A compassionate servant



Bible verses:

2 Kings 5:1-14 Naaman is healed



Aim:

To discover how a little girl helped God bring healing, and to be curious about how we can talk about God



Today's fruit:

Love and kindness



In this session we'll discover the story of an amazing little girl who placed her trust in God and showed love and kindness to her master.

Naaman was a very important man, serving the King of Aram. Despite all his wealth and power, Naaman was not happy as he struggled with a severe skin disease. But one little girl changed his life! God used her to change a life, and he can use us in exactly the same way.

Kindness is demonstrated by Namaan's servant girl when she told him what God could do.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- Share it handout two designs
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- A copy of the alphabet (optional) see Start It
- Memory verse poster
- Fruit of the Spirit posters: Love and Kindness download from Salvationist
- Flip chart and pens (optional)



Say:

We are going to start our session today with a memory game to get our brains working. Many



of you will have played the game *I* went to the shop, and *I* bought ... where you remember the list and then add an item. We are going to play a different version of this game. Our sessions this month are all about amazing children in the Bible who went on mini adventures that form part of God's big story.

Ask the children to sit in a circle and to start with the line 'I went on an adventure, and I saw ...' To make the game more challenging, each item needs to start with the next letter of the alphabet. You may want to display a copy of the alphabet for children who need a memory aid.

Example:

- 'I went on an adventure, and I saw an aeroplane.'
- 'I went on an adventure, and I saw an aeroplane and a bunch of bananas.'
- 'I went on an adventure, and I saw an aeroplane, a bunch of bananas and a catapult.'

Say:

Now that we've got your brains working, we are going to look at our memory verse for this month. In every story we will explore this month, there is an amazing child who put their trust in God. Our memory verse reminds us that we need to do the same.

Give each member of the group a memory verse wristband and share the verse together.

Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Say:

Over the next month, you will get lots of opportunities to learn this verse, and by Session Five you will know it off by heart.

If possible, display the memory verse in the room where you meet so you can come back to it each session.



Say:

Today's song will help you to remember our memory verse and, more importantly, will help you to place your trust in God.





Song

'Proverbs 3:5-6' (Trust in the Lord) by The Rizers (3:25)



Say:

Today we will discover an amazing story of healing found in the book of 2 Kings in the Old Testament.

Video

Naaman is Healed (Stories of the Bible) by Saddleback Kids (3:26)

Ask:

What fascinating characters are in this story?

Say:

There are lots of amazing characters in this story, but our sessions this month are all about children. We're going to focus on the young girl who worked as a servant in Naaman's house.

Read:

'Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man to his master. He had much honour because the Lord had used him to give victory to Aram. He was a mighty and brave man. But he had a harmful skin disease.

'The Arameans had gone out to steal from the Israelites. And they had taken a little girl as a captive from Israel. This little girl served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master would meet the prophet who lives in Samaria. He would heal Naaman of his disease."

(2 Kings 5:1-3 ICB)

Ask:

- Why was the little girl living in Naaman's house?
- Why was it brave for the little girl to go and speak to Naaman's wife about the prophet?

Say:

The little girl had been taken away from her home and forced to serve Naaman's wife in a place that she did not know. It would have been understandable if she had kept the information about the prophet to herself. Why should she help the person who had taken her captive? The little girl didn't think that way. She loved God and wanted her master Naaman to know God as well.

Display the Love and Kindness fruit of the Spirit posters.



Ask:

In what way did the little girl show love and kindness to her master Naaman?

Read:

'Naaman went to the king. He told him what the girl from Israel had said. The king of Aram said, "Go now. And I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left and took about 375 kilograms of silver. He also took about 75 kilograms of gold and ten changes of clothes with him. He brought the letter to the king of Israel. It read, "I am sending my servant Naaman to you. I'm sending him so you can heal him of his skin disease."

'The king of Israel read the letter. Then he tore his clothes to show how upset he was. He said, "I'm not God! I can't kill and make alive again! Why does this man send someone with a harmful skin disease for me to heal? You can see that the king of Aram is trying to start trouble with me!"'

(2 Kings 5:4-7 ICB)

Ask:

- Why was it surprising that a great leader like Naaman listened to the advice of a little girl?
- What did Naaman take with him when he went to see the king of Israel? Why do you think he took so much silver and gold?

Say

If you added up all the money a person earned in a year and then multiplied it by 600, then that would be around the amount that Naaman took with him to pay for a chance to meet the prophet Elisha! Naaman was used to getting what he wanted and was willing to pay whatever it took if it meant he would be cured. He was confident that if he took lots of money, then that would help him to jump the queue to see Elisha. The King of Israel was not so confident about Naaman's healing.

Ask:

- How did the King of Israel react to King Aram's letter?
- Why do you think he was so upset?

Read:

'Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes. So he sent a message to the king. It said, "Why have you become so upset that you tore your clothes? Let Naaman come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel!" So Naaman went with his horses and chariots to Elisha's house. And he stood outside the door.

'Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman. The messenger said, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed, and you will be clean."

'Naaman became angry and left. He said, "I thought Elisha would surely come out and stand before me. I thought he would call on the name of the Lord his God. I thought he



would wave his hand over the place and heal the disease! Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than all the waters of Israel! Why can't I wash in them and become clean?" So Naaman went away very angry.'

(2 Kings 5:8-12 ICB)

Ask:

- Why do you think Naaman had a temper tantrum?
- What was he expecting Elisha to do?

Read:

'But Naaman's servants came near and talked to him. They said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? Doesn't it make more sense just to do what Elisha told you to do? After all, he only said, 'Wash, and you will be clean.'" So Naaman went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times. He did just as Elisha had said. Then Naaman's skin became new again. It was like the skin of a little boy. And Naaman was clean!'

(2 Kings 5:13-14 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How do you think Naaman felt when he came out of the water and discovered he was healed?
- Do you think it helped him to believe in God? Why?

Say:

Naaman was finally healed of his skin disease. One brave little girl put her trust in God and spoke out. God can do amazing things – and with his help, so can we!



Say:

One way that we can share the love of God with others is by talking about our faith and what we believe God can do. This is exactly what the little girl did, and it led to the healing of her master.

Ask:

- Is there anyone you know who always shares stories about their relationship with God? Who
 are they, and what kinds of stories do they tell?
- Have you ever heard of people 'giving their testimony'? What do you think it means?

Say:

Explain to the children that they are going to think of ways that we can tell others about God.



Give each child a *Share It* handout. Discuss with the children all the different things they could share about what it means to be a Christian and to love God. You could list these on a flip chart. Ask the children to choose three and either draw or write about them in the speech bubbles on their handout.

If you have time, the children could sit in a circle and practise sharing their faith using an idea from one of their speech bubbles. Encourage the children to take the sheet home and use it to tell a friend about God.



Say:

The little girl showed love and kindness. When God's Holy Spirit is helping us, we can show love and kindness to others.

Ask:

- In what situations could you show a little more love and kindness?
- Are there any people you can think of who need to feel the love and kindness of God through your actions? What could you do to show them how much they are loved by God?

Say:

For our Pray It section today, we are going to share a song that reminds us of the love and kindness God has shown to us, and how we can share it with others.

