

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT

Daniel 5:1-16,26-30 The writing on the wall

Daniel had fallen out of favour with the kings of Babylon, and it was only when King Belshazzar was afraid that he called for Daniel's help. Daniel had to make a brave decision, telling the truth to a powerful king. It was not news that King Belshazzar wanted to hear.

Each child will need:

- Paper with a brick wall background (roughly A4 size). This can be printed out, or use brick-patterned wallpaper – see Action It section
- Felt-tips or Sharpies that will work on the brick paper
- Bible verse wristband

You will need:

- A large copy of the memory verse Philippians 4:8 (NIV) with key words in bold – see Pray It section

Start It

- **Say:** Today we are thinking about telling the truth and what it feels like to tell the truth during challenging circumstances.
- **Say:** Think of a short sentence, a statement, that is true. For example: I have a dog. Find a partner and, using your finger, write the message on their back. See if they can guess what you have written. Swap over and see if you can guess your partner's true statement.

Ask:

- What were your true statements?
- How many of you guessed correctly?
- **Say:** Writing is a very important part of today's story, as the truth is written on a wall for everyone to see. We'll find out more about that later.

Sing It

- **Say:** Today's song reminds us of the importance of telling the truth.

'To tell the truth' by Sovereign Grace Music Kids (3 mins 34 secs) The song starts 19 seconds into the clip.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jSm-QtZjl8

Tell It

Ask:

- What is the biggest party that you have ever been to?
- How many people do you think were there?
- What was it like to have so many people celebrating in one place?

🗨️ **Say:** In our Bible story today, King Belshazzar held a huge banquet for thousands of people. Let's read from the book of Daniel to set the scene.

Read:

'King Belshazzar gave a big banquet for 1,000 royal guests. And he drank wine with them. As Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave an order to his servants. He told them to bring the gold and silver cups that his ancestor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. King Belshazzar wanted his royal guests to drink from those cups. He also wanted his wives and his slave women to drink from them. So they brought the gold cups. They had been taken from the Temple of God in Jerusalem. And the king and his royal guests, his wives and his slave women drank from them. As they were drinking, they praised their gods. Those gods were made from gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone.'

— (Daniel 5:1-4 *ICB*)

Ask: What was special about the gold and silver cups?

🗨️ **Say:** The gold and silver cups were precious to the people of Israel. They had been stolen from the Temple and to use them in this way was very disrespectful to God.

Ask:

- ➔ Who did King Belshazzar and his royal guests praise while they were using the sacred gold and silver cups?
- ➔ What do you think God thought about what they were doing?
- ➔ What do you think happened next in the story? It would be amazing if anyone guesses the right answer!

Read:

'Then suddenly a person's hand appeared. The fingers wrote words on the plaster on the wall. This was near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.'

— (Daniel 5:5 *ICB*)

Ask:

- ➔ Is that what you expected to happen?
- ➔ How would you feel if you were at a party and suddenly a strange hand started writing things on the wall?
- ➔ How do you think King Belshazzar and his royal guests reacted?

Read:

'King Belshazzar was very frightened. His face turned white, and his knees knocked together. He could not stand up because his legs were too weak. The king called for the magicians and wise men to be brought to him. He said to the wise men of Babylon, "I will give a reward to anyone who can read this writing and explain it. I will give him purple clothes fit for a king. I will put a gold chain around his neck. And I will make him the third highest ruler in the kingdom."

'So all the king's wise men came in. But they could not read the writing. And they could not tell the king what it meant. King Belshazzar became even more afraid. His face became even whiter. His royal guests were confused.

'Then the king's mother came into the banquet room. She had heard the voices of the king and his royal guests. She said, "My king, live for ever! Don't be afraid! Don't let your face be white with fear! There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the days of your father, this man showed understanding, knowledge and wisdom. He was like the gods in these things. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, put this man in charge of all the wise men. He ruled over all the fortune-tellers, magicians, and wise men.'

— (Daniel 5:6-11 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Who do you think the king's mother was talking about?
- Can you remember any other Bible stories where Daniel was asked to come and help the king because his own wise men couldn't solve the problem?

