10 MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Prodigal Son

Second Level - Session 1

tenbiblestories.org

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

Session 1 - Hear and Explore the Story

Experiences and Outcomes	Benchmarks
Through investigating and reflecting upon biblical and other Christian stories, I can show my understanding of these stories. **RME 2-01a** Through exploring the lives and teachings of Jesus and other figures in Christianity, I am increasing my knowledge and understanding of key Christian beliefs. **RME 2-01b** I can show understanding of Christian beliefs and explore the similarities and differences between these and my developing beliefs. **RME 2-01c**	Investigates, describes, explains and expresses an opinion with at least one reason on at least one belief from Christianity. Discusses ways in which own beliefs can affect actions.
Through investigating and reflecting upon the lives of Jesus and key Christian figures, and drawing upon moral values as expressed in Christianity, I am beginning to understand how these have influenced Christian morality. **RME 2-02a** I can share my developing views about values such as fairness and equality and love, caring, sharing and human rights. **RME 2-02b** I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values. **RME 2-07a** I can explain why different peple think that values such as honesty, respect and compassion are important, and I show respect for others. **RME 2-09c**	Investigates, describes, explains and expresses an opinion on at least one value from Christianity. Discusses ways in which own values can affect actions. Discusses and expresses views about the importance of values such as honesty, respect and compassion.

Experiences and Outcomes	Benchmarks
I am developing my understanding of how my own and other people's beliefs and values affect their actions. **RME 2-09d**	

Suggested Learning Intentions

- Children will become familiar with the Biblical account of The Prodigal Son.
- Children will understand what is meant by a parable.
- Children will identify Christian beliefs about God by describing the character of the 'Father' in the story.

Suggested Success Criteria

- I can demonstrate my knowledge and understanding by describing the characters in the story.
- I can identify who each character is meant to represent in the story.
- I can describe the character of God evidencing my descriptions from the story.

Resources Required for this Session

Children's Bible.

Would You Rather game. (Available in additional resources)

Story script (available in additional resources) or use the 'Tale of Two Sons' PowerPoint (downloadable at bibleworld.co.uk/resources)

Post-it notes and pens, or paper and pens, or whiteboards and markers.

Key Points from the Story

- The story is a parable where the Father represents God and the two sons represent people who have made two different choices on how to live their lives.

- Jesus told the parable to illustrate that both groups of people have made wrong choices, both are loved by God and both get called to recognise their wrong doings and change.
- Christians believe sin is not just breaking the rules. It is doing, thinking and saying wrong things that are displeasing to God. It is putting yourself in the place of God as Saviour, Lord and Judge.
- Christians believe that God's love and forgiveness is offered to everyone and if they accept he will pardon any and every kind of sin or wrongdoing. They believe God wants to restore people's relationship with him.

Extension points:

- Christians believe anyone who has faith in Jesus (the perfect older brother) doesn't need to be punished (Jesus took their punishment when he died on the cross) and can be forgiven and their relationship with God restored. Link to Easter Story.

Notes

- Please remember that it is the intention that this learning is extended into other curricular areas as described in the introductory document.
- Suggested amounts of time per activity have been included. This is a guideline.

Activity

1. Introduction 'We're going to be thinking about a story in the Bible. It's a story about two brothers who made different choices. But first we're going to play a game about making choices.' Play the 'Would You Rather' game. (See additional resources) **10 minutes**

2. Show the children a children's bible and tell them they're going to hear and explore a story from it. Then ask:

   Q: Who can tell me the name of this book?

   A: The Bible

   Q: Does anyone know what we call people who believe the Bible is a special book?

   A: Christians

   Q: Does anyone know why Christians think is this a special book?

   Accept answers and then affirm/give answers. They might be:

   - Christians believe that God and Jesus exist and the Bible is about them. They can learn more about God and Jesus by reading it.
   - They believe it's true.
   - They believe that God wrote/inspired it.
   - They believe that God speaks to them through it.
   - They believe it helps them know what God wants them to do.

   Q: Is anyone willing to share what they think about the Bible?

   Allow respectful answers and debate. Extend the discussion – do you have enough knowledge to make a decision? Do you need to research it a bit more?

   Q: Some of us here will be Christians and some won't. Why do you think we are all going to listen to and explore a story from it? If we don't believe in God why should we do that?

   Accept answers and then affirm/give answers

   - It will help us understand what Christians believe and how that impacts on how they live.
   - Maybe we can learn something – values, morals, emotions.
   - We need to read it so we have the knowledge to make an informed choice, to help us develop our beliefs.

Q: The Bible is split into two parts. Does anyone know what they're called?

A: Old Testament and New Testament.

Q: Which comes first?

A: Old Testament, it starts with the account of God making the world and goes all through the history of God's people until God sends Jesus to earth as a baby which is the first story in the New Testament. Then the New Testament is all about Jesus living on earth and everything that happened after that.
5-10 minutes

3. Tell the story. You can find a script for an active retelling of the story in the additional resources. Alternatively download this power point of images to help you tell the story. 10 minutes

4. Who are the characters in the story? Who are the 3 main characters? What is each character like? In small groups get children to list describing words about each character. What are they like? (Not just what they look like.) You could have one character per table and they could move round tables adding Post-it notes with describing words on. OR give them a time limit and challenge them in groups to list the most describing words, with bonus points for getting words other groups didn't come up with. 15-20 minutes

5. Explain this is a parable. A story Jesus told with a secret meaning, a story Jesus told to help people understand more about God. Work out together – who is meant to be God? Who is meant to be the Pharisees? Who is they younger brother meant to be? Then, by seeing what we wrote down to describe the Father, discover what we've learnt Christians believe about God. Create a list together of what we've learnt about God from the story. 15-20 minutes