

about the bible zone

Overview

The zone begins with a discussion about stories and special and holy books, and the importance of the Bible for Christians and therefore for members of The Salvation Army. Then pupils hear a parable, or story about Jesus, using a method of storytelling based on 'Godly Play' (visit www.godlyplay.org.uk to find out more about this method). Pupils are encouraged to wonder about the story and its meaning, and then to respond by expressing their own feelings about the story through drawing or writing. The session ends by thinking about how members of The Salvation Army put Jesus' teaching into practice, and the leader may share how they try to follow the Bible's teaching in their own life. The Good Samaritan is the recommended story to use but there is the option of doing the Creation Story or a trained Godly Play person could present the Social Action story.

Points to note

- See 'About Godly Play' for an introduction to Godly Play and for tips about telling the story and the response time.
- The Good Samaritan story should be provided in a gold box – this is essential to the telling of the story. Set up the Creation Story on the wooden rack provided. If possible a focal table should be set up behind the storyteller - a white table cloth with a Christ candle (a large unlit white candle) and the Holy Family. The Holy Family is available on loan or to purchase from the Resource Hub.
- It's a good idea to arrange your pencils, pastels, crayons etc in separate bags or plastic boxes – enough for pupils to take one each. This will help to maintain the calm, ordered atmosphere and may save time too.
- The Bible zone gives a lovely opportunity for the leader to talk about what the Bible means to them personally. This is a way of pupils experiencing faith first-hand, which is one of the benefits of visiting a faith community, and absolutely acceptable in this setting.

Setting up the zone

When setting up this zone try to create a kind of 'sacred space'. If you have a prayer room, or you're able to set up something similar in another room, this would be ideal. The activities are designed to be fairly quiet, calm and reflective, so an environment which encourages this will be really helpful.

Resources provided

- Bible zone A3 sign
- Display stand for A3 sign (blue)
- Godly play materials (choose):
 - The Good Samaritan
 - Creation Story (optional)
 - Holy Family (optional)
- Godly play scripts (download from USB or check the website for the latest version)
- Mission Statement A3 card
- KS1/2 bible zone scripts (download from USB or check the website for the latest version)

You may also need

- Mats/carpet squares for pupils to sit on*
- A focal table behind the storyteller - a low table with a white table cloth, large white candle and the Holy Family
- Selection of good quality crayons/coloured pencils, pastels etc for response time
- A Bible/leader's own Bible

* also available to loan from the Resource Hub (see 'Resources' section)

Adapting the zone

- Make the zone shorter:
If time is limited pupils could complete their written/drawn response after the visit. Try not to rush the storytelling and wondering questions.

- Make the zone longer:
Godly Play works best when it is calm and unhurried, so you could take a little more time over the wondering questions and give pupils more time for the drawing/writing response time after the story. You could also invite any pupils who want to, to share what they have drawn/written, although stress that they shouldn't feel they have to share.
- Use this zone as a whole class session:
Godly Play can work with a class of 30 pupils sitting on the floor in a large circle if you have enough space – you just need to make sure they can all see the story. You could add some extra materials for the response time such as clay and a few different materials for collage.

