

A 'Big Story' Escape

**Bible verses:**

Daniel 6:5-28

**Aim:**

To know the impact Daniel had on King Darius

**Today's fruit:**

Joy



In this session we meet Daniel, a Bible character from God's Big Story of the Bible.

Daniel saw visions and stayed close to God even after being taken from his home in Jerusalem to Babylon. Part of The Big Story shows how God speaks to people through visions, and Daniel was one of those people who listened faithfully. Daniel continued to pray because he trusted God, and he stood firm even when his life was in danger in the lions' den. Through Daniel's example we see the joy of King Darius discovering that Daniel's God is the one who saves.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- A plastic cup and googly eyes
- Yellow, green, black and orange paper
- A verse from handout – Daniel 6:22
- Glue and scissors
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Joy* – download from [Salvationist](#)
- To watch ***Daniel and the lions' den (VBC Craft 2)*** by Family Ministry at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1:09)

 **Start it****Say:**

Today's Bible story features an animal. Can you guess what it might be? Watch the clip carefully and be ready to answer the questions when it is finished. Let's see how many we get right.

Watch:

Lions (Animals for Kids episode 1) by Smile and Learn (Watch 0:00 to 3:42)

Lion Quiz

1. Why is the lion described as a vertebrate mammal? **It has an internal skeleton.**
2. What does it mean if an animal is a carnivore? **It eats other animals that live in the same habitat.**
3. How long is the average lion? **8 feet (nearly 2.5 metres).**
4. What is a group of lions called? **A pride.**
5. Who is in charge of hunting? **Lionesses.**
6. Why is it easy to spot an adult male lion? **They have a large mane.**
7. Name one country where lions can be found. **Kenya, Tanzania, Gambia, Senegal, India.**
8. How fast can lionesses run? **Up to 50mph.**
9. When do lionesses prefer to hunt? **At night.**
10. How long can lions sleep for in a day? **Up to 20 hours.**
11. What is causing the number of lions to decrease? **People hunting them, destroying habitat.**
12. What was your favourite fact that you discovered about lions?

 **Sing it****Say:**

Give each child a memory verse wristband. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that all Scripture is inspired by God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse:

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)

Say:

Our song for today is based on our memory verse. There are many different translations of God's Big Story. They all say the same thing in a slightly different way. As you sing the song based on 2 Timothy 3:16, see if you can spot any words that are different from our version of the memory verse.

Watch:

'2 Timothy 3:16' (All Scripture) by The Rizers (2:54)

Alternative translation:

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 NIV)

When the song has finished, discuss with the children any words that they spotted that were different and clarify their meaning.

 **Share it****Say:**

Around two per cent of God's Big Story is helped along by people who had visions from God. Daniel was one of those people. As a young Israelite, he had been taken from his home in Jerusalem to Babylon by the forces of King Nebuchadnezzar, yet he stayed close to God and listened to him throughout his whole life. In our story today we see Daniel standing firm in his faith despite the opposition around him and a den full of hungry lions.

Make sure the children understand that the term 'den' means a place where the lions or other wild animals live.

Watch:

Daniel and the lions' den by Saddleback Kids (Watch 0:00 to 0:55)

Ask:

- What have you learned about Daniel so far?
- What kind of person was Daniel?
- How did others in the palace know that Daniel followed God?
- What was King Darius planning for Daniel?

Watch 0:56 to 1:45 '...and once a Babylonian king signed a law it could not be overruled.'

Say:

The other leaders in the palace were jealous of Daniel. They knew they would never find a reason to accuse him, so they came up with a cunning plan. Jealousy can make people behave unkindly, and sometimes people even try to get others into trouble because of it.

Ask:

- Why do you think King Darius signed the new law?
- If he changed his mind, could he change the law back again? Why not?
- What do you think Daniel did next?
- The leaders were jealous of Daniel. What do you think jealousy feels like inside?

Watch 1:46 to 2:45 ‘...so at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be thrown into the lions’ den.’

Say:

Even when the new law said he should pray only to the king, Daniel continued praying to God three times a day. It was not about how many times he prayed but about his relationship with God. Daniel trusted God and wanted to stay close to him.

Ask:

- Why do you think the king wanted to try and save Daniel?
- Do you think he realised his mistake? If so, how?

Watch 2:46 to end

Read:

So King Darius gave the order. They brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, ‘May the God you serve all the time save you!'

(Daniel 6:16 ICB)

Say:

Even though King Darius believed in other gods, he could see that Daniel’s God was different.

Ask:

- What do you think was going through King Darius’s mind when he found Daniel perfectly safe in the lions’ den?
- Why do you think Darius found it so hard to sleep?

Display the *Joy* sign.

Say:

Our fruit for today is joy, and the final part of the story shows the joy of King Darius. Daniel trusted God, and that trust made a huge impact on the king. When Darius saw Daniel alive, he was overjoyed and wrote a new law telling everyone in his kingdom to honour the God of Daniel.

Read:

Then King Darius wrote a letter. It was to all people and all nations, to those who spoke every language in the world:

I wish you great wealth.

I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel.

Daniel's God is the living God.

He lives for ever.

His kingdom will never be destroyed.

His rule will never end.

God rescues and saves people.

God does mighty miracles
in heaven and on earth.

