them back." The High Priest agreed and so off went Saul. Damascus was in Syria, so it was quite a long journey. When Saul was almost there, all of a sudden a huge bright light shone down on him. Saul fell to the ground and he heard a voice, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul said "Who are you?" and the voice

replied, "I am Jesus". All of a sudden Saul realised that he had been wrong! He hadn't believed that Jesus was God's son. He hadn't believed that Jesus could come alive again. But now he did believe it! Because Jesus had spoken to him.

Jesus told Saul to go into the city where he would be told what to do. Saul realised that the bright light had blinded him, so his friends who were travelling with him had to take him by the arm and lead him into Damascus. They took him to a house on a street called Straight Street and there he stayed for 3 days.

After 3 days God spoke to a follower of Jesus called Ananias, "Go to Straight Street," said God. "Find a man called Saul who is praying. He has seen in a dream that you are going to come so that he can see again." Now, Ananias knew all about Saul. He knew how Saul had hated Jesus and his followers and so Ananias didn't want to go! But God said, "Go! For I have chosen Saul to talk about me in many different countries". So, Ananias went. He found Saul and put his hands on his head and said, "Brother Saul, receive your sight". Suddenly Saul could see again!

From that day on Saul was different. He had completely changed. He went from hating Jesus to loving Him. From treating the followers of Jesus badly, to being a follower of Jesus. From someone who spoke against Jesus to someone who preached about Him to everyone he met. Jesus had changed him. He was a new person. And He changed his name too – from Saul to Paul. Everything that he went on to do later was because of the power of Jesus in him.

Do you know, it's the same for us? Maybe you would like to do great things for Jesus... have adventures, be brave, be a hero. But we can only do those things for Jesus if He has changes us, the way He changed Saul. When you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, He changes you. He makes you a new creation, one of His children, part of His family. His power is in you. Then He will help you to do great things for Him just like Paul did.



JESUS: The Ultimate Hero



BIG IDEA

As Jesus died on the cross, it looked like the enemy had won – but it was all part of God’s great rescue plan, because Jesus didn’t stay dead.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Luke 24:1-8



KEY VERSE

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

RESOURCES



Song

He is the King, by Shelley Spiers

Jesus You’re my Superhero
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FY4C930M2Y>



Activity

Resurrection Rolls



Craft

Origami Cross Craft



Game

An Egg-cellent Relay Race
Rock Paper Scissors



DISCUSSION

You can use these as prompts to chat about the story where you feel they’ll work best in your lesson.

- What’s something that you love about going to the cinema?
- Can you tell us about a movie you’ve seen with a happy ending?
- How do you think Jesus followers felt as darkness fell and he died on the cross?
- How do you think those who went to the tomb felt when they realised that it was empty?
- Why should the disciples have believed that Jesus was really alive?
- Why do you think they might have struggled to believe that it was true?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has defeated sin and death and that we can look forward to a happy ending if we trust in Him?





THE TALK

Who loves a trip to the cinema? Standing outside, looking at all the options and trying to decide what we want to see. Waiting in line to get our tickets and of course some treats from the shop like popcorn, ice cream or sweets. Heading into the movie screen and searching for the best seat as we try not to spill anything that we are carrying. Watching the trailers for the movies that are coming soon and thinking, "I'm gonna have to come back for that one!" Then that exciting moment when the lights fade and the movie begins. We munch and we slurp as we watch the film, and the whole time I bet we are all hoping for the same thing – we want to see a happy ending. If it's a superhero film, then we really want to see good overcome evil. As people, we all have this hope that things will end well.

Let's travel back to a place in the Bible called Golgotha tonight, as we come to our Bible lesson. As we zoom in on what is going on, we find Jesus hanging on a cross. Just like in the cinema, the lights are fading and we are told that everywhere has gone dark. Why? Well it's because Jesus is dead – they had put him on a cross and they had killed him. The person who said He was God's son; the person who many had hoped was going to save them and set them free was dead, and now so was there hope. Those who had believed Jesus and followed Him must have thought - what now? They had hoped for a happy ending, but this was the worst ending of all. Hope was gone.....or was it?

BIBLE READING

On Friday evening just before sunset, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and laid in an empty tomb. There was then a stone rolled across the door so that nobody could get in (or out). These women that we read about had come to the tomb on Sunday morning as the sun was just coming up. The women were very confused though. When

they arrived, they noticed that the stone had been rolled away (and that wouldn't have been easy to move at all). But even more surprising was that when they went inside, there was no body!

I can only imagine the shock they must have felt, but then just to make things even more surprising, suddenly angels appeared as well! Look at what they said to these women, because it is really important.

Do you remember what Jesus said? He is not here, he has risen from death!

Wow! The angels told them that Jesus is alive! That is amazing. What a miracle! But we shouldn't actually be surprised. You see Jesus always said that He was going to die, but that after three days He would rise again. This was always part of God's perfect plan to save us from our sin. He had every detail under His control. By going to the cross and then rising again, He was showing us that he had defeated death and sin once and for all, and because he has done that, we can find life as it was always meant to be when we put our trust in Him.

Let's get back to our Bible story though - now what? I imagine the women were really excited and couldn't wait to tell the disciples what had happened. If you were one of the disciples listening to what they were telling you, I wonder how you would have felt? Surprisingly, most of Jesus' disciples thought these women were talking nonsense. It was all true, but the disciples had their doubts about whether Jesus was really alive. Jesus had told them that it was going to happen, but it looks like they didn't quite understand what God's great rescue plan was all about. Jesus didn't just say that He was going to die and rise from the dead though. He also told the disciples that He was going to go back to heaven and that one day He would return. Jesus' victory over sin and death on the cross was a taste of what will one day come when He returns and makes all things new. So as we come to a close, let me finish by talking about wedding cake...



When a couple are planning a wedding, they have to sort lots of things. They have to book a venue for the party, get a dress and suit, book a band or a DJ, and organise the food (which includes sorting a wedding cake.) In order to choose what kind of wedding cake you want, you'll often be invited to meet a baker and they will let you try some samples. You do some cake tasting. As you eat the delicious cake and choose the flavour that you like, it is a taste of what is to come in the future. That little piece of cake is a taste of the beautiful cake you'll have on that day of celebration that will come in the future.

This is a bit like what Jesus' resurrection is for us. It gives us a taste of what is to come. When Jesus died and rose again, it gave us a taste of forgiveness from sin, but one day when Jesus comes back and makes all things new, there will be an amazing celebration when sin and death will be gone forever. We have this great promise that if we trust in Jesus, then there is a happy ending to be found, because Jesus has defeated our great enemy once and for all!

Notes:



RESOURCES: DANIEL

ANGEL IN THE LION'S DEN

One angel runs around and catches all the lions. The lions will lie down when caught. The aim is to have all the lions lying down with their mouths shut, as the lions were with Daniel.

- You can play the game as a group or divide into 2 teams.
- You nominate one child to be the Angel , the rest of the children scatter around the hall - they are the lions.
- To begin the game, tell the lions to open their mouths and roar.
- The child who is the angel will go around and tag the lions. On doing so the lion stops roaring and lies down.
- Aim is to catch all the lions. Team that completes first wins!

MAKE A LION MASK

Supplies

Printed Lion's face mask template
Scissors , Glue stick , Stapler
Yellow and orange paper
Elastic



Instructions

- Print out the lions face onto plain card (see template).
- Cut the lions face out and the eyes out.
- Colour in the lions face.
- Using some orange and yellow paper. Cut out 19 of each strip approx. 2cm x 7 cm.
- Once cut, stick them around the outside of the lions face, alternating the colours.
- Take a piece of elastic approx 28cm to each side of the face and staple in place.
- You can adjust this depending on the fit or each young person.



Make a Lions Mask

RESOURCES: PETER

CRAFT BOX FRAME ART

Make a box frame using scrabble letters to highlight the keywords in the story

Supplies

- 1 bag of Scrabble letters
- 1 box frame
- Double sided tape

Example words:

Love, Trust, Faith, Friends, Forgiveness, Praising

BOOK MARK

To remind the children that God is always watching out for them

Supplies

- White card
- Marker pen
- Coloured pencils/pens

Instructions

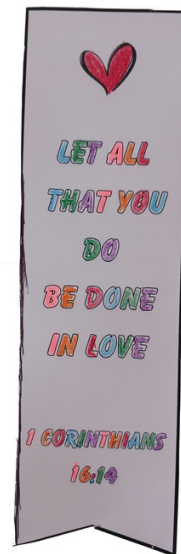
- You can create your own bookmarks or use the template provided
- Colour in the Bible verse or create your own design
- Once finished laminate the bookmark.

Example Verse:

Proverbs 3:5,6

1 John 4:8

1 Corinthians 16:14



BLINDFOLD FETCH

Aim of the activity is to put trust in your team leaders.

How to play blindfold fetch?

Select several balls of different sizes and place them across the hall. Select two separate 'home' bases in the hall.

Split the groups into squads and blindfold. One player from the squad leads the rest of the group and goes and stands in their home base. Each team is given five minutes to tell their blindfolded teammate where the balls are. Once they have located a ball they must take it back to their home base. They continue collecting balls until the time is up. The team who collects the most balls are the winners.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

TRUST IN THE
LORD WITH ALL
YOUR HEART,
AND LEAN NOT
ON YOUR
OWN
UNDERSTANDING.
IN ALL
YOUR WAYS
ACKNOWLEDGE
HIM, AND
HE WILL
DIRECT YOUR
PATH.



LET ALL
THAT YOU
DO
BE DONE
IN LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS
16:14

RESOURCES: JONAH

JONAH & THE WHALES (GAME)

In the Bible, Jonah couldn't hide or run away from God - In your life you cannot hide from God.

British Bull Dog Theme

- One player (Jonah) will start as the whale in the middle of the hall. The remaining players (whales) will start at one end of the hall facing Jonah.
- The object of the game is for the Jonah's to get past the whale to safety (the other side of the hall). If a child is tagged they will become a whale. (Tag rugby tags are an option to use).
- Mark a safe area that children can not be tagged in.
- Call out, "Whales ready? Jonah's ready? Go!"
- The game continues until there are no more Jonah's left.

JONAH AND THE WHALE SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

To teach the children of God's plan for saving Jonah

Can be used in conjunction with story.

Can be done in small groups.

