

HOUSEHOLD MATERIAL FOR KIDS (AGE 8-12 YEARS)

God protects us...so Trust God

1) Prepare – 30 Minutes

1. Start with teaching the kids a song or two with some actions
2. Ice-breaker
3. Familiarizing a psalm

1a) Song: Jehovah Jirah

1b) Ice breaker -to help to reflect on the topic of God's protection

Place a pair of sunglasses, bicycle helmet and shin guards in a surprise box or bag (Please adjust these items to what is relevant in your area).

(Choose children, one at a time, to pick an item from the box and lay on the table.)

Why do we wear sunglasses? (Protects our eyes from the glare of the sun.)

Why do we wear helmets when riding our bikes? (Protects our heads in case we fall.)

Why do we wear shin guards? (Protects our legs while playing soccer.)

What do all the three of these items have in common? (They protect us from getting hurt.)

These items are objects. Who are the PEOPLE you think can protect our lives? (Police officers, firemen, EMS, doctors, teachers, parents)

How do these people protect us? (Discuss briefly)

Our story today is about a mother who protected her baby from Pharaoh, a mean king in Bible times who wanted to hurt all the baby boys

1c) Our Memory Verse for today is Psalm: 27:10: Even if my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in. (Make sure they know where it is in the Bible. Have them look it up and repeat it.)

2) Present: 2 hours

- a) Bible Story on the Birth of Moses
- b) Reflection activity based on passage
- c) Science lesson to emphasize memory verse
- d) Story of Saint Isidore
- e) Activity on Saint Isidore

2 a) Story time with some reflection

Read the story from Exodus 2:1-10

What does exodus mean? (a mass departure of people, in our case Israelites from Egypt)

There are few things that can bring more happiness than the birth of a new baby. For weeks before the baby is born, the preparations are made. The parents make sure the baby will have everything it needs. They buy clothes, baby bottles, and tiny blankets to keep the baby warm, soft, fuzzy pajamas for the baby to sleep in. After a baby is born, care is taken to make sure that the baby has everything it needs to grow into a strong and healthy child. Good parents will do everything they can to keep their baby safe. Our Bible story today is about a little baby boy who was born in a very dangerous time. We will see the amazing things his mother did to keep him safe and make sure he had every opportunity to grow, learn, and have the best of everything in his life.

There was a new King in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph and how he and his people had helped to save the people of Egypt from starving to death. All he knew was that the Israelites were very strong, and that they were growing in number, He was afraid that they were going to take over his country.

"We must do something to keep the Israelites from becoming more so numerous and so powerful," the king declared. So he made them work very hard to crush their spirit. He thought that if he made them work very hard, they would just give up. But the harder he made them work, the stronger they became and the more their numbers increased.

Finally, the king issued a command to all of his people: "Take every newborn Hebrew boy and throw him into the Nile River, but let the girls live."

During this time, a woman delivered a baby boy. When she saw what a fine, handsome baby he was, she hid him for three months.

As the baby got older, she couldn't hide him any longer, so she made a basket of tall grass and covered it all over with tar to make it watertight. Then she put the baby in it and hid it in the tall grass at the edge of the river. The baby's sister stood some distance away to watch and see what would happen to him.

A little later the king's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her servants walked along the bank. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave girl to see what was in it. They discovered a baby boy.

He was crying, and the princess felt sorry for him.

"This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

The baby's sister asked her, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

"Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. The princess told the woman,

"Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him.

Later, when the child was old enough, she took the boy and gave him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses."

What an amazing story of a mother's love for her child. We all know how Moses grew to be one of the greatest leaders the people of Israel has ever known. And it all started with a little baby hidden in the bulrushes down by the river.

Father, just as the mother of Moses watched over her son and protected him, you love and care for your children. We thank you for your love and protection. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

http://www.sermons4kids.com/baby_by_the_river.htm

Or use

<http://ministry-to-children.com/baby-moses-lesson/>

2 b) Reflection point: What thoughts come to mind while reading this story?

God protected Moses from being killed as a baby, because He had a different plan for Moses than the other Hebrew boys those were killed. List 10 different ways that you can see God protecting you (need to hand out pieces of paper and pen/pencil for this)

2 c) A Quick Science lesson on God's Protection

Need a coin the size equivalent to the US Quarter

Have kids bend their elbow to 90 degrees, as if they were carrying a tray on their forearms.

Remind them to keep their arm from their elbow to their wrist, parallel to the floor

Have the kids turn their wrist so their palm is facing up.

Go around and place a quarter on each child's forearm, an inch away from their elbow.

Instruct the children to drop their arm very quickly with their hand open.

After a couple of tries the kids will be able to catch the quarter without dropping it.