Remind the children of the story of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, where Daniel and his friends asked God to help them interpret its meaning.

Read:

'The man I am talking about is named Daniel. The king gave him the name Belshazzar. He was very wise, and he had knowledge and understanding. He could explain dreams and secrets. He could answer very hard problems. Call for Daniel. He will tell you what the writing on the wall means.'

— (Daniel 5:12 *ICB*)

- 🗨️ **Say:** During the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar Daniel had become one of the main advisers to the King. He spoke truth to power and was able to speak to King Nebuchadnezzar on God's behalf. Now that Belshazzar was king, things had changed a lot.
- 🗨️ **Say:** King Belshazzar didn't even know who Daniel was – or at least he pretended not to know!
- 🗨️ **Say:** Daniel was brought to the palace and asked to interpret the writing on the wall. It would have been easy for him to say what he thought King Belshazzar wanted to hear, but instead he listened to God and spoke the truth. Daniel reminded the king that his predecessor had turned to God and followed him. But instead of following the true God, Belshazzar followed the pagan gods.

Read:

“You are a descendant of Nebuchadnezzar. But still you have not been sorry for what you have done. Instead, you have turned against the Lord of Heaven. You ordered the drinking cups from the Temple of the Lord to be brought to you. Then you and your royal guests drank wine from them. Your wives and your slave women also drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood and stone. They are not really gods. They cannot see or hear or understand anything. But you did not honour God. He is the one who has power over your life and everything you do. So God sent the hand that wrote on the wall.

“These are the words that were written on the wall: 'Mene, mene, tekel, parsin.'

“This is what these words mean:

- **Mene:** God has counted the days until your kingdom will end.
- **Tekel:** You have been weighed on the scales and found not good enough.
- **Parsin:** Your kingdom is being divided. It will be given to the Medes and the Persians.”

'Then Belshazzar gave an order for Daniel to be dressed in purple clothes. A gold chain was put around his neck. And he was announced to be the third highest ruler in the kingdom. That very same night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonian people, was killed. A man named Darius the Mede became the new king. Darius was 62 years old.'

— (Daniel 5:29-31 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What did you think of this dramatic story from the Old Testament?
- Do you think that Daniel was brave to speak the truth to King Belshazzar? If so, why?
- Why is it important that we speak out and tell the truth even when people might not want to hear it?

Action It

- 🗨️ **Say:** It is very unlikely that any of us would have the same experience at a party as King Belshazzar's guests, but we can all relate to the dilemma Daniel faced in this story. It is hard to tell the truth when we know the person listening won't like the answer.

Ask: Where do you think Daniel got his courage from?

🗨️ **Say:** Daniel's total focus was on God. He spent so much time with God that he knew the correct way to respond in the situation. He knew that the truth mattered.

🗨️ **Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us to focus on the important things so that we can live our lives for God, just like Daniel did.

Read the memory verse together and, if possible, display it in the room where you meet for your 'Explore It' sessions.

Read:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

— (Philippians 4:8 *NIV*)

Mini wall mural

Ask the children to create their own version of the memory verse to put up at home. They can add pictures to help them remember the key words or write out the verse in a creative way.

Once the children have created their mini wall murals, ask them to share their drawings with each other. To bring this part of the session to a close give out the memory verse wristbands and read the verse together. The children may wish to colour in, write, or add a doodle to their wristband.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Sometimes when we pray, we focus on the things that we are finding difficult or fix our minds on the bad things that are happening in the world. There is nothing wrong with that, as God wants to hear everything that is on our hearts. But sometimes it might do us good to focus on the positive. It might help us to concentrate on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy.

Video

Watch the clip to discover more.

What is Philippians 4:8 REALLY saying? by Loop Show Clips (1 min 31 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLmtehcgglQ

Using the memory verse displayed in the room, pray the following prayer together. Point to the words in bold below and ask the children to say them as you pray together.