God saved Daniel

from the power of the lions.

So Daniel was successful during the time that Darius was king. This was also the time that Cyrus the Persian was king.

(Daniel 6:25-28 ICB)

Ask:

Daniel's trust in God changed the whole story. How does that help us think about trust today?

 **Action it**

The children are going to create their own lion showing the following Scripture:

'My God sent his angel to close the lions' mouths.'

(Daniel 6:22 ICB)

The instructions for the craft activity are shown in the clip below. This is either for the leader's use or can be shared with the children to show them how to make the lion.

Watch:

Daniel and the lions' den (VBC Craft 2) by Family Ministry at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1:09)

Use the handout Daniel 6:22 to cut out the Bible verses for the craft activity.

When the children have finished their lion, read the Scripture verse out loud together.



 **Pray it****Say:**

Daniel prayed because he had a strong relationship with God. Prayer was not about following a rule or praying a certain number of times. It helped Daniel stay close to God, even in the toughest moments. When we pray, we can talk to God about anything and know he listens to us with love.

The 'Pray it' section today will be led by the children's thoughts and questions. Watch the clip together and discuss why it is important for us to pray regularly. Talk to the children about their prayer life. How do they like to pray? Encourage them to share ideas on how they can pray regularly.

Watch:

Why do we pray? by Crossroads Kids' Club (1:01)

Say:

Let's take a moment to be still and talk to God in our own way. You can sit quietly, close your eyes, or whisper a short prayer. God hears us, however we choose to pray.

Give the children a few moments to pray. To bring the session to a close, say a prayer.

 **Explore it**

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



A 'Big Story' Escape

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Daniel 6:5-28



Aim:
To know the impact Daniel had on King Darius



Today's fruit:
Joy



Create

Create your own lion drawing or painting as a reminder of God's faithfulness to Daniel. If you need a little help, then watch the clip to the right. Remember to write Daniel 6:22 on to your drawing.



Watch

How to draw a lion easy step by step by QWE Art

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLbd9q-MPiw



Bake

Ask someone at home to help you create these amazing lion cake pops.

Kim-Joy's recipe for lion cakes on theguardian.com

www.theguardian.com/food/2019/nov/20/kim-joy-recipe-for-lion-cake-pops



Sing

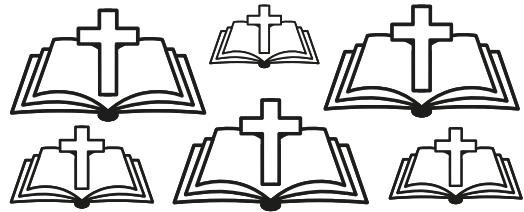
Watch: '2 Timothy 3:16' (All Scripture) by The Rizers

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BFGWuXUdhY

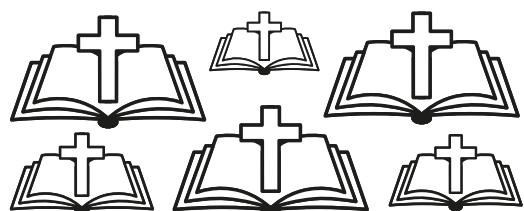
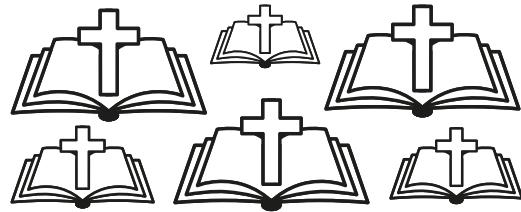
**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

CY Explore it

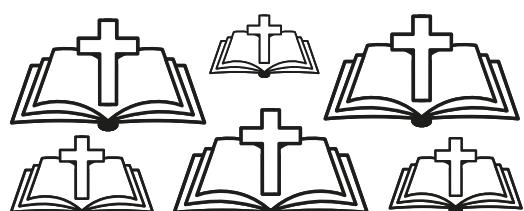
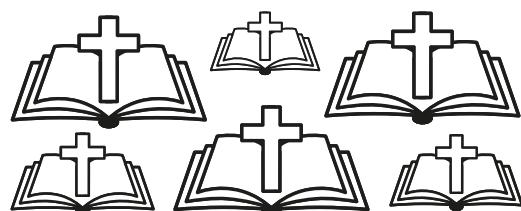
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(2 Timothy 3:16)



