

The Rock, Sunday 3rd May 2020

God is faithful

Warm up

Dance to, join in with the actions (if you can remember them) 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

Ask the children to think of something they are scared of. Ask them to choose a fear to act out. Can you guess which fear is being acted out?

The Point: To think about the things we are scared of.

Story/ teaching time

1 Equipment

Paper and pens,

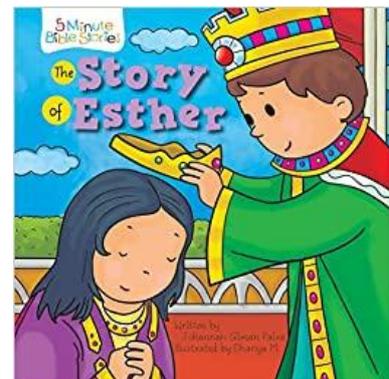
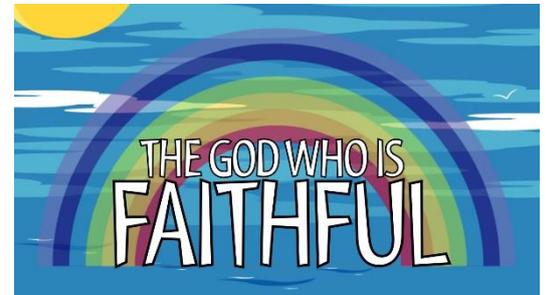
If you can recall an occasion where you were afraid of telling another person something, recall that incident now: it doesn't have to be current, perhaps you can remember having to tell an adult something when you were a child, or you had to give a talk and you were terrified. Say that a lot of us are scared of other people at some time or other but God can help us not to be afraid in these situations. We are going to look at the story of someone who God helped to be brave.

First ask the children to prepare: draw a big palace, some plates of beautiful food, and draw a beautiful queen, a King, a mean man wearing good clothes and a man with a nice but worried face. You can use these illustrations as you tell the story.

Now tell the story of Esther.

Esther was a Jew, but she had been chosen to be the queen of a king called Xerxes. Xerxes had a government official called Haman who hated all the Jews and had made a plot to kill them all. Esther had a cousin called Mordecai.

One day Mordecai came to see Esther. He was upset that all the Jews were going to be killed and he told Esther that she had to go to the king and get him to change his mind! Esther was scared! She told Mordecai that she couldn't go to the king because no one was allowed to see the king unless he sent for them – if anyone went to see the king and the king didn't want to see them that person was killed! Unless the king pointed his big stick at the person – then they were allowed to come in. Esther was afraid that the king might not want to see her and she would be killed.



Ask the children if Esther was right to be scared? What do they think she did?

Say that Mordecai told Esther that perhaps God had made her queen just so that she could save the Jews... So Esther agreed that she would try. She asked Mordecai to pray and fast for her for three days, and she did the same. So for 3 days Esther didn't eat, nor did Mordecai, nor did her friends – but they did pray and they asked God to help.

Ask the children why this was an important thing to do? How would praying help?

Ask the children if they think Esther was still scared? Say that we don't know! She probably was – but she knew that she could trust God and so later three days she put on her best clothes and went to see the king. She was lucky! The king pointed his gold stick at her and she was allowed to talk to him – she wasn't killed!

Ask the children if they can guess what Esther said? Say that Esther invited the king and Haman to come to a special dinner she would prepare for them. The king agreed, and he and Haman came to Esther's special dinner.

Ask the children if they think Esther asked him to save the Jews now? No – she asked the king to come to another dinner party the next day.

And the next day, when the king and Haman were eating with Esther, the king asked her if she wanted anything – in fact he said he would give her anything she asked him for! So Esther asked the king to spare the lives of the Jews, because someone was trying to kill them – and that someone was Haman!

The king was furious and he had Haman badly punished and the Jews weren't killed after all.

Remind the children that Esther was scared to go to the king – and ask them if they remember what she did before she went to talk to him? How did God help Esther? Say that when we are scared we can trust God to help us to do those things we find difficult.

The Point: To see that even though Esther was scared to do the right thing she trusted God to help her.

*2 optional extra **Equipment-***

if you have a copy of:

DVD of How to Train your Dragon (DreamWorks) and the means to play it.

Summary of clip: The Vikings have discovered Dragon Island and set out to defeat their old enemies, but maybe all is not what it seems...

Start of clip: 1:06:40 (scene 14)

End of clip: 1:21:38

Length of clip: 14:58

Before you watch the clip, ask the children to keep their eyes open for examples of people being brave or showing courage. At the end of the clip have them call out the things they spotted.

Ask the group why some of Vikings (and especially Hiccup) decided to be brave. It was because it was for something they really believed in - defeating the big dragon. Do they think Hiccup was scared? Yes probably but he knew he needed to have courage to defeat the dragon. Watch the second part of the clip.

Start of clip: 1:21:38

End of clip: 1:25:15

Length of clip: 3:23

What cost did Hiccup pay for his bravery? But what changed because of his bravery? The dragons were no longer misunderstood and they lived side by side with the Vikings. Was Hiccup's bravery worth the cost and the reward?

Say that there are lots of situations in life where we might need to have courage - especially for things worth fighting for. Say that when we choose to follow Jesus, he gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. Sometimes the Bible gives the Holy Spirit the name 'encourager'. This means that he helps us to have courage inside.

You could talk about situations where they need the holy Spirit to give them courage.

The Point: To think about the cost and reward of courage and where it might come from.

Craft ideas

1. *Equipment Queen Esther colouring page- see link below, pens/ crayons*

<https://www.kidssundayschool.com/tinymce/filemanager/files/preschool/coloring/pages/bravequeenesther01.pdf>

2. *Equipment Ready rolled pastry, cookie cutters, fruit jam, oven.*

This is a simplified form of "Haman hats", a traditional Jewish cookie eaten at Purim, when the Jews celebrate Esther's story.

Let the children cut out circles of pastry with the pastry cutters. In the middle of the circles of pastry they should put one small tea spoon of jam. Then they should fold in 3 sides of the pastry so that the cookie ends up in a triangle shape. There should still be jam visible in the middle; the sides overlap but they don't actually cover the whole of the centre.



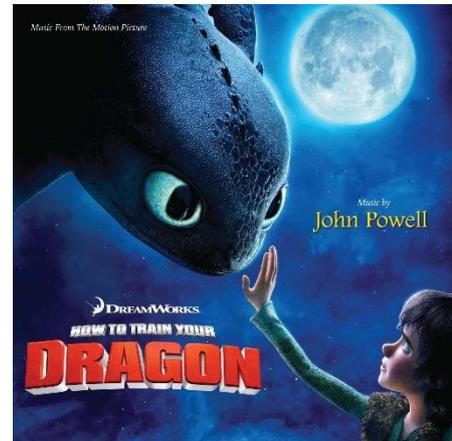
Put the finished cookies on grease proof paper on a baking tray and cook for 20 minutes at mark 5. Alternatively, put each child's raw cookies on a plate and send the home with baking instructions. Google "Haman's hats" to see pictures of the finished cookies.

3. *Equipment Paper with faces drawn on it, wool, glue, pens, paper.*

Draw a head with facial features

When the children come to the table they can finish off the face and add a body to the face using pens. Then they can stick wool onto the head to be hair.

They have made "Beautiful Esther".



The Point: Reminders of the story.

Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRvCUz6KFB4>



Using the link above:

Play the song "Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you!" and sing it together. You could make up some actions to do together as you sing.

The Point: To reiterate the teaching.

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