Song

'Give a Little Kindness' by ChattHillsKids (3:14)

Pray on behalf of the group to bring the session to a close.



Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



A compassionate servant

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses: 2 Kings 5:1-14



Aim:

To discover how a little girl helped God bring healing, and to be curious about how we can talk about God



Today's fruit: Love and kindness

> Children & Youth



Think of seven people that you would like to pray for regularly. Every time you have a wash, shower or bath this week, remember the seven people and pray for them.



Memorise

Challenge someone at home to learn this month's memory verse with you. Make a poster to stick up at home and keep checking in with each other to see if you can remember the verse.



'Proverbs 3:5-6' (Trust in the Lord) by The Rizers (3:25)



Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)



Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths and lean not on your own understanding; straight.'

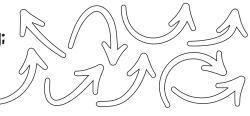
(Proverbs 3:5-6 M/V)

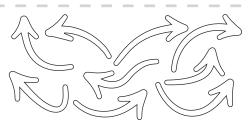




'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)





'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)





'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

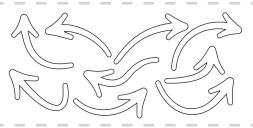




'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

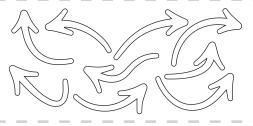




'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

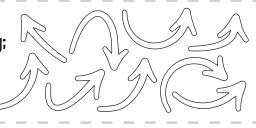
(Proverbs 3:5-6)





'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)







'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

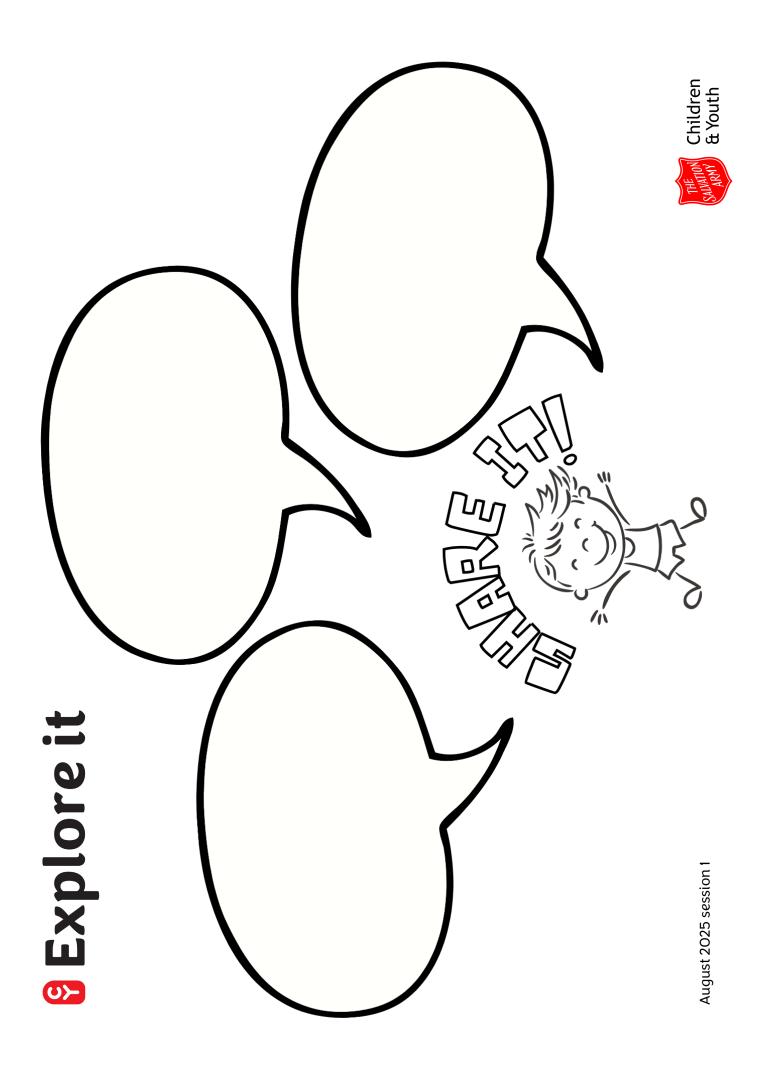
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

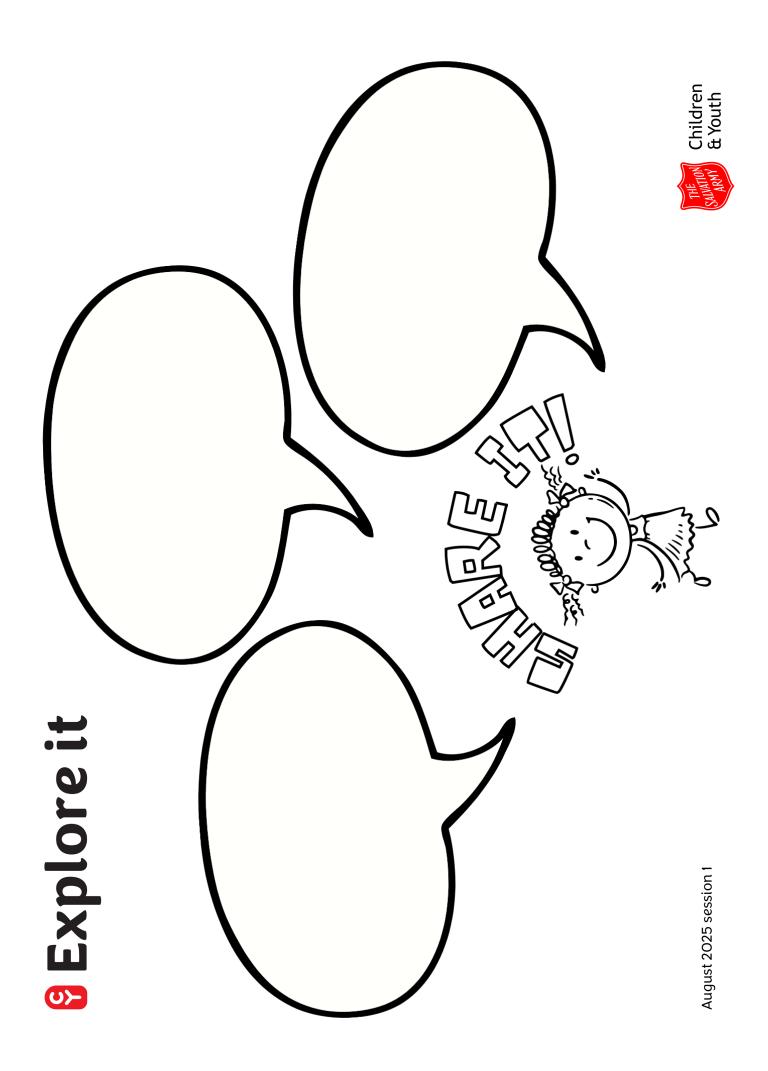
'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6)









A small offering



Bible verses:

John 6:1-15 More than 5,000 people fed



Aim:

To explore how a boy helped Jesus, to consider his faith and willingness, and to think about how we can reflect God's goodness



Today's fruit:

Goodness



In today's session Jesus took the small offering from a young boy and performed an amazing miracle.