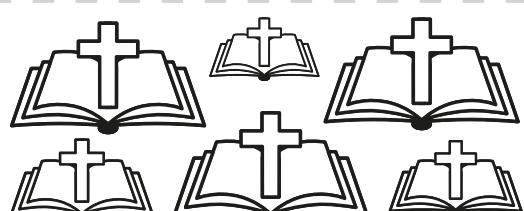
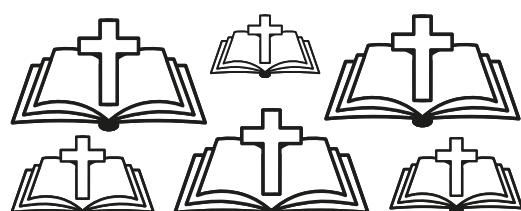
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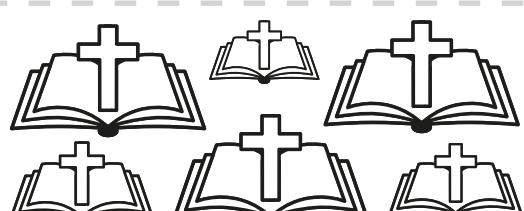
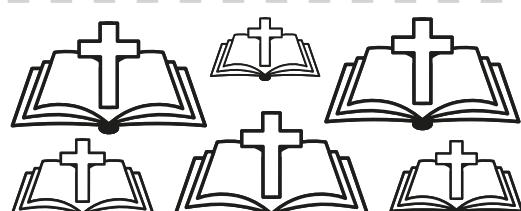
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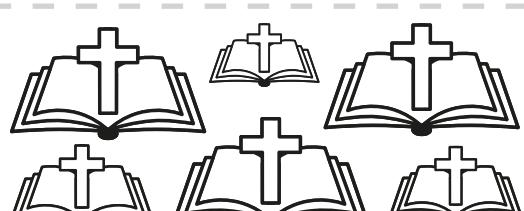
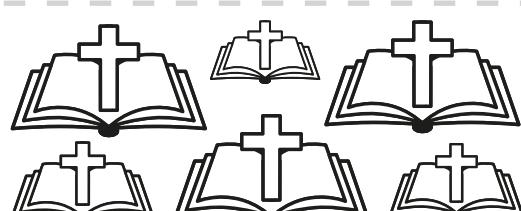
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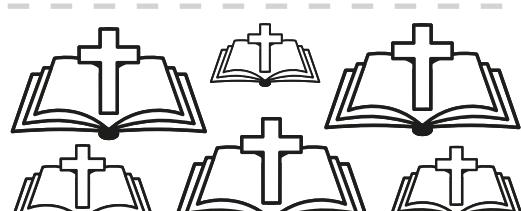
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Children
& Youth



Explore it

Daniel 6:22

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‘Big Story’ Letters



Bible verses:
Hebrews 10:13-16; 11:1-4



Aim:
To think about what
faith means to you



Today’s fruit:
Faithfulness



In this session we explore another part of God’s Big Story as we look at a special New Testament letter called Hebrews.

The writer encourages Christians who were finding it difficult to keep going in their faith. He reminds them of the people in the Old Testament who trusted God even when they could not see what would happen next. Through their example we discover what faith means and how we can grow the fruit of faithfulness in our own lives today.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Faithfulness Hall of Fame handout
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today’s fruit sign: *Faithfulness* – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Divide the children into pairs and give each pair paper and a pencil. Ask each pair to think of an animated character they know well, but do not share it with the rest of the group.

Explain that they are going to write a short letter to the Explore it group from this character. When they have finished, they can read their letter out and the rest of the group can guess who it is. Remind the children to include clues but not give it away too quickly.

Example letter:

Dear Explore it group,

I cannot make this a long letter because I am in a hurry. You know me. I am always racing around. I have been out on the track today and Luigi has just given me a shiny new set of tyres. I must rush but I will see you at the Piston Cup on Saturday.

[From Lightning McQueen]

Ask:

Have you ever written a letter and who did you write it to?

Say:

Letters play a huge part in the New Testament and we will discover more about that today.

 **Sing it****Say:**

Our song helps us remember the different parts of God's Big Story. It reminds us that the Bible is made up of many different books including the letters.

Watch:

'Books of the Bible' song and lyrics by Mary Rice Hopkins (0:16-4:02)

 **Share it****Say:**

Throughout this month, we are exploring God's Big Story in the Bible. Around seven per cent of The Big Story is helped along by people who wrote letters. In the days before telephones or emails, writing letters was the only way to share information with people who lived far away.

One of the most famous letter writers in the New Testament was a man called Paul. He wrote many letters supporting new churches and providing guidance as they faced difficult circumstances.

Ask:

Which letters (books) in the Bible were written by Paul?

The following letters are attributed directly to Paul: Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First Thessalonians, First and Second Timothy, Titus and Philemon. It is unclear if he wrote or had help with: Ephesians, Colossians and Second Thessalonians.

Say:

The letter we are looking at today is different. We do not know who wrote it and we do not know exactly which church received it. We call it Hebrews and it is found in the New Testament.

Show the children the section of the Bible that contains the letters. Point out Paul's letters which you have just discussed and then show them where to find the letter to the Hebrews.

Say:

Although we do not know the author, we can pick up clues about the people the letter was sent to. The author often writes about stories from the Old Testament, especially the first five books of the Bible. This tells us that the readers knew these stories very well, which suggests they were Jews who had recently become Christians. These believers were facing challenging times and needed to keep going in their faith.

Ask:

What do you think it means to say that a Christian has great faith?

Say:

Our Bible reading for today describes what faith is.

Read:

'Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.'

(Hebrews 11:1 ICB)

Ask:

How does this verse help you understand what faith is?

Say:

The letter goes on to talk about the people of faith who have gone before. Watch the clip to find out more.

Watch:

The faithful hall of fame Hebrews eleven by Saddleback Kids (2:25)

Discuss with the children some of the names mentioned in the clip. Which ones do they know and what do they remember about their stories? *Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham (and Sarah), Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab and Joshua.*

Ask:

- Think about the people you know who believe in Jesus. Who would you add to the *Faithful Hall of Fame* and for what reason?
- How does the faith of others inspire you to stay close to Jesus?