Dear God,
This week help us to:
focus on what is **true**,
keep our minds on what is **noble**,
look for what is **right**,
seek out what is **pure**,
notice what is **lovely**,
admire what is truly **admirable**,
focus on what is **excellent**,
and keep in mind what is really **praiseworthy**,
because you alone, Lord, are worthy of our praise.
Amen.

Explore It

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

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

NOVEMBER
SESSION 01

TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT

 Daniel 5:1-16,26-30 The writing on the wall

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Reflect

Watch the clip about *The effects of lying* by TEDxKids www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbftIDzIALA

- ➔ Why is telling the truth so important to God?
- ➔ What do we learn from Daniel about telling the truth?
- ➔ How can we tell the truth with love so that we don't hurt someone else's feelings?



Share

In this week you created your own version of our memory verse. Put it up at home and challenge someone at home to learn it with you. See if you can spot examples of things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy and share them throughout the week.



Song for the week

'To tell the truth' by Sovereign Grace Music Kids
www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jSm-QtZj18



Memory verse

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

— (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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!



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Explore It FOR LEADERS



TAKING A RISK TO HELP OTHERS

Esther 7:3-7

Today we revisit the story of Esther and learn about the Feast of Purim. After June's 'Explore It' sessions the children will be familiar with Esther's story, but today we will focus on her bravery and the way that she took a risk to help others.

Each child will need:

- Character handouts
- Finger puppets sheet (optional) – see Tell It section
- Fancy dress clothes, shakers and rattles (optional) – see Tell It section
- A range of resources to retell the story of Esther, eg paper/pens, Lego, camera, puppets ... – see Action It section

You will need:

- Large version of the memory verse on the wall Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Start It

● **Say:** Today's session is all about a brave Queen. Her story is found in the Old Testament.

● **Say:** As a nation, in September we mourned the loss of our monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. We now have King Charles III on the throne. See if you know whether the following statements about Queen Elizabeth II are true or false.

1. Queen Elizabeth II's coronation was the first ceremony to be broadcast on the radio.
FALSE – The coronation was the first to be broadcast on the television.
2. Queen Elizabeth loved dogs and her favourite breed was the chihuahua.
FALSE – The Queen loved corgis.
3. While Queen Elizabeth II was on the throne there were 15 Prime Ministers.
TRUE – The final Prime Minister who met the Queen was Liz Truss.
4. The Queen, and now the King, are the only people in the country allowed to drive without a driving licence.
TRUE
5. Queen Elizabeth II had two birthdays.
TRUE – The Queen celebrated her actual birthday on 21 April but had an official birthday in June.

Sing It

● **Say:** In our last session we started learning our memory verse for this month. Today's song is going help us remember the words of Philippians 4:8. Before we sing the song let's read the verse together.

Read:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

— (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

'Philippians 4:8 (think about such things)' with actions by CCBC Kids (3 mins 20 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxDZiku02fl&t=113s

Tell It

● **Say:** In the last 'Explore It!' session we attended Belshazzar's feast at the royal palace.

Ask: How did Belshazzar disrespect God and his people at the feast?

● **Say:** Belshazzar and his guests used the sacred silver and gold cups from the Temple as they drank wine and worshipped pagan gods. It didn't end well for King Belshazzar!

● **Say:** In today's session we are going to look at another feast, but it doesn't take place in the story. This feast is celebrated every year to remember a story from the Old Testament of the Bible. You may have learnt about this feast at school.

Ask: What do you know about the Jewish Feast of Purim?

● **Say:** The festival of Purim remembers the story of Esther. At this festival Jews celebrate by retelling the story in the synagogue. The children dress up and act out the story, booing and shaking rattles every time the baddie appears.

● **Say:** The festival is important because it reminds people of God's power to save them.

Introduce the children to the main characters in the story of Esther using the handout.

- King Xerxes
- Queen Esther
- Mordecai – Esther's cousin
- Haman – enemy of the Jews

Give each child one of the character handouts. As they listen to the story ask them to hold up their character picture. Whenever Haman's name is mentioned, remind the children to boo!

Alternatively make finger puppets using the finger puppet sheet.

Depending on resources you could also bring fancy dress clothes for the children (or ask them to come dressed up) and provide shakers for the children who do not have a character picture. These can be used, along with the booing, when Haman's name is mentioned.