Thousands of people came to listen to Jesus teach, but they stayed so long that they became hungry. Through the goodness of one boy's contribution, a huge crowd enjoyed a massive feast.

Goodness is demonstrated by the boy who shared his food and by what Jesus did with it.

Each child will need:

- A sheet from the Five loaves and two fish handout but A5 size see Action It
- Pens/pencils, glue, scissors and a paper plate
- A small piece of paper, eg sticky note size
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Five loaves and two fish handout see Start It
- To hide the loaves and fish in advance
- Flip chart and pens
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Goodness download from Salvationist



Play a team game of hunt the loaves and fish. Decide in advance how many teams you will divide the children into and make sure there are five loaves and two fish of one colour for each



team. The handout has five coloured sets plus a black-and-white version if you prefer to print on coloured paper.

Hide all the different-coloured loaves and fish around the room before the session. The aim is for each team to find their full set of loaves and fish.



Say:

Our song for today gives us a sneak peek at our Bible story. Let's sing it together and learn more about a little boy filled with goodness.

Song

'5 Loaves and 2 Fish' (animated Bible songs) by DG Bible Songs (stop at 3:35)



Say:

The Bible story for today has already been introduced in our song, but let's dive into Scripture to find out more.

Read:

'After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias). Many people followed him because they saw the miracles he did to heal the sick. Jesus went up on a hill and there sat down with his followers. It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover Feast.

'Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?" (Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.)

'Philip answered, "We would all have to work a month to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece."'

(John 6:1-7 ICB)

Ask:

- Why were the people following Jesus?
- What do you think it was like for Jesus and his disciples as they were constantly followed by crowds of people?
- The Bible says that Jesus was testing Philip when he asked where to buy bread. What do you think this means?



Say:

Philip pointed out that it would cost a huge amount of money to feed all the people.

Read:

'Another follower there was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."

'Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there. Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.'

(John 6:8-11 ICB)

Ask:

- The boy had thought ahead and brought food to eat. Would you have understood if he had kept his food for himself? If so, why?
- What did the boy do instead? Would you have done the same? If not, why not?

Say:

Philip immediately pointed out how hard it would be for them to pay for bread for all the people. Andrew saw the possibility in the boy's small offering and gave it to Jesus. Even though he knew it wouldn't be enough to feed everyone, Andrew still handed it over to Jesus.

Ask:

Do you think you would have reacted like Philip or like Andrew? Explain your answer.

Read:

'They all had enough to eat. When they had finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything." So they gathered up the pieces that were left. They filled 12 large baskets with the pieces that were left of the five barley loaves.

'The people saw this miracle that Jesus did. They said, "He must truly be the Prophet who is coming into the world."

'Jesus knew that the people planned to come and take him by force and make him their king. So he left and went into the hills alone.'

(John 6:12-15 ICB)

Say:

The boy gave his small offering to Jesus, and it was multiplied to feed thousands of people. Jesus was able to take a small offering and do something amazing. I wonder what that could mean for us? The situation seemed impossible, but through Jesus, no one went hungry and there was food to spare.



Ask:

- What can it look like for us to share what we have with Jesus?
- In what ways does God still bless and multiply what we offer today?

Sau

The boy trusted that his picnic was going to help, with the same child-like faith that Jesus encourages us all to have. Our memory verse for this month reminds us to trust in God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Say:

It would have been easy for the young boy not to share his food; but when he did, Jesus was able to show God's goodness through that offering and bless thousands of people!



Display the fruit of the Spirit *Goodness* poster and describe how the boy was full of goodness when he shared his loaves and fish.

Ask:

- How do you think the boy felt when Jesus shared his food with all the people?
- In what way does God use what we have to offer when we share it with others?

Say:

As we saw in today's Bible story, it doesn't matter how small that offering is, Jesus can do amazing things with it.

Spend time discussing with the children what we can offer to Jesus as his followers. Write a list of the different talents, personality traits, qualities, time or finances we can offer to Jesus to create an ideas bank.

Use the same *Five loaves and two fish* handout but A5 size – either by reducing with the photocopier or, if printing, select the 'two pages per sheet' option.

Using the ideas bank, ask the group to write or draw one thing they can offer to Jesus on each item of food on the handout. When they have done this, they can cut them out and stick them on a paper plate.



Afterwards, ask them to share the contents of their plate with the other members of the group. They could also identify one item on their plate that they intend to offer to God over the coming week.

Say:

The boy showed goodness as he gifted his food to Jesus. As the Holy Spirit helps us, we can show God's goodness to others.



Discuss with the children the kinds of prayers they say before they eat. There may be a prayer that their family says together. Share the following prayers as examples of saying grace before a meal.

'For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful.'

'For food, friends and family, we thank you, Lord.'

'Thank you, God, for food and family and friends.

We remember those who have no food today, and those who have food but nobody to share it with.

As you have blessed us, help us be a blessing for others. Amen.'

Discuss with the children possible ideas for their own prayers. You may want to write down some ideas for them to refer to. Give each child a small piece of paper to write their prayer on.

Share the prayers together to bring the session to a close. They could stick their prayer on the back of their paper plate to use as part of an Explore It activity at home.

∂∂ Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



August: Session 2

Explore it

A small offering

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses: John 6:1-15



Aim:

To explore how a boy helped Jesus, to consider his faith and willingness, and to think about how we can reflect God's goodness



Today's fruit: Goodness

> Children & Youth



Explore

The Bible is full of examples of God's goodness. Explore the following Bible verses.

What do they tell you about God's goodness?

Psalm 145:9

James 1:17

Nahum 1:7



In this week's session you wrote a special prayer to use at mealtimes. Show the people at home your paper plate prayer and share it with them before you eat together.