Say:

There were those in the Hebrew church who were struggling to stay strong in their faith. They faced persecution because they believed in Jesus. This letter to the Hebrews teaches us that no one compares to Jesus, and if we're going to put our faith in anyone, then he is the person to choose.

 **Action it**

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

One of the fruits of the Spirit is faithfulness, and it grows as we get to know Jesus more. Hebrews 11 is sometimes called the Faithful Hall of Fame because it celebrates people who showed their faith in visible ways.

Today you are going to build your own Hall of Fame, collecting ideas of acts of faithfulness you could try this week.

Each child needs a Faithfulness Hall of Fame handout, which is covered with empty picture frames of different shapes and sizes. Each frame has space for a small drawing or phrase. The goal is to fill the frames with acts of faithfulness.

Say:

Start by choosing one act of faithfulness you can imagine doing this week. Draw or write it inside one of your picture frames. It might be helping, including, listening, praying, being brave, forgiving, or encouraging someone.

Give the children time to complete their first idea.

Say:

We are going to fill our picture frames by gathering ideas from each other. When the music plays, walk or dance around the room. When the music stops, find the nearest person and show each other your pages. If your ideas are different, add their idea to one of your empty frames. If you both wrote the same thing, think of a brand-new idea together and write that instead. Then the music will start again for the next round.

Use the following music clip as the children move around the room. Let the music play for about 30 seconds and then give the children chance to share their ideas. Repeat three or four short rounds until most of the frames have something in them. Then gather the group back together.

Watch:

‘The FAITHFULNESS Song’ by Cheeky Pandas TV (2:39)

Ask:

Which ideas did you collect?

Say:

Choose one act of faithfulness from your Hall of Fame that you want to try this week. The Christians who first read the letter to Hebrews needed encouragement to keep going. We can encourage each other too.

 **Pray it****Say:**

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we can learn from every page of the Bible. Let us share it together.

Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)

Say:

In our Bible story today the writer of the letter to Hebrews was encouraging Christians who were finding it hard to keep going. They needed to stay faithful to Jesus even when life was challenging. We need that same encouragement too.

Ask:

- When do you find it hard to stay faithful to Jesus?
- What help do you need from God this week?

Say:

You have chosen one act of faithfulness from your Hall of Fame. We are going to pray and ask God to help us live it out. As we listen to this song, think about your chosen idea and how God can help you to grow in faith.

Watch:

'Praise' (Elevation Worship, Lyrics and Motions) by Kid Kardia (3:33)

Say:

Thank you, God, that you are always faithful to us. Help us to trust you, help us to keep going, and help us to grow in faith this week. Amen.

 **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)

'Big Story' Letters

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Hebrews 10:13-16;
11:1-4



Aim:
To think about what faith means to you



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Explore

In our Bible reading today, many heroes of faith were mentioned. Choose one from the list and discover more about them. Share it with your group at the next *Explore it* session.

Heroes of Faith: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab and Joshua.



Sing

Watch:

'Books of the Bible' (song and lyrics) by Mary Rice Hopkins

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTbSZfc7sIQ



Share

In today's session we discovered more about what it means to grow in our faithfulness to God. Share with the people at home what you learned.

Watch the clip and discuss the questions together.

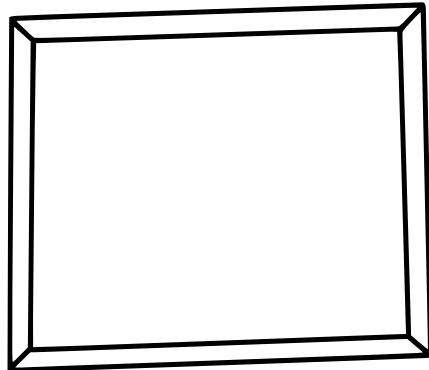
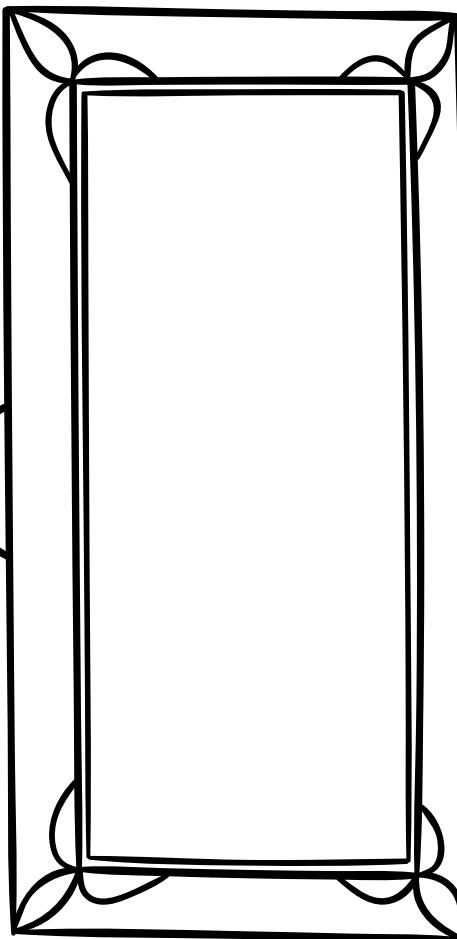
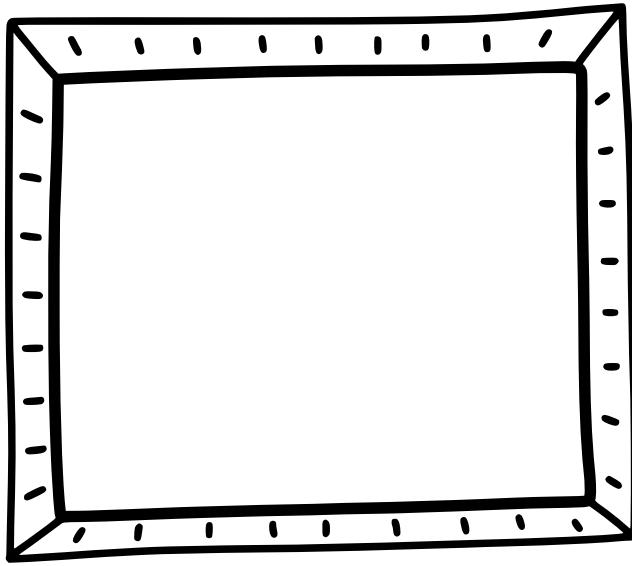
Watch:

The Definition of Faithfulness (fruit of the Spirit devotional kids) by Minno – by Bible Stories for Kids

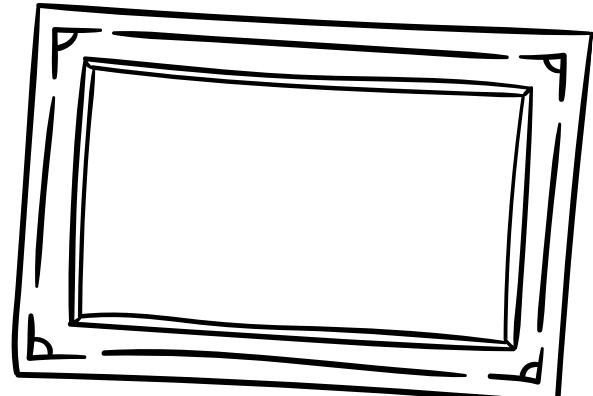
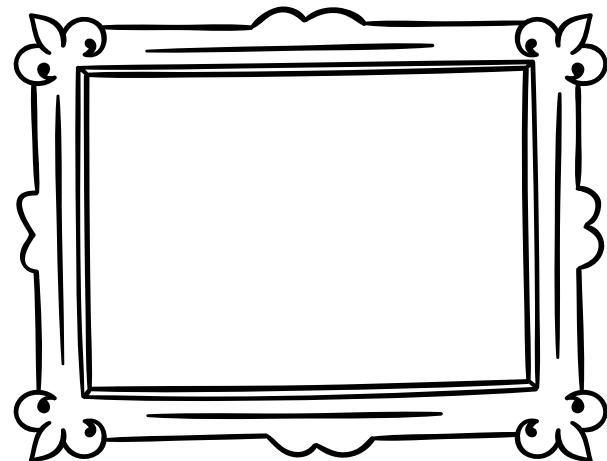
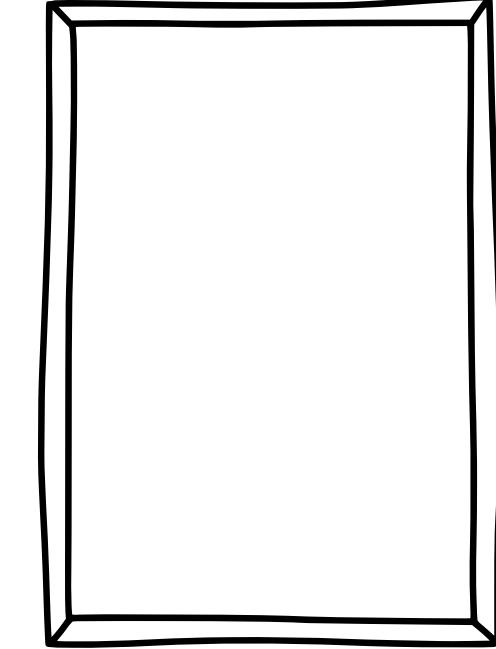
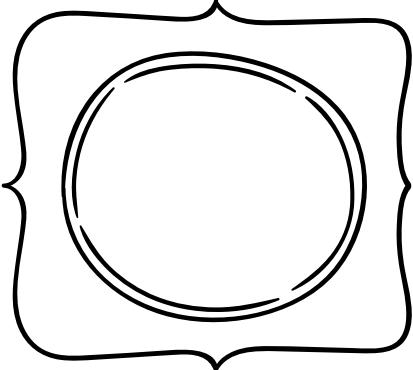
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlwnPFNNmVk>



 **Explore it**



Faithfulness Hall of Fame



February 2026



‘Big Story’ Poetry



Bible verses:
Psalm 27:1-14



Aim:
To realise that David shared his honest feelings in songs and poems



Today’s fruit:
Gentleness



Today we are exploring Psalm 27, a poem written by David when he was facing a challenging time.

