

The Rock, Sunday 15th November 2020

God made me to be faithful.

Warm up

Dance to, join in with the actions and sing our Rock song.

This video has the words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>

This video has the actions: <https://youtu.be/8dbOgbRxC1M>



Getting started

Explain to the children that they are going to play a game with a partner, where one of them will be the person or leader, and the other will play the part of the mirror!

Stand facing one another. On the signal to begin, the leader should make some simple movements and the 'mirror' needs to respond by mirror-imaging their partner, copying their movements precisely.

If you find a pair who are particularly good at this, you could pull them to the front to demonstrate.

The Point: A fun ice breaker based on this idea of 'sticking close together.'

Explain to the children that today we are going to be thinking about one aspect of God's nature; that He is always faithful. Ask the children if they know what this means and spend some time talking about what the word 'faithful' means. Explain that if someone is faithful, (or we might use the word loyal) they stick by us and don't give up on us.

Encourage the children to see that although we may have ideas of what it means to be faithful; God shows this in the best way, He really never gives up on us and sticks close to us no matter what!

The Point: To define faithfulness and explore what it means that God is faithful.

Teaching time

Equipment



Paper, pencils, Stories Jesus Told by Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen, see link

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz1oZRuqh1E>) or from a children's bible or read story below.

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil and ask them to draw a sheep. Count the sheep together. How many are there? Say that today's story is about a man

who had 100 sheep - that's quite a lot! Can anyone count to 100?

Read the story 'The Lost Sheep' from Stories Jesus Told.

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:3-7

At the end of the story reiterate the point that God will always want us with him and will want us back if we decide not to be friends with him. Say that there is a word to describe this - it's faithful. God is faithful to us - he always wants to be friends with us, even if we have gone far away from him. How can we be faithful to God?

The Point: To thinking about God's faithfulness to us and our faithfulness to God.

Craft and activity ideas

1.

Equipment

Paper plates, cotton wool, glue, black sugar paper, googly eyes.

Before the session, cut out black circles (diameter 6-8cm) and 2cm wide strips from the black sugar paper. Cut the paper plates in half.

Give each child half a plate, a black circle, 4 black strips and two googly eyes. Have the paper plate with the straight edge at the top. Stick the black circle on one end so that about half of it overlaps onto the plate. Stick the four strips on the bottom of the plate - they are the legs. Glue cotton wool all over the plate. Stick the googly eyes on the black circle.



The Point: A story reminder.

2.

Small card, pens.

Ask the children to think about what they've learned in today's session. Tell them that the point of all this has been to help us think about what it means to be faithful to God. We are faithful to God when we stay close to Him, listen to Him and do what He asks.

We can be faithful to what we've learned today by promising to do something for a whole week to remind us of it. Give the children some ideas of how they might be faithful in the

week ahead – e.g. reading a Bible story every day, praying every night, thanking God for their food before every meal, helping their mums/dads, loving people who wouldn't normally be their friends, being generous with their things... See if the children have any more ideas.

Give each child a card with 'This week I can be faithful by...' printed on it. Ask them to write or draw one thing that they think they can do for the whole week. They should take this card away and put it somewhere they will see it often.

The Point: To help the children to be faithful in practical ways.

Response

Equipment

Small cards, pens.

Ask the children to close their eyes and to think of a way that they are faithful – and a way that they need to be more faithful – either to other people, to their duties, or to God. (For example they might decide to be faithful in feeding their guinea pig, or faithful in tidying their room, or faithful in reading the Bible.)

Ask them to write or draw that thing on their card, so that they can be faithful in it during the coming week.

The Point: To apply today's teaching to our own lives.

The logo consists of the words "THE ROCK" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The text is set against a solid blue rectangular background.

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)