[SciBoys E18 - Jonah and the Whale - YouTube](#)

Or find a similar experiment on YouTube

JONAH & THE WHALE CRAFT

To teach the children of God's plan for saving Jonah

Supplies

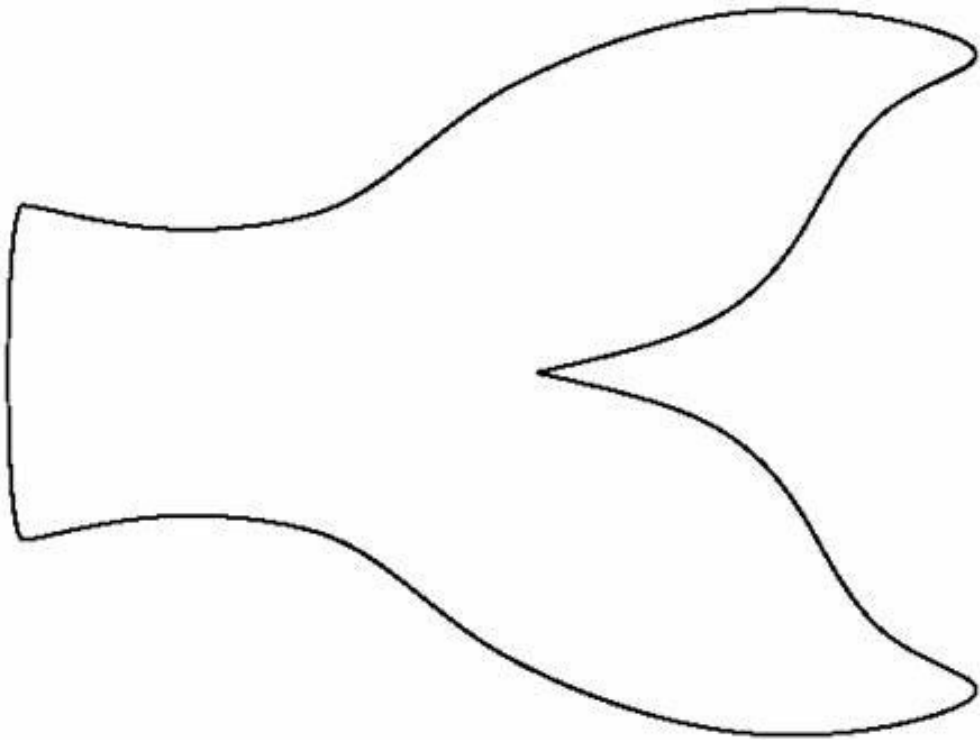
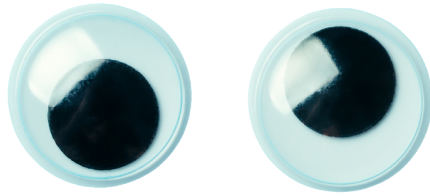
- Blue Plastic Cup
- Medium Sized Craft Eyes (or use the template)
- Glue dots
- Whale Tail - (Using the template, colour it in blue or print on blue paper)
- String (approx. 24 inches)
- x1 white Balloon per child
- Sharpie/permanent marker
- Sellotape
- Flour

Instructions

- Tape the string to the side of the cup.
- Cut out the tail and stick to the bottom of the cup.
- Using glue dots, attach the eyes to each side of the cup.
- Fill a white balloon with flour so that it is just filled. Tie it off.
- Have kids draw a person on the balloon with Sharpie.
- Tie your Jonah balloon to the end of the string.

The aim of the game is to throw Jonah into the air and catch him in the cup





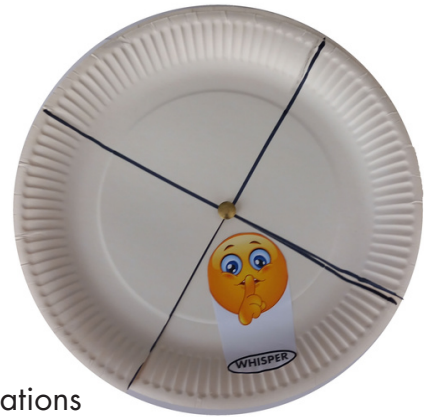
Jonah & the Whale

RESOURCES: ELIJAH

PAPER PLATE CRAFT

Supplies

- Paper or card
- X2 Paper plates
- Balloon
- Glue , Scissors
- Split Pin
- Pom-poms, stickers, glitter, or other extra decorations
- Markers or crayons



Instructions

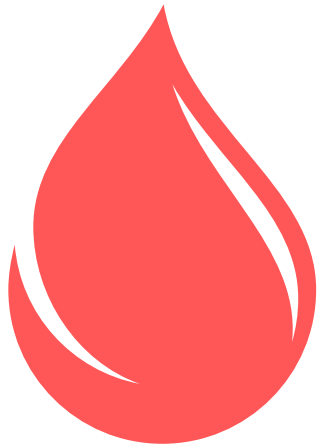
- Divide one of the paper plates into fourths (quadrants).
- On each quadrant, write a brief caption for "earthquake", "wind", "fire", and "whisper." Use the template provided or design your own. Add extra decorations (stickers, pictures, pom-poms, etc.) as desired.
- On the second paper plate, cut out a quadrant. Decorate with verses and captions to accompany the first plate.
- Use the split pin to attach the plates. Spin the top plate to reveal the various parts of the story and recall how Elijah met God.

IDENTIFY THE SOUND

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1m4h79JZso>

Use this or a similar video on YouTube

Link to 'whisper' and 'wind' in 1 Kings 19



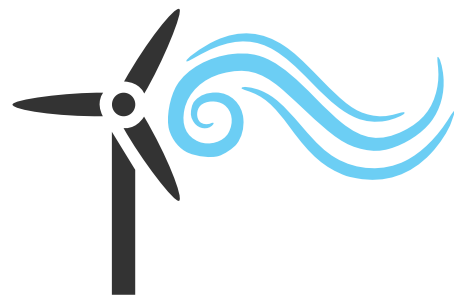
FIRE



WHISPER



EARTHQUAKE



WIND

Elijah Paper Plate Craft

RESOURCES: ESTHER

ESTHER CROSSWORD AND WORDSEARCH

Supplies

- Copy of crossword and wordsearch for each child (See templates)
- Pencils

ESTHER CROWN CRAFT

Supplies

- Newspaper / old tablecloth (to protect table)
- Paper plates
- Paint / pens / pencils
- Scissors
- Decorations - gems, glitter, feathers, cotton wool, stickers etc.
- Glue - PVA / sticks of glue
- Hairdryer (optional)



Instructions (see photos of each stage on next page)

- Firstly, prep - lay out newspaper/tablecloth to protect the tables.
- To start, colour or paint your paper plates (base only) whatever colour you like, (if painting leave time for the plate to dry or use a hair dryer).
- Take your paper plate and fold it in half (see step 3).
- Starting in the middle of the plate cut a straight line about 8cm, or just before you meet the edge of the ruffle edge of the plate (see step 4).
- Cut another 2 slits in the plate; this should be at a 45° angle from the first one (see Step 5).
- Next, open the plate up and place flat with the inside down, adjust any of the slits if needed (see step 6).
- Next, you'll need to cut two more slits where the edge was folded, (see step
- Next, bend the slit out towards yourself, until they stand up straight (see step
- Once they are all up straight it should look like a crown; so now it's time to decorate, use gems, stickers, feathers, cotton wool, glitter to finish it off.



Step 1



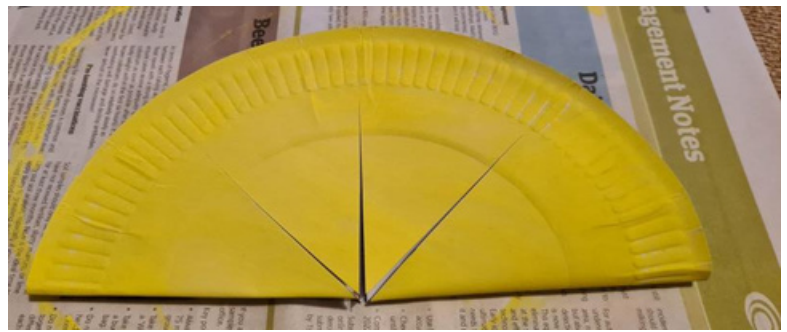
Step 2



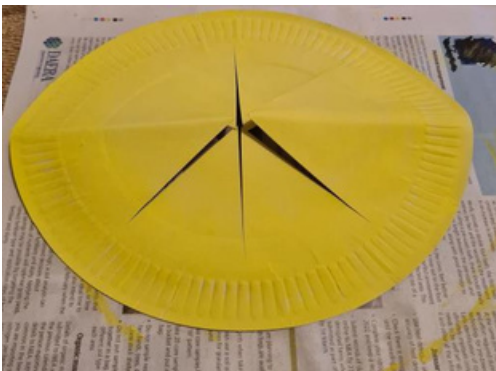
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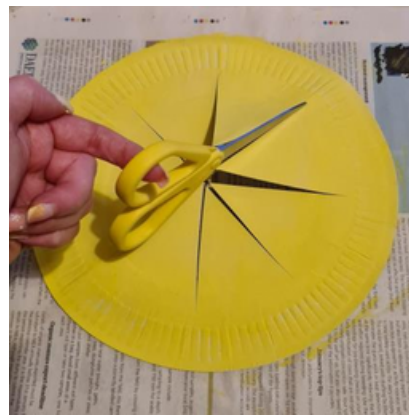
Step 4



Step 5



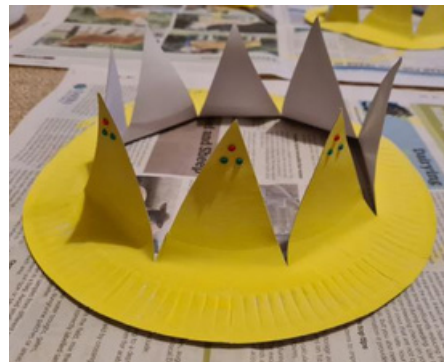
Step 6



Step 7



Step 8



Step 9

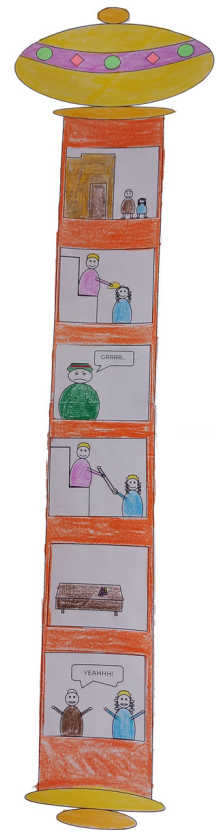
ESTHER SCEPTRE

Supplies

- Paper/card with template printout on it
- Pencils/crayons
- Scissors
- Glue / Tape

Instructions

- Colour in the sceptre and the pictures, and draw on any extras (i.e. table for the banquet, draw on more food etc.)
- Once all coloured in; you need to number the pictures when you think they're in the right order.
- Once a leader checks they are right, cut out the pictures.
- Stick the pictures in the right order.
- Cut out the sceptre and stick the 2 pages together to have your very own story sceptre.