Audio story

The story of Esther by Kids Corner (3 mins 44 secs)

www.kidscorner.net/bible-stories/the-story-of-esther

● **Say:** We are going to recap the main events in the story so that you can retell it in your own way.

Discuss and display the main events of the story. The prompts below are provided if the children struggle to remember the details of the story.

- King Xerxes searched the kingdom for a new Queen.
- Esther was chosen to be the new Queen.
- Mordecai, Esther's cousin, reminded her that she was a Jew and urged her not to tell anyone as this could put her in danger.
- Haman persuaded the King to pass a law that would destroy the Jews.
- Mordecai was afraid and went to Queen Esther for help. He asked her to go and see the king.
- Esther knew that going to see the King was extremely dangerous, but she did it anyway.

- The Jews fasted and prayed to God to keep Esther safe.
- Queen Esther went to the King to speak up on behalf of the Jews and they were saved.

Ask: Would you describe Esther as brave? Explain why, or why not.

🗨️ **Say:** Esther was encouraged to be brave by her cousin Mordecai. He spoke these words to Esther.

Read:

'You might keep quiet at this time. Then someone else will help and save the Jews. But you and your father's family will all die. And who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this.'

— (Esther 4:14 *ICB*)

🗨️ **Say:** Esther trusted God and spoke out on behalf of the Jewish people, so they were saved from the evil deeds of Haman. God asks us to speak out when people are being mistreated and he gives us the courage to do the right thing, just like Esther.

Action It

Ask the children to retell the story of Esther in their own way. Using the key events from the 'Tell It' section, encourage the children to retell the story of Esther in an interesting way. You can give the children free choice or, if you have specific resources you could use, then you could decide on behalf of the group. The main purpose of the activity is to summarise the main events in the story, share Esther's bravery and remind the children about God's faithfulness.

Here are some ideas for retelling the story:

- Comic strip
- Puppets
- Lego animation
- Act out the story in the style of a pantomime (with booing and hissing)
- Create a story book
- Finger puppets
- Create a song using a well-known tune
- Create a poem

When the creation is complete either share it together or you might like to film it (if appropriate) to share with the rest of the church.

Discuss

- What is the main message of the story of Esther?
- What can we learn from her bravery?
- What one thing could you do to trust God and follow Esther's example this week?

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Today we have taken the opportunity to tell the story of Esther in an interesting way. Even though she was afraid, Esther stood up to the evil she saw in the world.

Video

🗨️ **Say:** This week we will remember / have remembered the men and women who bravely stand up to evil and protect us in the armed forces. The video we are about to watch tells their story in a creative way but reminds us of their bravery.

Once the video has finished, read the prayer with the group to bring the session to a close.

A Remembrance Day-inspired Strictly Pros routine by BBC *Strictly Come Dancing* (3 mins 29

secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOEGNkOlv-4

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we ask that you would be with the soldiers who risk everything to stand up to evil, and bravely do the right thing.

We pray for their families who wait at home filled with worry.

Be with all the families who have lost someone important to them.

Protect those who are caught up in the horrors of war.

When I am afraid of the things I see around me, help me to remember the words of our memory verse.

Help me to focus on you and your faithfulness and, just like Esther, give me the courage to stand up and do the right thing.

Amen.

Explore It

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

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

NOVEMBER
SESSION 02

TAKING A RISK TO HELP OTHERS

 Esther 7:3-7

FOR ME



Read

The book of Esther has ten chapters. See if you can read the whole book by your next 'Explore It' session. Here's a mini-reading plan to help you.

Day 1: Esther 1	Day 4: Esther 5 & 6
Day 2: Esther 2	Day 5: Esther 7 & 8
Day 3: Esther 3 & 4	Day 6: Esther 9 & 10

TOGETHER



Share

In this week's session you retold the story of Esther and discovered more about the Festival of Purim. Share everything that you have discovered with the people at home and tell them Esther's story.