'5 Loaves and 2 Fish' (animated Bible songs) by DG Bible Songs



Memory verse

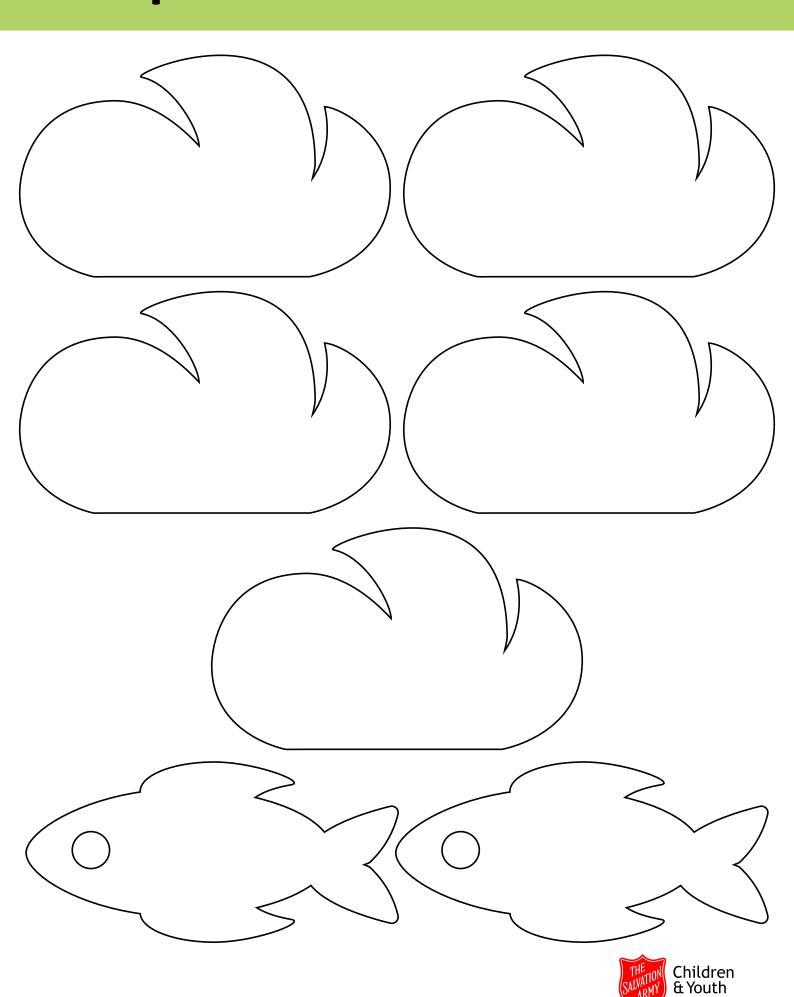
'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

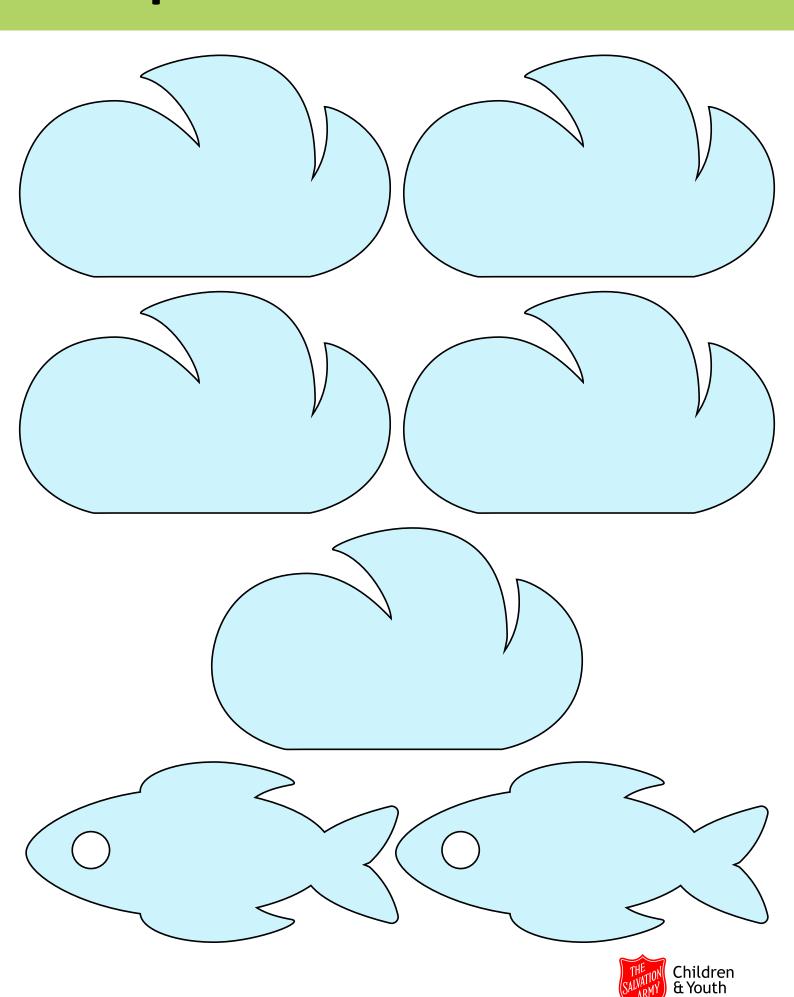
(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)