ESTHER WORDSEARCH

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

Jewish

Bow Esther

Sceptre

Brave

Haman

Queen

Crown

Banquet

Susa

Xerxes

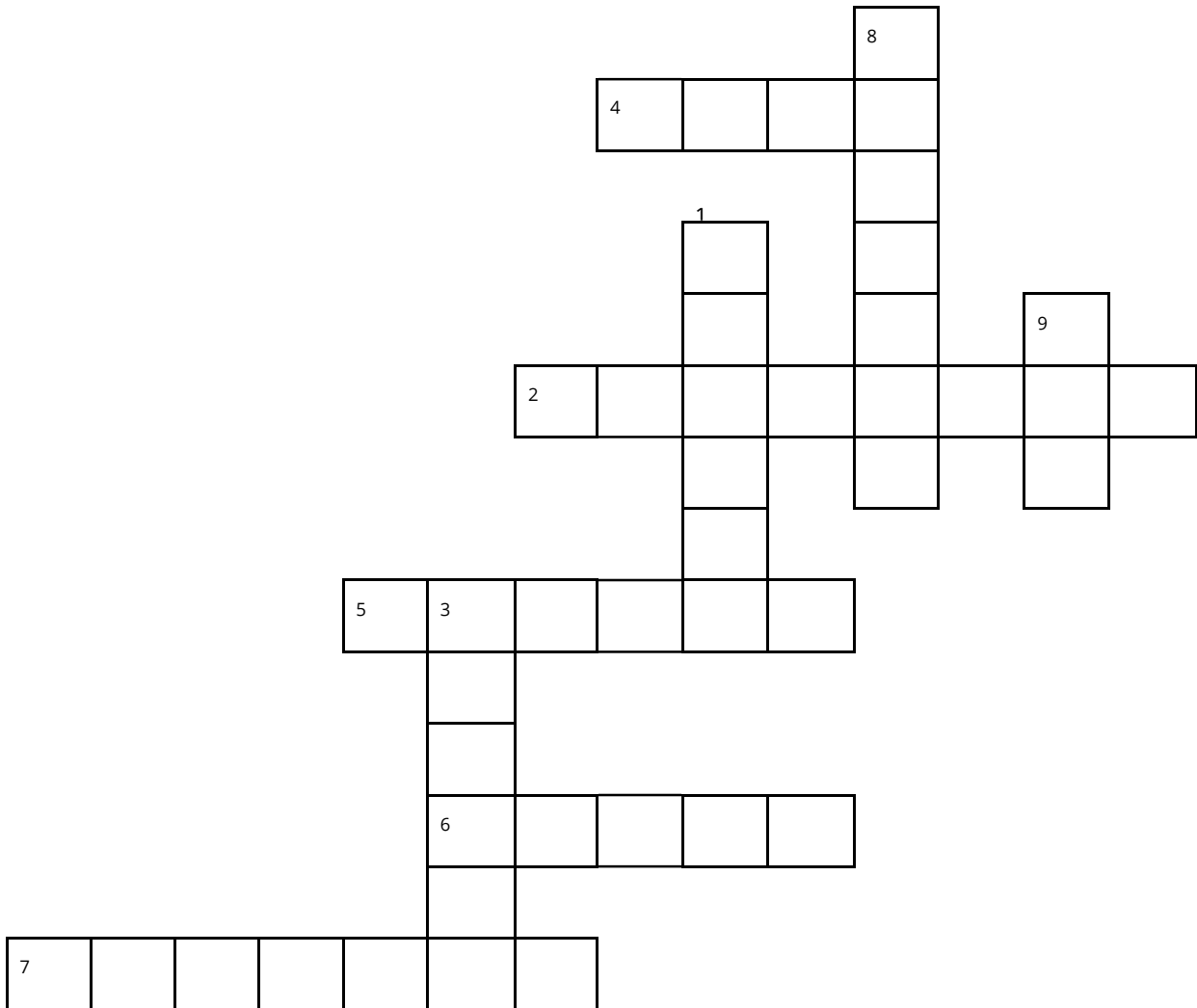
Mordecai

Fasted

Kingdom

Prayer

ESTHER CROSSWORD



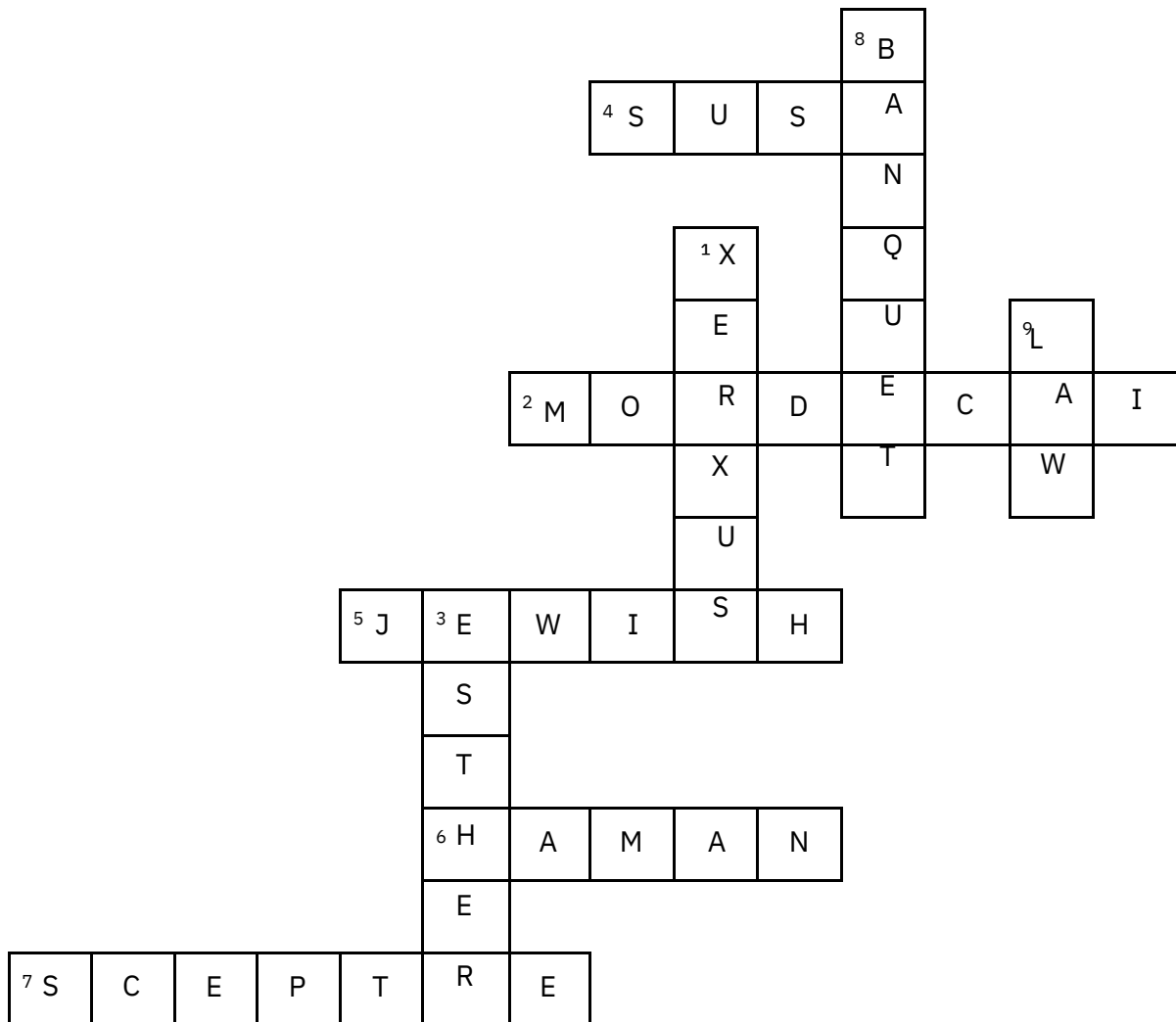
Down:

1. The name of the King who was used to getting what he wanted.
3. The name of the Hero in the story.
8. What did the Hero invite the King and the villain to?
9. What did the villain change, that meant the Hero's cousin would be killed?

Across:

2. The name of the Hero's cousin who raised her.
4. The name of the city that the King ruled over.
5. The 'Hero's' religion.
6. The villain in the story that was trusted by the King to rule the kingdom.
7. The name of the object that was to be touched before being allowed to speak to the King.

