

LIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD



SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSIONS

AUTUMN/WINTER RESOURCE PACK 2022-23

SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSIONS

Contents

3 ENCOUNTERS 1
CALEB

7 ENCOUNTERS 2
THE PRODIGAL SON

11 ENCOUNTERS 3
TIMOTHY



ENCOUNTERS 1

CALEB



INTRODUCTION

Main teaching point:

Nothing is too big for us to handle because God is bigger and he is on our side.

WORSHIP SONGS



God is for me

<https://youtu.be/9pnFa26NR9M>



Nothing is impossible

<https://youtu.be/8zpQvvp88ow>



ENCOUNTERS 1

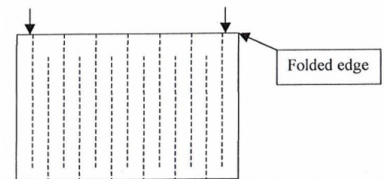
CALEB



CHALLENGE

Either in teams or individually, give the children a piece of paper and a pair of children's scissors. Ask them to make it fit around a person, but they can't rip the paper or stick it back together!

Once you have given them enough time to try, talk about how this challenge seems impossible. Explain that there is a way to make this seemingly impossible challenge possible.



Here are the instructions for doing it:

(I'd advise practicing it a few times beforehand! Fold paper in half, width-wise is easiest.)

- Cut a slit in the paper, starting from the folded edge until you almost reach the other end.
- Alternate along your paper, cutting from the folded edge and then cutting from the unfolded edge.
- Make sure the end cut also starts from the folded edge.
- Cut along the fold, in between where the two arrows in the above image are.
- Open it up. It should be one big circle!

Explain that sometimes things seem impossible; problems seem too hard and too big to ever overcome. We are going to look at a man in the Bible called Caleb who teaches us what to do when we face impossible tasks.

ENCOUNTERS 1

CALEB



STORY

This video tells the story of Caleb in a really clear and visual way; it is less than four minutes long so should also hold their attention:



Watch Video:

Joshua and Caleb

<https://youtu.be/C2iYUPs7c-U>

**Alternatively, you could tell the story through images either printed or as a PowerPoint. [Storyboard images.](#)*

Ask the children:

- What did Moses ask the men to do?
- What did the men find in the land?
- How did the Israelites feel?
- Why wasn't Caleb afraid?

Caleb saw what the other spies had seen. Caleb and his friend Joshua had seen the protected cities and the walls to keep them out; he had seen the really big men in the way, but Caleb also knew God was on their side. Caleb saw the problems, but He trusted that if God was leading them this way, that God would go with them too. Caleb showed great bravery and faith. He trusted God to do the impossible and he was rewarded by getting to enter the promised land.

Sometimes we are faced with problems too. Our problems might not be giants in the way of our new promised land, but God asks us to do exactly what he asked Caleb and the Israelites to do; to give our fear to Him and trust that, with God, all things are possible.

MEMORY VERSE

With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

- Matthew 19:26

ENCOUNTERS 1

CALEB



CRAFT

[Binoculars Download](#)

Supplies:

Cutouts, colouring pens/pencils, toilet roll tubes/cardboard tubes, string, glue.

1. Colour and decorate the cutout and the tubes.
2. Stick the two tubes together and stick the cut out over the top. (If children are quite little, have this done beforehand.)
3. Additional: Hole punch holes on either side and tie the string so the children can put the binoculars around their necks



CREATIVE PRAYER

Supplies:

Stones, bucket/bowl of water, string/coloured wool (cut to fit around a child's wrist).

- Give each child a little stone and ask them to think of something that they are worried about or scared of. Have a bucket/bowl of water for the children to put the stones into as a sign of giving their problems to God.
- Spend time praying that they will remember God will be with them, making them brave and doing the impossible.
- Give each child a coloured piece of wool/string and tie it around their wrists to remind them that as they go through everyday God is on their side.



ENCOUNTERS 2

THE PRODIGAL SON



INTRODUCTION

Main teaching point:

When we know how much God loves us, we can share that love with others.

WORSHIP SONGS



Shine

<https://youtu.be/9pnFa26NR9M>



L-O-V-E U God

https://youtu.be/BtDH_yBUcsM

ENCOUNTERS 2

THE PRODIGAL SON



STORY

This is a story that the children might already be familiar with, so, here's a creative way to tell it, and help them engage:

Print these images representing scenes from the story and hide them around the room.

Ask the children to find the hidden images. Once they've found them all, ask them to put them in order. Then, tell the story of the prodigal son together.

To add some competition, print the images on different coloured sheets of paper and put them into teams. Give each team a colour to find.

Alternatively, you could show them this video of the story:



Watch Video:

God's Story: Two Sons and a Father

<https://youtu.be/kfDfMZ6MTJs>

Ask the children:

- How many sons did the man have?
- What did the younger son do?
- What did he do once the money ran out?
- What did his dad do?
- Why was the older brother angry?
- How is the man in the story like God?

The story of the prodigal son shows the unlimited love we receive from God. Most people thought the younger son deserved to be punished, but instead, his dad welcomed him back with open arms and loved him. We do things wrong too, and like the younger son in the story was immediately forgiven by his dad, we are always forgiven by our Father God.

The older son also has something to teach us. Instead of celebrating that his little brother had come home, he got angry that he wasn't being punished. When we receive God's forgiveness and follow God, sometimes we can act like the older brother. We can forget to show God's love to the people around us and get annoyed when they are forgiven too. We need to remember not to be like the older brother! We want to share God's love with others and celebrate when God forgives them for their sins, just like he forgives us.