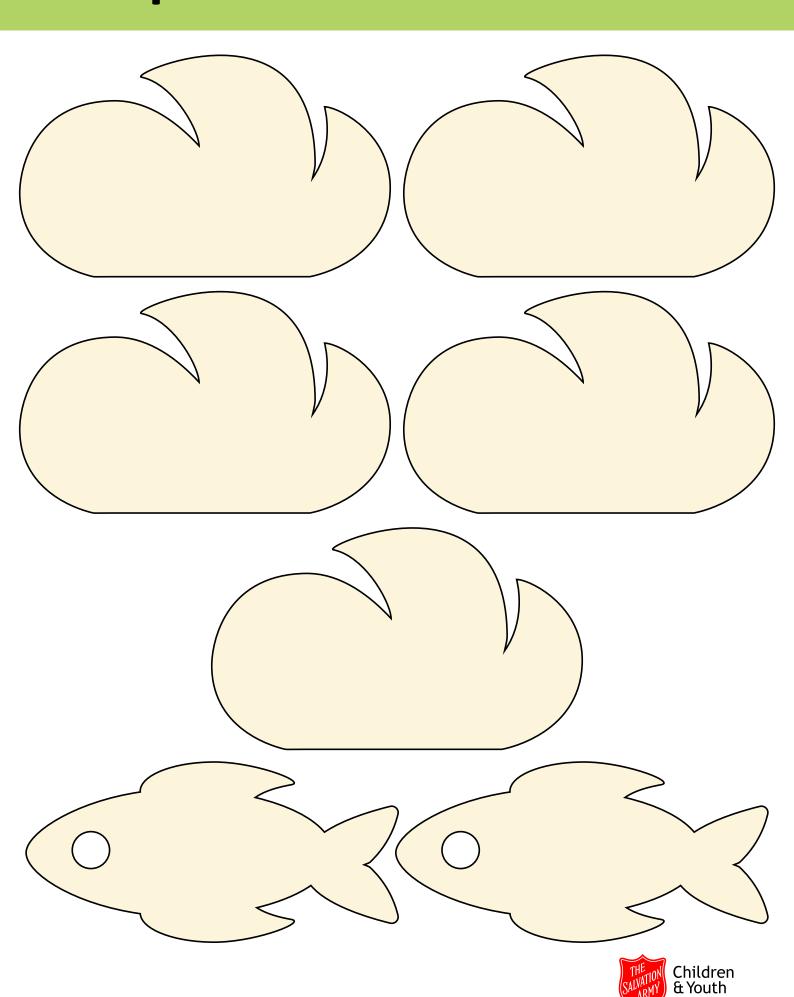


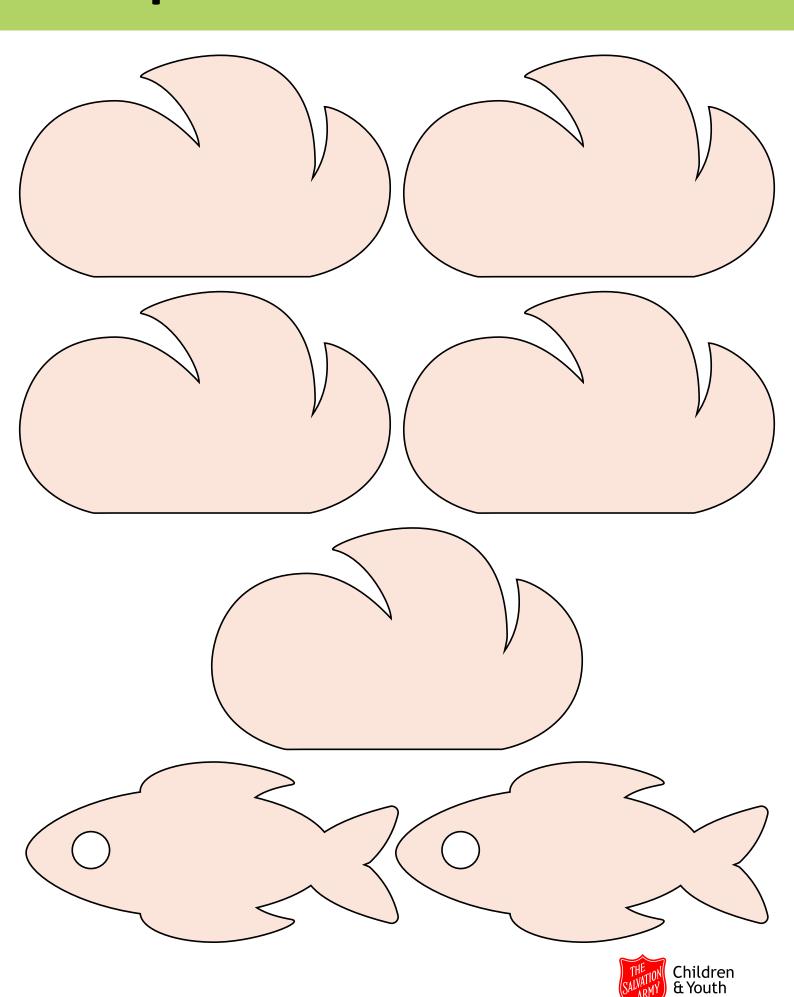
Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

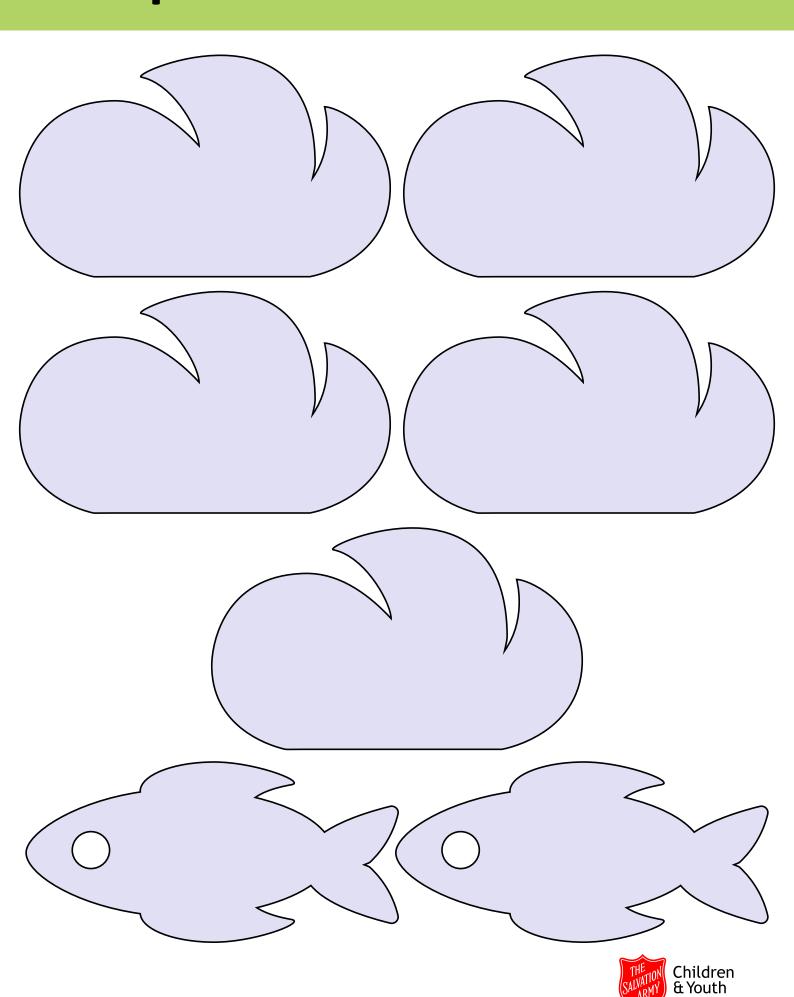
Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic - is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

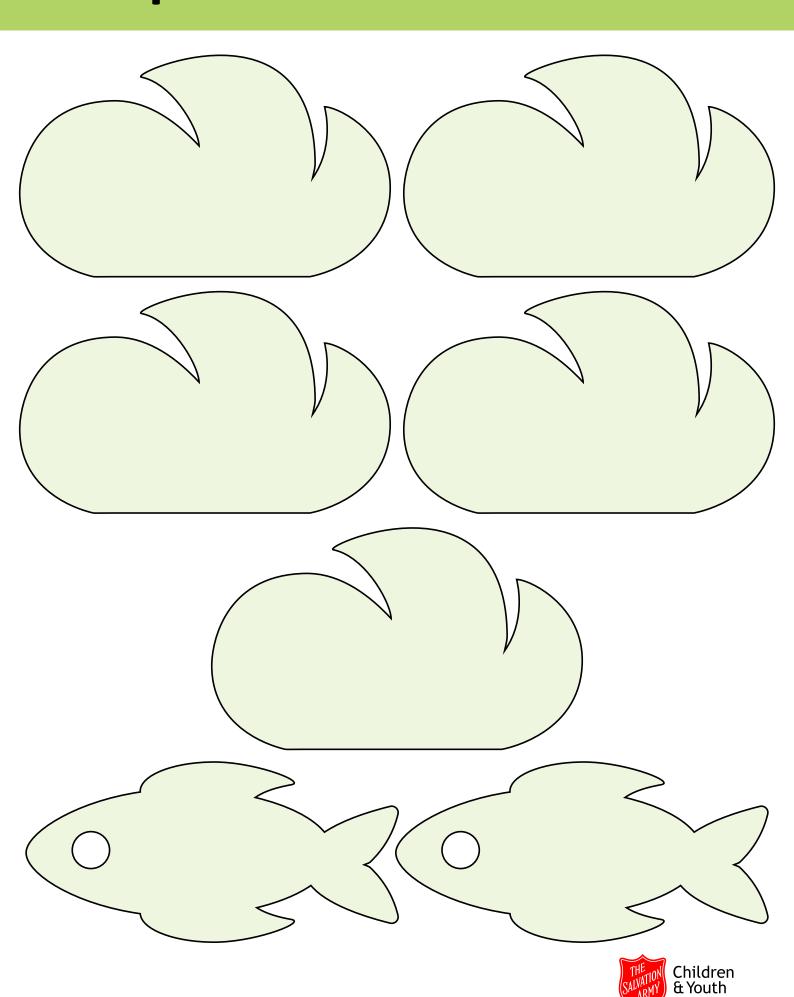












A whispered name



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 1:26-28; 3:1-18 God calls Samuel



Aim:

To learn to listen for God and be curious about how we can 'hear' God



Today's fruit:

Patience



In today's session we find Eli and Samuel fast asleep in the most holy place in the Temple.