Esther Crossword Answers



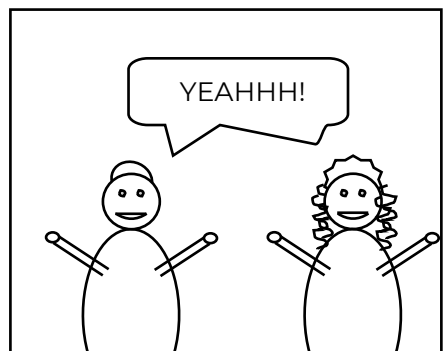
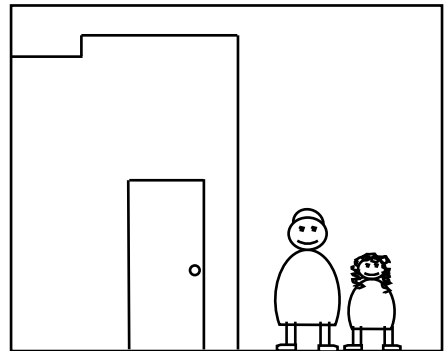
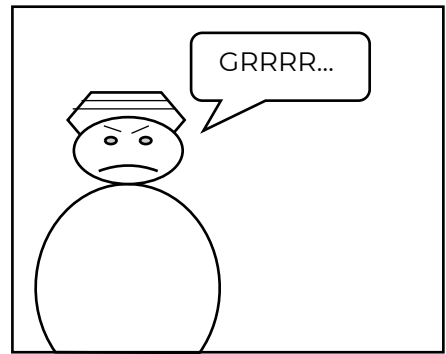
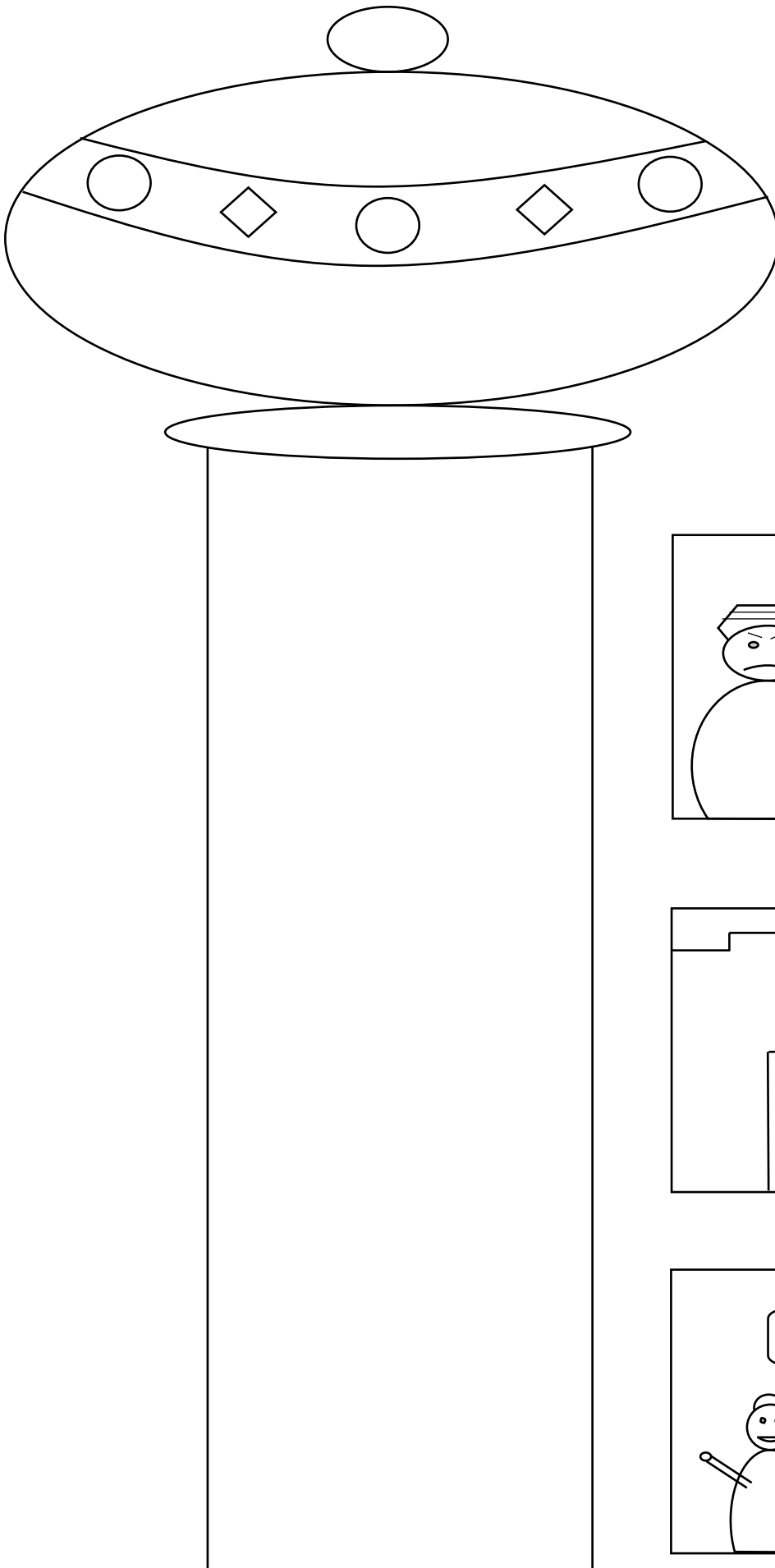
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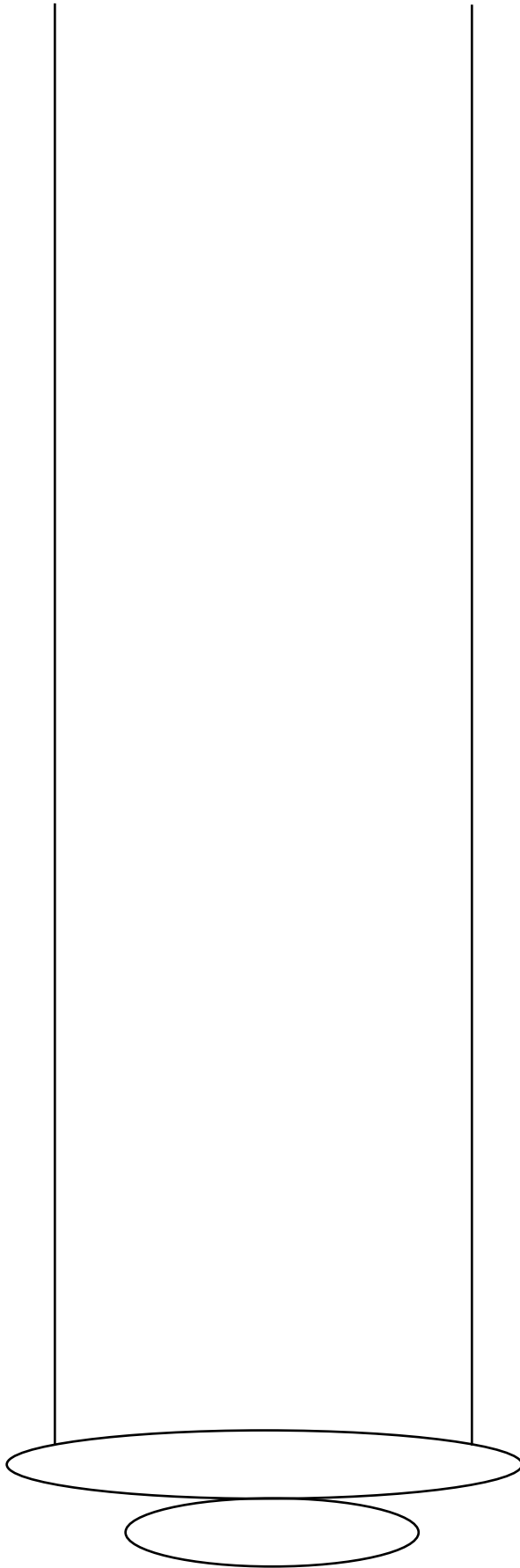
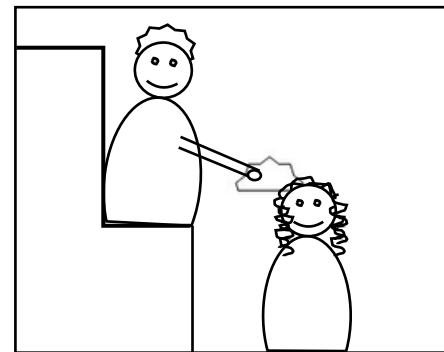
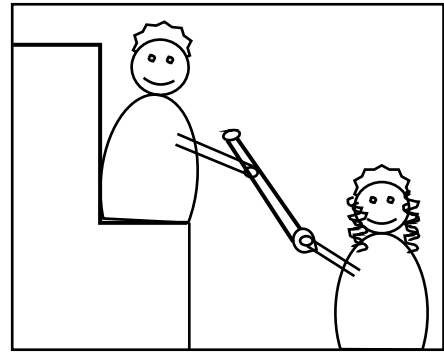
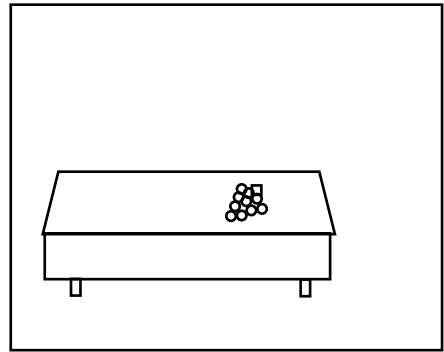
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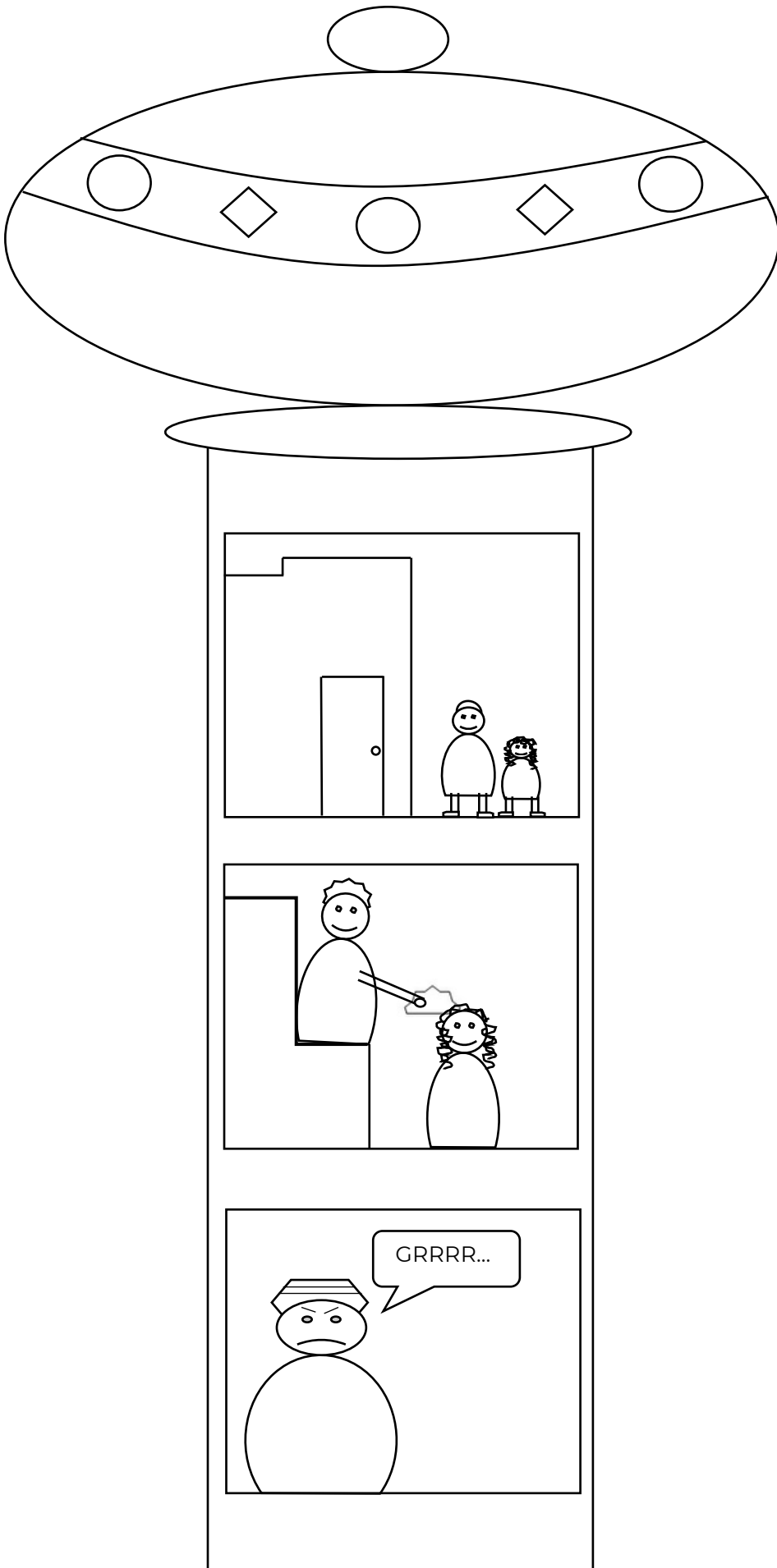
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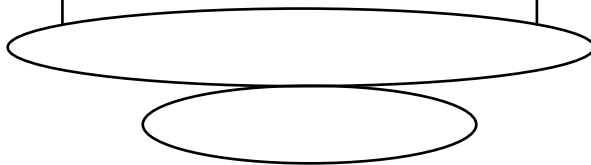
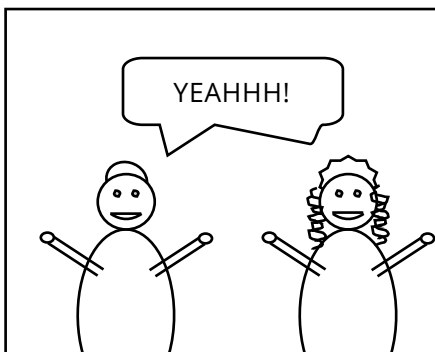
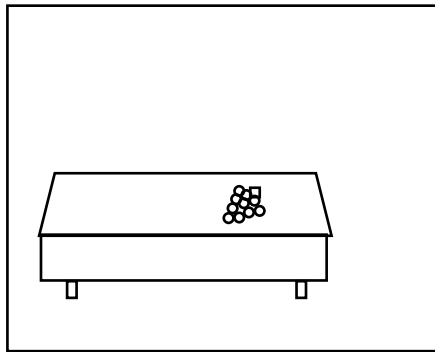
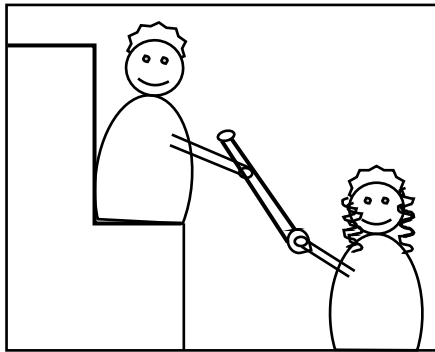
Sceptre Template 1/2



Sceptre Template 2/2







RESOURCES: GIDEON

TRUMPET

Supplies

- Cardboard tube or print out of the template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Coloured pencils or pens
- Coloured paper

Instructions

Using a cardboard tube, decorate it with card, and add buttons or stickers etc. Or use the template to make the trumpet.



