# Under 5s

Much of the holiday club materials are easily adapted to include the under fves, especially those

interspersed with free play, sensory activities, and songs and games which are familiar to the little ones, and maybe with access to a storybook corner with copies of the modern parable books and other Bible-based picture books. Remember to ensure that these refect diversity, are inclusive and refect the world that children see around them.

Stories from the Bible can best be told to little ones from a version such as the

or stories by authors such as Sally Lloyd Jones, Steph Williams, Nick Butterworth or Bob Hartmann. A modern parable is a children's story that links to the theme of the Bible stories but is not actually a story from the Bible – it is one that children might know and recognise from everyday life. We do not need to make the link explicit – children, even little ones, are surprisingly good at doing that for themselves.

What's In The Box is an opportunity for children to explore items, especially multi-sensory items, which are linked to the story. Bring the items out one at a time, with a sense of expectation and awe, and share them with the children. As the children play with the item and explore it with their hands and eyes, and possibly their mouths (have some Milton or similar available to wipe them clean after each child's use), use the hints that are written in this resource to talk with the children



# Starting small

What's in the box?

# **Shining bright**

# What's in the box?

A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

A happy/sad face (Jesus came to turn the world upside-down and change people's sad faces to happy faces)

Something with child's name on it or some letters to spell it out (we are sometimes given our name at baptism, what's your name? God said he loved Jesus very much when he was baptised. God knows your name and loves you too)

Feathers (God's spirit is a like a beautiful bird, soft and gentle like a feather)

A torch to shine a light around the room (God's love is like a light shining in the dark – we can be like lights too, making people feel warm and happy)

Tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)

# Modern day parable

Refer to the parable of the day from the main book.

# by Jonathan Emmett: https://youtu.be/YE7j5ba2EiM?si=2wGRDmYbdgb7E4k2

# Game

# **Musical lights**

Arrange the same amount of containers round the room as there are children and place a light under one of them (while the children are not looking). Play some music and let the children dance around the containers) – when the music stops everyone looks under a container to see if they have found the light. Keep playing and moving the light around so that everybody gets a chance to fnd the light.

# Creative

**Pillar of light** You will need:

What you do: Th d M



# Questions

I wonder what one thing you liked best from today's stories? I wonder if you have ever seen anyone being baptised?

### **Prayer**

Refer to main book for large group prayer, Use one candle to pass round from person to person, substitute the words 'Let's shine for Jesus together' to 'Jesus shine'







What you do:

Give the children each a biscuit and ask then to draw on a face from the story. Alternatively, they could draw a big heart on the biscuit. Some of the very young children may need more help to

# Questions

I wonder what one thing you liked best from today's stories? I wonder how it feels when you see someone you love?

# Prayer Tents

When stood inside the tent think of people who are sad and hurt, when stood outside of the tent think of people who are left out (an example to help might be when you are not asked to play with someone). When all hold hands think of how friends help us.

Amen.

# Day four

# **The Way Back**

# What's in the box?

A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

Tissues or handkerchiefs (people felt sad in the story – what do you do when you're sad?) Bandages (to wrap the play characters in – when Jesus died, he was wrapped up in bandages but when he came to life again, all his bandages fell off)

A crown (Jesus is king. Some people made him wear a crown that hurt him because it was all spiky, but he should really have a shiny crown like a king because he is so special)

Flowers (Jesus was buried in a beautiful garden. He rose from the dead, just like fowers appear from closed up buds. Can we make our hands like fower buds then open them up like fowers?)

Tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)

# Modern day parable

Refer to the parable of the day from the main book.

# , by Oliver Jeffers: https://youtu.be/xgGVJmPLNS4?si=Ta8jrgrOCmgWuYM7

# Game

Refer to the main book for the game 'Save Me'. Play as a simplifed version of stuck in the mud.





# Creative

Refer to main book for 'cardboard roll shuttling rocket' and 'pig swill'.

For younger children, you could make a hand print with green paint or draw around a hand on green paper and cut it out. Have some fower shapes (foam, stickers, pictures cut from magazines etc) that could be glued onto the tip of each fnger and thumb to make a bunch of fowers to remind

## Questions

I wonder what one thing you liked best from today's stories?

I wonder what if today's story made you feel happy or sad or something else?

### **Prayer – sensory**

Using mats for children to walk on, create a sensory prayer walk. Lay the mats in a line so children can walk over them with bare feet or in socks. These are just suggestions not prescriptive ideas, you may think of your own.

A rough mat (think of things which are diffcult) A bumpy mat (think of things which make you feel scared) A soft mat (think of things which make you feel safe) A wet mat (think of things which make you happy and giggle) A towel.

While drying your feet say, "Thank you God you are with me all the time."

# Go out and be

# What's in the box?

A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

A battery powered fan or hand fan (feel the breeze on your hands and face, you can't see it but you can feel it. Can you see it making things move? It's like God's spirit moving)

Bubbles (let's blow some bubbles – where do they go? They're flled with air – look how pretty they are)

A torch (see the light from the torch shining on your hand and lighting up things around the room. God's spirit lights us up and warms us)

A toy medal or sticker (we get a medal or a sticker when we're brave. God helps us to be brave. When are you brave? What makes you a bit frightened sometimes?)

A feather (feathers are very gentle and soft to touch. God's spirit is gentle but strong) A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)

## Modern day parable

Refer to the parable of the day from the main book.