Samuel hears the Lord speak but thinks it is the voice of his teacher, Eli. After a disturbed night's sleep, Eli realises that God is the one talking to Samuel. This gives Samuel the opportunity to listen carefully to God and bravely speak the truth. We can hear God in many ways if we take the time to listen carefully for his voice.

Samuel showed patience as he listened to Eli and to God.

Each child will need:

- Lollipop sticks, card, pens/pencils, scissors, glue and craft material to make puppets see
 Action It
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Five loaves and two fish handout see Start It
- To hide the loaves and fish in advance
- Flip chart and pens
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Patience download from Salvationist





Say:

In today's story, our Bible character had to listen carefully to hear God. For our starter game, you will need to listen carefully as well.

Video

Can you Beat Mozi in Clap the Rhythm! (Clapping rhythm games for kids) by Colour Me Mozart (2:02)



Say:

In our story today, we meet another child who was willing to listen to God and follow the path for his life. Let's share our memory verse together, which reminds us of the importance of putting our trust in God.

Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Sau:

Today's song will help us remember our memory verse.

Song

'Proverbs 3:5-6' (motions) by Saddleback Kids (2:19)





$ot \subset$ Share it

Say:

Today our Bible story is all about a very special little boy called Samuel. His parents, Hannah and Elkanah, wanted to have a child so much that they travelled to the Temple to pray. Hannah wept so much as she prayed that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. When Eli realised she hadn't been drinking and recognised her faith, he assured her that God would answer her prayer.



Ask:

In what way did Hannah show that she had a strong faith in God?

Say:

Hannah returned home, and a while later her baby Samuel was born. Hannah promised God that she would bring Samuel back to the Temple to serve him. Eli was surprised to see her. Let's look in the book of 1 Samuel to find out what happened next.

Read:

'She said to Eli, "As surely as you live, my master, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life." And he worshipped the Lord there.'

(1 Samuel 1:26-28 ICB)

Ask:

Samuel was quite young when he was sent to live at the Temple. How would you have felt if it were you?

Say:

Eli became an important person in Samuel's life, teaching him about God and how to serve in the Temple. One night, something very special happened to Samuel. Let's watch the clip to find out what it was.

Video

Slapstick Theatre (Samuel and Eli) by Saddleback Kids (1:46)

Say:

In the Bible account of this story, we read that Eli and Samuel were asleep 'in the Lord's Holy Tent' (I Samuel 3:3). The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy Tent, so Samuel and Eli were fast asleep in a very special place. Three times God called to Samuel, and he went to his teacher Eli.

Ask:

- Have you ever felt like God is talking to you?
- What did it feel like?
- How did you respond?

Say:

It can be challenging to work out whether we are really hearing or feeling God. Spending time in prayer and reading our Bible can help us to understand if it is God's voice we can hear. Eli had listened to God for a very long time and was able to help Samuel. In his wisdom, Eli realised that it was God's voice that Samuel could hear.



Ask:

- Who are the grown-ups in your life who help you to understand more about God?
- How could they help you to listen when God is speaking to you?

Read:

'So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in bed.

'The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said, "Samuel, Samuel!" 'Samuel said, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening."'

(1 Samuel 3:9-10 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What can we learn from the way Samuel responded to God?
- How could we do the same?

Say:

Samuel listened carefully to God and promised to serve him. God had a difficult message for him to deliver.

Read:

'The Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am going to do something in Israel. It will shock those who hear about it. At that time I will do to Eli and his family everything I promised. I will not stop until I have finished. I told Eli I would punish his family for ever. I will do it because Eli knew his sons were evil. They spoke against me, but he did not control them. So here is what I promised Eli's family: 'Your guilt will never be removed by sacrifice or offering.'"

'Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the Tent of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. But Eli said to him, "Samuel, my son!"

'Samuel answered, "I am here."

'Eli asked, "What did the Lord say to you? Don't hide it from me. May God punish you terribly if you hide from me anything he said to you." So Samuel told Eli everything. He did not hide anything from him. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord. Let him do what he thinks is best."'

(1 Samuel 3:11-18 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think Samuel felt delivering such a difficult message from God to Eli?

Say:

Samuel listened carefully to God, but he also had the courage to obey God and speak the truth to Eli. Even though he was a young boy, he knew that following God was the most important thing in his life.



=□ Action it

Explain to the children that they are going to create a set of mini puppet characters using card and lollipop sticks, to retell the story of Eli and Samuel. Depending on the size of your group, the children can work in teams to produce different props and characters and write a short script to retell the story.

You could rewatch the *Slapstick Theatre* (*Samuel and Eli*) clip to recap the story if required. Give the children time to make and rehearse their puppet show and then share it with the rest of the group.



Ask

- What are some of the different ways that we can hear from God?
- Do you think it's only from our ears?
- What other ways do people feel God speaking to them?

Say:

We are all made differently, which means we hear God in different ways. Some people hear God when they are silent, in music and pictures, or experience a feeling in their body or mind.

Ask:

How do you think you might hear God speaking to you?

Display the Patience sign.

Say:

Sometimes, listening to God can take a lot of patience. After all the sleep interruptions, Eli could have lost his patience with Samuel. Instead, he helped this young boy hear the voice of God. Samuel showed patience, not just by waiting, but by trusting God's timing. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can be patient, certain that God knows what he's doing and cares deeply about us all.

Ask:

How could you take a moment to be patient and listen for the voice of God this week?

To bring the session to a close, share in a moment of silent listening. Ask the children to close their eyes and listen. How long you remain silent for will depend on your group, so when you feel the time is right, bring the session to a close in prayer.



Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



A whispered name

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 1:26-28; 3:1-18



Aim:

To learn to listen for God and be curious about how we can 'hear' God



Today's fruit: Patience

> Children & Youth



Listen

In this week's session, we thought of all the different ways we can listen for God's voice. Choose one of the ideas and try at home. Just like Samuel, you can share with a grown-up what happened when you listened to God's voice.



Play

Plan to go for a walk with the people at home. Before you go, write down six sounds that you might hear on the walk. Take the list with you and listen for the sounds as you go on your walk.



'Proverbs 3:5-6' (motions) by Saddleback Kids (2:19)



Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)



Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

A shepherd anointed



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:4-16,32,38-40,48-51 David and Goliath



Aim:

To explore the story of David and Goliath and see how God anointed David when he was a child



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



In today's session we see a young boy facing a huge giant.

Our Bible story has two distinct, yet important, parts. It is about Samuel following God's direction to find and anoint a child who would one day be a great king. It is also about the victory of young David over a towering giant. Samuel and David teach us about the importance of putting our trust in God and his faithfulness.