HIDE AND SEEK

Gideon was hiding from the Midianites

Hide various items of things from today's story around the room e.g. sword, shield, trumpet, torch, jar. Or use the pictures from the template.

The children search for the items. When all the items are collected talk to the children about which of them were used in the battle. Which of them were not used? Why is this surprising?

GIDEON'S TORCH

Supplies

- Ice-cream cone
- Yellow and orange tissue paper

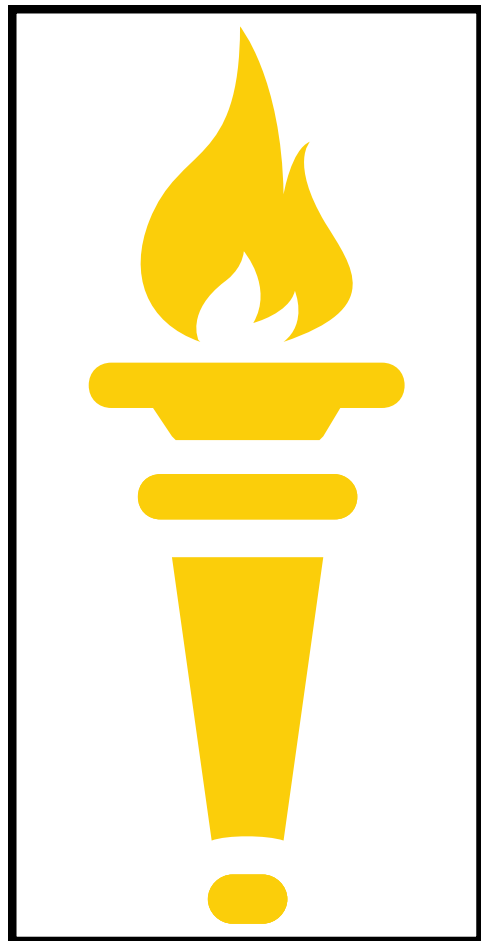
Instructions

Using the ice cream cone as the base, fill with the tissue paper to make the flames.

JUDGES 6:12
"THE ANGEL OF
THE LORD
APPEARED TO
HIM AND SAID,
"MIGHTY HERO,
THE LORD IS
WITH YOU!"



Gideon's Trumpet



Hide and Seek

RESOURCES: JOSHUA

JERICHO'S WALLS FALL

This game is similar to 'Duck, Duck, Goose':

- Juniors stand in a circle.
- Choose one to be 'Joshua'.
- Instruct 'Joshua' to walk around the outside of the circle, tapping the shoulder of each Junior while saying 'wall'.
- Let the Juniors know that when you make a loud noise (e.g. clap, whistle, drum) and say 'fall', all except Joshua and the person tagged at that time must quickly sit down.
- Joshua and the tagged Junior then race around Jericho, trying to get to the opening in the wall first.
- If Joshua is tagged, the other Junior becomes Joshua. If Joshua is not tagged before getting back to the spot where he started, he remains Joshua when everyone stands to play again. If someone has been Joshua for more than two turns, allow him to pick a Joshua replacement to give others a turn.

ANOTHER OPTION

- Divide Juniors into three teams: Citizens of Jericho, the wall of Jericho, and Israelites.
- The wall is formed by joining hands in a circle around the citizens of Jericho.
- The Israelites march around the wall until an Officer sounds a horn (blows a whistle, etc.).
- When the 'horn' is sounded, the walls fall down by dropping their arms.
- The citizens of Jericho try to escape to the outside wall of the Hall without getting tagged by an Israelite.
- Juniors who escape across the boundary remain citizens for the next round. Israelites who capture a fleeing citizen become citizens for the next round, while captured citizens become part of the wall team. Players who were the wall can become Israelites.

JOSHUA PICTURE

Recreate a picture of Joshua and the walls

Supplies

- Template printed for each child
- Coloured paper/card
- Scissors/Glue
- Colouring pens/pencils



Instructions

Cut out the templates or draw your own to recreate a picture of Joshua and the walls falling

SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT

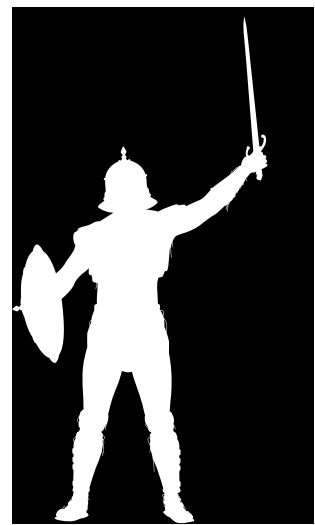
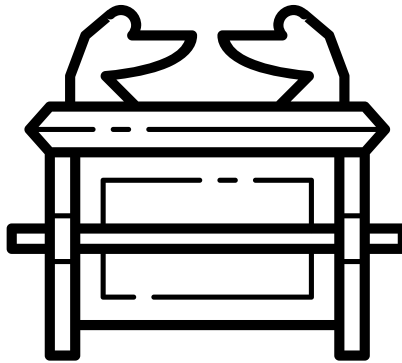
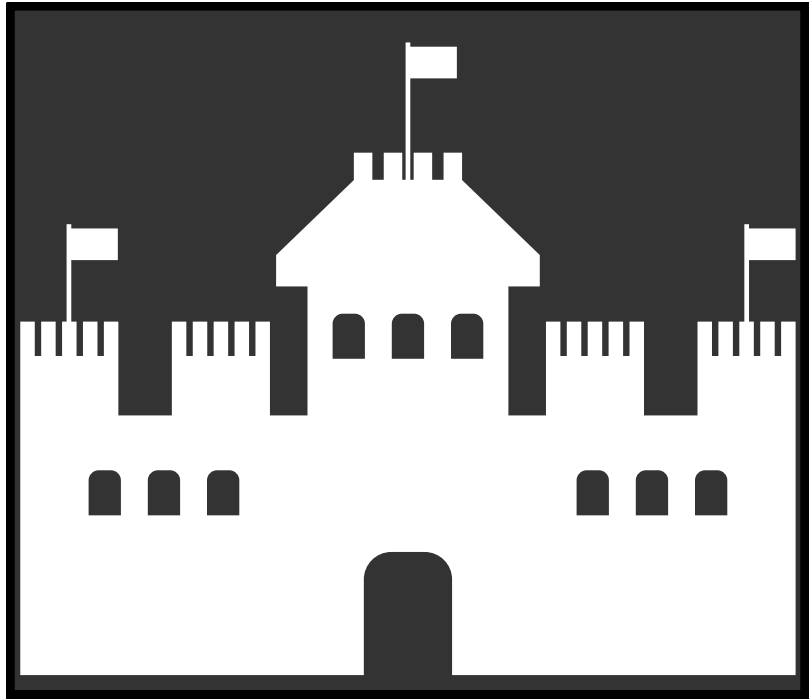
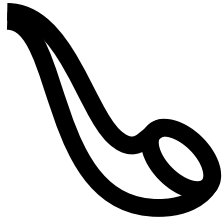
This experiment will help the children understand that God may ask us to make difficult decisions, but He is always with us - wherever we go. We must remember not to be afraid, but trust Him.

Supplies

- Wide Candle
- Matches/Lighter
- Glass measuring jug
- White Vinegar
- Baking Soda

Instructions

- Light the candle. Talk about how the candle uses O_2 in the air to stay light, we cannot see it, but it is always there. The same as God, we cannot see him, but He is always with us, as He was with Joshua.
- Place the baking powder in the jug and add the vinegar. Place your hand over the glass jug and watch the reaction. Allow the gas to go over the candle, the candle will go out.
- Explain when we do not have God in our lives we do not have anyone to turn to in times of trouble. Joshua faced many hard times and when things did not go according to God's plan, as we see in the experiment when the light went out - God revealed their was sin in the camp.
- Discuss with the children about things they may have to make hard choices about (PlayStation, homework, obeying your parents etc.) God wants us to make the right choice and asking Him for forgiveness for our sins.



Joshua picture

RESOURCES: PAUL

BUILDING BLIND

The children, either individually or as a group, must build a specific object without using their sense of sight. Their sense of touch and mental image become key to determine the shape/size and visualize what they are building.

Supplies

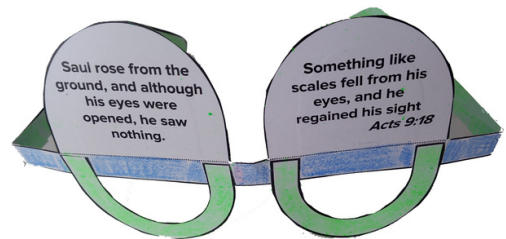
- A selection of Lego bricks or another brand
- [OPTIONAL] blindfold or sleeping mask

Instructions

- Blindfold the child(ren) OR ask them to keep their eyes closed. Tell them a specific object/animal/shape to construct
- Give them a time limit (say 2 minutes max) to construct their object
Enjoy the confusion! As a group, you can rate each other's efforts

SAUL'S GLASSES

Create a pair of decorated glasses, the wearer can be 'blinded' like Saul by folding down a decorated lens cover.



Supplies

- 1 'complete set' template per child (use 200gsm card for rigidity)
- Colouring & decorating materials
- Glue
- Scissors

Instructions

- Cut out the templates
- Colour and decorate
- Glue to Lens rim to the non-decorated side of the frame in line with each of the edges of the lens cover
- With the printed side facing up, fold the dotted lines
- Attach the legs to the frame (these may be trimmed to fit comfortably over the ear)

BLIND BUILDING

The children in pairs draw two halves of a specific object without using their sense of sight and being able to tell/delegate what is on the paper to each other. Their mental image is key to visualise what they are drawing.

