

GOD MADE ME TO BE FAITHFUL

3-4

BIBLE VERSES: Ruth, 1 Samuel 18-20, Luke 15 (John 10).

To think about how God is faithful to us and how we can be faithful to him and others.

LEADER'S NOTES

When this series was conceived, we toyed with the idea of making the titles 'God wants me to be...', but as I reflected on it, it didn't seem to be quite right because God doesn't just want us to be these things (loving, joyful, peace-promoting, etc.): he designed us to be that way. We are made in His image, and because He is all of these things, we are designed to be them too.

I think faithfulness illustrates this so well: in scripture we constantly see how faithful God is to us, and if we reflect on our own lives, we probably don't have to dig too deep to find examples there too. And it's in recognising his faithfulness to us that we begin to see how we are designed, made and called to be faithful both to Him and to those he has put in our paths.

Welcome Activities: If this session is being run as a 'Sunday School' session then the idea is that all 3 activities are provided, allowing the children choice. If it is being run as part of a Toddler Group then these activities can be provided as part of the all the other activities on offer. If it is part of a short Toddler and Parent worship session (e.g. Pram Service) then it may only be practical to offer one of the activities.

The idea is that these activities give the children and any parents time to relax and become used to the environment. As the activities are linked in some way to the theme they will provide a bit of a bridge or introduction to the Bible story.

Story Time: Choose whichever Story Time activity best suits your circumstances. It would be best to use the same area and seating arrangement each time. Probably helpful if it's separate from other distractions. Perhaps with a special chair for the story teller to sit on.

Today's session has three stories to choose from - one exploring God's faithfulness to us and the others looking at biblical characters who were faithful to one another.

Get Creative: A choice of 3 activities reflecting the Bible Story in some way. If you have lots of time and space then you could offer all 3, but just to offer 1 is fine. Children of this age are exploring their own ideas and ways of creating so may go off on their own tangent e.g. if you ask them to make a sheep they may well turn it into something else – don't be anxious about this – 3 year olds especially are much more interested in the 'doing' than the finished product.

The fourth Get Creative Activity is a suggestion for a creative prayer activity. This is specifically for any parents/carers who are staying with their children. If you are in a Sunday School setting where no parents

stay then you would not need to organise this activity.

Revisiting The Story: Similar to the three welcome activities and may well include some of those. An opportunity for the children to revisit and retell the story themselves using small world figures, dressing up etc. The idea would be that if you chose a making activity in the Get Creative section then the children could move on to the Revisiting The Story activities when they've finished – there is no need for the whole group to finish together.

The fourth activity “Time To Go Home” in this section suggests a take home activity and also a short prayer or song which you can use if you want to round up the sessions with all the children together again.

ON THE FARM

GAME | 📖 **WELCOME ACTIVITY**

Let the children enjoy the farm toys.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Farm playsets and animals.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

A JOYFUL NOISE

MUSIC | 📖 **WELCOME ACTIVITY**

Let the children play the instruments. If you want a bit more control, you could sit them all down together and play along to a CD – or have this activity in a separate room.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Percussion instruments

DURATION: 10 MINS.

FRIENDS

GAME | 📖 WELCOME ACTIVITY

Let the children play with the dolls.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Dolls house & dolls or Barbies or Polly Pockets - something with plenty of people/dolls.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

RUTH

STORY | 📖 STORY TIME

Sit the children in a circle and give everyone a piece of bread to eat. Ask them to imagine that they are very, very hungry - they haven't even got any bread to eat. There will be no lunch and no tea! How would they feel? Say that in today's story, there was not much food. Read the story 'Ruth's New Family' starting on page 164 of The Lion First Bible (you can use a different story Bible if you like).

At the end of the story, ask the children what they thought about it. Is it a good story? Who does the right thing in the story? Say that there is a special word for doing what Ruth did - it's called being faithful. Being faithful means that you stick by somebody - even if it's a difficult thing to do.

Ruth stayed faithful to Naomi because she went with her. And then Naomi was faithful to Ruth by making a plan for Ruth to get married and be looked after. How can we stay faithful to our friends?

The Point: To see what faithfulness looks like in Ruth's story.

EQUIPMENT

Bread, The Lion First Bible (Lion).

DURATION: 10 MINS.

DAVID & JONATHAN

DRAMA | 📖 STORY TIME

Say that once upon a time there was a boy called David. The children might have heard of him - he was the

boy who killed the giant Goliath with a sling and some stones. After he had killed that giant, the King invited him to go and live at the palace. The king's name was Saul and he had a son called Jonathan. David and Jonathan became very best friends. Choose three children - one to be David, one Jonathan and one Saul.

King Saul used to get very, very sad and grumpy (get Saul to act this) and so David would play music to cheer him up (get David to play the toy instrument). Usually it helped but one day Saul was thinking about how much the people loved David because he had killed the giant. This made Saul very jealous - he wanted the people to love him more than David. He got into a rage and threw his spear at David (get Saul to throw the toy sword - carefully...). The spear missed David - but only just!

Jonathan was very cross with his dad, "Why do you want to hurt David?" he asked, "He fought the giant for you and has only tried to help you!" Saul was ashamed of himself, "You are right," he said, "I won't do that again." (Get Saul and Jonathan to act this out.)

One day Saul got in rage again and threw his spear at David. David decided to run away. (Get David to act this out.) At dinnertime, David wasn't at the table and Saul wanted to know why. Jonathan told him that David had gone away. Saul was very, very cross! (Act this out.)

Jonathan snuck out of the palace and went to a secret meeting place to talk to David. "My dad really wants to hurt you!" he told David. "It's not safe for you to stay; you need to go far, far away." The two friends cried and hugged each other goodbye. (Act this out.) They couldn't stay together now but they stayed best friends all their lives.

Ask the children what was good about the way that Jonathan acted. Say that Jonathan looked out for David even when it was difficult for him with his dad. Say that there is a special word we can use to describe how Jonathan was - he was faithful. Faithful means sticking by someone even when it's hard. Who can we be faithful to?

The Point: To see how Jonathan was faithful to David.

EQUIPMENT

Toy harp or guitar, toy sword.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

LOOKING FOR A SHEEP

STORY |  STORY TIME

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil and ask them to draw a sheep. Count the sheep together. How many are there? Say that today's story is about a man who had 100 sheep - that's quite a lot! Can anyone count to 100?

Read the story 'The Lost Sheep' from Stories Jesus Told. Show the pictures. Alternatively, use the story 'The Lost Sheep' starting on page 378 of The Lion First Bible.

At the end of the story reiterate the point that God will always want us with him and will want us back if we decide not to be friends with him. Say that there is a word to describe this - it's faithful. God is faithful to us - he always wants to be friends with us, even if we have gone far away from him. How can we be faithful to God?

The Point: To thinking about God's faithfulness to us and our faithfulness to God.

EQUIPMENT

Paper, pencils, Stories Jesus Told by Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen or The Lion First Bible (Lion).

DURATION: 10 MINS.

FAITHFULNESS LEAVES

DISPLAY PICTURE | 🖐️ **GET CREATIVE**

Let the children cut out a leaf and help them to write faithful on them - or get the adults to. Add them to your tree display.

The Point: To build a series reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Paper in leaf colours, scissors, pens.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

BAA!

CRAFT IDEAS | 🖐️ **GET CREATIVE**

Before the session, cut out black circles (diameter 6-8cm) and 2cm wide strips from the black sugar paper. Cut the paper plates in half.

Give each child half a plate, a black circle, 4 black strips and two googly eyes. Have the paper plate with the straight edge at the top. Stick the black circle on one end so that about half of it overlaps onto the plate. Stick the four strips on the bottom of the plate - they are the legs. Glue cotton wool all over the plate. Stick the googly eyes on the black circle.

The Point: A story reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Paper plates, cotton wool, glue, black sugar paper, googly eyes.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

FAITHFUL FRIEND

CRAFT IDEAS |  **WATCHER** |  **GET CREATIVE**

 [Download activity worksheet](#)

The attached sheet can be made into a photo frame for the children to frame a picture of them and a friend. You may find it easiest to cut out the two rectangles on each page before the session. Be sure to print them onto card.

Let the children decorate the frame of the top rectangle with stickers and coloured pens, then get an adult to cut out the centre rectangle (you could do this beforehand if you like) to leave simply the surround.

Now glue on the grey area of the bottom rectangle and stick your frame on top so that that the glued edges are to the bottom and the sides. You should now be able to slide a photo into the frame from the top.

The Point: A session reminder.

EQUIPMENT

The attached sheet on card, felt tips, stickers, glue sticks, scissors.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

FAITHFUL FRIEND

CRAFT IDEAS |  **GET CREATIVE**

DOWNLOAD

  [3-4CCh08FaithfulFriend.pdf](#)

ALWAYS FAITHFUL

 [Download activity worksheet](#)

Allow adults some time and space with the attached sheet.

The Point: To respond to God.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment, pens.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

ON THE FARM

GAME |  REVISITING THE STORY

Make the farm toys available again. If you did the Ruth story or The Lost Sheep, they may like to replay parts of it.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Farm toys and animals.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

READ ABOUT IT

STORY |  REVISITING THE STORY

Make a space for children to re-read the story (or look at the pictures) on their own or with parents/carers.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Story books with today's story.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

FRIENDS

GAME | ↻ REVISITING THE STORY

Have the dolls out again - the children may be thinking more about friendship now and may play accordingly.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Dolls house & dolls or Barbies or Polly Pockets.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

FAITHFULNESS LEAF

CRAFT IDEAS | 🏠 WATCHER | ⌚ TIME TO GO HOME

[📄 Download activity worksheet](#)

This activity adds to those in previous weeks. Have the sheet with the instructions for making the tree available for those who missed the first session. Give everyone a faithfulness leaf to take home, cut out and colour and put on their tree.

The Point: A take home activity.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment - one leaf per child.

DURATION: 5 MINS.