David showed faithfulness by trusting that God would look after him when he faced Goliath.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- A clean pebble and permanent markers or paint
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- To find some artist depictions of Goliath (optional)
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Faithfulness download from Salvationist
- Paper and pen for a list (optional) see Pray it



Give the children paper and pens/pencils and ask them to draw a Bible character based on your description. Slowly read through the following description, based on 1 Samuel 17:4-7, giving the children an opportunity to draw each part. Make sure the children know that bronze is a metal, often a dull gold/brown colour, and how tall roughly three metres is.



- Draw a man about 2m 85cm tall (nine feet four inches).
- He has a bronze helmet on his head.
- He is wearing a coat of armour made of lots of little pieces of bronze.
- On his legs are bronze protectors, protecting his shins.
- He has a small bronze spear tied on his back.
- Also on his back is a larger wooden spear with a large heavy blade.
- There is an officer soldier walking in front of him, carrying his shield.

Look at the pictures together and ask the children if they can guess the Bible character. You may want to show some other artists' ideas and compare them to their drawings. What is similar/different?



Say:

We're going to sing a song that gives us a sneak preview of the story of David and Goliath.

Song

'David and Goliath' (Bible song with lyrics) by Shawna Edwards (stop at 2:23)



Sau:

In last week's session we met Samuel.

Ask:

What happened when Samuel kept hearing a voice in the night?

Say:

As he grew, Samuel continued to follow God's path for his life and played an important part in the story of King David. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

Video

David Chosen to be King (Stories of the Bible) by Saddleback Kids (3:00)

Say:

King Saul had stopped listening to God, so God sent Samuel to find the next king.



Ask:

Why was Samuel surprised when God chose David to be the next king?

Say

Samuel was surprised when God sent him to find a young shepherd boy, but God knew he was the one! God wasn't concerned how old David was, because he was looking at his heart. It was what was on the inside that mattered to God.

Ask:

How would you feel if you were told you would rule a country when you grew up?

Say:

David had to wait a long time to become king, but God had many adventures in store for him while he waited. Let's watch the clip to discover what happened to David when he stood up to Goliath.

Video

David and Goliath (Slapstick Theatre) by Saddleback Kids (3:10)

Watch: 0:00-1:08 'The Israelites and King Saul were very afraid.'

Ask:

- What have we discovered about Goliath so far?
- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Goliath walking toward them?

Read:

'Goliath stood and shouted to the Israelite soldiers, "Why have you taken positions for battle? I am a Philistine, and you are Saul's servants! Choose a man and send him to fight me. If he can fight and kill me, we will become your servants. But if I defeat and kill him, you will become our servants." Then he said, "Today I stand and dare the army of Israel! Send one of your men to fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard the Philistine's words, they were very afraid.'

(1 Samuel 17:8-11 *ICB*)

Say:

Most of the time, wars are fought with two groups of soldiers fighting each other. Sadly this usually leads to many people losing their lives like in World War II or the wars we see in the world today. King Saul often fought against the Philistines because they were constantly invading Israelite territory. The Philistine's champion, Goliath, did things differently. Instead of two armies fighting against each other, he wanted the Israelites to choose one man to fight on their behalf.

Ask:

- What do you think of Goliath's way of fighting?
- Why do you think he felt confident he would win?



Say:

The Philistines' champion was nearly three metres tall (roughly nine feet), dressed top to toe in bronze armour, ready to fight for them. It's not surprising that the Israelites were afraid. Each day they delayed sending someone to fight, their fear got worse.

Read:

'The Philistine Goliath came out every morning and evening. He stood before the Israelite army. This continued for 40 days.'

(1 Samuel 17:16 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Goliath and heard him shouting at them every morning?

Say:

Despite the fear running through the Israelite camp, there was one boy who was not afraid. In fact, he was the only one willing to take on the giant Goliath. David went to King Saul and offered to fight on behalf of the Israelites.

Ask:

How do you think King Saul reacted when David offered to fight Goliath?

Read:

'Saul answered, "You can't go out against this Philistine and fight him. You're only a boy." (1 Samuel 17:33 ICB)

'Saul put his own clothes on David. He put a bronze helmet on David's head and armour on his body. David put on Saul's sword and tried to walk around. But he was not used to all the armour Saul had put on him.

'He said to Saul, "I can't go in this. I'm not used to it." Then David took it all off. He took his stick in his hand, and he chose five smooth stones from a stream. He put them in his pouch and held his sling in his hand. Then he went to meet Goliath.'

(1 Samuel 38-40 ICB)

Ask:

At first, King Saul said David couldn't defeat Goliath – but then he tried to help David by giving him a suit of armour. Why wasn't it helpful?

Say:

David knew his strengths and was confident God had prepared him for this moment. He was used to fighting lions to protect the sheep, and out in the fields he had no fancy armour. Now was the time for David to trust in God and step out in faith.

Watch: 1:09 to end.



Ask:

How did David defeat Goliath?

Say

By trusting in God's power, David was able to defeat the giant and save his people. Our Memory Verse for this month reminds us of the importance of placing our trust in God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)





Say:

David faced a huge challenge that could only be overcome if he put his faith and trust in God.

Explain to the children that they will be decorating a pebble to take home and to remind them to place their trust in God. Ask them to write the Bible reference 'Proverbs 3:5-6' in permanent marker or paint on a pebble and then decorate it.



Say:

In our prayer time we're going to think about the 'giants' that we face in life. We could describe these 'giants' as people or situations that make us feel afraid or worried about what might happen in the future. Every morning the Israelites woke up to hear their giant shouting and taunting them. Sometimes it can feel like our 'giants' do the same thing. As soon as we open our eyes, we remember a person or situation that fills us with fear.

Ask:

What kinds of things can act as 'giants' in our lives?

If the children feel comfortable, they can share their own 'giants'; but if not, the conversation can be steered to general people or situations that may cause fear or anxiety. You may want to create a list for the children to refer to.



For example:

- Starting at a new school
- Having a new teacher
- Falling out with someone
- Preparing for a test
- Not keeping up with your schoolwork
- Dealing with children who are unkind to you

Say:

In our story today, David showed us how to deal with the 'giants' in our lives. His story helps us to see that God is faithful and will always be there for us.

Display the Faithfulness sign.

Say:

God's faithfulness doesn't always mean things will turn out exactly how we want. There were many times when the Philistines caused a lot of problems for the Israelites, and they certainly didn't win every time, but God was with them.

To bring the session to a close, give the children an opportunity to write or draw a prayer to ask God to be with them as they face the 'giants' in their life. As they write their prayer, play the song 'Giants Fall' by Francesca Battistelli.

Listen

'Giants Fall' lyric video by Francesca Battistelli (3:06)

Read the chorus from the song to bring the session to a close.

'So don't you be afraid

Of giants in your way.

With God, you know that anything's possible.

So step into the fight,

He's right there by your side.

The stones inside your hand might be small

But watch the giants fall.'

- Francesca Battistelli



Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.





