



**THE**

# WATER

**BOX**

**All of these Bible stories can be told and worked on using the contents of the box.**

1. **Noah** Gen 6:9-8:22
2. **Moses – the plagues and the Red Sea** Exodus 7:14 – 14:31
3. **Jonah** – book of Jonah
4. **The Baptism of Jesus-** Matthew 3:13-17
5. **The First Disciples** Luke 5:1-11
6. **Water to wine** John 2:1-12
7. **Living Water** John 4:4-42
8. **Jesus calms the storm** Mark 4:35-41
9. **Washing Feet** John 13:1-17
10. **The River of Life** Rev 22:1-6

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Setting up the WATER box will probably take a little time to find all the materials you need. I've tried to include things which are:

a) cheap to buy – perhaps from a market, a charity shop or a pound shop,  
b) things which you or others might have at home or in your loft (if you're a hoarder like me!)

c) which are easy to make out of junk or other cheaply bought resources.

**You will need to be able to print out some images from a computer. The use of a LAMINATOR will be very helpful – it means that pictures can be used over and over again without getting battered. A basic laminator costs about £15 and you will also need the plastic pouches which are not costly.**

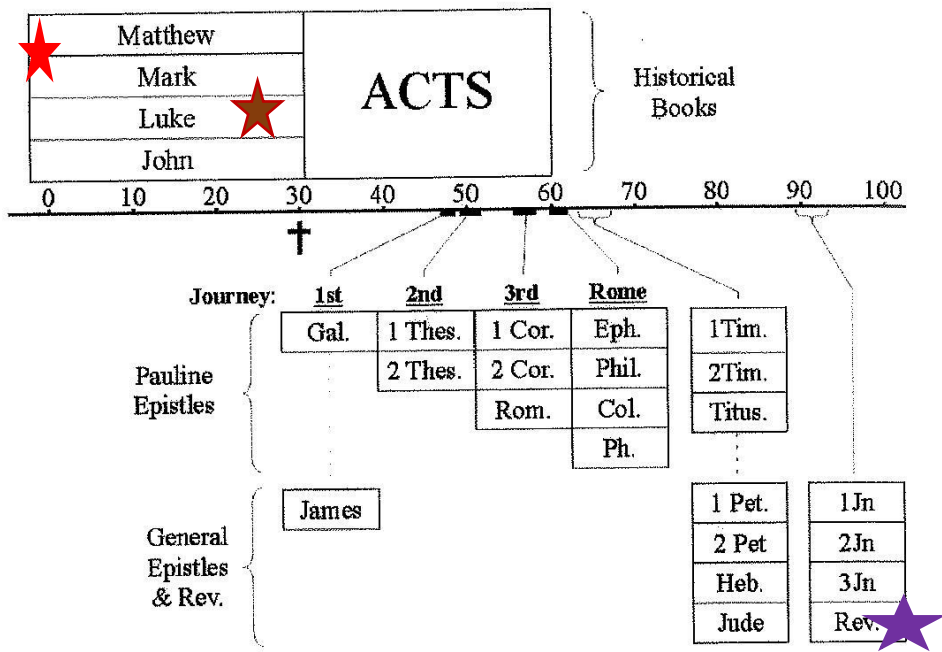
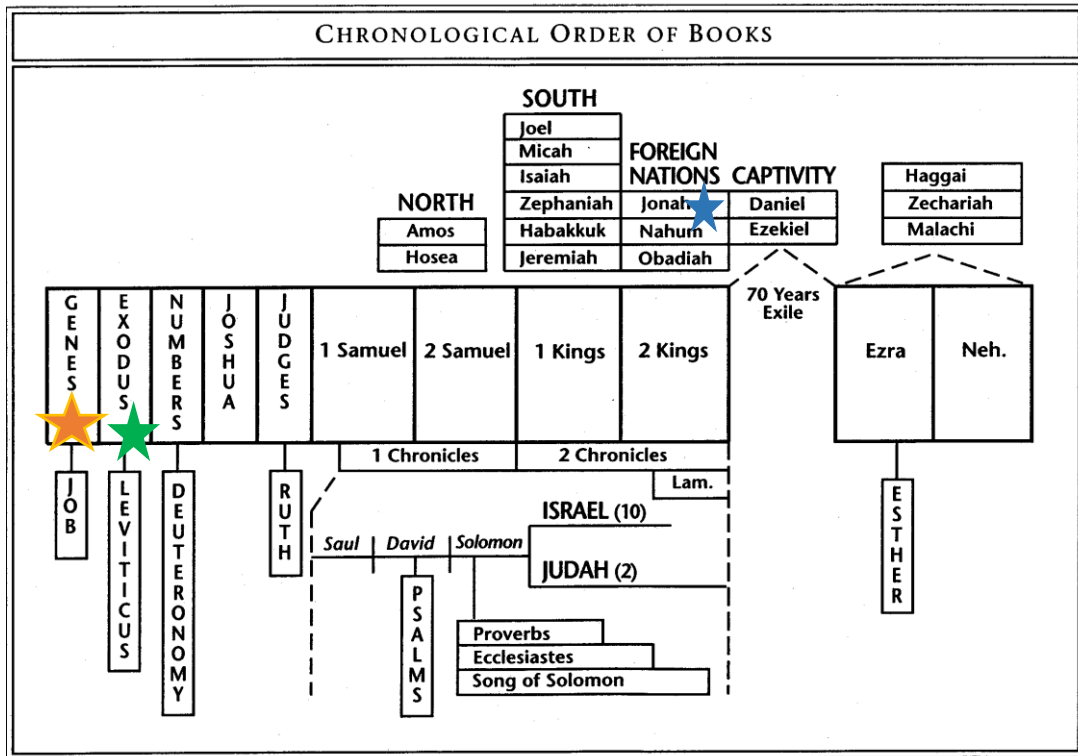
## **BASIC CONTENTS OF BOX**