'Philippians 4:8 (think about such things)' with actions by CCBC Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxDZlku02fl&t=113s



Song for the week

'Philippians 4:8 (think about such things)' with actions by CCBC Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxDZlku02fl&t=113s



Memory verse

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

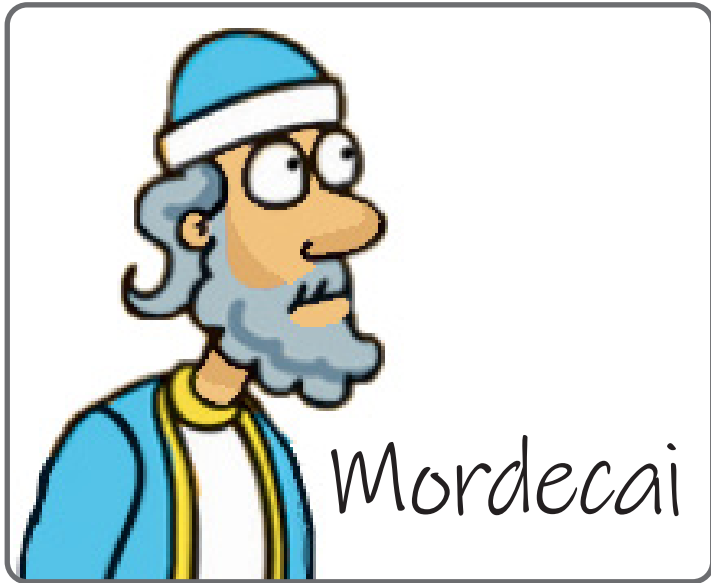
— (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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!







Explore It

FOR LEADERS



MAKING WISE CHOICES LIKE SOLOMON

1 Kings 3:4-12,17-28 Solomon asks for wisdom

When God asked Solomon what he wanted most in the world, he chose wisdom. Solomon knew that, as a king in his twenties, he would have some challenging decisions to make. From Solomon we can learn what it means to turn to God and trust in his wisdom rather than our own.

Each child will need:

→ A Pudsey colouring sheet, pens/pencils www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PUDSEY_COLOURING.pdf

You will need:

- A large copy of the memory verse Philippians 4:8 (NIV) with key words covered by sticky notes – see Start It section
- Wise Choices handout, cut into cards – see Action It section
- Paper and pen

Start It

☛ **Say:** This week you may have taken part in events for Children in Need, but how much do you know about the charity? Have a go at the quiz together and see how many answers you get right.

Quiz

Children in Need by CBBC – BBC

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/children-in-need-quiz

☛ **Say:** Our Bible story today includes a small child who is in great need. The only person that can help the family is King Solomon, who has to make a wise choice.

Sing It

Ask: How are you getting on with learning the memory verse for this month?

☛ **Say:** We're going to use the same song as last week to refresh your memory before we try and say the verse.

'Philippians 4:8 (think about such things)' with actions by CCBC Kids (3 mins 20 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxDZlku02fl&t=113s

Display the memory verse but cover up the following words: true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy. Read through the verse with the children to see how much they can remember.

Tell It

Ask: If you could ask God for one thing, what would it be?

🗨️ **Say:** King Solomon began his reign on the throne in his early twenties after his father, King David, had died. He faithfully followed God, and one night while he was worshipping at the altar, this happened!

Read:

'King Solomon went to Gibeon to offer a sacrifice. He went there because it was the most important place of worship. He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar. While he was at Gibeon, the Lord came to him in a dream during the night. God said, "Ask for anything you want. I will give it to you."

'Solomon answered, "You were very kind to your servant, my father David. He obeyed you. He was honest and lived right. And you showed great kindness to him when you allowed his son to be king after him. Lord my God, you have allowed me to be king in my father's place. But I am like a little child. I do not have the wisdom I need to do what I must do. I, your servant, am here among your chosen people. There are too many of them to count. So I ask that you give me wisdom. Then I can rule the people in the right way. Then I will know the difference between right and wrong. Without wisdom, it is impossible to rule this great people of yours."