A shepherd anointed

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:4-16,32,38-40, 48-51



Aim:

To explore the story of David and Goliath and see how God anointed David when he was a child



Today's fruit: Faithfulness



Remember

This week you decorated a pebble with our memory verse reference for this month. Each day, hold the pebble and say the memory verse out loud. This will give you a daily reminder that God can be trusted.



'David and Goliath' (Bible song with lyrics) by Shawna Edwards





This week you took time to think about some of the 'giants' in your life. God is always with us, but he also gives us people in our lives who we can pray with and talk things through.

Think of someone you can trust to talk through your fears and worries. Ask them to spend time listening to you and praying with you.



Memory verse

Children & Youth

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

A brave sister



Bible verses:

Exodus 2:1-10 Baby Moses



Aim:

To see how Miriam helped keep Moses safe by being brave



Today's fruit:

Love



In today's session we'll see how the bravery of a big sister brought a baby boy back to the arms of his mother.

Miriam lived at a time when the world around her was a scary place to be. Her family were slaves to the Egyptian Pharaoh, and her baby brother's life was in danger. A plan to save Moses sent him into a place of potential danger. In a moment of bravery, Miriam played a crucial part in God's amazing story.

Miriam acted out of love and care for baby Moses. How can we act in love and therefore show God's love to others?

Each child will need:

- A paper plate with vertical cut slats, thin strips of coloured card/paper, a wooden dowelling stick / kebab stick, a stapler, plus two decorative flowers or bows (optional)
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Love download from Salvationist
- To watch Paper Basket Making (YouTube Shorts) by @SimpleCraftIdea (0:17)



Say:

Today's session is all about the brave actions of a young girl. To start us thinking about what it means to be brave, let's watch a clip from a film with the same title.



Video

Merida competes in archery (Brave by Disney) uploaded by Disney Junior MENA (1:48)

Discuss:

- Why was the archery competition taking place?
- Do you think it was fair that Merida didn't have a say in who she could marry? Why / why not?
- What brave move did Merida make to defend her honour? Why do you think she was so determined to be part of the tournament?
- Why was Merida's mother so angry?
- What motivated Merida to take part in the archery tournament?

Say:

Merida's bravery came from a place of anger and injustice. She didn't think that she was being treated fairly and wanted to show everyone what she was capable of. In our story today, we meet another brave young girl, but her bravery was motivated by love rather than anger and frustration. We will find out more about her later.



Sau:

In our Bible story today we meet another young person willing to put their trust in God. Our memory verse reminds us why trusting God is so important. Let's share it together for the final time this month.

Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Say:

Today's song will help us remember the importance of the words in our memory verse.

Song

'Proverbs 3:5-6' (Official lyric video) by JumpStart3 (2:02)





Say:

Before we meet the amazing child at the centre of today's story, we need to know what was happening in their world. The people of Israel were living in Egypt, but they were slaves; they worked night and day for the Pharaoh. The number of Israelites grew and grew as they had more and more children. The Pharaoh was afraid that these children would grow up to be strong soldiers and take over his kingdom, so he came up with a plan to prevent this. In Exodus 1 we find out about his cruel command.

Read:

'So the king commanded all his people: "Every time a boy is born to the Hebrews, you must throw him into the Nile River. But let all the girl babies live."

(Exodus 1:22 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think the Israelites felt when they discovered Pharaoh's plan for their baby boys?

Say:

One mother decided to protect her baby boy. Watch the clip to find out what happened and see if you can spot the brave child we'll focus on today.

Video

Moses in a Basket (The Prince of Egypt by DreamWorks) uploaded by Family Flicks (stop at 4:02)

Ask:

- What is the bravest thing you have ever done?
- How did it make you feel when you did it?

Say

In today's story we meet Miriam, a protective big sister who looks out for her baby brother. She took the brave decision to approach the king's daughter.

Read:

'There was a man from the family of Levi. He married a woman who was also from the family of Levi. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw how wonderful the baby was, and she hid him for three months. But after three months, she was not able to hide the baby any longer. So she got a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar so that it would float. She put the baby in the basket. Then she put the basket among the tall grass at the edge of the Nile River. The baby's sister stood a short distance away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.



'Then the daughter of the king of Egypt came to the river. She was going to take a bath. Her servant girls were walking beside the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent her slave girl to get it. The king's daughter opened the basket and saw the baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies."

'Then the baby's sister asked the king's daughter, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

'The king's daughter said, "Yes, please." So the girl went and got the baby's own mother.

'The king's daughter said to the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the woman took her baby and nursed him. After the child had grown older, the woman took him to the king's daughter. She adopted the baby as her own son. The king's daughter named him Moses, because she had pulled him out of the water.'

(Exodus 2:1-10 ICB)

Ask:

- What did Miriam ask the king's daughter?
- Why was this such a brave and clever thing to do?
- Why do you think Miriam offered to help?
- How do you think she felt as she stepped forward to speak to the king's daughter?
- Who ended up looking after Moses?

Say:

If Miriam had stayed quiet, then Moses would never have been reunited with his family. He may never have seen his mother again. Because of Miriam's bravery, her brother would grow up with all the privileges of being part of the royal family while still staying closely connected to his own family.

Display the Love sign.

Ask:

- What examples of love do we see in this story?
- How did Miriam show love to her baby brother?

Say:

Miriam gives us another example of how a child helped God in his amazing story! She showed bravery, faithfulness and love. When we are close to God and the Holy Spirit is helping us, we can show love in lots of ways, just like Miriam did.

Ask:

How can we show love to others this week?





Explain to the children that they are going to make a paper basket to remind them of the bravery of Moses' sister Miriam. A clip is provided for the leader to show you how to make the basket.

Video

Paper Basket Making (YouTube Shorts) by @SimpleCraftIdea (0:17)



Say:

Throughout this month we have met many amazing children who have played an important part in God's big story.



Ask:

What children have we learned about this month?

Say:

- We met the brave servant girl who saved her master from a horrible skin disease.
- We met the obedient boy Samuel, who carefully listened to God's voice.
- We met David as he bravely stood up to the giant Goliath, and today ...
- We met Miriam, who showed love to her baby brother.

Ask:

What did all these children have in common?

Say:

All of the children in our stories put their trust in God. To bring our session to a close, we're going to sing a song that reminds us that God is faithful and we can put our trust in him.

Song

'Faith' (Everest VBS Music Video Group Publishing) (stop at 3:14)

When the song is finished, bring the session to a close in prayer.



Remember to send home the Explore It ideas for children and families.

Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



A brave sister

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses: Exodus 2:1-10



Aim:

To see how Miriam helped keep Moses safe by being brave



Today's fruit: Love

> Children & Youth



66 Explore

Choose one of the Bible characters from this month's sessions and see what you can find out about them. What was the rest of their story?

Naaman's servant girl, the boy with five loaves and two fish, Samuel, David, Miriam



Create

In this week's session we tried some paper weaving. If you would like to develop your weaving skills, then watch the clip and ask someone at home to help you make your own basket.

Mini Easter Basket Craft (DIY paper cup woven easter baskets) by One Little Project



Song for the week

'Proverbs 3:5-6' (official lyric video) by JumpStart3 (2:02)





Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic - is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!