- 2m of green fabric
- 2 or 3 cardboard boxes to put under the green fabric so that they look like hills.
- 2m of blue fabric for sea/lake
- Smaller piece of blue fabric and sand coloured fabric
- Around 10 wooden blocks to represent towns.
- Around 20 small wooden pieces/figures to represent people (Mine were from an online company called, <http://www.littlecraftybugs.co.uk/> (search for “cones” 6 little ones for £1.46)
- Post it pads, A4, A3 paper, pens and pencils

## **CONTENTS FOR SPECIFIC STORIES**

**See individual plans**

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# STORY 1 NOAH : GENESIS 6:9-8:22

MAIN AIMS	ACTIVITIES	EXTRA RESOURCES
<p>1. To understand that most people in Noah's time had forgotten about God and were doing whatever they wanted but God saved Noah and his family because they were doing the right things.</p> <p>2. To understand that it must have taken great faith to build a massive boat like the Ark when others around him would probably be laughing at him</p> <p>To understand that the rainbow symbolised God's promise.</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY</b></p> <p>Put out the green or sand coloured cloth and houses and people and talk about what people were doing which was making God angry.</p> <p>God told Noah to make an Ark – a really big boat. He was fed with all the people who were disobeying him. He planned to destroy them but he didn't was to destroy Noah and his family</p> <p>Use the boxes to make the ark, then assemble the animals in twos and lead them onto the boat. Discuss how they knew they had to come!</p> <p>Tell the rest of the story,</p> <p>The rain started, slowly at first. It got heavier and heavier and heavier. Slowly the grass became boggy and muddy, then gradually it disappeared altogether. The Ark started to float on the water, and it still kept on raining. The valleys were full of water, the towns couldn't be seen. And still it kept on raining. Finally, the floods got so high that even the tops of the mountains couldn't be seen. After many, many days the rain stopped, but it was still many more days until the flood started to go down. Noah let a raven out but it just flew round and round because it had nowhere to land. After another week, Noah let a dove out. It came back with a little branch from a tree! The flood must be going down. The next week Noah let the dove out again and this time it didn't come back. It must have found somewhere to nest. The Great Flood was nearly over. After the Ark landed on the ground Noah his family, and all the animals came out of the Ark. Noah made a fire and cooked some special meat, called a sacrifice, to say thank you to God for saving him and his family. God made a promise to Noah and all the people on earth that he would never again send rain like that which destroyed everything. God's promise was a rainbow!</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 1 RAINBOW THANKS/SORROW</b></p> <p>Look at the rainbow picture and talk about God's promise. Try to think of something marvellous in God's world for each colour of the rainbow – a red parakeet, a yellow daffodil etc. Then look at the grey rainbow. Why might we have made the rainbow grey? Think of something polluted or grey for each section of the grey rainbow.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 MAKE A RAINBOW BRACELET</b></p> <p>Now twist together some brightly coloured pipecleaners to make a bracelet to wear to remind you about God's promise.</p>	<p>Green fabric Sand fabric Blocks People Large box and little box Animals Dove Raven</p> <p>Rainbow coloured cloths</p> <p>Bright pipecleaners</p>