'The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked him for this. So God said to him, "You did not ask for a long life. And you did not ask for riches for yourself. You did not ask for the death of your enemies. Since you asked for wisdom to make the right decisions, I will give you what you asked. I will give you wisdom and understanding. Your wisdom will be greater than anyone has had in the past. And there will never be anyone in the future like you."

— (1 Kings 3:4-12 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom?
- What was he concerned or anxious about?

🗨️ **Say:** Solomon knew that he would have lots of important decisions to make and he didn't want to rely on his own knowledge and understanding. He knew that he needed God's help to make the right choices.

Ask: In what ways do we need God's help to make wise choices?

Video

🗨️ **Say:** Not long after God had given Solomon the gift of wisdom, he faced a very challenging situation. Watch the clip to find out what happened.

The story in the clip involves the death of a baby, so please keep this in mind if this issue directly impacts children in your group.

Solomon, a man of wisdom (1 Kings 3:16-28) by Hi Bible (4 mins 4 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=li8uMA-ixv0

Ask:

- How did Solomon know who the mother of the baby was?
- How did Solomon use God's wisdom to solve the disagreement?

🗨️ **Say:** Solomon had a very difficult choice to make, and he relied on God's wisdom to show care for the baby and its mother.

Action It

Ask:

- If someone is described as wise, what does it mean?
- What kind of things do they say or do?
- Who is the wisest person that you know? Why did you choose them?

Video

🗨️ **Say:** Watch the clip to find out more about what it means to be wise.

Wisdom by Pursue God Kids (2 mins 23 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCKIYMZkPhk

🗨️ **Say:** Wisdom is knowing what is right and doing it. Wise people use their knowledge to do the right thing. In the video it says that we need to practise making wise choices and that's what we're going to do today.

Wise choices

Divide the children into small groups and give each group one or two scenarios from the Wise Choices handout to act out. After each scenario has been acted out, ask the group what they would ask God for in this situation and what is the wise choice to make. An example is below as a prompt for discussion.

Example:

You are sat in a test that you are finding very difficult. The person next to you seems to know all the answers and you are tempted to cheat. What do you do?

Ask God: Please help me to remember everything that I know about this subject as I do my best to solve this problem.

Wise choice: Turn your chair away from the person next to you and focus on your own test.

Ask:

➔ How will thinking through these different scenarios help you to make wise choices in the future?

➔ What can you do when you have a wise choice to make?

🗨️ **Say:** When we have a challenging decision to make, we often want to rush to find an answer. Solomon teaches us that seeking God's wisdom first is very important. Next time you are involved in settling an argument between friends, deciding whether to tell the truth or considering whether to stick up for someone in trouble, take a moment to ask God for his wisdom.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Today we shared a sad story about two babies and their grieving mothers. This week you may have taken part in Children in Need where money was raised to support children and young people in difficult circumstances.

Ask: What are some of the challenges facing children at the moment?

Jot down the responses for the children to refer to later.

Give each child a copy of a Pudsey colouring sheet. Ask them to write a prayer on the sheet for children that are in need. They can take home the sheet and use it throughout the week.

Ask each child to read out their prayer and then bring the time of prayer to a close.

Explore It

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

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

NOVEMBER
SESSION 03

MAKING WISE CHOICES LIKE SOLOMON

 1 Kings 3:4-12,17-28 Solomon asks for wisdom

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Explore

Grab your Bible and explore the following Scripture verses.

What do they teach us about the importance of wisdom?

- ➔ Proverbs 2:6
- ➔ Ephesians 5:15-16
- ➔ James 1:5
- ➔ Colossians 4:5-6



Watch

Watch the clip about wisdom with people at home.

What is wisdom? by CQ Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fvu_601JahI

Ask them:

- ➔ What is the wisest decision you've ever made?
- ➔ What is the most foolish decision you've ever made?

Share with your family the importance of asking God for wisdom when we have a difficult decision to make.



Song for the week

'Philippians 4:8 (think about such things)'
with actions by CCBC Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxDZlku02fl&t=113s



Memory verse

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

— (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

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<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

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You are sat in a test that you are finding very difficult.

A

The person next to you seems to know all the answers and you are tempted to cheat.