ENCOUNTERS 2

THE PRODIGAL SON



STORY

Science Illustration - Sharing God's Love

Supplies: sheet of kitchen roll, little bowl of water, ball point pen, red felt tip pen

- Draw a big heart in the corner of the piece of kitchen roll and three much smaller hearts above it when the ball point pen.
- Colour in the heart big with the red pen.
- Put the corner of the kitchen roll into the water so that some of the coloured in heart is in the water.
- The ink from the pen should then spread upwards covering the three smaller hearts.

This shows the children how we need to be first filled with God's love and then we can spread that love to others. This is good as an activity that the children can do if you have enough supplies or show it to them if you are short on time.

MEMORY VERSE

We love because he first loved us.

- John 4:19

.

ENCOUNTERS 2

THE PRODIGAL SON



CRAFT

['God loves me to pieces' Download](#)

Supplies:

Cutout for each child, string, tape/glue, tissue paper.

- Cut out the hearts including the centre piece.
- Cover the space in the middle of the heart with tape.
- Cover the tape with pieces of tissue paper.
- Hole punch a hole at the top and add some string so it can be hung up.
- When it put at on a window, the light will shine through the tissue paper.

Alternatively, you can leave the centre bit in and allow the children to glue the pieces of tissue paper to fill the heart

Tell the children to put their hearts somewhere they can see them to remind them of how much they are loved by God.



CREATIVE PRAYER

Heart Chains

Supplies:

Coloured piece of paper cut into hearts (enough for each child to have at least five), pens.

- Cut out several coloured hearts of the same size.
- Fold the hearts in half and cut out the middle sections.
- Open out the hearts.
- On the outer hearts, ask the children to write the name or draw a little picture of someone they love or want to share God's love with.
- Link the hearts together by overlapping the cut edges and gluing them (a bit like making a paper chain).
- Tell the children to bring their chains home and pray for that person each day or try and show them God's love that day.
- Spend time praying for them that they know how loved they are.

ENCOUNTERS 3

TIMOTHY



INTRODUCTION

Main teaching point:

We can all make a difference in God's family, no matter who are.

Begin by explaining that today we are going to look at a young man in the bible called Timothy. Timothy had a really strong faith and made a big difference even though he was young. Timothy's faith was strong because he had people around him encouraging him. His mum Eunice, and his grandmother Lois, taught him about God from when he was a baby. When he got older, his teacher was a man called Paul. Timothy went with Paul on his journeys so that he could keep learning as much about God as he could.

Ask the children who has helped them learn about God and give time for them to share their answers.



GAME

Save the starfish:

Split the children into two teams and encourage them to throw bean bags into buckets that have been placed at a short distance away. The winning team is the team that has the most bean bags in their bucket.

Alternatively, you could do this as a race. All the children start at one end of the hall and have to bring the bean bags into the bucket by running one at a time. The winning team is the fastest to get all the starfish back into the ocean.

ENCOUNTERS 3

TIMOTHY



ILLUSTRATION

The Starfish

Stage directions for when you say each word:

Beach - dust sand off hands

Sea - make waves with hands

Starfish - wiggle fingers on both hands to make them look like stars

Millions - Look across the room

Difference - snap fingers

'Very early one morning an old man was taking a walk along the beach. While he was walking, he saw a little boy ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. When he had caught up with the little boy, the old man asked him what he was doing. The little boy said 'the starfish will die if they are still on the beach when the sun comes up - it will be too hot for them so I'm putting them back into the sea'.

'But the beach goes on for miles and there must be millions of starfish' replied the old man. 'What good can you do? How can your little effort make any difference?' The little boy looked at the little starfish in his hand and then smiled and he threw it safely in the sea. 'Yes' he said 'there are millions - and I can't make a difference to all of them - but I can make a difference to his one.' And with that, they picked up starfish together and threw them into the sea.

- What was the little boy doing in the story?
- Why was the old man confused by the little boy's actions?
- Did the little boy make a difference? How?

In the story of the starfish, the little boy knew that even though he was little, he could make a big difference to the starfish. So, that's what he did. He is a little like our bible character Timothy.

Timothy's story is very special because Timothy was just like you and me. Timothy learned about God and then Timothy told other people about what he had learnt. Timothy had a strong faith in God because he prayed and kept learning more about God every day.

Some people thought that Timothy was too young to be teaching others about God, and sometimes Timothy was scared because he thought no one would listen to what he had to say. Paul wrote letters to Timothy to remind him that no one is too young to tell others about God. God used Timothy for his whole life and Timothy made a big difference in God's big story.

ENCOUNTERS 3

TIMOTHY



The story of Timothy reminds that we are never too young to make a big difference for God.

MEMORY VERSE

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

- 1 Timothy 4:12

Seed Family Worship have a really good song for this memory verse.



Watch/Listen:

1 Timothy 4:12 – Young

<https://youtu.be/HI-POuRlcPQ>



CRAFT

'Encouragement Stars' Download

Timothy was the man he became because of the people who encouraged him. Timothy then went on to encourage others.

Attached are cards for the children to decorate and then encourage them to give them to their friends and family. For the older children, you could give them blank ones so that they can write their own words of encouragement. Magnet stickers could be used to turn the cards into magnets.

Beforehand, it would be nice if as leaders, you have made cards for them so that the children can be encouraged too



PRAYER

Spend time thanking God for the people that have taught and encouraged the children and pray that they remember the difference that can make for God.

LIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS FOLLOWERS
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD



IMYC
Irish Methodist Youth and Children's Department