It is as if the quarter "wanders" into their hands if they drop their arm fast enough.

Explain the children, "The coin did not fall to the ground before you caught it because of the principle of inertia, which states that an object at rest will stay at rest unless acted upon by an unbalanced force."

Gravity is the force which causes things to fall to the ground but it takes a few moments to kick in

When you moved your arm the coin's tendency was to remain motionless until gravity acted upon it, making the coin fall to the ground.

When you moved your arm fast enough, the coins stayed still long enough for you to catch them.

Ask: have you ever been in such a Big JAM that you thought not even God could get you out of it?

You can feel a lot like the quarter – like you're going to hit the ground and die due to some scary circumstance in your life.

But Bible says....Even if My father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in. Psalm 27:10

No matter how scary our problems are, God is swift enough and strong enough to catch us and keep us from falling. Psalm 37:23-24 reinforces this saying: "Those whose steps are guided by the Lord; whose way God approves, may stumble, but they will never fall for the Lord holds their hand"

2d) Section on Saint

St. Isidore- Patron Saint of Farmers

Feast Day – May 16th

St. Isidore was born into a very poor family in Madrid, Spain. As his parents did not possess enough money for his education, he entered into labour at a very young age. He was working in the field of John de Vergas, a wealthy landlord

Though he could not study, he was exceptionally good in devotion and also had strong religious instincts. He devoted the majority of his leisure time after work for prayer. He never missed taking part in the Holy Mass, not even a single day. An incident in his life which depicts his dependence and faith in God is as follows:

Harvesting was near and the fields were full of ripe corns. The corns in his field were also matured for harvesting. Birds would come to eat the ripe corns. The labourers had to watch the fields with sticks to keep the birds away from the fields. It was during the evenings that the birds came most.

Every evening Isidore went to attend the Holy Mass in a church at a small hilltop close to the field. He had to watch the fields as he cannot fail in his duties. At the same time, he cannot miss the Holy Mass.

With the utmost faith and belief he had, he went to the midst of the field. He had a stick in his hand which he inserted in the ground and made it stand on the field. Then he asked for the help of his guardian angel. Isidore prayed : "My Guardian Angel, you have to guard this field without even a single bird entering it. Until I return from the Holy Mass, you need to guard." With this prayer, he ran to church.

Then this became his usual habit for going to church. During the Holy Mass, his guardian angel took care of his duties. Days passed by

Unexpectedly, one evening his master came to visit the field. He could not find Isidore anywhere there, but saw a stick standing in the middle of the field. What astonished him was, birds were eating the neighbour's corns even though there were many labourers to watch and they were also struggling to keep the birds away by running around the fields with sticks. But in his field, not even a single bird was found, even without anyone's guarding!

That time, Isidore was running back from the Holy Mass. As soon as he saw his master standing in the field, fell on the master's feet! Begged forgiveness.

Without uttering a single word, the master made Isidore stand. He explained his regular attending of the Holy Mass and the guarding of the field to his master. Master was not only very happy to hear Isidore's acts, he praised him and he also became a believer.

Just like Isidore's guardian angel, Jesus also has given us guardian angels. Our guardian angel is always ready to help us during our prayer, studies and play time. We only need to check whether we are friends with our guardian angel. Promise yourself to seek the help of your guardian angel without any failure

Prayer to Guardian Angel:

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard, rule and guide.
Amen.

2 e) Activity based on Saint – Collage

Completing a picture by joining the given pieces

An A4 size picture of St. Isidore could be cut into pieces according to the number of the participants. The pieces should be shuffled and provided to the participants, so that they all can work together to put the pieces back into a complete picture. If there are more participants, divide them into groups. Each group has to be given separate set of pieces to complete their picture. Then the groups can work as different teams to complete their picture.

3) Preserve: 30 minutes

Activity if time permits:

Allow the kids to break up into small groups/ teams and come up with a short skit showing God's protection: it can be about your own life, another story you heard, about Moses's birth, St Isidore's guardian angel. It can be based on actions alone (without words) the other team has to guess what or who the story is about.

Repeating the message helps in impressing it in their heart and mind. It is always better to summarize the day with some activity which helps them to make something that they can carry home. It will be a reminder of the message back home.

Summarize and Memorize

We can do a short craft activity, which brings out the key message.

Homework

You can give them a suitable assignment to do. It could be something like memorizing the bible verse they learnt.

Concluding Prayer

Help them to pray a small prayer on their own with some songs they learned.

Additional Take home assignment:

Look up one famous person who was about to be aborted.

Next month you should be able to:

1. Name the person
2. Know how this person positively contributed to society?
3. What almost caused them to be aborted?