Two versions can be done one by one or all can do together simultaneously as a group.

- Individually draw an object/shape while they can't see
- As a pair each person draws one half of an object (e.g. a Horse) without being able to see what the other is drawing

Materials

- Blank paper
- Pens/Pencils/Felt tips
- [OPTIONAL] Blindfold(s) OR Sleep Mask(s)

Instructions [Individual]

- Blindfold the child(ren) -OR- Ask them to close their eyes and keep them closed
- Tell them a specific object/animal/shape to draw
- Give them a time limit (say 2 minutes) to draw round their object
- Enjoy the confusion! As a group you can rate each other's efforts

Instructions [Pairs]

- Tell the pair(s) a specific object/animal/shape they will be attempting to draw
- Fold a blank piece of paper in half
- Without communicating with the other, the first person draws one half of the object
- Still without communicating with the other the second person draws the other half of the object
- Give them a time limit (say 1 minute each) to draw their half of the object
- Enjoy the confusion! As a group you can rate each other's efforts

TRANSFORMATION PAPER LUMINAIRE

Create a triangular shaped luminaire, that is illuminated by a battery tealight

Supplies

- 1 template per child
- 1 LED Battery tealight
- Colourings pencils
- Glue
- Scissors

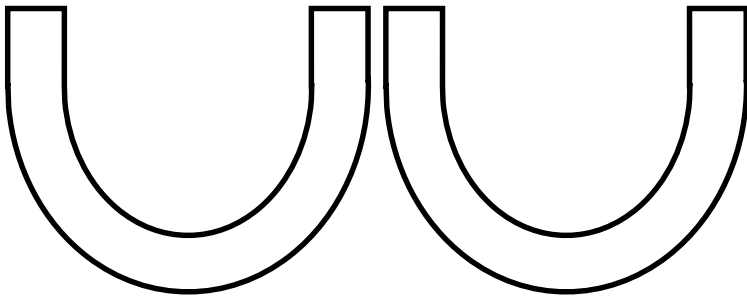
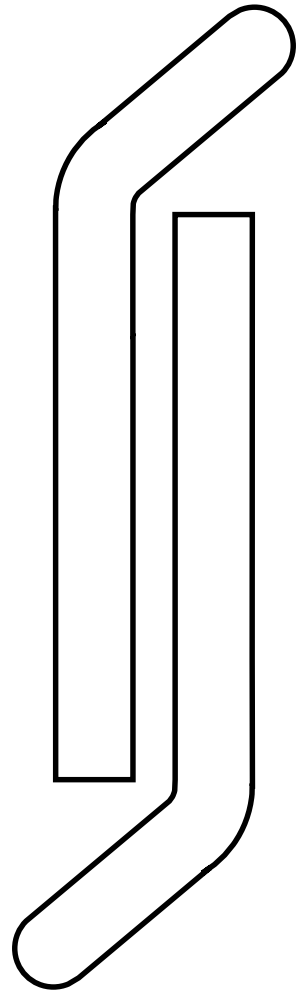
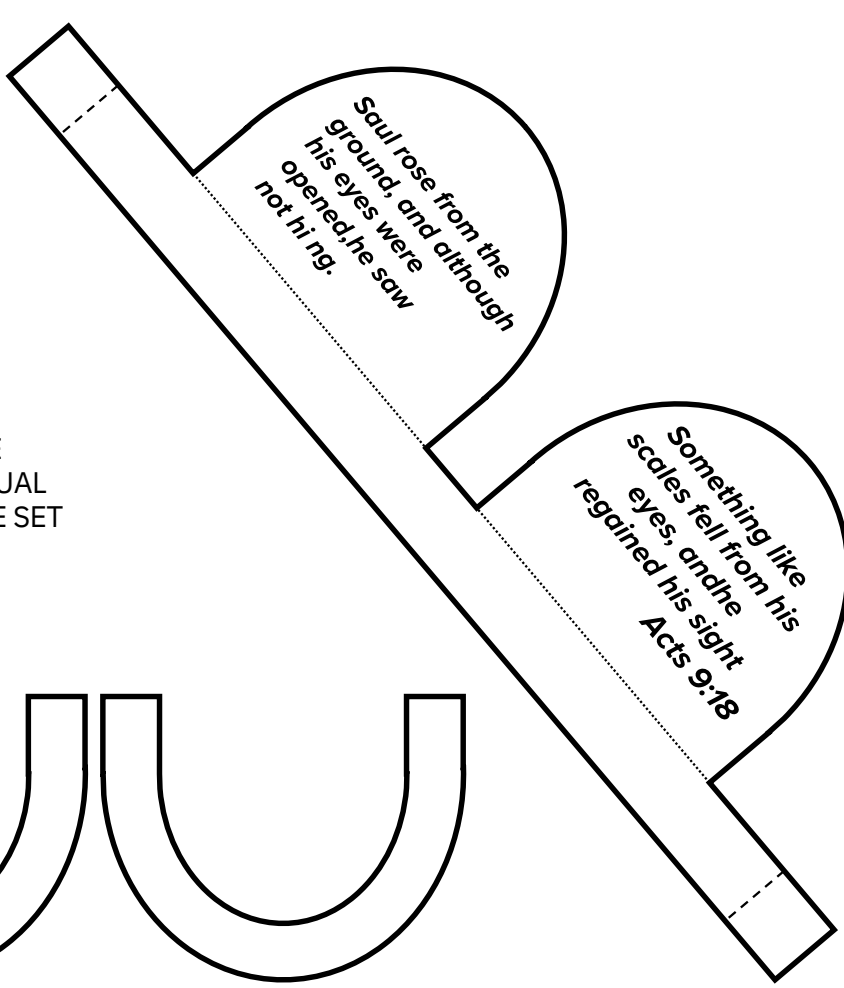
Instructions

- Colour in the template (tip - do not add stickers as this will impact the amount of light that gets through)
- Cut out the template along the dotted lines (be careful not to cut off the sticking tab)
- Fold along the dashed lines
- Glue the right side to the leftmost panel to form a triangle
- (If using the closed template, stick the upper flaps to the inside of the box)

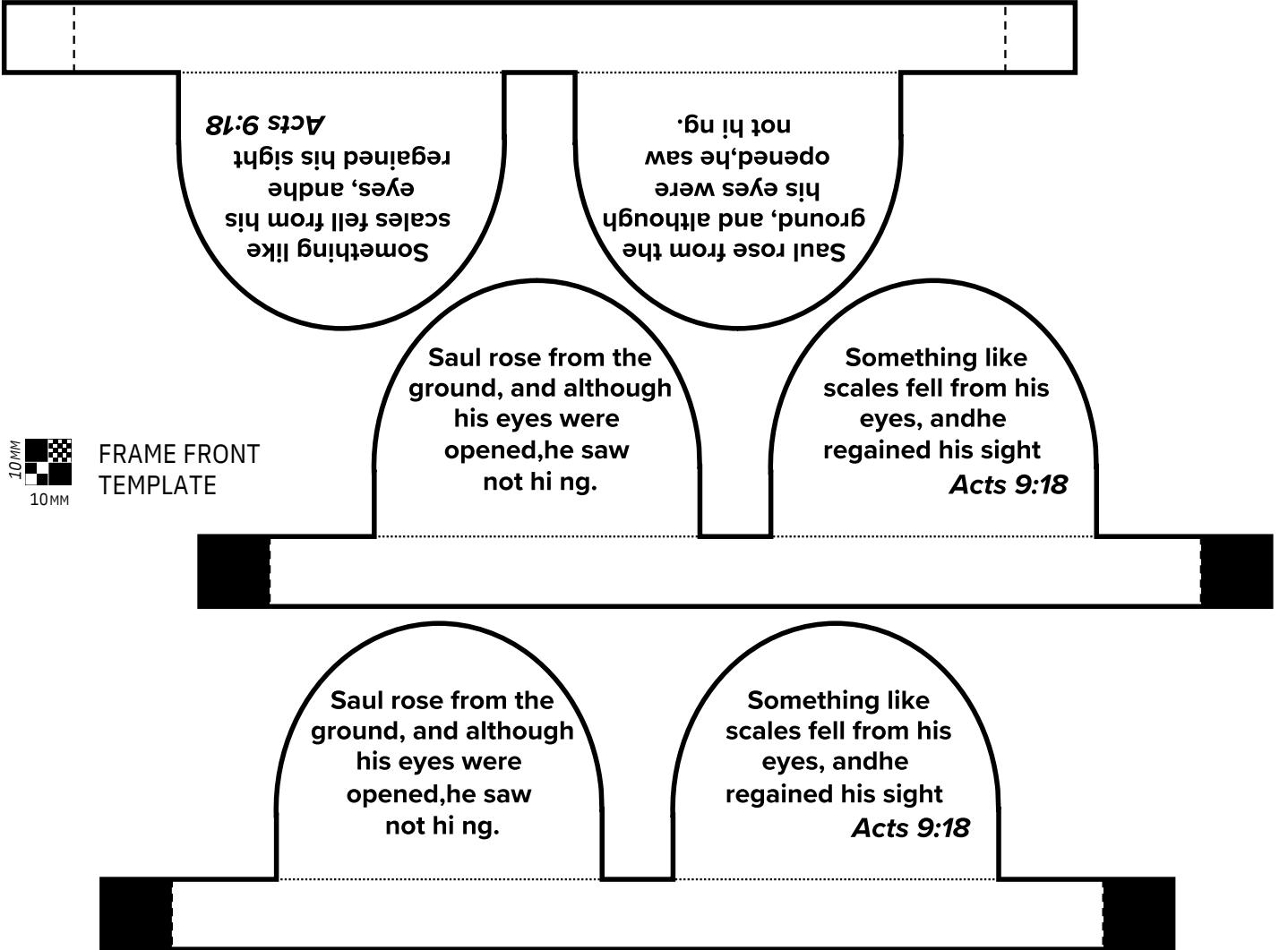




COMPLETE
INDIVIDUAL
TEMPLATE SET



SAUL'S GLASSES



Something like
scales fell from his
eyes, and he
regained his sight
Acts 9:18

Saul rose from the
ground, and although
his eyes were
opened, he saw
not his sight.