What do you do?

There is a quiet child in your class who doesn't seem to have many friends.

C

While playing in the playground you ask your friend if the quiet child can join in. Your friend says no.

What do you do?

Your friend has admitted that they keep sneaking out of the house at night without their parents knowing.

B

They are the same age as you and you know that this isn't safe.

What do you do?

You are playing with a football inside the house and it knocks a lamp over and breaks it.

D

You could easily blame your younger brother as he was playing near the table as well.

What do you do?

Explore It FOR LEADERS



CREATING AN AMAZING SPACE TO CONNECT WITH GOD

 1 Kings 6:11,29-35; Exodus 25:10-22

In today's session we are thinking about the special places where we go to worship God and how these places are designed to connect us with him. We'll learn all about the splendour of King Solomon's Temple and consider places of worship in our local area.

Each child will need:

- Resources to create their ideal place to worship God, eg pens/paper, Lego, plasticine, paint ... – see Action It section

You will need:

- Pictures of a local church or cathedral
- Research about the local church or cathedral – see Start It section

Start It

Before this activity you will need to find pictures of a local church or cathedral and the answers to the questions below. It would be nice if the church was one that the children could potentially visit.

- **Say:** Just like last week, today's Bible story is all about King Solomon. God gave Solomon the important task of building the Temple and we'll discover more about the grand building he created later.

Ask:

- What's the most impressive building you've seen or been in? It could be a palace or castle, a sports stadium, or even a cathedral.
- What were you most impressed with?

- **Say:** We are going to start today by seeing how much you know about a local building.

Show the children a picture of the local church or cathedral.

Ask:

- What is this building?
- Have any of you visited it?
- What was it like?

- **Say:** Let's see how much you know about the building.

Perhaps you can provide multiple choice answers for the following questions.

Ask:

- How old is the building?
- How long did it take to build?
- How many people were involved in building it?
- Who designed the building?

If your building has any interesting quirks or stories linked to it, then incorporate these into the questions.

Sing It

- **Say:** We may not be building a physical temple here on earth, but we are definitely involved in building God's Kingdom. Today we're going to sing a song that talks about God building his Kingdom here on earth.

'Build your kingdom here' by Rend Collective (4 mins 16 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqZX08DDWiA

Tell It

- **Say:** In the book of Exodus we read about the laws God gave to the people of Israel. These laws were known as the Ten Commandments, and they helped the people to understand how to live in a way that honoured God. The laws were written on large stone tablets that were special and sacred to the people. God wanted the people to keep the tablets safe and gave specific instructions on where they should be kept.

Ask:

- What do you think God asked the people to build, to hold the stone tablets?
- What do you think it looked like?

- **Say:** God's laws needed to be kept safe in a wooden box called the Ark of the Covenant. We can read in Exodus 25:10-22 to find out exactly how the box should be built.

Read:

'Use acacia wood and build an Ark. It must be [110 cm] long, [70 cm] wide and [70 cm] high. Cover the Ark of the Covenant inside and out with pure gold. And put a gold strip all around it. Make four gold rings for the Ark of the Covenant. Attach the gold rings to its four feet, two rings on each side. Then make poles from acacia wood and cover them with gold. Put the poles through the rings on the sides of the Ark. Use these poles to carry the Ark of the Covenant. These poles must always stay in the rings of the Ark of the Covenant. Do not take the poles out. Then put the two flat stones in the Ark of the Covenant. I will give you these stones on which the commands are written.'

'Then make a lid of pure gold for the Ark of the Covenant. This lid is the mercy seat. Make it [110 cm] long and [70 cm] wide. Then hammer gold to make two creatures with wings. Put one on each end of the lid. Put one creature with wings on one end of the lid. And put the other creature with wings on the other end. Attach the creatures with wings to the lid so that they will all be one piece. The creatures' wings should be spread out over the lid. The creatures are to face each other across the lid. Put this lid on top of the Ark of the Covenant. Also put in this Ark of the Covenant the agreement which I will make with you. I will meet with you there, above the lid between the two creatures with wings. These are on the Ark of the Covenant. There I will give you all my commands for the Israelites.'