David used poetry to share his honest thoughts and feelings with God, whether he felt brave, joyful, sad or afraid. This psalm helps us see that we can talk to God about everything we feel and trust him to be close to us. As we learn from David’s example, we will discover how the fruit of gentleness grows when we choose to rely on God.

Each child will need:

- Psalm 27 handout – you may wish to enlarge to A3
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today’s fruit sign: *Gentleness* – download from **Salvationist**
- Flip chart or paper to make a group list
- To display the following headings: Verse 1: God’s greatness; Verse 2: Being thankful; Verse 3: Feelings about being thankful
- To write a poem in advance – see Action it (optional)



Start it

Before the session, place five signs around the room based on the film *Inside Out* characters: Joy, Sadness, Fear, Anger, Disgust.

Say:

Today we are thinking about how David shared his real feelings with God in his poems. To get us started, we are going to think about our own feelings, just like the characters of Inside Out. I will read out a situation. Move to the emotion that matches how you might feel if that situation happened.

Choose from the following situations and, after each round, give the children an opportunity to discuss their choice.

Situations:

1. You open your packed lunch and find your favourite treat waiting for you.
2. Your ice cream cone falls on the floor before you get to take a single bite.
3. You wake up and realise it is the weekend and there is no school.
4. On a visit to the seaside, a seagull swoops down and steals your chips.
5. You find a spider sitting inside your shoe.
6. Your pet chooses someone else's lap instead of yours.
7. Your friend surprises you with a silly drawing they made just for you.
8. You have to walk into a dark hallway to fetch something you left behind.
9. You try a new food and it tastes completely different from what you expected.
10. Someone pulls your chair away as you try and sit down and you land on the floor.

Say:

David felt many emotions too. Sometimes he felt brave and joyful. Sometimes he felt afraid or upset. The poetry in the Bible shows that we can bring every feeling to God, and God listens with gentleness and love.

Optional Activity**Say:**

If you explored one of the heroes of faith at home this week, this is your chance to tell us what you discovered.

**Say:**

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that all Scripture is inspired by God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ICB*)

Say:

Our song for today is based on our memory verse. Two weeks ago we looked at some of the words including different versions of this verse.

Alternative translation

'All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ESV*)

Ask:

What do you think the word 'reproof' means in this verse? Can you remember what the words 'teaching' and 'correcting' meant within this verse?

Say:

Let's sing the song together.

Watch:

'2 Timothy 3:16 Memory Song' (Bible Verse Song for Children) by Kids Bible Songs TV (2:55)

 **Share it**

Ask:

Which book of the Bible do you think contains the most poems?

Say:

Around five per cent of The Big Story is filled with wonderful poetry. Poems can be found in many books in the Bible, especially in the books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. However, the book of Psalms has the most, with 150 poems. The word 'psalm' means a sacred song or hymn, so perhaps some of these poems may have been sung. Many of the psalms in the Bible are believed to be written by one person, David.

Ask:

What do you already know about David?

Say:

David was the shepherd boy who played the harp and became king after Saul. Saul used to like David – and his harp playing – but when he found out that David was to be the next king, Saul tried to kill him. David had to hide for a long time because Saul wanted to hurt him, but God looked after him. When Saul died, the people chose David to be their king.

Ask:

Out of 150 psalms, guess how many David may have written?

Say:

These days we think David wrote at least 73 of the poems in the book of Psalms! That's a lot of poetry, where David shares his frustrations, his joy, and at times his anger. The Psalms are a perfect example of how we can share with God everything we are feeling. Our poem – or psalm – for today is Psalm 27. It is likely that David wrote this psalm when he was facing challenging circumstances.

Give each child a copy of Handout Psalm 27, ideally A3 size. Divide the 14 verses among the children who are comfortable reading out loud and read through the psalm. Afterwards give them time to annotate it with drawings and notes that represent what the psalmist is trying to say. For example, they may draw a little house with a number one on the top next to verse four to help them remember that David wants to dwell in the house of the Lord.

The aim is to encourage the children to dive into the poetry of Psalm 27 and to think about what David is trying to communicate. This will also enable you to have a discussion with the children about the different aspects of these verses.

Ask:

Now that we have spent time looking at this psalm in more detail, what do you think it is about? What is David trying to communicate to God?

Say:

We mentioned earlier that David was facing a challenging situation when he wrote this psalm. It could well have been written when David was being chased by King Saul who wanted to kill him.

Display the *Gentleness* sign.

Ask:

In what ways did David show the fruit of gentleness in his response to his enemies?

Say:

Psalm 27 is about trusting God. David doesn't want his life to be ruled by fear and anger. He wants to know that God hears him, and although he has people against him as enemies in his life, he wants God to help him cope with them.

 **Action it****Say:**

Today we're going to follow in David's footsteps and write a poem of thanksgiving.

Ask:

What kinds of things fill us with gratitude for God's goodness?

Compile a list of the children's gratitude ideas. This will serve as an ideas bank when they come to write their poem. They can work individually or as a group to write their poem. Ask the children to create a poem with three short verses; they can decide whether it needs to rhyme or not.

Verse 1: God's greatness

The children can look for examples in the psalm if they are struggling to know what to write.

Verse 2: Being thankful

What are the children thankful for? They can use ideas from the bank they created earlier.

Verse 3: Feelings about being thankful

What are the children's feelings about being thankful? How do they feel about what they are thankful for?