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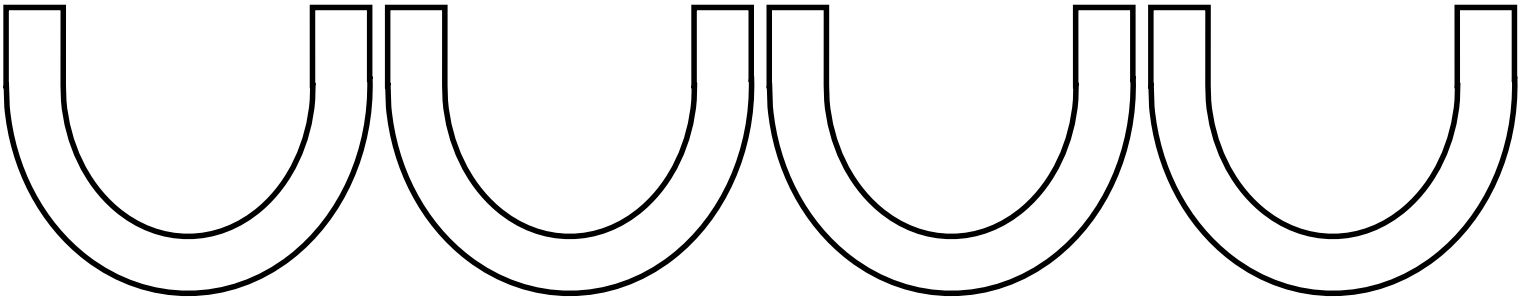
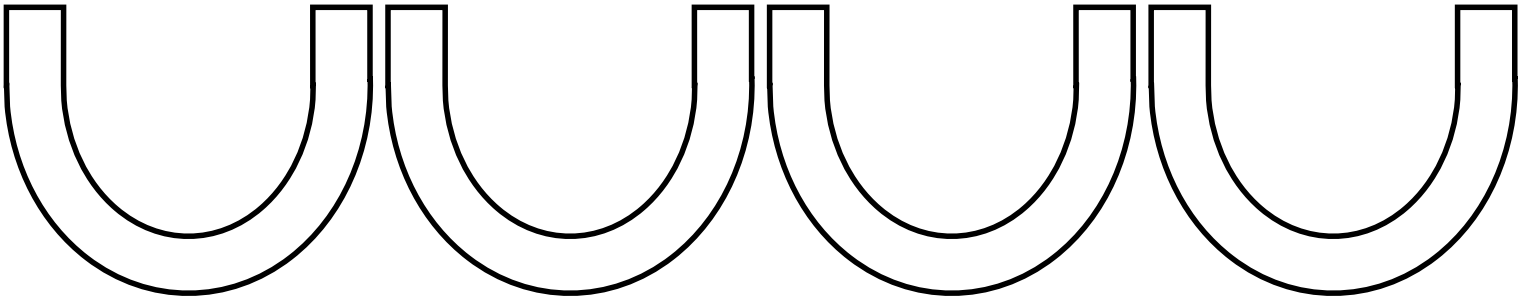
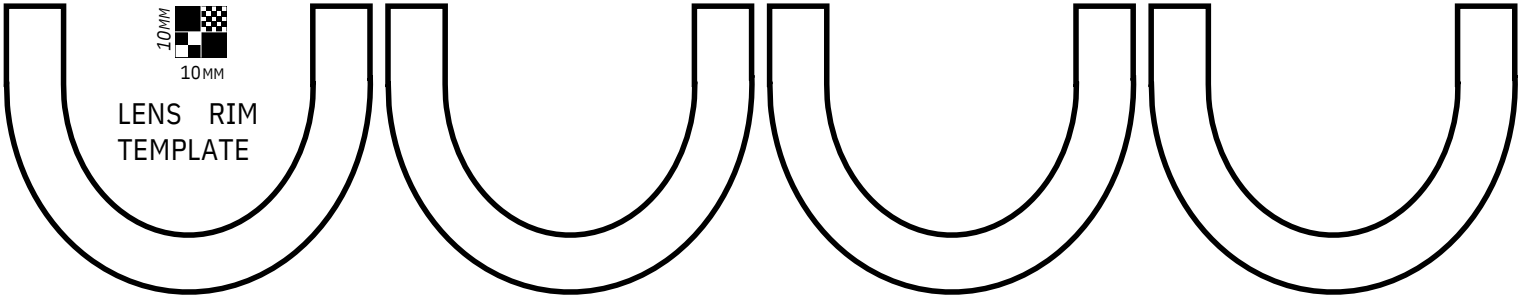
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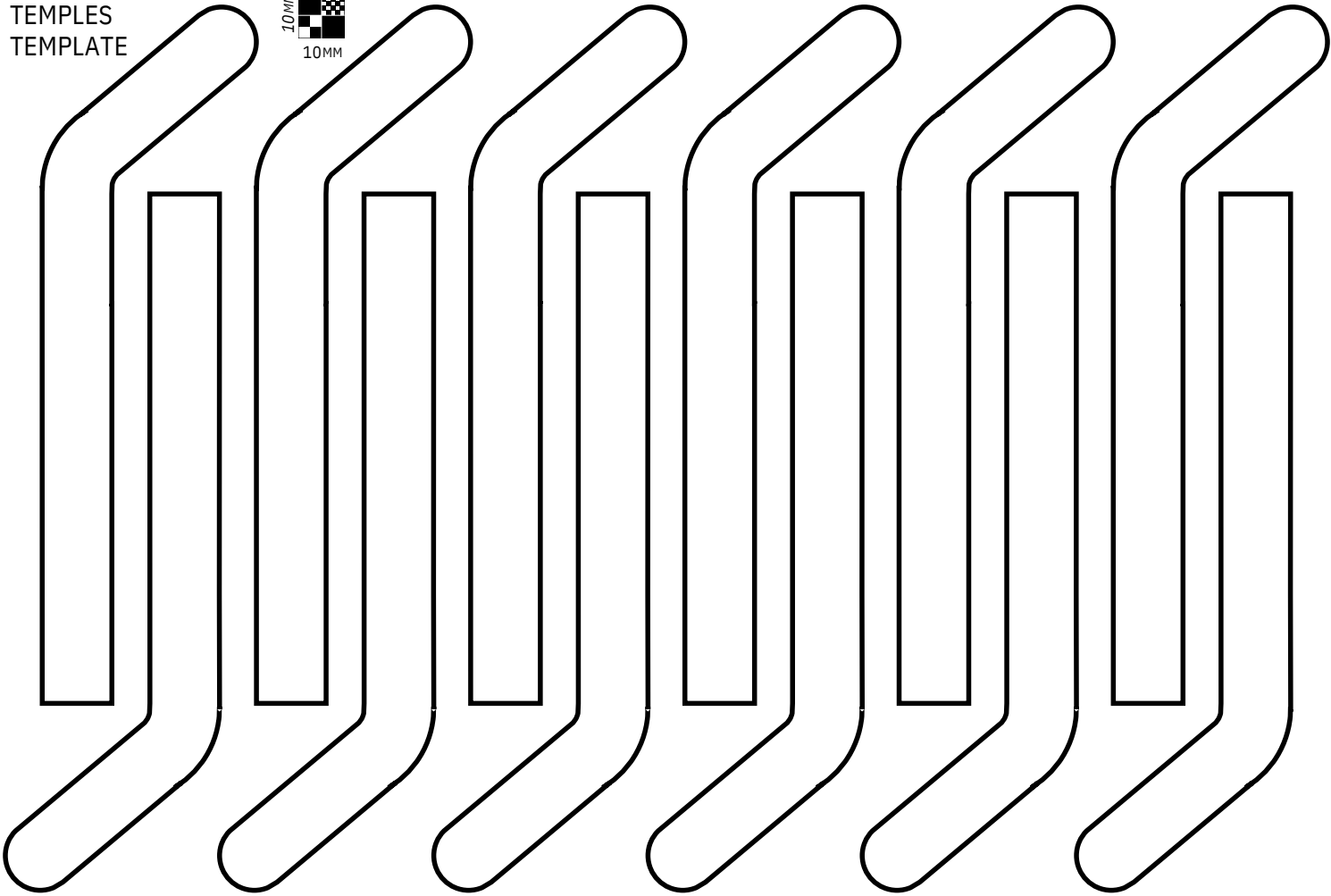
FRAME FRONT
TEMPLATE



LENS RIM
TEMPLATE



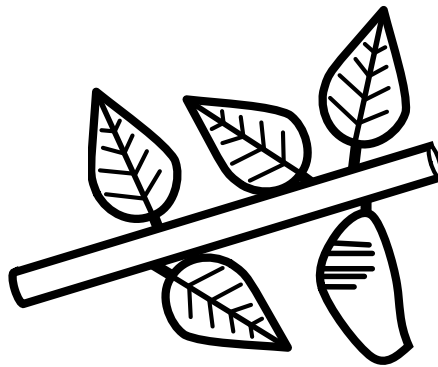
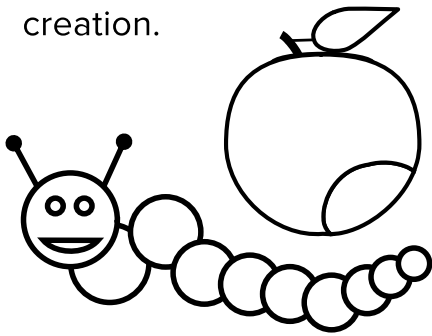
TEMPLES
TEMPLATE





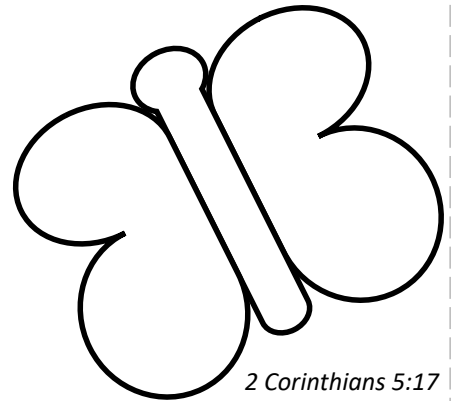
OPEN TEMPLATE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



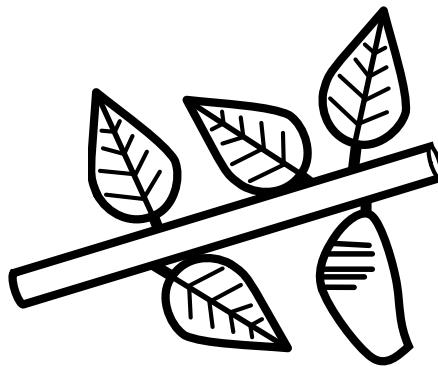
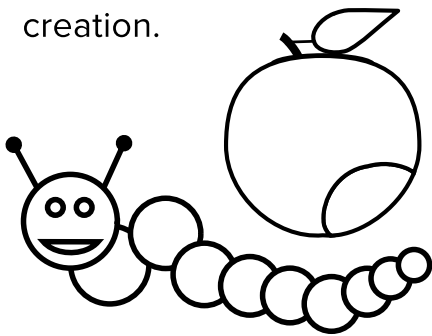
The old has passed away;

Behold, the new has come.



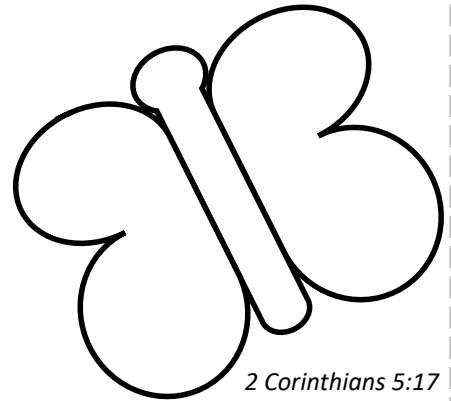
2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



The old has passed away;

Behold, the new has come.