# STORY 2 MOSES PLAGUES AND CROSSING THE RED SEA EXODUS 7:14 – 14:31

Main Aims	Activities	Extra Resources
<p>1.To understand the relationship which God had with the Israelites. Why they were there and that God always sees his people's suffering and acts.</p> <p>2. To see that the plagues come in a logical sequence, and to understand that these things happened because Pharoah "hardened his heart"</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY – MAKE BRICKS</b></p> <p>a) Put the blue fabric to look like a river add houses around the edge of the river.</p> <p>b) The Israelites had all gone to Egypt a long time before.<i>History lesson here!</i> This had happened when Joseph (with the multi-coloured coat ) had been captured and sent to Egypt. While in prison he interpreted the Pharaoh's dreams and managed to store food in the years of plenty so that Egypt had enough to eat through the famine. Pharaoh was so grateful to Joseph that he said all his family could come and live in Egypt so that they didn't starve.</p> <p>c) Now many years have passed. A different man is Pharaoh and he's forgotten all about what Joseph did. He hates the Israelites. He thinks there are too many of them so he gives them a rotten job – making bricks out of mud and straw in the baking heat for building important houses and temples.</p> <p>Discuss why the Israelites were wanting to leave. As you are talking give everyone a little piece of playdough to make a brick shape. Explain that they had to add straw too to make the bricks harder.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 1: SPOT THE PLAGUE</b></p> <p>Show the sheet with illustrations of the plagues. Some children will need some explanation of what happened and why, others will be familiar with the story.</p> <p>Work in pairs or children vs. leaders if there are just a few. Choose 3 of the plagues to act out. Perform, can we guess?</p> <p><b>CARRY ON WITH THE STORY – NEXT WEEK IF NEEDED!</b></p> <p>Get out one plague object at a time and briefly talk/think about how horrible it must <b>have</b> been.</p> <p>According to the age/understanding of your group, talk about the fact that the Israelites were kept safe from the last plague.</p> <p>Finally Pharoah said that the Israelites could go. But as they were on their way, he changed his mind and wanted them back! I wonder why?</p>	<p>Blue fabric x2 for Red sea and Blue Fabric for River Nile. Sand coloured felt for edge of Nile with pyramids on. Pyramid shapes</p> <p>Playdough – a muddy colour would be good!</p> <p>Plague illustrations</p> <p>a) River of blood – plastic bottle with red paint and water b) Frogs – plastic frog c) Gnats – black dots</p>

<p>3. To understand that the sea parted to let the Israelites through and this shows us that we must never worry that a situation is impossible for God.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY 2 YOU BE THE JUDGE</b></p> <p>Finally, make sure you have brown fabric under two pieces of blue. Explain that the wind blew all night and by morning the sea had parted. Show the Israelites walking through and how the sea flowed back over the Egyptians. <i>(before the Egyptians could cross)</i>  <i>(The next activity might not be appropriate if you have a group of young children – perhaps you could ask them to think about how the Israelites might have had a great party when they escaped from Egypt. Ask them to suggest – and play?- some of the games they might have played)</i></p> <p>Stand at letter A if you think it was right that the Egyptians got killed, B if you disagree (depending on group you could do other questions – was it right that the plagues were sent, was it right that the Israelites took a lot of the possessions and jewellery of the Egyptians etc. – these are difficult issues, but worth considering when you have children who are questioning rights and wrongs.)</p> <p>Give the children some time to think and/or talk about these events. OR use an object ball/carved wooden object etc to pass round the circle. You can talk about what you think when you have the object.</p>	<p>d) Flies – model from ebay  e) Sick cow – red spots on one from tub  f) Boils – red painted cotton wool left to dry  g) Hail – polystyrene balls  h) Locust – from ebay  i) First born son.</p> <p>A and B cards</p>
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## STORY 3 JONAH – BOOK OF JONAH



MAIN AIMS	ACTIVITIES	EXTRA RESOURCES
<p>To understand the reasons why Jonah didn't want to do what God said and to appreciate that we have similar anxieties to him</p> <p>To appreciate that when things go wrong and you know it's your fault the only thing you can do is trust God and say sorry.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY 1 CROSS THE CIRCLE</b></p> <p>Use dramatic version, "cross the circles if you" Make a circle, one child in middle. Whenever people cross the circle centre person tries to get into their place, then they go in the middle.</p> <p>a) Jonah was walking along minding his own business. Suddenly God spoke to him and asked him to do something the Jonah really didn't want to do.</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever been asked to do something that you really don't want to do.</i></p> <p>b) God asked Jonah to go and tell the people of Ninevah that they were being really bad and wicked and that God would soon punish them if they didn't change their ways. Jonah was very scared! He thought that the people of Ninevah would be rough and scary and would laugh at him and maybe even beat him up!</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever been scared of some bigger people. (ASK)</i></p> <p>c) So Jonah ran away and went on a boat that was going in the opposite different direction.</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever been on a boat.</i></p> <p>d) It wasn't long before a storm blew up and the sailors were very scared.</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever been scared in a storm.</i></p> <p>e) Jonah owned up. He said, "Sorry guys, it's my fault there's this great storm – I'm running away from God, he said "What?" said the sailors. "Everyone knows you can't run away from God" So they grabbed Jonah and threw him overboard.</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever gone underwater in the sea.</i></p> <p>f) Jonah started praying, well you would, wouldn't you? And then along came a big fish and it swallowed Jonah whole</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever been swallowed by a big fish!</i></p> <p>g) Inside the fish Jonah said sorry to God and said that he would go and speak God's words to Nineveh. And the big surprise was... The Ninevites listened, the Ninevites said sorry, and the Ninevites decided to live God's way. And Jonah? What do you think he thought???</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you think that Jonah was really happy.</i></p> <p>h) Well in fact he was really cross! And he started to have a big old sulk!</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever had a big sulk when you didn't like the way things were going.</i></p>	<p>For the story</p> <p>Blue fabric</p> <p>Land coloured fabric,</p> <p>Boxes underneath land to make hills,</p> <p>Wooden blocks for city of Ninevah,</p> <p>Small square boxes for quay,</p> <p>Wooden people,</p> <p>Small boat,</p> <p>Shark.</p>


	<p>i) Jonah thought that the Ninevites SHOULD be punished. He was cross that God had forgiven them! He sat in the sun and sulked. He was hot and bothered.</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you've ever been hot and bothered.</i></p> <p>j) God made a tree grow up over Jonah to give him some shade. That felt nice! Then overnight God sent a little worm that ate the tree and made it die. Jonah was so cross that his tree had died. God said, "Jonah you didn't want your tree to die, and I don't want any of my people to die. I love every one of them"</p> <p><i>Cross the circle if you have a favourite part of Jonah's story!</i></p> <p><b>TELL THE STORY</b> Set up the scene using the shark and little people – retell the story, use the Bible version if you need to, or ask the children to do this.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 ROLE ON THE WALL</b> How did Jonah feel when the Ninevites were forgiven? How do YOU feel when someone who has been bad is forgiven? Fill in for one at the start and one at the end.</p>	<p><b>Role on the wall faces and whiteboard pens.</b></p>
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**Jonah Craft idea.**






# STORY 4 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS – Matthew 3:13-17

Main Aims	Activities 	Extra Resources
<p>To understand that Baptism involves water as a symbol or picture of God removing our sin.</p> <p>To see that Jesus had no sin but was still baptized.</p> <p>To understand that even at the beginning of Jesus Ministry there were people who felt angry with him.</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY</b></p> <p>Use the green and blue fabrics to make a river running across the table. Lots of figures are by the river and one is in the river. (<i>You might remember in the Christmas story, that when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have a baby, he also said that a lady called Elizabeth (who was related to Mary) was also going to have a baby. Elizabeth’s baby was called John and he grew up to be someone who told people to get ready for a special king.</i>) He went and stood in the Jordan river and baptized people to show that they were sorry for the things they’d done wrong. While he was baptizing people, Jesus came along and asked John to baptize him. Jesus had never done anything wrong so John didn’t understand. But Jesus said that it was what God wanted. As he came up out of the water God’s Holy Spirit came down, looking like a dove flying down and landing on Jesus. John heard a voice that said, “This is my son, I am pleased with him.”</p> <p>Look at the photos – they are taken at the real Jordan river, where Jesus was baptised, but of course they are actors in the photos as there weren’t any cameras when Jesus was alive. Look at the photos of the ways that people are baptised today. Have you been baptized? What do you think of baptism and what happened to Jesus?</p> <p>Why have people come to be baptised?</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 1 WHEN WE GO WRONG</b></p> <p>Give each child a stone and a felt pen. Talk about the things that we sometimes do which we know are wrong. Go around the circle and ask for ideas – it doesn’t have to be things they have actually done, but for everything mentioned they make a mark on the stone.</p> <p>Explain that Baptism involves water because it symbolizes the bad sins being washed away. All do this, put your stone in the water and see the “sins” wash away. Spend some time thinking about this. It is God who really takes the sin away, when we are really sorry, but the water gives us a picture of what happens.</p> <p>Now look at the stone that represents Jesus. It has no messy felt pen on it because Jesus didn’t sin. So why did he want to be baptised? This is exactly what John asked, but Jesus said, “Let it be so for now, in this way we do all that God requires.”</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?</b></p> <p>The wooden stick puppets represent all the people who are standing watching Jesus. Work out what they might be saying to each other and show your puppet play to the others.</p>	<p>Green and blue fabrics, wooden figures, dove (from box for Noah story.)</p> <p>Photos of people acting the baptism of Jesus account.</p> <p>Small smooth stones with a permanent marker cross drawn on.</p> <p>Water based felt pens</p> <p>Bowl of water each</p> <p><b>Photos</b></p> <p><b>Puppet sticks</b></p>


# STORY 5 THE CALLING OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

## LUKE 5:1-11


Main Aims	Activities 	Extra Resources
<p>To understand that Jesus was an amazing person who people wanted to follow and listen</p> <p>2. To start to understand what Jesus meant when he said the disciples will catch people from now on.</p> <p>3. To consider what the first</p>	<p><b>a) TELL THE STORY</b></p> <p>Set out the scene using the blue fabric for the lake and the yellow/brown for the shore line.</p> <p>Start off with the two boats out in the lake, show the moon, because it was night. The fishermen were throwing their nets again and again and catching nothing. Eventually explain that they were really tired and fed up and decided to go back to shore. Show the sun, now it was morning. Every fisherman knew that you can't catch fish in the day – they hide down in the deep lake. After the night's work, the nets needed some fixing because they were full of weed!</p> <p>Now there are two boats on the shore line. Lots and lots of people have crowded around Jesus who is near to the boats. Some fishermen are sitting nearby.</p> <p>Show Jesus getting into the boat so that he has some space and asking the fisherman (Simon) to row the boat a little way from the shore.</p> <p>Jesus was teaching the people. Everyone was listening, children and grown ups and aunties and granddads – they loved listening to him.</p> <p>(Pause here to discuss what the children think he might be telling everyone – a story, a way to live, a warning – what do they think?)</p> <p>Then he finished speaking and said to Simon, "let's go out and catch some fish." Simon thought that this was a bit mad and explained to Jesus that they'd been fishing all night but caught no fish at all! But, because Jesus had asked him, Simon put the nets down in the water again. Straightaway they were so full of fish that they had to call to their friends to come and help. Even then both boats were so full that they nearly sank!</p> <p>All the fishermen were totally amazed. They'd never seen a catch like this before. Then Simon suddenly realised that Jesus was someone very, very special – and that made him worried – that he wasn't good enough or special enough to be with Jesus. But Jesus had other ideas. Don't be afraid, he said, from now it's going to be PEOPLE you catch.</p> <p><b>b) CATCH PEOPLE</b></p> <p>Replace the fish with pictures of people and ask the children if they think this is what Jesus really meant?!!</p> <p>Ask each of the children to take out a picture of the people from the net. What do they think Jesus might say to these people? Some of the pictures are from other countries. What do you think about this?</p> <p><b>c) HOT SEAT</b></p>	<p>2 little boats</p> <p>Satsuma bag nets.</p> <p>Twist some green tissue or crepe around some bits so that it looks like weed to be cleaned.</p> <p>Plastic fish, from a cheap fishing game or card.</p> <p>Laminated pictures of people</p> <p>A prop hat, cap, sou'wester etc.</p>

disciples might have felt and thought when Jesus called them to “catch men”	Depending on whether the children have done this before or not, it might be best if you start. You need a prop, maybe a flat cap or a sou’wester, or something you think a fisherman might wear. When you put on the hat you become Simon. (If you want to speak as you again, take the hat off first!) The children can ask any questions they want to about the events that happened when Jesus called them to be disciples. At first their questions will probably be quite basic, but after a while see if one of the children would like to take the hot seat and then you can lead the way with some more searching questions.	
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## 6. WATER TO WINE JOHN 2:1-12


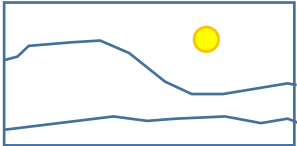
Aims	Activities 	Extra resources
<p>To understand that a wedding in Jesus time involved everyone in the village and went on for days. To realise that to run out of food or wine would be a real embarrassment for the young couple.</p> <p>To hear that Jesus can take the dull, germ full, water and turn into something delicious and exciting.</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY</b> Use wooden blocks to make a village/house. Make a lake nearby and some trees etc. Scatter a little confetti around and ask the children what they think is happening in the village Explain that weddings in Jesus time went on for days, not hours, and everyone in the village would be invited You would need lots to eat and to drink Jesus, his family and friends were at the wedding. When this wedding took place Jesus hadn't done ANY miracles at all. The waiter pours the last drop of squash into a shot glass. One child drinks and the others are cross because they don't have any.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 1: A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER</b> Ask the children to suggest really horrible boring food. Draw a circle on an A3 sheet of paper and write/draw their ideas.</p> <p><b>TELL THE SECOND PART OF THE STORY</b> Now explain that Jesus turned boring dull water into fabulous wine. If he did the same with this boring plate of food what would it become. Write draw their ideas and then draw and other 5 or 6 plates to show that Jesus gives far more than we even need.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2: GRILL A SERVANT!</b> Use a toy (or real!) video camera, or even just your mobile. (if you have lots of children you could include other film crew type roles, sound, make up auto cue etc.) – but at its simplest it should just be someone asking the servant questions about what happened at the wedding in the fashion of a news report. Rehearse the questions first Eg You are the manager of “Weddings are Us” the company supplying servants for all 3 day long weddings. Was there anything unusual about this wedding?” <b>No mate it was dead ordinary. All the village</b> there, all wanting to drink wine all day and all night, I can tell you we was kept right busy. “And then something went wrong?” “Too right it did mate, it couldn't have gone wronger!!</p>	<p>Confetti</p> <p>Little jug with very small amount of blackcurrant squash</p> <p>Large piece of paper Marker pen</p> <p>Paper for all</p> <p><b>Use a toy (or real!) video camera.</b> If you are videoing for real make sure you have permission from parents/carers.</p> <p>Props/costumes to be improvised!</p>

# STORY 7. LIVING WATER JOHN 4:1-42 (select verses)


AIMS	ACTIVITIES 	RESOURCES
<p>To understand that the fact that the woman was at the well in the middle of the day, together with the revelation that she had been in many relationships probably indicated that she was ostracized from her community.</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY</b>            Use the Green base, make some hills, houses and trees, put a well in a valley.            Tell the story of the lady with too many boyfriends            “At the beginning and at the end of the day, when the sun wasn’t blazing down, all the women went to the well to collect the water they needed for the day or night ahead. It was hard work but fun too. They chatted and joked, the children zoomed around and splashed each other with the cool water. But there was one lady who didn’t go to the well in the morning or the evening. She went by herself in the middle of the day. When the sun was blazing down? Why didn’t she go with the other women?            Well the truth was that she was embarrassed and ashamed; and the other women would giggle and point and whisper at her – because while all the other women had just one husband, this lady had had far too many husbands and boyfriends. So she was all by herself in the middle of the day at the well – and a man walked up and started talking to her. This was very strange. In those days men didn’t go up and talk to women, especially Jewish men. The woman could see that this man was definitely Jewish, what was he thinking of?</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 1 BEING THIRSTY</b>            Making everyone very thirsty, using pictures, hair dryer etc. Offer everyone an iced drink, add straws, umbrellas.            One person, they put on a sash that says “Cool drinks from Samaria” is going to take the drinks round – everyone is thirsty but they don’t like Samaria so they’re not going to take a drink! They have to think of a silly excuse!            No thank you, I never drink anything which isn’t coloured blue, or I only drink from teapots etc.</p> <p><b>TELL THE STORY PART 2</b>            Give all the children a small drink of water.            Jesus asked the woman for some water, she was even more amazed! But he said that she could have asked him for “living water” which would mean that <b>she</b> would never get thirsty again. She really wanted some of this living water, but Jesus asked her to call her husband. She told him that she didn’t have one, and Jesus explained that he knew all about all the husbands and boyfriends she’d had. The woman was so excited that she went rushing off into the village to say she’d met Jesus, that he knew all about her life but that he hadn’t been mean to her. Everyone came to meet</p>	<p>Green Hills            Trees,            Cones            Bucket            Well</p> <p>Pictures of women collecting water.</p>

	<p>Jesus and saw for themselves that what the woman said was true. Jesus knows our good bits and our bad bits and still loves us. We all need his living water – what do you think this means?</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 LIVING WATER</b></p> <p>On a piece of paper or card everyone write words which describe how they feel when they drink cool water on a hot day. Eg refreshed, cool, quenched, clean (you might need to give some ideas)</p> <p>Jesus is saying that his love is so amazing that when we get it we feel some of these good things that we feel with a cool drink on a hot day.</p> <p>Get a small bucket, a jug of water, some cheap felt pens and some small pieces of card. Talk about how you feel at the end of a long, hot, dusty day. “thirsty” “grubby” “hoarse” etc Everyone write one on a card with the felt pens (doesn’t matter if several choose the same word) and put the card in the bucket. Now put some water in the bucket and gently swirl it round – some colour should come out of the writing to make the water coloured. Sprinkle some different coloured glitter on the surface of the water. Depending on your group, you could play some quiet music and turn this into a prayer or praise time.</p>	<p>mall bucket Felt pens Small pieces of card Jug for water Glitter</p>
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# STORY 8. JESUS CALMS THE STORM MARK 4:35-41


Aims	Activities 	Resources
<p>To understand that the disciples were terrified in the storm and that fear made them forget about Jesus's power.</p> <p>To know that Jesus's power is stronger than anything else they can think of.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY 1 PAINT A STORM</b>            Have the paper all laid out and explain that each picture shows the same scene. Draw or paint that scene on before the children arrive.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Lake and mountains as shown.              Now the children paint:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A few clouds in the distance</li> <li>2. The sky filled with clouds and the rain starting</li> <li>3. Wind, waves, can't see any of background.</li> <li>4. Blue sky, calm sea</li> </ol> </div> </div> <p><b>TELL THE STORY</b>            Use the mountains, green cloths, blue cloth and the boat. Wooden cones, trees etc to set up the story, then move to the paintings with the boat, and make the boat sail along the four pictures.            Tell the children what is happening in each one.            Use the story from the Bible to tell what is happening in each picture.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 MAKE A FACE!</b>            Put the boat on painting 1 again. Ask the children to show with their faces what they are thinking and feeling during each stage of the storm. All guess which word would describe the look on their face.            When you get to painting 4, the disciples were afraid. Why do they think this was?</p> <p>Jesus you're more powerful...            Look at the pictures, put them in order of powerfulness.</p> <p><b>Pray out loud or in your head, "Thank you Jesus that you are more powerful than .....(put in something in the pictures, or another idea) and I don't need to be afraid."</b></p>	<p>Plastic cover for table            Paintbrushes            Ready mix paint – just white, black, blue and yellow            Aprons or old shirts            Water pots.            4 pieces of A2 Or A3 white paper.</p> <p>Small boat</p> <p>"Powerful things" pictures in envelopes to think about.</p>

# STORY 9. WASHING FEET JOHN 13:1-17

AIMS	ACTIVITIES 	RESOURCES
<p>To appreciate the culture where feet clothed with sandals get dirty when walking and are traditionally washed by a very unimportant person on arrival at a house.</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY and ACTIVITY 1</b> Set up the grass, perhaps some yellowy dusty ground, trees etc. the hills and the lake. Use the blocks to make the walls of a room and place the laminated table in the centre.</p> <p>Each child has a flip flop key ring and they put one or two fingers in and practice “walking around” (it’s quite hard to stop it falling off!) Now start at the end of the table away from the room. And tell a story about a journey to a meal with Jesus. Explain that we don’t really know what happened on the way, but we can imagine that eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They got lost and had to go round through the dirty dust tray again</li> <li>• They stumbled up paths to the hill tops and got stones in their flip flops</li> <li>• They had to wade through long grass which covered them in seeds etc.</li> </ul> <p>All the flip flops arrive at the meal. They’re looking for the servant who washes feet, but they soon realise that it’s just Jesus who is there. They sit down, everyone is feeling very grubby and wondering who is going to wash their dirty feet.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 WOULD YOU WASH?</b> Give each child a painted red and green lolly stick. If their answer is YES they hold up the green end, if it’s NO they hold the red end. Ask them to tell you if they would be happy to wash these things (on the list) Talk about why it sometimes feels hard or yucky to clean someone else up. Talk about why they think Jesus did this job. You should now act out using the water and soap and towel, the Jesus cone pretending to wash each dirty finger (really let them wash!)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 3 LAYING ASIDE</b> Explain what “laying aside” means - its when you deliberately give up things which you really like and that you’re really entitled to have and you give them up because you want to, not because someone else has told you to. Use some cones outside a different house and give them the pictures of what the RICH family owns Explain what it means to lay aside. Ask the children to explain what it would feel like to “lay aside” nice things and become an unimportant person. Why might someone do this? Why did Jesus do this?</p>	<p>One cone to be Jesus Green fabric Yellow/brown fabric for dusty field Boxes for hills Wooden blocks for walls of room Laminated table Little key ring flip flops (Baker Ross £1.98 for 6) Plastic tray with soil and sand in it. Black road fabric. (thin strips) Little bowl of water (so that you can fit your finger in and have it washed) Cloth to dry it on. Cut a little piece of soap off a bar to be used to get the fingers clean.</p> <p>Green and red lolly sticks List of dirty things!</p>



# Story 10. The River of Life Rev 22:1-6

Aims	Activities 	Resources
<p>To appreciate that the Bible is full of all different kinds of writing, not just stories.</p> <p>To understand that this passage is like a picture that shows some important things about heaven.</p> <p>To imagine a perfect place where God is.</p> <p>To understand that healing is needed for people and places around the world.</p>	<p><b>TELL THE STORY/PASSAGE</b>            Explain that today's work isn't a story like we usually have. This is written by a man called John, who lived a long time ago. He used to spend lots of time praising and praying to God and one day the Holy Spirit worked inside him and gave him a picture of what heaven might look like</p> <p>No-one really knows what heaven will be like. But we do know that it will be more beautiful and exciting and fun than anything we've ever done on earth! Some people worry that it will be boring, but God isn't boring – he's amazing and exciting and creative and lots of other great things, and we can be sure that heaven will be amazing!</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 1 MAKE THE SCENE</b>            Start off with a plain piece of paper and one pen/felt pen/pencil per child. Read the passage several times (you don't have to read all of it if you have a very young group.            When you have done this, together make the scene as well as you can from items in the box.            TALK about why it would be good not to need the sun or the moon, why it would be good to know that God is living with you for ever.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITY 2 HEALING THE NATIONS</b>            Give each child a leaf and talk about what "the nations" are. What problems have THEY heard about in other countries. <b>BE LED BY THEM, DON'T INTRODUCE OTHER SCARY OR UNPLEASANT ISSUES WHICH YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT.</b>            What would heal the people in these countries? Write or draw and put your leaf on the tree.            MUSIC/SPACE to think and pray. Optional question – Some people say that they don't understand why God lets awful things happen in the world. How could you answer this? Does your picture of heaven help at all?</p>	<p>Jenga blocks to make street</p> <p>Green and blue fabric</p> <p>Piece of gold folded and cut to make simple throne shape.</p> <p>Largish dead twigs with the bottom in plasticne or air drying clay</p> <p>Green card leaves with paper clips or ribbons to hand on the branches.</p>