— (Exodus 25:10-22 ICB)

Ask:

- What do you notice about the instructions?
- Are they more detailed than you imagined them to be? If so, how?

- **Say:** For the Jewish people the Ark of the Covenant was sacred. When he came to the throne King David decided to build a Temple so that the people could worship God there and the Ark of the Covenant would be safe. God had different plans, however, and the job of building the Temple was given to Solomon.

Video

Solomon built the Temple (2 mins 48 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=T27x1r1R5qA

- **Say:** The Temple Solomon built for worshipping God was pretty impressive.

Ask: What did you notice about the way it was built?

🗨️ **Say:** The Temple was made from stone pillars, huge wooden doors, jewels and gold, but all this luxury wasn't the most important thing about it. The Temple was created for God, to worship God, and God was the focus of everyone who went into that building. God is always with us, but there is something special that happens when we gather together to worship him. The Temple was a special place for the Hebrew people to gather together and be in the presence of God's word.

Ask:

➔ Now you have discovered more about the Jewish Temple, what do you think of the cathedral/church that you looked at in the starter?

➔ Why do you think the people in your local area put so much effort into building a place of worship?

🗨️ **Say:** Just as people visit cathedrals today to look at their splendour, people heard about the amazing Temple Solomon had built and came to see it. The Queen of Sheba travelled 1,500 miles through the hot desert to visit Solomon and ask how he ran his country so wisely.

🗨️ **Say:** So, the next time you get to visit a large cathedral or church, think of Solomon's story. It's OK to be impressed by the stained-glass windows and ornate stonework, but make sure your all your focus is on the amazing God who inspired it to be built.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Today we have looked at special places of worship that were built to connect us with God and with those around us. We can obviously worship anywhere, but there's something special about being in a place that has been specifically designed to worship God.

Ask the children to design/create their ideal place to worship and connect with God. It doesn't have to be a building; it could be a place in nature like a waterfall or a forest. The important thing is that, just like Solomon, the children have thought carefully about the best way to honour God in their design.

This activity can be completed in a number of ways depending on the resources you have available. The children could use paint, Lego, plasticine or simply felt-tips to create their design. They can work together or individually. Once the children have created their place of worship, they can share their ideas with the rest of the group.

🗨️ **Say:** You have shared some amazing ideas today for places to worship and honour God.

Ask:

➔ Do you have a special place at home where you can spend time focusing on God?

➔ If not, then why don't you create one this week?

🗨️ **Say:** Your worship space doesn't have to be anything grand or permanent. It could be something simple that you set up each time you spend time in prayer and worship.

Memory verse

🗨️ **Say:** Throughout these sessions we have been learning a memory verse that reminds us how important it is to focus on God.

Share the memory verse together. Remind the children that focusing on the lovely and admirable things of God is a lot easier when we create time and space to be with him.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Today we are going to take some time to follow the advice of Philippians 4:8.

Read:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

— (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

As we have done in previous sessions, ask the children to find a place to lay down and relax. As the music plays, ask them to focus on God and all the positive things mentioned in Philippians 4:8.

'Think about such things' Philippians 4:8 by Truth Songs (3 mins 7 secs) Stop the clip at 1 min 34 secs.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKC5sXu84Mg

Explore It

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Explore It

IDEAS

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NOVEMBER
SESSION 04

CREATING AN AMAZING SPACE TO CONNECT WITH GOD

 1 Kings 6:11,29-35; Exodus 25:10-22

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Draw

Have a look on the internet for pictures of amazing places of worship or watch the clip below.

15 beautiful churches and cathedrals by Top Fives

www.youtube.com/watch?v=STh9eyd7JIE

Spend time drawing one aspect of the building. Perhaps you could recreate a stained-glass window or draw the intricate stonework.



Explore

If possible, try and visit the church or cathedral that you learned about in this week's 'Explore It' session. Take some pictures to share with the rest of the group.



Song for the week

'Build your kingdom here' by Rend Collective
(4 mins 16 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqZX08DDWiA



Memory verse

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

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