

10 MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

www.tenbiblestories.org

June 2017

What a busy term we've had! It's been a mixture of classroom sessions, a trip to Edinburgh, report writing, film making and meetings to review our first year and plan the second. We have been able to look back and reflect on God's goodness to us, his financial provision and the welcome we have received in our local schools.

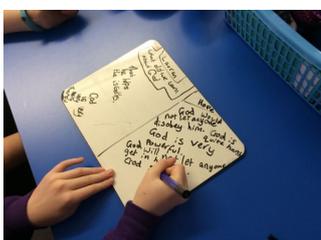
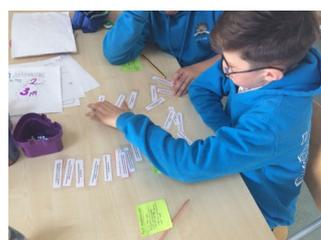
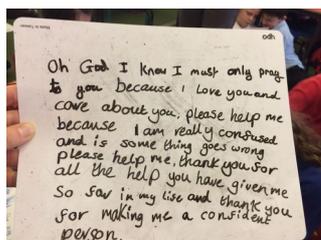
Our classroom sessions have been based on the story of God giving the 10 commandments or the story of Daniel and the Lions Den.

The 10 Commandments

This story challenges the children to think deeply. Is it good or bad to have rules? Who has the right to make rules, to decide what is right or wrong? What rules would they make for our world? If God said they shouldn't murder, why does Moses issue a command for the Israelites who rejected God to be killed? If everyone followed the 10 Commandments would wars happen? Is war right or wrong? It has been a privilege to have fun with these classes as we acted out the story and used quizzes to help us remember it, but more so to help them engage in discussion and I have been amazed at the depth of their answers and questions. More and more I see that the Bible Stories provide a way in for children to explore big issues and both the teachers and the children value the opportunity to do that.

Daniel and the Lions

We have used this story to explore the Christian practice of prayer, why do Christians pray, how do they pray, what might they say? The children showed great empathy as they imagined what prayers Daniel might have said to God at the various points in the story. The Bible has some great descriptions of Daniel's character and these helped us to consider 'what does God want Christians to be like?'. We especially considered the characteristic of being trustworthy, there was some great acting as we thought through possible endings for different scenarios - was the character in our scenario trustworthy or not?! We also considered whether being trustworthy was something we should all aspire to be, whether or not we believe in God.



"the open ended tasks allow opportunities for less able pupils to shine."

"You showed teachers that you can make Rme active, fun and taught outside"

Film making and Edinburgh

We were delighted when Ciaran Fowler of Brawligh films agreed to work with us to make a film showcasing our project. We had a fabulous day filming, and are so grateful to the schools who allowed us to borrow classes to re-enact some of our lessons. You can find our films here: tenbiblestories.org/videos/

We hope you enjoy them!

Our film was made to show as part of a workshop we were asked to run at Heart and Soul, a Church of Scotland event in Edinburgh. Four of us from St C's went down and had a wonderful time showcasing and sharing our project. You can read about our trip here: tenbiblestories.org/2017/05/23/heart-and-soul-festival/



What next?

We have asked the teachers we worked with for feedback from the first year of the project, either by filling in a short questionnaire or coming along to an after school event. We were blown away by their positive feedback and so grateful for their support. They had no doubt about the benefits the project was providing them and the children. Sue is now spending time meeting the head teachers and planning what the project will look like in their school next year. Asking how best we can serve them. We will keep you updated on the plans!

Prayer Points:

Give thanks for the positive feedback from children and staff.

Give thanks for the project team from St C's who offer wise advice and support.

Pray for the planning of next year. The work in schools and for the training events.

Pray for God to provide more people to work in our local BOD schools. This could be running lunch clubs, taking classes or simply helping children practise their reading.

Pray that those who become interested in the Christian faith would have opportunity to find out more.

Pray for God's protection of our project.

A snap shot of our first year

Since our project started in August 2016 we have:

- Written and trialled resources to teach 9 (out of the 10) Bible Stories in Primary schools and to help staff use them across the curriculum.
- Worked with 34 classes, helping over 900 children explore the Bible and their understanding of Christian belief across 8 schools.
- Hosted 9 teacher training sessions each focussing on a different Bible Story. Held 2 reflective CPD sessions.
- Developed our website tenbiblestories.org where all our resources can be found and downloaded.
- Started a social media presence drawing attention to and promoting our resources and the benefits of RME
- Begun to network with other organisations working in Scottish Schools to best decide how we can share and promote our resources.

How can you help?

Please do pray for the project.

If you are able to give financially to help support the project and develop the work please speak to Sue or a member of the finance team at St Columba's.

If volunteering in a local school is something that interests you please do speak to Sue.

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