2 Corinthians 5:17

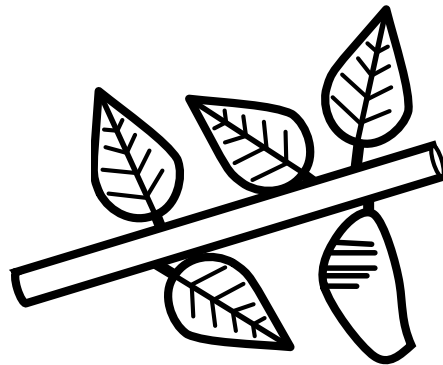
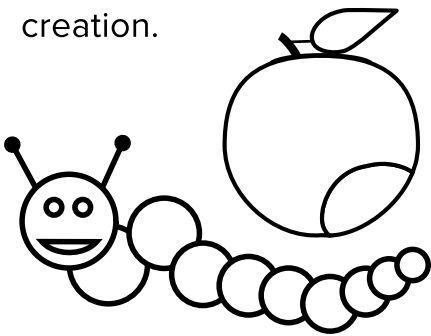
TRANSFORMATION PAPER LUMINAIRE



LID TEMPLATE W/ BB L OGO

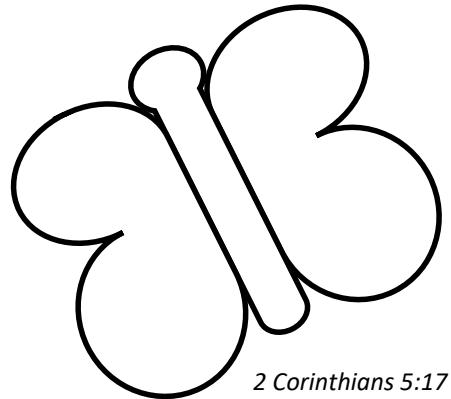


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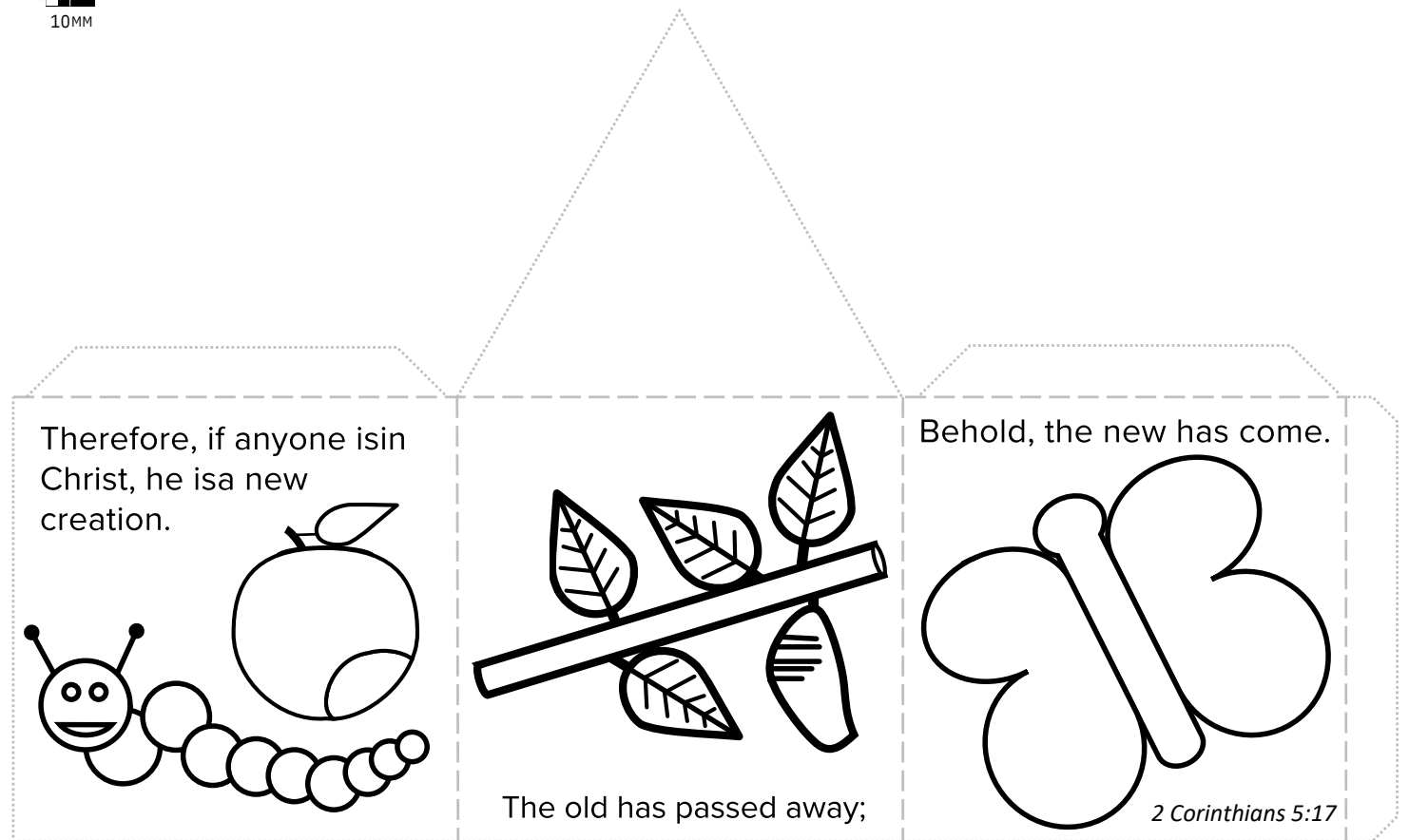


2 Corinthians 5:17

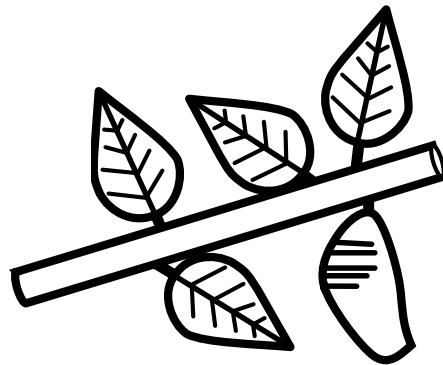
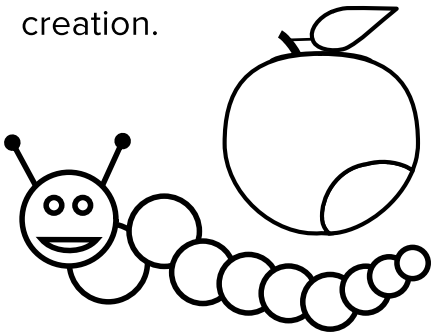
TRANSFORMATION PAPER LUMINAIRE



LID TEMPLATE BLANK

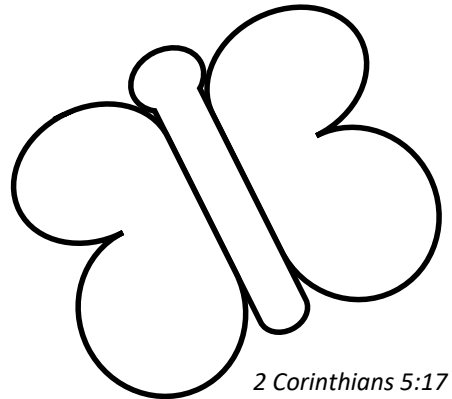


Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



The old has passed away;

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2 Corinthians 5:17

TRANSFORMATION PAPER LUMINAIRE

RESOURCES: JESUS

AN EGG-CELLENT RELAY RACE

To emphasise how the women at the tomb relayed (told) the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the disciples and how Peter ran to the tomb

Instructions

- Get your Juniors to form teams.
- Get them to take part in an 'egg and spoon' relay race, with each team competing against the other(s) to all have a go and be finished in the fastest time.
- At the end as well as talking about how the women relayed (told) the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the disciples and Peter running to the tomb to see for Himself, you could also talk about why we eat chocolate eggs at Easter, e.g. round like the stone at the tomb, hollow (empty) like Jesus' tomb, with eggs being a symbol of new life.

ORIGAMI CROSS CRAFT

Supplies

- A sheet of A4 paper per Junior
- Scissors (1 each or share)

Instructions

- Instructions about how to make crosses and the word 'Life' can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27rVt6AYoll>.

Bible Reference: "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of His great mercy He gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death." (1 Peter 1:3)

RESURRECTION ROLLS



Supplies

- White marshmallow per boy
- Croissant dough (e.g. Jus-Rol Croissant Dough available in Tescos and Sainsburys – usually in 6-packs) – you need enough for each child to make a ‘roll’
- Butter
- Cinnamon
- Sugar
- Muffin/cupcake tin

Instructions

- Turn oven to 180oC
- Melt the butter (15-20 seconds in microwave)
- Mix cinnamon and sugar together in one bowl (equal parts, or a bit more sugar)
- Set ingredients out on the table
- Grease the muffin tin if it is not non-stick
- Take one Marshmallow and begin explaining the “Resurrection Rolls” story: The marshmallow represents Jesus: Pure, white, sinless and perfect. Unfortunately, even though Jesus was perfect, there were people who wanted Him dead. They crucified Him on a cross and left Him to die there
- Roll the Marshmallow in the melted butter, then in the cinnamon sugar mixture (to represent how, though He Himself was sinless, Jesus took all of our sins (the bad things we do) upon Himself. He took our punishment so we wouldn’t have to!)
- Carefully wrap the Marshmallow in the croissant dough, being careful to seal every seam. (The roll represents Jesus’ tomb, with the marshmallow inside representing Jesus body sealed up in the tomb.)
- Place the roll in the muffin tin.
- Cook until browned (following directions on the croissant dough package).
- Remove from oven

Conclude by saying: Three days after Jesus’ body was placed in the tomb, some women who knew Jesus went to the tomb. They wanted to put spices on His body so that it would smell better. But, when they came to His tomb, they saw the most incredible thing! Do you know what it was? (Cut the roll open – the marshmallow should be gone) The tomb was empty! Jesus came back from the dead and He’s still alive today.

Eat and enjoy!

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

To reflect on the Easter story and Jesus' death and resurrection

- Juniors should find a partner and face each other.
- After shaking their closed fists and saying "1, 2, 3, go" they should each use their hand to create one of the following shapes: Rock (closed fist), scissors (closed fist with pointer finger and middle finger extended) or paper (flat, open hand).
- The winner of the game is as follows: Rock defeats Scissors (because it breaks them). Scissors defeats Paper (because it cuts it). Paper defeats Rock (because it covers it).
- You could do, best of three wins. Or losers sit while the winners partner up again and play until there is only one winner, or a few winners for a large group of Juniors.
- Afterwards make reference to just how the rock crushes the scissors, when Jesus died and was placed in a tomb with a large stone (rock) he did not remain dead. The tomb was opened and he defeated death.