It would be great if you could share an example you have written yourself to show the children how it's done.

When the children have completed their poems, they can share them together.

 **Pray it****Say:**

In Psalm 27:4 David prayed, 'I ask only one thing from the Lord.' David shared his deepest thoughts with God. Think of one thing you want to ask God today. It might be about school, friends, family or your own feelings.

Give the children some thinking time.

Say:

Take a moment to quietly tell God your one thing. He hears you and cares for you.

Pray:

Lord, thank you that nothing is too small or too big for you. Help us share everything with you just like David did. Amen.

 **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)

‘Big Story’ Poetry

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Psalm 27:1-14



Aim:
To realise that David shared his honest feelings in songs and poems



Today's fruit:
Gentleness



Worship

Take a moment to be calm and still and listen to the words of this song inspired by Psalm 27. Make them your own prayer as you listen to the song.

Watch:

‘Psalm 27’ (official lyric video) by Jonathan Ogden (4:50)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLLGwt-wZbl



Share

Have a movie night with your family and watch the film Inside Out or watch clips together from the movie on YouTube.

Share with your family what you discovered about sharing your emotions with God.



Sing

Watch:

‘2 Timothy 3:16 Memory Song’ (Bible Verse Song for Children) by Kids Bible Songs TV (2:55)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3Jgyg9lcRE



**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Explore it Psalm 27 - a Song of Trust in God

The Lord is my light and the one who saves me.
So why should I fear anyone?
The Lord protects my life.
So why should I be afraid?
Evil people may try to destroy my body.
My enemies and those who hate me attack me.
But they are overwhelmed and defeated.
If an army surrounds me,
I will not be afraid.
If war breaks out,
I will trust the Lord.

I ask only one thing from the Lord.
This is what I want:
Let me live in the Lord's house
all my life.
Let me see the Lord's beauty.
Let me look around in his Temple.
During danger he will keep me safe in his shelter.
He will hide me in his Holy Tent.
Or he will keep me safe on a high mountain.
My head is higher
than my enemies around me.
I will offer joyful sacrifices in his Holy Tent.
I will sing and praise the Lord.

Lord, hear me when I call.
Be kind and answer me.
My heart said of you, 'Go, worship him.'
So I come to worship you, Lord.
Do not turn away from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger.
You have helped me.
Do not push me away or leave me alone,
God, my Saviour.
If my father and mother leave me,
the Lord will take me in.
Lord, teach me your ways.
Guide me to do what is right
because I have enemies.
Do not let my enemies defeat me.
They tell lies about me.
They say they will hurt me.

I truly believe
I will live to see the Lord's goodness.
Wait for the Lord's help.
Be strong and brave
and wait for the Lord's help.

‘Big Story’ History

**Bible verses:**

Joshua 1:5-11, 16-18

**Aim:**

To know the importance of Israel entering the Promised Land

**Today’s fruit:**

Peace



In today’s Explore it session we are discovering an important moment in Israel’s history as Joshua stepped into his new role as leader.

Joshua faced a huge task and probably felt unsure at times, but God spoke to him with clear and encouraging words: ‘Be strong and brave ... don’t be afraid ... I will be with you everywhere you go’ (Joshua 1:9). As we explore Joshua’s story, we will see that God stays close to his people in challenging moments. Through Joshua’s example, we will discover how the fruit of peace grows when we remember that God never leaves us.

Each child will need:

- ‘Be Strong and Brave’ poster materials (paper or card, pens/pencils/felt-tips)
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore it* ideas handout

You will need:

- Today’s fruit sign: *Peace* – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Say:

To start off our session today, we’re going to test your historical knowledge.

You can use the following quiz any way that you like, either asking the children to guess the answers individually, or play in teams.

History quiz

1. Who tried, and failed, to blow up London's Houses of Parliament in 1605? **Guy Fawkes**
2. Which ship sank in 1912 on her first ever voyage, due to a collision with an iceberg? **The Titanic**
3. How many wives did King Henry VIII have? **Six**
4. What title is given to the rulers of Ancient Egypt? **Pharaoh**
5. Which famous nurse was born in Jamaica and cared for soldiers from the Crimean War in her 'British Hotel'? **Mary Seacole**
6. In which world war were tanks first used? **World War I**
7. What, in 1666, brought a city to ashes and helped end a bubonic plague outbreak in this city? **The Great Fire of London**
8. In 1963 this man made an iconic speech at the Lincoln Memorial. It is known as the 'I have a dream' speech. Who was he? **Martin Luther King Jnr**
9. The Ancient Romans shared their way of life with countries that became part of the Roman Empire, including their language – but what language did they mainly use? **Latin**
10. In 1969, who became the first man on the moon? **Neil Armstrong**

Adapted from a quiz on homeschoolgroup.hug.com

Say:

History is full of moments that are wonderful and moments that are difficult to think about. The Bible is the same. Some stories include things that are hard for us to understand, and that can raise lots of questions. Today we are going to look at one of those stories together and explore what it might show us about God's Big Story.

 **Sing it**

Say:

Our memory verse this month reminds us that all Scripture comes from God and helps us learn how to live. Even when we read parts that are difficult or make us ask questions, we can trust that God is with us and helps us understand his word. Let's say our memory verse together.

Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)

Say:

In today's Bible story, Joshua has to do something very challenging, and God keeps reminding him, 'Don't be afraid.' The song we're going to sing now helps us remember that same truth. Whenever the Bible feels confusing, or life feels a bit scary, we are never on our own. God is always with us.

Watch:

'Won't be Afraid' (Kingdom Kids feat. Davy Flowers) by Kingdom Kids (3:41)

 **Share it****Say:**

Around 60 per cent of The Big Story is helped along by history, containing eyewitness accounts of amazing events. Today our history book is called Joshua. Joshua was an eyewitness to a moment in the history of Israel when the Israelites finally left the wilderness and entered the Promised Land, or Canaan, where Israel stands on our map today.

Watch:

Joshua leads (Joshua 1) by Saddleback Kids (Watch 0.00-1:42)

Ask:

- What promise did God make to Joshua?
- What did God tell Joshua to do?
- What did Joshua tell the Israelites?

Say:

God commanded Joshua to be brave and courageous and promised to be with him whatever he faced.

Read:

'Joshua, be strong and brave! You must lead these people so they can take their land. This is the land I promised their fathers I would give them. Be strong and brave. Be sure to obey all the teachings my servant Moses gave you. If you follow them exactly, you will be successful in everything you do. Always remember what is written in the Book of the Teachings. Study it day and night. Then you will be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything. Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.'

(Joshua 1:6-9 /CB)

Say:

Let's watch the clip to learn about some of Joshua's victories.

Watch:

The walls of Jericho (stories of the Bible) by Saddleback Kids (3:15)

Ask:

- What happened when Joshua and the Israelites followed God's instructions?
- Which part of the story surprised you the most?
- What did the people do to show they trusted God?
- What did the clip say about Joshua at the end?

Say:

Hearing that the Israelites 'took many other cities' shows us that their journey into the Promised Land was full of challenges. Some parts of Joshua's story can feel difficult or confusing to us, especially when we remember how Jesus later taught us to live with kindness and gentleness. When we come across parts of the Bible that don't seem to fit together easily, it's OK to have questions.

Ask:

Is there anything in Joshua's story so far that feels hard to understand?

Display the Peace fruit sign.

Say:

One thing we do see very clearly is how many times God says, 'Don't be afraid.' God wanted Joshua to know that he was never alone. That is where peace comes from - not from everything being easy, but from knowing that God is with us whatever we face.

Ask:

- How do you think Joshua felt when God kept saying 'Don't be afraid'?
- How does knowing God is with us bring peace when things feel scary?
- What do you think God might want to say to you when you feel worried or unsure?

Say:

When we explore the Bible, especially the tricky parts, God helps us learn more about who he is and how he wants us to live. Just like Joshua, we can find peace by trusting that God is with us and guiding us.

 **Action it****Say:**

In today's story, God told Joshua, 'Be strong and brave ... don't be afraid ... I will be with you everywhere you go.' We're going to create something to help us remember those words whenever we face something new or challenging.

Invite the children to design their own 'Be Strong and Brave' posters.

Provide paper, card and colouring materials, and encourage them to include:

- the words from Joshua 1:9
- bold, confident colours
- simple symbols or pictures that remind them of being brave
- any extra encouraging words they'd like to add

This activity helps children connect Joshua's story with times when they need courage. The posters can be displayed around the room or taken home as reminders that God is always with them.

 **Pray it****Say:**

Joshua had a big journey ahead of him, and God promised to go with him every step of the way. We all have our own journeys too. Find a space in the room where you can stand safely.

We're going to pray by taking four big steps, just like we're walking with God. After each step, repeat the short prayer that I say to you.

Step 1 – The children take a big step forward.

Say: God, thank you that you go with us.

Step 2 – The children take another big step.

Say: Help us to be strong and brave.

Step 3 – The children take a third big step.

Say: Help us when the Bible feels hard to understand.

Step 4 – The children take a final big step.

Say: Help us to trust you wherever we go.

Say: Thank you God for walking with us.

Optional:**Say:**

Let's finish our Explore it session by singing our song again to remind us that we never face anything on our own.

Watch:

'Won't be Afraid' (Kingdom Kids feat. Davy Flowers) by Kingdom Kids (3:41)

 **Explore it**

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



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‘Big Story’ History



Bible verses:
Joshua 1:5-11,
16-18



Aim:
To know the importance of Israel
entering the Promised Land



Today’s fruit:
Peace



Trust

Find a quiet space and read Joshua 1:9 again. Think of one thing in your life that sometimes feels big or challenging.

On a piece of paper, write or draw:

- something you want to be brave about
- one word or phrase from Joshua 1:9 that helps you (for example: strong, brave, afraid, with you)

Keep it somewhere special to remind you that God goes with you wherever you go.



Share

Go for a short walk as a family (indoors or outdoors). Take four steps, pausing after each one to talk about something from this week’s story:

- **Step 1:** Something new that you tried this week.
- **Step 2:** Something that felt a bit scary.
- **Step 3:** Something you found hard to understand.
- **Step 4:** Something you are thankful God helped you with.



Song for the week

Watch:

‘Won’t be Afraid’ (Kingdom Kids feat. Davy Flowers) by Kingdom Kids

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=tnOuORDOQoM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnOuORDOQoM)