



Teacher Guidelines

Bibletime Levels 0, 1 and 2

C Series
Lessons 7-12

Bible Educational Services

Registered Charity UK (No 1186004)

Mission Statement

Producing Bible lessons for intermediaries to present the truth of Jesus Christ to the next generation worldwide.

Vision Statement

To reach the next generation with our full curriculum₃ in their own language by developing and supporting a global network of committed partners.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What Bible Educational Services does:

Bible Educational Services (BES UK) publish Bibletime, Bibletime Going Deeper (previously NewLife) and Gleaners Bible lessons in English and support Postal Bible Schools and similar organizations using BES lessons in the UK and oversea. We do this by visiting, networking, advising and training. BES is also currently working in partnership with groups in other countries who are involved in translation, design, publishing and distribution of lessons. Lessons must be provided free of charge to all students.

Bibletime lessons were first used in Southern Ireland over 60 years ago. Bible Educational Services maintain editorial responsibility for Bibletime Lessons in English and in all foreign languages. Bibletime lessons have been normally published in an A4 format which enables students in some areas, every four weeks, to send the lessons back to a Postal Bible School Centre for marking. More recently, thanks to Every Home Crusade (Revival Movement) in Belfast, lessons for six months have been published in an A5 format, which has made usage in churches and schools overseas much easier, especially where there is no effective postal system.

The BES lessons are unique in that they are prepared with home or group (church/school) study in view, following a planned syllabus which allows students to continue studying for up to 20 years. Five levels of lessons are available for specific age groups, Pre-school (Level 0), 5-7's (Level 1), 8-10's (Level 2), 11-13's (Level 3), 14-16's (Level 4). There is a three-year syllabus for each age group. (See page 4) The age groups can be varied according to ability. The Bibletime Resource gives children the opportunity of studying God's Word, learning Bible Stories and facing the challenge of the relevance of the Gospel in their lives.

Printed copies of the lessons are available in English from the BES website – www.besweb.com or from the International Secretary. They are also available on the website in other languages. BES has documents which may be helpful to those who are considering partnering with BES, and these are also available on the website.

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TEACHER GUIDELINES

Originally, Bibletime lessons were produced to be used in a postal system with a Postal Bible School Centre but the lessons are increasingly being used where the postal system is unreliable or non-existent especially in churches and schools in Africa, India and other locations. Teacher Guidelines are produced for those using Bibletime lessons in such situations. The Teacher Guidelines in this booklet are designed for use with Level 0, 1 and 2 lessons approximate ages pre-school -10's. The level 0 lessons are not available in printed booklet form. They can be downloaded free from the BES website.

Each Guideline follows the same Bible Reference as the Bibletime lesson. The Bibletime lessons and Guidelines are designed to be used on a weekly basis. The April lessons are especially related to Easter and the December lessons to Christmas.

Some locations will be using an A4 monthly edition with 4 lessons and others will be using the A5 booklet with 24 lessons included. Normally the teacher or leader will give out the monthly A4 lesson and each week the lesson will be either filled in, in the church or school or taken home and returned the following week. At the end of the month the teacher or leader will collect the lesson and do the necessary marking, returning the marked lessons as soon as possible to the student.

Ideally, when using the booklets, they are collected and marked at the end of each session. We realise that in many situations this is impossible. In the classroom they may be distributed to other students and the teacher or leader will work through the lessons and the students will mark their friend's lessons and give them a score. At the back of the booklets there is a place for scores for each month's lesson and a place for a comment about progress that the student has made. There is also a certificate that can be detached and given to the student with an indication of the percentage obtained for the six months of lessons.

Feedback on the use of Teacher Guidelines and also for the Bibletime booklets is always appreciated and should be directed to stephen.gillham@besweb.com

PREPARATION FOR TEACHERS

The Teacher Guidelines are not prescriptive and giving no room for teachers to adapt things in their own way with their own ideas and initiatives. These are suggestions which could help in the use of Bibletime.

- **Be familiar with the story** - Teachers should be as familiar as possible with the Bible story and also with the Bibletime lesson that accompanies it. Ideally, the Bibletime lesson should be completed by the teacher before the lesson. The Guidelines for each lesson should also be carefully considered as a planning aid for the lessons.
- **Understand the lessons to be learned** - At the top of each lesson plan are the words "We are learning that", followed by two learning intentions which the children will hopefully have grasped after listening to the teacher's presentation and completing the Bibletime lesson. The first learning intention is to do with knowledge about the story, whereas the second encourages the children to think about the knowledge, apply it and make a response. These learning intentions are a precise statement of the main concepts/truth taught in the lesson and teachers may wish to use them for their personal evaluation of the teaching and learning which has occurred.
- **Introduce it** - All lessons start "where the children are" with their own experience of a situation. Various ways have been suggested that might be used to enable the children to be interactive in discussing the starting point of the story.
- **Teach It** - The Key Points of the story are given. Hopefully teachers would not have to refer to these when actually telling the story but would be familiar with the story and be able to teach it in an interesting and inspiring way. The teacher will want the children to understand the main lessons from the story and help them to understand the response they can make from the story. As appropriate we have tried to interweave some explanations into the story telling. These are always included in *ITALICS*.
- **Learn It** - There is a Key Verse attached to each story. On some occasions, there are two Key Verses, since we have added another Key Verse which may be easier for children to learn. We hope that the children can learn the Key Verses and will be reminded of it as often as possible so that they begin to build up knowledge of Key Bible Verses.

- **Complete It** - In a school situation the teacher will be aware of the abilities of children to complete worksheets and the amount of teacher support required. For some, it will be a requirement that the teacher reads over the text of the lesson as the children follow what is now a familiar narrative. Other children may be able to read the text independently. In either case, it may be an idea to draw the children's attention to specific instructions relating to the questions. If Bibletime is used in a non-school context, it is important that teachers are available to help so that the lesson is not perceived as a chore or test. It should be enjoyable; encouragement and praise while working on the task are important.
- **Remember it** - Wherever possible, quizzes, acting etc. are suggested to assist the learning, and as a means of revising the story.
- **Show it** - In some situations, visuals will be very difficult to obtain but wherever possible it is important to focus on pictures or objects to help in the understanding of the story. Visual aids can be a great help in telling the stories. Where appropriate in each lesson we have given the information about pictures from www.freebibleimages.org pictures (FBI) which can be downloaded from their website. At the end of the Teacher Guidelines there are some Appendices with hyperlinks to a variety of different Free Bible Images suitable for each story.
- Where a photocopier is available some Bibletime pictures could be enlarged, coloured, and used in teaching.

Time Plan

- **Order.** There is the same order in the Teacher Guidelines for each Lesson, but it may be the teachers will want to change this from time to time.
 1. The introduction and telling the story - approximately 15 minutes
 2. Teaching the Key Verse – 5-10 minutes
 3. Completing the worksheet - 20 minutes
 4. Quiz and other activities 5-10 minutes.

Remember the important saying:

“Tell me and I may forget,
Show me and I'll remember,
Involve me and I'll understand.”

Bibletime Syllabus

	LEVEL 0 (Pre-School) LEVEL 1 (Ages 5-7) LEVEL 2 (Ages 8-10)	LEVEL 3 (Ages 11-13)	LEVEL 4 (Ages 14+)
	Introduction – BES & Friends	Introduction – BES & Friends	Introduction – BES & Friends
SERIES A	1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Abraham 6. Abraham & His Family 7. Peter 8. Peter 9. Jacob 10. Early Christians 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story	1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. Prayer 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story	1. Creation & Fall 2. Early developments - Genesis 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. The Christian Life 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES B	1. Early Life of Christ 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Parables 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. People Jesus met 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story	1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. Gospel Writers 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story	1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Jacob & his family 7. Joseph 8. Acts 2: 42 - The way ahead 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. The Law 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES C	1. Daniel 2. More Miracles 3. People Jesus met 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth & Samuel 6. David 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Jonah 12. The Christmas Story	1. Daniel 2. People Jesus met 3. More Miracles 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Men used by God - OT 12. The Christmas Story	1. Daniel 2. The sayings of Jesus 3. The Lords Power 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. More OT Characters 12. The Christmas Story

C7 Story 1

David on the run – This story is about David's best friend.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan showed that he was a good friend in the way he helped David. The Lord Jesus can be our Friend. <p>Key Verse: 1 Samuel 20: 17 Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 20: 1-42</p>		
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Level 2 children could spend a minute or two with a partner thinking about the qualities that make a good friend. Then they could share the answers with the whole group. Possibly record them briefly on a board. Emphasise the qualities which a friend might show if someone were having a hard time e.g. a friend helps, protects, and is always there for you. Try to give examples of specific situations which are relevant to the group.</p> <p>Alternatively, with Level 1 children, have a bag of items which offer protection e.g. helmet, sun-cream, toothpaste and brush, warm gloves, picture of seatbelt, etc. Choose individuals to select an item and say how it protects them. Explain that God gives us people to keep us safe – parents, other adults (name them), friends. In today's story, we will learn about how David's good friend protected him.</p>		
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Review life of David as covered in C6 by asking key questions: What was God's plan for David's life? Who was king when David was told he would be the next king? Tell the children that Saul was jealous of David. Ask them to work out why. Reasons might include killing Goliath, winning more battles, having God on his side. Remind children of the ways in which Saul's jealousy showed itself (C6 story 4). (For Level 2, you may wish to explore how jealousy can affect the children and what the Bible says about it)</i> <i>Remind the children about Saul's son, Jonathan who was David's best friend. Refer back to the qualities which describe Jonathan on your list made in "Introduce It".</i> <i>King Saul was holding a great feast that lasted for several days. David was expected to attend but he thought it was safer not to. Jonathan was willing to help David and find out if Saul was thinking of harming him. He planned to meet up secretly with David in a field later. There, he would use a sign to show David if he was safe or in danger. (1 Samuel 20: 4-23) Explain that God was looking after David by giving a special friend to protect him.</i> <i>Saul noticed David was missing on the second day of the feast. Describe his reaction. (1 Samuel 20: 27-34) How do you think Jonathan felt? Predict what Jonathan will do next. Will he be faithful to David and tell him the whole truth?</i> <i>The Bibletime lesson does not include the part about how the arrows were used as a sign to let David know about the danger, he was in. You could add these details as they make an interesting story. Next morning Jonathan went out to the field where David was hiding behind a rock. He took a boy with him. The boy shot three arrows way beyond the target. David already knew that the sign meant his life was in danger and that he needed to run away to safety. (1 Samuel 20: 35-40)</i> <i>After Jonathan told the boy with the arrows to go back to town, it was safe for David and Jonathan to talk to each other. Discuss how David would have felt about having a friend like Jonathan. It was hard to say goodbye to each other, but they promised each other that they would always be friends. (1 Samuel 20: 41-42)</i> <i>Talk about how the Lord Jesus is our Friend if we have invited Him into our lives as Saviour. Reflect on the extent of His love in dying for us and His ongoing and faithful love each day in helping and protecting us. Link back to the qualities of a friend which were highlighted in "Introduce It".</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – David and Jonathan / David on the run.</p>		
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse - 1 Samuel 20: 17</p>		
REMEMBER IT	<p>If you have a child-friendly dart board you could connect the quiz to the idea of the boy with the arrows. Use these questions with two teams:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where did Saul expect David to be? - When did Saul miss David? - How did Saul react about David? </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where did Jonathan and David meet up? - What did they promise each other? - How can Jesus be a person's best friend? </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where did Saul expect David to be? - When did Saul miss David? - How did Saul react about David? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where did Jonathan and David meet up? - What did they promise each other? - How can Jesus be a person's best friend?
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C7 Story 2

David spares Saul's life – This story is about David forgiving Saul.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David did not try to take revenge on Saul. God wants us to make right choices about how we treat other people. <p>Key Verse: <i>Ephesians 4: 32</i> Bible Passage: <i>1 Samuel 24: 1-22</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discuss situations where children are faced with someone having treated them badly. How do they react? Do they want to get their own back on the person? Try to use a specific example of a situation which the children can relate to. Explain that if the Lord Jesus is our Saviour, He will help us to choose the right way to react and to forgive others.</p> <p>In today's story, we are going to learn how David treated King Saul.</p>
TEACH IT	<p><i>Review Saul's treatment of David in the previous stories (C6 Story 4 and C7 Story 1).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Describe the desert where David was hiding. Talk about caves and how they can be very big and dark! Along with 3000 men, Saul went looking for David. Then Saul happened to go into the very cave where David was hiding with his men. Build suspense – would Saul find David? Saul didn't realise that David was just a bit nearer the back of the cave. (1 Samuel 24: 1–3)</i> <i>David's men saw this as an opportunity for David to get his own back on Saul and encouraged David to kill Saul. Help children explore the choice that David faced. Would it have been right for David to have killed Saul? Explain that for now, Saul was God's anointed king even though he did many bad things. Remind the children that God had promised David that he would be king. Could anything or anyone change that promise? God had protected David so far – when he killed Goliath and later when Saul tried to kill him with his spear. Emphasise that David's life was in God's hands, and no-one could stop God's promises and plans working out in his life. David would be king in God's time. (2 Samuel 2: 1–4)</i> <i>David knew it would not be right to get his own back on Saul by killing him. Explain how he stealthily moved up to where Saul's coat was and cut the corner off it! David waited until Saul moved out of the cave. (1 Samuel 24: 4–7)</i> <i>Then David walked to the entrance of the cave and shouted to Saul. Reflect on the surprise he must have got! David showed Saul the corner of his coat which he had cut off. What would Saul realise now? David explained to Saul that he had spared his life. Saul's heart was touched. He knew that David had been good to him and hadn't treated him as he deserved. In the meantime, Saul gave up chasing after David and trying to harm him. (1 Samuel 24: 22)</i> <i>The way David treated King Saul is a picture of how God has treated us. He has shown us His mercy and forgiveness which we didn't deserve. He has made a way for us to be forgiven through the death of the Lord Jesus. When we believe in Jesus and our sins are forgiven, we should then follow His example and be willing to forgive others.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – David the king / David spares Saul's life.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse - <i>Ephesians 4: 32</i>. The verse divides naturally into three parts so children could practice and perform it in groups of three.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Level 2 children could work together in small groups to make up little mini plays about forgiving others (see "Introduce It"). Level 1 children could decorate large letters to describe key words in today's story – kind, good, forgiving. They could be attached to a corner from a piece of cloth as a visual reminder of today's story.</p>

C7 Story 3

David becomes King – this story is about God keeping His promises.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God kept His promises to David about becoming king. • God gave David another promise about a greater King. <p>Key Verse: 2 Samuel 5: 4 Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 31: 1-13, 2 Samuel 5: 1-11</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about how we sometimes have a long wait when promises have been made to us. Give an example relevant to children's experience. David has a long wait in his life. Review what the children already know about him, by asking questions but be prepared to clarify and retell where necessary. Did David come from a royal family? (i.e. was his father a king?) No, David wasn't a prince. He came from an ordinary family. What did he work at? (as a shepherd) Who chose him to be the next king? (God - he was anointed by Samuel the prophet.) Emphasise that David was God's choice and God would bring His plan to happen even though there was another king at the time. Who was he? Saul made it very difficult for David, but David continued to trust in God.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One day Saul and his family were killed in a battle. David was very upset both about Saul who had so often treated David badly, and Saul's son Jonathan who had been David's best friend. (1 Samuel 31: 1-6) David wrote a special poem to remember Jonathan (2 Samuel 1: 17-27) • Soon the people came to David. <i>Why?</i> They reminded David of how he was to be a shepherd to the people of Israel and be their ruler. <i>Relate this statement to David's earlier life as a shepherd.</i> God's promise to David was finally being fulfilled! David was 30 years old when he became king. His reign lasted for 40 years! (2 Samuel 5: 1-5) • Next, David recaptured the city of Jerusalem which had been taken over by God's enemies. There, David had a beautiful palace built. We are told that David became more and more powerful because the Lord God Almighty was with him. <i>Teach the children that we need to have God with us too.</i> (2 Samuel 5: 9-11) • David was also willing to build a Temple where God could be worshipped. <i>Explain that up until now God had been worshipped in a special tent called the Tabernacle.</i> But one of God's prophets, Nathan, gave David the message that this wasn't part of God's plan for David. Through Nathan, God reminded David of all the wonderful things He had already done for David and gave him another amazing promise that one of David's family would be king forever. <i>Ask the children if they can work out who this could be. (Give some clues about the baby who was born in Bethlehem or the king that the wise men came looking for)</i> Help children appreciate how much David had to praise God for. (2 Samuel 7) You could read some of David's words of praise e.g. verse 22. <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – David becomes king.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>The Key Verse 2 Samuel 5: 4 is a factual statement about David being king. Galatians 2: 20 which appears in both Level 1 and 2 Bibletime is an amazing summary of what the Lord Jesus has done for us and would be good to memorise.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Level 1 children could decorate crowns.</p> <p>The "Who" questions below review the story of David so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who promised David he would be king? • Who anointed David at his father's house? • Who did David kill with a sling? • Who tried to kill David with a spear? • Who was David's best friend? • Who hid in a cave? • Who died in battle? • Who did David praise?

C7 Story 4

David and Mephibosheth – This story is about David’s kindness.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David kept his promises to his friend Jonathan in showing kindness to Mephibosheth.• God has shown kindness to us. <p>Key Verse: 2 Samuel 9: 7 Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 9: 1-13</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Use situations relevant to the children to prompt them to think of ways to be kind to others e.g. how would you be kind to: someone who falls, forgets something, has too much to carry, has too many tasks to do, has no-one to play with....? In a school situation, you could ask the children to come up with their own examples or you could highlight specific children who have shown kindness to others that day. In today’s story, David wanted to find someone to be kind to. Suggest that looking out for ways of being kind to others is a good thing to do!</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Remind children of Story 3 where we learned how God kept His promises to David. Now David was king and there was peace. But David had not forgotten his good friend Jonathan and the promises they had made to each other. Mention that it’s the right thing to keep promises which we may have made to others. David wondered if there was anyone from Jonathan’s family still living that he could show kindness to. He asked Ziba who had been one of King Saul’s servants if he knew of anyone. (2 Samuel 9: 1-3)</i>• <i>Ziba immediately thought of Mephibosheth. Refer to the sad things that had happened to Mephibosheth and his accident. How might Mephibosheth have felt as he grew up? Be sensitive if there are children in your group who have difficult circumstances but encourage your group to be thankful to God for the good things they have in their lives.</i>• <i>Mephibosheth was now living in a place far away from Jerusalem and was still unable to walk. Speculate on what he might have thought when he received the invitation to the palace. (2 Samuel 9: 3-5) Might he have been afraid?</i>• <i>King David explained to Mephibosheth that he had nothing to be afraid of. Rather he wanted to do him good. He wanted to show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake and because of the special friendship which David and Jonathan shared. David was generous in what he gave Mephibosheth. You could list the gifts and privileges or use simple pictures to represent each one:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>the land that had belonged to King Saul</i>2) <i>lots of servants to farm the land</i>3) <i>a place at the king’s table</i>• <i>Explain that eating with the king meant he was being treated as one of the king’s family. Mephibosheth humbly accepted what David gave him, recognising the greatness and kindness of David. (2 Samuel 9: 6-13)</i>• <i>This story helps us understand God’s kindness to us. Our sins keep us away from God, but God is willing to forgive them and welcome us into His family. We don’t deserve such love, but God makes it possible through His Son the Lord Jesus who has died for us. Challenge the children to respond to God’s kindness by thanking Him for the Lord Jesus.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – David and Mephibosheth.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach the Key Verse which is part of today’s Bible passage or alternatively teach. Titus 3: 4 “But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us.”</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Level 2 children could work in groups to create a poster to illustrate ways which God shows kindness to us. Level 1 children could have a quiz. Questions could be written on the backs of pictures of objects stuck to the king’s table with different points allocated to each one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who was the kind King?• Who had been David’s special friend?• Who told David about Mephibosheth?• What happened to Mephibosheth when he was young?• What two things did David give Mephibosheth?• Where was Mephibosheth to eat his meals from now on?• Who has shown kindness to us?• Fill in a missing word from the Key Verse “But when the ----- and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us.”

C8 Story 1

Joshua becomes the new leader – This story is about knowing that God is with us.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God promised to be with Joshua and help him.• God helps us with the task He gives us to do. <p>Key Verse: <i>Joshua 1: 9</i> Bible Passage: <i>Joshua 1: 1-18</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Level 2- Ask the children who is in charge of their school or their local area. What happens if that person is away? Who takes over, who is then in charge? (maybe a deputy head) Talk about how important it is to have someone in charge, that they have to make decisions and are responsible for all those under their care. Being the boss and making up the rules may sound good fun but point out the responsibility of the task. Today's story is about a new person taking charge</p> <p>Level 1 – Discuss with the children how they might feel about being chosen to do something new and challenging. Give a relevant example. In today's story Joshua gets a new job.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God spoke to Joshua and told him Moses had died, and that he was now to lead the people into the Promised Land. (Joshua 1: 1-2) <i>How would Joshua have been feeling?</i>• The people were to get ready to cross the Jordan River and God was going to give them the land He had promised many years before. The Israelites had been here 40 years before but had sinned and not believed God, so they had been left to wander in the desert. (Joshua 1: 3) <i>Discuss how the Israelites would have felt. (excited, happy, curious, nervous)</i>• <i>Read the words God spoke to Joshua in these verses. Draw the children's attention to the way God is repeating His instructions to be strong and courageous. How would this have helped Joshua as the new leader? Explain that he would be able to be like this, not because of his own strength or abilities but because God had promised to be with him. (Joshua 1: 5-7, 9, 18)</i>• God also reminded Joshua of the law and commandments that He had given to Moses. Joshua needed to learn them and obey them. If he kept God's commands, God would bless the people in their new homes. (Joshua 1: 7-8) <i>Explain that it is important for us to obey God too.</i>• Joshua then told all the people to pack all their things and be ready to leave. The people promised Joshua, that just as they had obeyed and followed Moses, they would obey and follow him. (Joshua 1: 10-11, 16-18) <i>When we trust the Lord Jesus and ask Him into our lives, then He, too, makes the promise to be with us and never to leave us.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – Joshua becomes the new leader.</p>
LEARN IT	Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Joshua 1: 9
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who had died?• What was the name of the river they had to cross?• What did God tell Joshua he needed to be?• What was God's promise to Joshua?• What did Joshua need to read and learn?• What did the people agree to do?

C8 Story 2

Joshua and the new land – This story is about believing in God’s greatness.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rahab believed in the greatness of the God of Israel. God wants us to have faith in Him. <p>Key Verse: Joshua 2: 24 Bible Passage: Joshua 2: 1-24</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask the children what they know about spying. What is important about being a spy? What happens to spies if they get caught? What would happen if you were caught helping a spy who worked for the enemy?</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two men were sent into the Promised Land to a large city called Jericho. They were to spy it out so the Israelites would know how to conquer the land. Jericho was surrounded by a huge wall with gates in it for entrance into the city. The wall was so thick that there were houses built on top. A lady called Rahab lived in one of these houses. The men went to Rahab’s house. Unfortunately, the spies were seen, and the king of Jericho was told. (Joshua 2: 1-2) <i>Ask the children to predict what will happen.</i> The king sent a message to Rahab to bring out the men, but Rahab took the men and hid them on her roof covered in straw. She told the king’s messengers that they were too late, and the men had already left. The soldiers of the king then went out to try and find the spies outside the city. (Joshua 2: 3-7) Meanwhile Rahab told the spies that the whole country was afraid of the Israelites. They had heard all that God had done and knew God was going to destroy them. Rahab asked the spies if they could keep her and her family safe. (Joshua 2: 8-13) <i>Explain that this showed that Rahab believed in God’s greatness and power and that she was willing to rely on God for safety. She had not had the opportunities to get to know God as the Israelites had but was willing to have faith in Him. Having faith means trusting or depending on God. God is pleased when we have faith in Him.</i> The spies promised to keep her safe if she didn’t tell anyone they had been there. They told her to make sure she tied a red cord/robe and to hang it out of her window and all in her home would be safe. The spies then climbed down a rope and escaped. (Point out that Rahab’s home had a window facing away from the city). (Joshua 2: 14- 21) Level 2- <i>Explain that there is a chapter in the New Testament where lots of Bible characters are mentioned because of their faith. Read Hebrews 11: 31.</i> When the men got back to Joshua, they reported what they had heard, that God was with them, and everyone was afraid of them. Their spying mission had helped them understand more about God’s greatness too. (Joshua 2: 23-24) <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – Joshua and the new land.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Joshua 2: 24</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many spies did Joshua send? Whose house did the spies go into? Where did Rahab hide the spies? What did she ask the spies to do? How did the spies get away? What did they tell Joshua?

C8 Story 3
Joshua and Jordan– This story is about God’s power.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing is too difficult for God to do. • We need to obey God, whatever He asks. <p>Key Verse: Joshua 3: 5 Bible Passage: Joshua 3: 1-17, 4: 1-24</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk with the children about something they may have been asked to do which they thought impossible. Maybe a piece of homework or schoolwork that they just couldn’t do. How did they get over their problem? Was there someone else who could help them? Joshua needed to take all the Israelites to the other side of the River Jordan. It was a wide flowing river and there were no bridges or boats. Who do you think will help Joshua?</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua and all the people packed up their camp and moved out towards Jericho. They stopped at the bank of the River Jordan and set up camp there. (Joshua 3: 1) <i>Ask the children to reflect on what the people would be thinking.</i> • After three days, Joshua sent a message around the camp for everyone to prepare to move. They were to follow the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant. (This was a special, holy box which reminded them that God was with them) Joshua told the people to prepare themselves for the next day; the Lord was going to do amazing things for them. (Joshua 3: 2-5) • Joshua told the priests to go ahead of all the people and they were to walk into the River Jordan. The priests did as Joshua said and as soon as their feet touched the edge of the water, the river stopped flowing and piled up and the priests were standing on dry ground. (You can point out that the ground was dry and not wet, despite the fact the water had just been there). (Joshua 3: 6-16) <i>Discuss the people’s reaction to this event.</i> • All the people then crossed over the river on the dry ground and were able to camp on the other side of the river, near to Jericho. (Joshua 3: 17) • 12 large stones were taken from the Jordan and put on the side of the river, as a sign for the future so they would remember what God had done for them that day. <i>It is good for us to remember the times when God has helped us.</i> When everything was done, Joshua commanded the priests to come out of the river. As soon as the priests’ feet touched dry ground the river began to flow as it had before. (Joshua 4: 1-9) • The people then realised that God was with Joshua just as He had been with Moses. (Joshua 4: 14) <i>When we trust the Lord and obey His Word in our lives, He always helps us.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – Joshua and Jordan.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse - Joshua 3: 5</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which river did the people have to cross? • Who went first into the river? • What were they carrying? • What happened to the water? • How many people managed to get across? • What did they collect from the river? • What were the stones for? • What did they realise about Joshua?

C8 Story 4

Joshua and Jericho – This story is about God giving the victory.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua followed God's instructions to conquer Jericho. We should trust and obey God, whatever He asks us to do. <p>Key Verse: Hebrews 11: 30 Bible Passage: Joshua 6: 1-25</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Supposing you had something very difficult to do. Would it help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you were given exact instructions by someone reliable? If the person also offered to go with you when you were carrying out the task? <p>That's what happened when it came time for the Israelites to conquer Jericho.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Help the children to recall what Jericho was like. Who lived there? (Story 2)</i> God told Joshua that Jericho was ready for them to invade but it didn't appear to be ready. The people had shut all the gates, and no one was allowed in or out of the city. They felt safe because of the huge, thick wall that surrounded the city. (Joshua 6: 1) Joshua then gave the people the instructions he had received from God. They were going to march around the city wall once every day for six days. In front was to be the armed guard, then seven priests carrying trumpets made from rams' horns, then the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant, followed by the rear guard. The people were to walk around in silence with just the trumpets blowing. (Joshua 6: 2-11) <i>Did Joshua have any reason to be afraid? Emphasise that following God's plan would lead to certain victory. Joshua had the promise of God's presence (Story1) and could count on God's power and faithfulness. (Story 3)</i> Every day the people got up early and walked once around the city. (This would have taken a good deal of time - it was a big city. Also point out that more than likely the people in Jericho would have been on top of the wall watching them and looking out of the windows. Every day, more people would come to see this strange sight of people marching around quietly) (Joshua 6: 12-14) It came to the seventh day. <i>Build up the drama and expectation of victory telling how they marched around the city seven times.</i> When the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua ordered the people to shout. When the people shouted the walls of Jericho collapsed and the soldiers ran in, killing all the people. (Joshua 6: 15-21) Joshua ordered the spies to find Rahab and bring her and her family out of the city to a safe place. She and her whole family were saved and lived with the Israelites from that time onwards. (Joshua 6: 22- 23) Joshua ordered the soldiers not to keep any of the gold or silver or other valuable items for themselves, but to bring them to the House of God and dedicate them to God. The soldiers and the people knew that it was not themselves who had defeated the enemy but God. The city was destroyed and burnt to the ground. (Joshua 6: 24-25) <i>So, God helped Joshua and the Israelites conquer the wicked city of Jericho. When we trust Him He helps us Him He helps us overcome all that is wrong in our lives.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – Joshua and Jericho.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse - Hebrews 11: 30</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did Joshua and his army know what to do? Where were the people of Jericho when the army arrived? What was carried around the city? What did the priests blow? How many times did the people walk around every day? How many days did they do this for? What did they do on the seventh day? What made the walls collapse? Who was saved? What happened to Jericho?

C9 Story 1

Elijah obeys God – This story is about listening and doing what God says.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah obeyed God when he told King Ahab God's message. We should obey what God says in the Bible. <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 17: 5 Bible Passage: 1 Kings 17: 1-7</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask the children to list their needs and wants and distinguish between the two. Or ask a volunteer to hide, or hide an object, for the children to find. Explain that a person in this story went into hiding.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King Ahab didn't love God and he was the worst king Israel had ever had (see 1 Kings 16: 30). He worshipped gods who were not real and made the people of Israel do the same. He was married to wicked Queen Jezebel. <i>How would this make God feel?</i> God was angry with all the evil in the land and was going to punish King Ahab. God chose Elijah, a man who loved God, to be his messenger. He was to tell Ahab there would not be any rain or dew in Israel for a long time. <i>Read Elijah's words to the king (1 Kings 17: 1).</i> Elijah obeyed God by telling King Ahab the bad news. <i>How do you think the king felt about this news? Angry. Discuss what it would mean – crops and vegetables would not grow; animals and people would not have water to drink and food to eat.</i> King Ahab was so angry because of Elijah's message that he wanted to kill him! But God had a plan to keep Elijah safe. He told him to go and hide! Elijah was to go on a journey to a hot, steep-sided valley called Cherith (NIV Kerith). There was a stream there and Elijah could drink the water. God also said he would provide him with food in a wonderful way. Each morning and evening, ravens (large, black birds) would bring Elijah bread and meat in their beaks. (1 Kings 17: 2-4). God was looking after Elijah. Elijah obeyed and set off for the valley at Cherith. Day after day, God provided Elijah's needs. Elijah drank water from the stream and the ravens provided him with food. As time passed, Elijah noticed the water in the stream was drying up. <i>Ask the children if they can work out why.</i> There had been no rain, as God had said. The water became less and less until one day there was only a dried-up river bed. What was Elijah to do now? God already had a plan for Elijah! All he had to do was obey. (1 Kings 17: 5-7). <i>Elijah obeyed God even though he knew that telling King Ahab bad news would be dangerous for him. He obeyed God, too, and went to Cherith where God provided him with food and water. Elijah had the courage to do what God told him to do and he trusted God to look after him.</i> <i>God speaks to us today through the Bible. He tells us how to live and how to become one of His children. We need to listen to what God says in the Bible and obey. He will look after and care for those who love Him.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elijah obeys God.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach the Key Verse and explain where necessary: 1 Kings 17: 5. Choose the first part of the verse for younger children.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Draw a picture of one item from the list mentioned in the introduction. E.g. food, water, shelter, transport etc. They could be made into a display entitled "God meets our needs" or QUIZ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the names of the wicked king and queen? What was God going to do to punish King Ahab? Who did God choose to tell the king God's plan? How did King Ahab respond? Where did God send Elijah? How did God look after Elijah there? What eventually happened to the stream? What do we learn about Elijah from this story? How can we obey God?

C9 Story 2

Elijah trusts God – This story is about God giving Elijah all he needs.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah and the widow trusted in God to provide their needs. God has provided a way for our need of eternal life. <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 17: 14 Bible Passage: 1 Kings 17: 8-24</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Use visual aids from the last week and let the children re-tell the story. Show a small amount of flour in a jar, and oil in a jug. What could we make? Show a loaf of bread. How would you make bread? (Heat from oven or fire) Show bundle of sticks. Explain that the flour and oil would make a very small amount. These items are in today's story.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God told Elijah to leave Cherith and go to a town called Zarephath. <i>Relate what God also told Elijah – that a widow would supply him with food. Ask the children to define a widow.</i> Elijah obeyed and set off on a long, hot walk. He trusted God would look after him. When he arrived at the entrance to the town, he saw a woman bending down and picking up sticks which had fallen from the branches of trees and bushes. <i>Tell the conversation in verses 10-12. Why were the widow and her son so short of food?</i> There had been no rain and the crops for making flour had not grown. People were going to die due to lack of food. (1 Kings 17: 8-12) <i>Relate what Elijah said to the woman, and what God promised (verses 13-14). What do you think the woman did?</i> The woman trusted and believed God would keep His promise. She went away and made a small loaf of bread for Elijah and then she made some for herself and her son. Something amazing happened! When she looked in the jar of flour, there was still flour left and there was oil in the jug. The flour and oil should have been used up. But day after day, the jar had flour in it and the jug of oil never ran dry. It was just as God had said! There was food every day for Elijah, the woman and her son. God had kept his promise. He provided for their needs. (1 Kings 17: 13-16) <i>The last section of the Bible passage (1 Kings 17: 17-24) is only mentioned in Level 2 Bibletime.</i> Sadly, one day the woman's little boy became very ill and died. She carried the boy in her arms to Elijah. He took the boy upstairs to his room and put him on the bed. Elijah prayed three times: "O Lord, my God, restore this child to life." God heard Elijah's prayer and the boy started to breathe again! He carried the boy downstairs and gave him to his mother. What power and goodness God had shown to the widow woman, her son and Elijah! God had not only provided their daily food, but he had brought the widow's son back to life. The woman knew that Elijah's God was the true God. <i>God provides for our needs today – food, families, and friends. But we also need something even more important. We need God to forgive our sin – the wrong that we do. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die so we can have our sins forgiven. If we ask, God will forgive our sin, and we will have eternal life. Discuss what this means.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elijah trusts God.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – 1 Kings 17: 14. <i>Explain that God kept his promise. He keeps all His promises in the Bible.</i></p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>In groups of three act out 1 Kings 17: 10-16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where did God tell Elijah to go when the stream at Cherith dried up? Who did he see when he got there? What was the woman doing? What did he ask for? What was the woman's reply? What was God's promise to the woman? How did God keep this promise? LEVEL 2 Questions What happened to the widow's son? How many times did Elijah pray? Whose power brought the boy back to life? What do we need most of all?

C9 Story 3

Elijah serves God – This story is about God giving Elijah the victory.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gave Elijah the victory at the contest on Mount Carmel. • The God of the Bible is the true God. <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 18: 39 Bible Passage: 1 Kings 18: 1-2, 16-46</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Explain what a contest is by using examples, such as games between two teams. Talk about everyday choices – favourite colours, food, music. People in our story are asked to make a very important choice.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rain had fallen for three whole years in Israel. <i>Describe what this would mean – no crops, grass, vegetables, plus animals and people would die. Remind the children why God had punished the people of Israel in this way – the wickedness of King Ahab and the worship of false gods.</i> God told Elijah to go back to King Ahab and tell him that very soon God would send rain. Elijah obeyed. (1 Kings 18: 1-2) • King Ahab was still angry with Elijah. <i>What had he threatened to do to him? (kill him).</i> This time he called Elijah a troublemaker. <i>Relate Elijah's reply in verse 18.</i> It was time to prove who was the real God. Elijah set up a contest which was to be held on Mount Carmel overlooking the sea. <i>Describe what happened in verses 19 and 20 and the challenge of Elijah to the people in verse 21. (1 Kings 18: 16-21)</i> • The contest would be between the false god Baal and the true God. <i>Describe how two altars would be built and a sacrifice placed on each. Those who believed in Baal and Elijah who believed in the true God would each pray for fire to come down and burn up the sacrifice on their altar. Wherever the fire fell, that would prove which was the true God. (1 Kings 18: 22-26)</i> • Baal's followers prayed first. They prayed all morning, but there was no answer from their god, no fire came. They shouted out even louder, no-one answered, <i>Ask the children if they can work out why?</i> They were praying to stone gods that could not hear. (verses 25-29) Now it was Elijah's turn. When the sacrifice was placed on the altar, Elijah poured 12 barrels of water over it. <i>Why? It would make it harder for the fire to burn it up.</i> Elijah prayed quietly to the God of Israel. <i>Relate his prayer in verses 36 and 37.</i> Immediately, fire from God fell and burnt up the sacrifice, the stones of the altar and dried up the water. The Living God had heard Elijah's prayer and shown His great power. When the people saw what had happened, they fell down on the ground and cried: "The Lord, He is God." (verses 38-39) Elijah ordered the prophets of Baal to be killed. (verse 40) • What a victory for Elijah and his God! <i>What had Elijah promised Ahab at the start of our story?</i> As God promised, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind blew, and heavy rain fell down. (1 Kings 18: 41-46) • The people of Israel saw that day that God was the only true God. <i>Remind the children what Elijah said in verse 21.</i> They gave up worshipping false gods and turned back to worshipping the true God. <i>Many people today worship false gods. The God of the Bible is the true God. Are you willing to give the true God first place in your life and receive His Son, Jesus, as your Saviour and Lord?</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elijah serves God.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – 1 Kings 18: 39.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask the children to re-tell the story using the visual aids or use quiz questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What message from God did Elijah give King Ahab? 2. What did King Ahab call Elijah? 3. What was Elijah's reply? 4. What choice were the people given? (verse 21) 5. What happened when the people who believed in Baal prayed? 6. How did Elijah make it even harder for fire to burn up the sacrifice? 7. What happened when Elijah prayed? 8. What did the people do and say? 9. What other promise did God keep at the end of the story?

C9 Story 4

Elijah fails God – This story is about a frightened man forgetting God.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When Elijah was afraid, he forgot to trust God to take care of him.• We can trust God at all times. <p>Key Verse: <i>Psalm 62: 8</i> Bible Passage: <i>1 Kings 19: 1-16</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discuss the ways God has helped Elijah in these stories so far:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Providing a safe place to hide2) Protecting him from King Ahab3) Providing food for him4) Proving His power against the worshippers of Baal. <p>Do you think Elijah would find it easy to trust God from now on?</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• King Ahab's wife, wicked Queen Jezebel, was furious when she heard what had happened on Mount Carmel and that the prophets of Baal had been killed on Elijah's instructions. <i>Recap the story of Mount Carmel if not used in the introduction.</i> What had the people of Israel learned? The God of Elijah was the true God. In her temper, Queen Jezebel sent a message to Elijah saying she would kill him that day for what he had done. When Elijah heard this, he was afraid and ran for his life! He felt alone and sad and forgot to trust in God. <i>Talk to the children about times when they feel sad and alone, when they are teased at school or get into arguments.</i> God knows all that happens and what makes us sad and afraid. (1 Kings 19: 3)• Elijah ran into the hot, dusty desert and sat down under a tree. He asked God to let him die and then fell asleep. <i>Tell the children about the provision given by the angel.</i> God cares for those who love him. After eating and sleeping, Elijah was strong enough to walk for 40 days and nights to Mount Horeb (also called Mount Sinai). <i>Ask the children if they can remember anything that happened there – Moses was given the 10 commandments by God.</i> Elijah spent the night in a cave. (1 Kings 19: 3-9)• <i>Relate the question which God asked Elijah and his reply.</i> Elijah was able to tell God how he felt and why he was so sad. God will always listen. You can tell Him how you feel and why you are sad or afraid. <i>Introduce the Key Verse - Psalm 62: 8 (1 Kings 19: 9-10)</i>• God told Elijah to go and stand on the mountain. God was going to meet with Elijah. There came a strong wind, an earthquake and fire, but God was not talking to Elijah in any of these. Then Elijah heard a gentle whisper. It was God speaking. He told Elijah to go back the way he had come. <i>Relate what God said and the new jobs he had for Elijah. God was still willing to use Elijah as His helper even though he had been afraid and forgotten to trust Him.</i> One of the jobs God had for Elijah was to find a young man called Elisha who was going to be God's next prophet or messenger. Elijah was old and his life was almost at an end. He had served God well. (1 Kings 19: 11-16)• <i>God had spoken to Elijah throughout his life and told him what to do. God speaks to us today through what we read in the Bible. If you are sad or afraid, ask God to be with you and to help you. You can trust God at all times.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elijah fails God / Elijah prays again / forgets God.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Psalm 62: 8. God never changes. He is always there for us.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Children can draw or create a timeline for the story, or quiz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who threatened to kill Elijah?• How did Elijah react?• What did he ask God to allow him to do?• What meals did the angel provide?• How long did it take for Elijah to get to Mount Horeb?• What question did God ask and what was Elijah's reply?• Name three things which were not God talking to Elijah?• How did God speak to Elijah?• What job did he give him to do? <p>Do you talk to God when you are sad or afraid?</p>

C10 Story 1

Elisha – the call to follow - This story is about God being with us.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gave Elisha power to do His work. • God will help all those who love Him to serve Him. <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 2: 14 Bible Passage: 1 Kings 19: 19-21, 2 Kings 2: 1-15</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discuss ways in which people work for God – missionaries, church workers, Christian charities, telling others about Jesus.</p> <p><i>Talk to the children about things they find hard to do – their schoolwork, saving their pocket money, not getting angry, etc. Sometimes we need help from other people. A man in our story needed God's help to do the work God had given him.</i></p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who had God chosen to take over from Elijah to be His new messenger? <i>Recap on God's instructions to Elijah in 1 Kings 19: 15-16.</i> Elijah knew his work for God was coming to an end, so he set off from Mount Horeb to find Elisha, a younger man to carry on God's work. Elijah found Elisha ploughing in a field (<i>show images of how ploughing was done in Bible times</i>). He took off his cloak and threw it around him. Elisha knew this was a sign he had been chosen by God to leave his work as a farmer and to serve God. He said goodbye to his family and went with Elijah to start his new job. (1 Kings 19: 19-21) • Elijah and Elisha went everywhere together as they worked for God. <i>(If time, relate 2 Kings 2: 1-6), emphasising that Elisha was determined to stay with Elijah. After a while, the two men came to the edge of the river Jordan. Explain what happened in verse 8.</i> Elijah was able to do this because God was with him and gave him the power. Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted him to do for him before he was taken away by God. Elisha knew he would need the same God-given power that Elijah had to help him to do God's work. <i>Relate the conversation in 2 Kings 2: 7-10.</i> • Suddenly an amazing thing happened as they were talking together. A chariot and horses of fire appeared between the two men. Elijah was lifted up towards Heaven in a big swirl of wind. Elisha could no longer see Elijah, only his cloak that had fallen to the ground. <i>Ask children how Elisha would be feeling (alone, amazed, sad) (2 Kings 2: 11-12)</i> • Elisha picked up the cloak and went back to the river. Elisha wondered if God was with him. <i>Explain that Elisha used the cloak and what happened. (verse 14)</i> Elisha now knew that Elijah's God was with him and would give him the power he needed to do his work for God. God would help him as he had helped Elijah. (2 Kings 2: 13-15) • <i>God uses people today to do His work. It may mean going to another country or staying in your own country. God wants all those who love Him to work for Him. In what ways can we serve God? Examples include being kind to others, inviting friends to Sunday School, or telling others about Jesus. We serve God by living lives that please Him. Whatever you do for Him, God will help you – just like He helped Elijah and Elisha.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elisha: the call to follow.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – 2 Kings 2: 14. Focus on Elisha's words and explain the context.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Draw the outline of a chariot and the children decorate it with the flames – paint, crayon, coloured paper, or quiz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who did Elijah have to find to take over his work for God? • What was Elisha doing when Elijah found him? • What did Elisha do? • Who caused the river Jordan to part so the men could cross over? • What did Elisha ask for? • What came between Elijah and Elisha when Elijah was lifted up to Heaven? • What item did Elisha pick up and use? • Was God now with Elisha? How did Elisha know? • Who will help you in your work for God?

C10 Story 2

Elisha – comfort for a friend – this story is about God’s power over death.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elisha’s prayer raised the woman’s son to life. We can pray to God about difficult things in our lives. <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 4: 33 Bible Passage: 2 Kings 4: 8-37</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Have you ever helped a friend? Discuss. People help their friends in this story. Or what would you put in a bedroom for a friend? What would they need? A lady builds a bedroom for a friend in our story.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elisha travelled around the country doing God’s work. <i>Recap how Elisha had taken on the work from Elijah and had been given God’s power to do so.</i> He often visited a place called Shunem where a rich woman lived with her husband. They loved having Elisha in their home for a meal, and after a while decided to build him his own room at the top of their house where he could stay for the night. <i>Describe what they put in the bedroom – bed, chair, table, and lamp. The couple showed kindness to their friend. We should do the same for our friends. (2 Kings 4: 8-10)</i> Elisha wanted to do something in return for their kindness. He heard that the woman was sad because she didn’t have any children. Elisha told her that God would give her a baby boy! Soon the woman had a baby boy of her own. <i>How do you think she felt? (happy).</i> One sad day, when the boy was older and helping his father on the farm, he became very ill. He was carried into the house but soon died. <i>Who do you think his mother thought could help? (Elisha).</i> She knew Elisha was a man of God and could help her with God’s power. She placed the body of her son on Elisha’s bed, saddled a donkey and went to Elisha’s house. <i>When you are in difficulty who do you turn to for help? (parents, teacher, brother or sister) (2 Kings 4: 11-25)</i> <i>For this age group, the following events have been simplified.</i> Elisha returned with the woman and went to his bedroom where the body of the boy lay. He shut the door and prayed to God. He breathed into the boy’s body and the boy started to come back to life. Suddenly, he sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. God had answered Elisha’s prayer! He gave the boy back to his mother. How thrilled she must have been to see her son alive! Elisha trusted God to help, and God answered his prayer. The woman, her husband and the boy learned about the power of God that day. (2 Kings 4: 26-37) <i>This wonderful thing happened because Elisha prayed to God. God wants us to trust Him and pray about difficult things in our life. Discuss some difficulties – a friend moves away, a pet dies, someone is horrible to you at school. He will listen to our prayers and is able to help. God will care for those who love Him. He will be with them in their difficulty.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elisha: comfort for a friend.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – 2 Kings 4: 33</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>The children could draw pictures of a situation that they could pray about or have a quiz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the rich woman and her husband care for Elisha? What did God promise the woman? How did God keep His promise? Where was the boy when he became ill? Where did his mother place his body? Who did she go to seek help? What did Elisha do when he arrived back at her house? How did God answer his prayer? <p>What should we do when we are sad or worried?</p>

C10 Story 3

Elisha – healing a leper – this story is about God’s love for everyone.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naaman had a disease which could only be cured by God. • God has made a way for us to have the problem of sin forgiven. <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 5: 15 Bible Passage: 2 Kings 5: 1-19</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Who do you go to see to make you better when you are ill? Discuss. A man in our story was ill and no-one could help him.</p> <p>Or talk about instructions, written and verbal. A man in our story had to obey instructions given by Elisha, even though he didn't want to.</p>
TEACH IT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naaman, the commander of King Aram’s army, was a very important man. He was a brave soldier, had won many battles and the king was very pleased with him. He lived in a big house with his wife and servants. But he was an enemy of God’s people, the Israelites. One day, a terrible thing happened. He looked at his skin and saw there was something wrong. He had leprosy – a disease which in those days couldn’t be healed by doctors. Soon, other people would see he had the disease. He would lose his job and be sent away from his family. <i>Discuss how Naaman would react to this news. (2 Kings 5: 1)</i> 2. Living in his house was a young maid who served and helped his wife. She had been captured from the land of Israel and bought to the house as a servant. She heard the terrible news about Naaman and knew of someone who could help. <i>Who? (Relate verse 3)</i> Naaman agreed to go to see Elisha. Leprosy was a problem Naaman could not solve. <i>We have a problem that we cannot solve – sin which makes us do wrong things.</i> The king of Aram allowed Naaman to go to see Elisha and gave him gold, silver and clothing to take as a present. (2 Kings 5: 2-7) <i>How would Naaman be feeling now?</i> 3. When Naaman arrived, Elisha sent a messenger to tell him to wash seven times in the river Jordan and he would be healed of his leprosy. Naaman was furious – he was angry that Elisha had not come out himself to see him and he didn't want to wash in the muddy river Jordan. <i>Explain how Naaman’s servants persuaded him to follow Elisha’s instructions. (verse 13)</i> Level 1 children could count the number of times Naaman went under the water by standing up, lowering and raising their bodies again. How amazing, Naaman was healed! His skin looked perfect. <i>Relate what Naaman said to Elisha. (verse 19)</i> Naaman now knew the God of Israel was the true God. Naaman offered Elisha the presents of gold, silver and fine clothing, but Elisha would not take them. It was God who had healed Naaman, not Elisha. (2 Kings 5: 8-19) 4. <i>Naaman had to obey what Elisha said to be healed of his leprosy. There was no other way for him to be made better. God has made a way for us to have our problem of sin solved. Sin separates us from God. In the Bible, God tells us that because His Son, Jesus, died on the cross, we can ask God to forgive our sin. There is no other way for us to be forgiven of our sin. We then become part of God’s family. Have you asked God to forgive your sin? He will if you ask Him.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elisha: healing a leper / cleansing a leper.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – 2 Kings 5: 15. Focus on the words spoken by Naaman – the God of Israel is the true God.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Level 1 – Ask each child to draw a sad face with spots on one side and a happy face without spots on the other side of a paper plate. Use them to re-tell the story.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What job did Naaman do? • What illness did he have? • Who told Naaman about Elisha? • Who let Naaman go to see Elisha? • What presents did Naaman take? • How many times did Naaman have to wash in the river Jordan? • How did Naaman react when he was told to wash in the river Jordan? • Who told him to obey Elisha’s instructions? • What happened when Naaman came out of the water for the seventh time? • What did he say to Elisha? • Why was Naaman unwilling to accept the presents? • What is the problem we have that only God can solve?

C10 Story 4

Elisha – cheating is punished - This story is about telling the truth.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God punished Gehazi for being greedy and telling lies. • Jesus took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. <p>Key Verse: <i>Numbers 32: 23</i> Bible Passage: <i>2 Kings 5: 19-27</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discuss what it means to be greedy. Or is it right to tell lies? When we do these things, we hope that no-one will know or find out just like someone in our story.</p> <p>Show images and/or quiz to recap the story of Naaman. This is what happened next.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(Recap the story of Naaman, if not used in introduction.)</i> Naaman the army commander, his men and servants set off for home. Naaman was happy he had been cured of his leprosy and now knew that Elisha's God was the true God. But there was someone who was not happy. <i>(Who might that be?)</i> Gehazi, Elisha's servant was cross that his master had not accepted the gifts of silver and fine clothes from Naaman. <i>Can you remember why Elisha had not taken the presents? It was God who had healed Naaman and not Elisha.</i> Gehazi thought it was silly of Elisha not to take anything from Naaman and planned to get some of the gifts for himself. Gehazi was being greedy. Gehazi was wrong to tell lies to get what he wanted. (2 Kings 5: 19-20) • Gehazi ran after Naaman even though he had gone some way on his journey. When Naaman saw Gehazi running up behind, he got off his horse and asked Gehazi if everything was all right. Relate Gehazi's reply in verse 22. Gehazi had made up a story that was not true in order to get some silver and fine clothing for himself. God has said we should not tell lies. Refer to Exodus 20: 16. Gehazi cheated Naaman into giving him the presents meant for Elisha. Naaman gave Gehazi even more than he had asked for! He sent two of his servants to help carry the gifts back home for Gehazi. <i>We too have broken God's Commandments and sometimes tell lies to get out of trouble or to get something which is not ours.</i> (2 Kings 5: 21-23) • The servants gave Gehazi the gifts and Gehazi hid them in his house. He thought nobody would know what he had done. <i>Do you think he was right? Who would know what he had done? God! God knows when we do wrong things. He knows everything. He is not happy when we cheat or lie.</i> (2 Kings 5: 24) • Gehazi went to Elisha and stood in front of him. <i>Relate the conversation in verses 25-26.</i> Explain that God had told Elisha what his servant had done. God punished Gehazi for what he had done wrong. He couldn't be allowed to get away with it. His sins had been found out by God. Suddenly Gehazi was covered in leprosy. (2 Kings 5: 25-27) • <i>The Bible says we all do wrong things. We have all sinned. God knows all we have done. We can ask God to forgive our sins because His Son, Jesus, took the punishment for sin when He died on the cross. Have you asked God to forgive your sin?</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Elisha: cheating is punished.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Numbers 32: 23. Explain that some people think that no-one will find out about their sin, but God knows everything. They will be found out by God.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Gehazi think his master, Elisha, was silly? • What did Gehazi do? • What did he say to Naaman? • How would you describe Gehazi? • Who helped Gehazi back to his home with the gifts from Naaman? • What did Gehazi do with the gifts? • Did he think he had got away with it? Who knew? • What happened to Gehazi? • What can we do about our sin, the things we do wrong?

C11 Story 1

Jonah in the ship – This story is about God knowing everything.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jonah disobeyed and tried to hide from God.• God wants us to obey Him. <p>Key Verses: Jonah 1: 3 Bible Passage: Jonah 1: 1-9</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk to the children about the variety of ways we have of communicating with one another – text, phone, letter, email etc. Discuss how God communicates with us. The Bible is God’s Word. When we listen to or read it, the Holy Spirit brings its message into our lives.</p> <p>Explain to the children that in Old Testament times God would send His word through men, called prophets. These men were sent by God to different places to pass on God’s message to the people who lived there.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God spoke to a prophet called Jonah and asked him to go to Nineveh. It was a long way from where Jonah lived. (<i>500 miles – give some idea of how far this is</i>) The people there did not know God and lived sinful lives. Jonah’s mission was to tell them that God would punish them unless they turned to Him and repented. (<i>being truly sorry</i>) <i>Reflect on how Jonah might have felt on being asked to do this – scared, lonely etc.</i> (Jonah 1: 1 - 2)• Jonah decided to run away in the opposite direction and try to hide from God. <i>Discuss whether it is possible to hide from God, given that He is everywhere and can always see us.</i> Jonah went to Joppa where he boarded a ship going to Tarshish. (Jonah 1: 3)• <i>Describe the terrible storm sent by God - sounds of wind and waves battering ship, also things being tossed around.</i> The sailors were very afraid and prayed to their gods. <i>Explain that because they did not know the one true God, their prayers were not answered.</i> Desperately they tried to lighten the ship by throwing cargo overboard. Jonah was fast asleep below the deck and had no idea of what was happening. The captain woke him up and told him to call on his God to save the ship. (Jonah 1: 4 - 6)• The sailors believed that the storm was the fault of someone on board. <i>Explain how they drew lots to find out by using dice or straws.</i> Jonah was the chosen one! They asked Jonah who he was and where he had come from. Jonah explained that he was a Hebrew, who served the God of Heaven, who made the sea and the earth and everything in it. He told them the storm was all his fault because he was running away from God. (Jonah 1: 9)• <i>Explain that when we read the Bible and learn what God wants us to do, we should obey its message and not respond as Jonah did</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Jonah in the ship.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Jonah 1: 3</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What job did Jonah have?• Where did God want Jonah to go?• Why didn’t Jonah want to go there?• What did Jonah try to do?• What happened when the ship set sail?• What was Jonah doing during the storm?• How did the sailors discover it was Jonah’s fault?• Who did Jonah say they served?

C11 Story 2

Jonah in the sea – This story is about how God answering prayer.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God answered Jonah's prayer from within the fish. • God will hear our prayers when we cry out to Him. <p>Key Verse: <i>Jonah 2: 9</i> Bible Passage: <i>Jonah 1: 10-17 & 2: 1-10</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about situations when one person's actions put not only themselves but others at risk. e.g in school, someone who misbehaves gets the whole class into trouble, someone driving carelessly, someone who does not follow health advice.</p> <p>Remind children of Jonah and how his disobedience meant that everyone of the ship was in danger.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the sailors found out who Jonah was and who he served they were very frightened. They asked Jonah what they should do to stop the storm from destroying them. Jonah told them it was his fault, that he was trying to run away from God, and that they should throw him overboard into the sea. However, the men didn't want to kill Jonah, so they tried to row back to shore, but the storm grew worse. Then the sailors cried out to God and asked that they would not be punished for killing Jonah. They picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. Immediately the storm stopped, and the sea grew calm. The men on the boat realised who God was and offered their praise and worship to Him. (Jonah 1: 10-15) • As Jonah sank, God sent a great fish that came and swallowed him whole. <i>Help the children to reflect on what it must have been like for Jonah.</i> (Jonah 1: 17) • Jonah did the only thing possible! He prayed to God. <i>Talk about how God hears our prayers no matter where we are.</i> In his prayer Jonah spoke about what God had already done for him. He remembered how he thought he was going to die as he sank to the bottom of the ocean. He remembered how he had cried to God and how God had heard that prayer and saved his life. He thanked God for hearing him and acknowledged God was the only true God and that the people who prayed to idols would never be saved by their gods. Jonah praised God for being the only God who can save. (Jonah 2: 1-9) • After three days and nights in the belly of the fish, God ordered the fish to vomit Jonah out on to dry land. (Jonah 2: 10) • God punished Jonah for His disobedience, but He also provided a way of saving him (the fish) when he was really sorry and owned up to his sin. <i>We deserve to be punished for our sins, but God has made a way for us to be forgiven through what the Lord Jesus has done. Like Jonah, we must be truly sorry for our sin. God is willing to save us from our sin when we ask Him.,</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Jonah in the sea.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <i>Jonah 2: 9.</i></p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did the sailors first do when Jonah told them to throw him overboard? • Why didn't they want to throw Jonah overboard? • What happened when they threw Jonah into the sea? • What did the sailors do when they saw the storm stop? • What did God send to rescue Jonah? • How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish? • What did Jonah do while he was in the fish? • What lesson(s) had Jonah learned? • How are we like Jonah? • How is it possible for God to save us?

C11 Story 3

Jonah preaches in Nineveh – This story is about turning to God.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The people of Nineveh were truly sorry and were forgiven by God.• We need to repent of our sin to be forgiven by God. <p>Key Verse: <i>Jonah 3: 5</i> Bible Passage: <i>Jonah 3: 1-10</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk to the children about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) times they have been forced to say they were sorry and didn't really mean it.2) times when they knew they had made a mistake and were wrong.3) talk about guilt and the relief it was to say sorry. <p>Discuss if it is possible to show by actions or behaviour that you are sorry. Today we are going to look at how the people of Nineveh were sorry.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No sooner had Jonah come out of the fish than God spoke to him again, telling him to go to Nineveh to deliver God's message. This time Jonah obeyed God immediately. Nineveh was such a great city that it took three days to walk across it. Jonah began telling the people that God was going to destroy them for their wicked ways. (<i>Jonah 3: 1-4</i>)• Surprisingly the people believed Jonah's message and were very upset about what they had done. They wanted to show God how sorry they were. They fasted (stopped eating) and put on sack clothes instead of their usual clothes. This was their way of showing how they viewed themselves as worthless and they were truly sorry. (<i>Jonah 3: 5</i>)• When word reached the king, he got down from his throne, removed his royal robes and put on sackcloth too. He issued a decree that everyone in the city, including all the animals, should eat nothing and be covered in sackcloth. He also commanded that each person turn from his evil ways and call out to God. The king hoped that God would see and hear the people and not carry out His plan to destroy them. (<i>Jonah 3: 6-9</i>)• God saw that the people were truly sorry, had turned from their sin, and were not putting on a show in order to save their own lives. They were prepared to change, to completely turn their backs on their wrong ways, and turn to God. The Bible uses the word repent to describe what they did. God changed His mind about them, by forgiving them and not destroying them.• <i>Explain that God is still kind and forgiving today. If like the people of Nineveh, we turn back to God, repent of our sin, and believe His message, we shall be saved.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Jonah preaches in Nineveh.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <i>Jonah 3: 5</i></p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did God now want Jonah to do?• How long did it take to walk across the city of Nineveh?• What two things did the people do to show they were truly sorry?• What did the king do to show he was sorry?• What did the king command the people to do?• What did God decide to do?• What do we need to repent of?• What will God do for us if we repent?

C11 Story 4

Jonah in the shade – This story is about God’s love and kindness.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story of Jonah shows us a picture of what Jesus did. • God loves and cares for all people. <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 12: 41</i> Bible Passage: <i>Jonah 4: 1-11</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk with the children about how, and when we think someone had done something wrong, we want to see them punished. Sometimes we might tell a parent or a teacher when we see someone doing something wrong and then we can get cross when we don’t think they have been punished properly. This is how Jonah felt towards God in today’s story.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Jonah had obeyed God the second time by going to Nineveh, he was angry that God had forgiven the people. He knew that God is merciful, slow to become angry and full of love, but it upset him that God acted in that way towards the people of Nineveh. Jonah still had some lessons to learn! (<i>Jonah 4: 1 - 3</i>) • Jonah went out of the city and sat down to watch if God was going to do anything. It was a very hot day. <i>Ask children about how too much heat makes you feel and what would help.</i> God met Jonah’s need by causing a leafy plant to grow up to protect him from the sun. That night Jonah slept under its shade. (<i>Jonah 4: 5 - 6</i>) • At dawn the next day, God sent a worm to attack the plant. Quickly, it withered and died. Then God sent a scorching wind and the sun beat down on Jonah as before. <i>How would they feel now? Explain that for a second time, he was angry with God, this time about the plant.</i> Then God spoke to Jonah about his concern over a plant that he hadn’t even planted in the first place and was only there for a short time. God explained that He had a much greater right to be concerned for the people of Nineveh. There were 120,000 people (<i>possibly compare to the population of somewhere local</i>) who needed to know God’s ways. That’s why He gave them the opportunity to repent. They all mattered to God and none of them was too bad to deserve God’s love! <i>Discuss how Jonah’s thinking about the people of Nineveh and the plant had been selfish whereas he needed to understand God’s heart of love for people.</i> (<i>Jonah 4: 7 - 10</i>) • <i>God loves and cares for all people, no matter how far away they are from obeying His ways. It is important that everyone in the world gets to hear the good news about the Lord Jesus.</i> • Explain that when Jesus was on earth He spoke to the people about Jonah. He told them that He would be buried for three days and three nights, the same amount of time that Jonah had been in the fish. He also told them that the people of Nineveh would be angry with the people who heard about Jesus but didn’t believe in Him, because they had heard the message from Jonah, listened and repented. Jesus was a much greater person than Jonah and we must believe in Him. (<i>Matthew 12: 40-41</i>) <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Jonah prays to God.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <i>Matthew 12: 41</i></p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was Jonah angry with God? • What did Jonah want to happen to himself? • Where did Jonah go? • What did God send to help Jonah? • What happened to the plant? • Why did Jonah get upset? • What do we learn about how God felt about the people of Nineveh? • How does the story of Jonah compare with what happened to Jesus?

C12 Story 1

God sends His Son, Jesus – This story is about the birth of Jesus.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus God's Son was born in Bethlehem.• Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the world. <p>Key Verse: 1 John 4: 14 Bible Passage: Luke 2: 1-7</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Show children some pictures of babies. (If possible, bring a photo of yourself as a baby or get the children to bring in photos of themselves as babies.) Discuss where babies are usually born i.e. in hospitals and the way they are cared for when they are born e.g. how you dress them, where you put them to sleep. Explain that today they will be learning a story about a baby born in very different circumstances.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Roman Emperor wanted to know how many people were in the empire. He ordered everyone to return to the place of their birth so that they could be counted. (Luke 2: 1-3)• Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. They were engaged to be married. Mary was going to have a baby soon. For Joseph and Mary, it meant making the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem (Luke 2: 4-5) <i>Explain the distance (at least 80 miles) and for Level 2, use a map if available. Children might also consider where their family would have to travel to if this order was given nowadays.</i>• While they were in Bethlehem, the baby was born. Mary wrapped her baby in cloths, and she placed Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. <i>Explain that a manger was where the animals would have eaten and then discuss if this was a good place to put a new baby (relate back to introduction discussion).</i> (Luke 2: 6-7)• <i>Explain that even though this baby, the Son of God, was the most special one ever to be born into this world, He was born into a difficult situation and grew up in a poor family. God showed how much He loves us by sending His Son into the world and one day this little baby would grow up to die on a cross as the Saviour of the world. (See the Key Verse)</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God sends his Son, Jesus.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – 1 John 4: 14.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who was ruling the land at that time?• What did the Emperor make everybody do?• Who was Joseph going to be married to?• Where did Joseph and Mary live?• Where did they have to travel to, to be counted?• What was special about the baby that was born?• What did Mary wrap Him in?• Where did Mary place Him?

C12 Story 2

God sends Jesus, the Saviour – This story is about the angels appearing to the shepherds.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shepherds were the first people to be told Jesus was born. • The angels announced who Jesus is. <p>Key Verse: <i>Luke 2: 11</i> Bible Passage: <i>Luke 2: 8-15</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk to children about names. Ask them if they know why their name was chosen, or if there is a new baby in the family. Talk about the family, talk about reasons for the choice of name. Ask children if they are ever called by any other names except their given ones i.e. nicknames. Remind children of the previous story about God's Son being born. Tell children that the baby was given the name Jesus but that He was also given some other very special names.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near Bethlehem there were some shepherds out in the fields, watching their sheep at night. <i>(Luke 2: 8) Explain why it was necessary for shepherds to watch over their sheep at night. Explain also that they were probably the only people awake who could hear this good news.</i> • The sky lit up and an angel appeared. <i>Ask the children to anticipate how the shepherds would have felt. (terrified, amazed, startled).</i> The angel said to them "Don't be afraid, I am giving you good news that will bring joy to all people. Today, in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born and He is Christ, the Lord. The baby is wrapped in cloths and is lying in a manger." <i>Ask children to identify the other names that Jesus was called i.e. Christ, Lord and Saviour. Focus on the fact that Jesus was called Saviour because He would save the world from their sins. Explain to the children that when Jesus grew up, He died on the cross and took the punishment for our sin so that He could be our Saviour. Explain that "Christ" means He is God's chosen one, and "Lord" means He is Master. (Luke 2: 9-12)</i> • Suddenly, a great crowd of angels filled the sky, and they sang praises to God saying, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" <i>Remind the children that God sending Jesus to earth to be our Saviour was a really amazing thing and that, just as the angels praised God, we should praise and thank Him too for what He has done for us. (Luke 2: 13-14)</i> • When the angels left, the shepherds spoke to each other and said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that God has told us about." <i>(Luke 2: 15)</i> • <i>Help the children understand that Jesus was the greatest Christmas present that God could possibly give to us all.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God sends Jesus, the Saviour.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <i>Luke 2: 11</i></p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask the children to create a picture of the field where the shepherds were. Use different materials – cotton wool, silver paper, card, fabric, wool, paint, etc.</p> <p>Or ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who were out in the fields? • Why were the shepherds out in the fields at night? • What appeared in the sky? • How did the shepherds feel? • Who did the angel say had been born? • What filled the sky? • What did they sing? • What did the shepherds decide to do?

C12 Story 3

The shepherds find Jesus – This story is about the Baby's first visitors.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The shepherds responded to the angel's message.• We need to respond to the good news about Jesus. <p>Key Verse: Luke 2: 20 Bible Passage: Luke 2: 16-20</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk to children about a time when they heard really good news. Give some personal examples e.g. hearing about a new baby being born or hearing about someone coming to visit. Ask them how they felt when they heard the news and if they shared the news with anyone else. Recall the good news which the shepherds heard. (story 2)</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When the shepherds heard the good news about Jesus, they couldn't wait to go and see the Baby for themselves. They hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. How would they be sure that had come to the right place? (<i>Clue—the angel's message</i>) Verify that the baby was lying in a manger as they had been told. (Luke 2: 16)• When they had seen Jesus, they couldn't keep the good news to themselves. They told everyone they met about what had happened. The people they told were amazed and wondered about the things they had heard. <i>Remind children that the fact that Jesus was born is still amazing news today. Today, we know the amazing facts that He also died and rose again. Just like the shepherds who wanted to tell people they met about Jesus, we can tell our friends about the good news of Jesus too.</i> (Luke 2: 17-18)• Mary remembered all the things that had happened, and she thought a lot about them. The shepherds went back to their fields, but they never forgot the things they had heard either. They continued to give glory to God and praised Him for all the great things that they had seen. (Luke 2: 19-20)• <i>Explain to children that when the shepherds met Jesus, their lives were changed, and they never forgot the things that happened. When we get to know Jesus and He becomes our Saviour, then He can change our lives too. Just like the shepherds praised God, we should also thank God for giving Jesus to be our Saviour!</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – The shepherds find Jesus.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Luke 2: 20</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who had told the news of the new baby to the shepherds?• What did they do when they heard the good news?• Who did the shepherds find when they got to Bethlehem?• Where was the Baby Jesus lying?• Who did the shepherds tell about the things they had seen?• Who remembered the things that had happened and kept thinking about them?• Where did the shepherds go after they left Bethlehem?• Who did they give praise to?

C12 Story 4

John baptises Jesus – This story is about Jesus at the River Jordan.

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus was baptised by John to show he had come to be one of us.• Jesus is different from us because He has no sin. <p>Key Verse: Mark 1: 7 Bible Passage: Mark 1: 1-9</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask children if they have ever experienced anyone important coming to visit their home or their school or their town if not, you could imagine someone important was coming. Discuss the preparations that would be made for that person coming. Tell children that today's story is about someone who prepared the way for Jesus.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After Jesus was born, the Bible doesn't tell us much about His life until He was 30 years old. He probably grew up in Nazareth with His family and He might have worked as a carpenter like Joseph did.• Jesus had a relation called John. We often call him John the Baptist. John had been living in the desert where he wore camel skins, and his food was locusts and wild honey. (Mark 1: 6) <i>Talk about how strange that was.</i>• John the Baptist became a preacher. His special job was to get people ready for the coming of Christ, the Lord. Lots of people came out to hear the message that John was preaching. When people turned from their sin (repented) John baptised them. This means he immersed them in water. <i>Explain that it was not the water that washed away their sin, but it was a sign of what had taken place in their lives.</i> He told them that someone far better and more powerful than him was coming. When he talked about Jesus he said, "I am not worthy to undo His sandals". <i>Explain that a slave would have done this for his master. But Jesus was so much greater than John, that John didn't even feel good enough to be Jesus's slave.</i> He also said that one day Jesus would bring the Holy Spirit to the people. (Mark 1: 4-5, 7-8)• When Jesus was about 30 years old the time came for Him to start calling people to God and to preach the good news that the angel had spoken about on the day that He was born. Jesus went out to the river Jordan to where John was preaching and baptising people. John baptised Jesus in the river Jordan. (Mark 1: 9)• <i>Explain to the children that Jesus didn't need to be baptised because of His sin. Jesus was the Son of God, so He was perfect and never did anything wrong. When Jesus was baptised, He was coming alongside sinful people like us. Jesus became like us, apart from sin, so that one day He could go to the cross and die so that we could have our sins forgiven.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – John baptises Jesus.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – Mark 1: 7</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where did Jesus grow up?• What was Jesus' relation called?• What did John eat in the desert?• Who did John the Baptist say was coming?• John the Baptist said that Jesus was much more _____ than him. (Fill in the missing word)• What age was Jesus when He came to see John?• What did John do for Jesus?• Why did Jesus not need to have His sins forgiven?

Guidance for Teachers Marking Lessons

LEVEL 1 LESSONS:

- Four pages in the booklets for each week which mainly involves colouring and filling in a few words.
- Twenty marks are allocated for each week with a maximum of 80 for the month.
- Children who receive Level 1 lessons are not expected to be able to read very well and we expect parents / guardians / leaders to help them.

LEVEL 2 LESSONS:

- Four pages per week in the booklets.
- The story is contained within the lesson. The students have to find out various words from the lesson, do some colouring, complete Key Verses etc.
- Twenty marks are allocated for each week with a maximum of 80 for the month, when the lessons are completely correct.

BIBLETIME MARKING

MARKING HINTS

The teachers are asked, first to:

- Check through each lesson and mark the answers correct or incorrect.
- Award the necessary points as instructed.
- Always mark in a contrasting colour and TICK each correct answer.
- Put in the correct answer, where necessary and correct any spelling errors, though NO marks are deducted for these.
- Give less marks for partially correct answers.
- Add the total for the month and write this on the back page in the space provided.

It is necessary to be fairly generous and to do everything possible to encourage the students with their Bible Study. It is helpful, where possible each month for the teacher to write a word of encouragement to the student and there is a space provided on the lesson sheet for this to be done. Comments can be made about good colouring, neatness, marks attained, the student's understanding of the lesson, etc.

We try to keep comments as varied as possible. Questions, statements, observations, encouragements etc. can all be used to maintain variety. It requires thought, but it is important to keep the interest of the student alive. If the same statement or question is being repeated every month, it loses its impact.

LEVEL 1

General comments

"Amy – I am delighted you have started these lessons and I hope you enjoy them. I love your colourings. Do you go to school? Tell me about it. Looking forward to hearing from you soon."

"Well done, Andrew. What super colouring! Was it difficult to stay inside the lines? You just missed a small bit of colouring on the last lesson."

Spiritual comments

"Well done, Sarah. What a happy man Jairus was when Jesus helped him."

"Very good answers! The story of Jesus dying is sad, but the happy bit is that He rose again."

LEVEL 2

General comments

"Good answers again, Joanna – I'm sure that your teacher is very pleased with your work at school!"

"I see that it will soon be your birthday, Connor. Are you doing anything special? Whatever you do, have a great day!"

"You have tried really hard. There are just a few little mistakes. Don't forget to check your answers each time."

Spiritual comments

"I like the way you coloured Baby Jesus in the manger. Wasn't it good of God to send Him into the world for us?"

"I really like your colours! Zechariah had to pay a price for not believing in what God said. He never doubted God's Word again."

"Excellent answers. The man who met Phillip in the desert went away really happy. He had heard and believed the good news about Jesus."

Appendix A - Level 0 & 1 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C7	David	David and Jonathan/ David on the run
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-david-saul/
		David the King/David spares Saul's life
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-david-cave/
		David becomes king
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/fn-david-mephibosheth/
C8	Joshua	David and Mephibosheth
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-mephibosheth/
		Joshua becomes the new leader
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joshua-commander/
		Joshua and the new land
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-rahab-spies/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joshua-commander/
		Joshua and Jordan
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-joshua-jordan/
		Joshua and Jericho
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joshua-commander/

Appendix A - Level 2 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C7	David	David on the run
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-jonathan/
		David spares Saul's life
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-saul-cave/
		David becomes king
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/saul-last-days/
C8	Joshua	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-ark/
		David and Mephibosheth
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-mephibosheth/
		Joshua becomes the new leader
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joshua-commander/
		Joshua and the new land
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joshua-commander/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-rahab-spies/
		Joshua and Jordan
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-jordan/
		Joshua and Jericho
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-jericho/

Appendix B - Level 0 & 1 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C9	Elijah	Elijah obeys God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-elijah-food/
		Elijah trusts God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-elijah-food/
		Elijah serves God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-prophet-elijah/
C10	Elisha	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elijah-baal/
		Elijah prays again/forgets God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elijah-baal/
		Elisha, God's new helper
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elijah-elisha/
		Elisha helps a poor widow
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elisha-oil/
		God uses Elisha to heal a sick man
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elisha-naaman-1/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elisha-naaman-2/
		Elisha and his greedy servant
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elisha-naaman-2/

Appendix B - Level 2 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C9	Elijah	Elijah obeys God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-elijah-food/
		Elijah trusts God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-elijah-food/
		Elijah serves God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-prophet-elijah/
C10	Elisha	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-prophets-baal/
		Elijah forgets God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/elijah-horeb/
		Elisha - The call to follow
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-elisha/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-chariot/
		Elisha - Comfort for a friend
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-boy/
		Elisha - Cleansing for a leper
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-naaman/
		Elisha - Cheating is punished
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-naaman/

Appendix C - Level 0 & 1 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C11	Jonah	Jonah in the ship
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jonah-preschool/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bpa-jonah/
		Jonah in the sea
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jonah-preschool/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mk-jonah/
		Jonah preaches in Nineveh
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bpa-jonah/
		Jonah prays to God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mk-jonah/
C12	The Christmas Story	God sends His Son, Jesus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/birth-jesus-preschool/
		God sends Jesus, The Saviour
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-christmas-story/
		The shepherds find Jesus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-christmas-story/
		John baptises Jesus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/preschool-jesus-baptised/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mk-john-baptist/

Appendix C - Level 2 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C11	Jonah	Jonah in the ship
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mk-jonah/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bpa-jonah/
		Jonah in the sea
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bpa-jonah/
		Jonah preaches in Nineveh
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mk-jonah/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bpa-jonah/
		Jonah prays to God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mk-jonah/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jonah-disobeys/
C12	The Christmas Story	God sends His Son, Jesus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ed-jesus-birth/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bpa-christmas/
		God sends Jesus, The Saviour
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-shepherds/
		The shepherds find Jesus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-shepherds/
		John baptises Jesus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/lgr-john-baptist/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/wdv-john-baptist/



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