



YEAR

2

UNIT A

## OLD TESTAMENT: STORIES & PRAYERS

### ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to give children some insight into the stories and the characters of the Old Testament. It will also introduce them to important images of God found in the scriptures.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning in Reception and Year 1 about the Bible being filled with important stories about God.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- some prior knowledge of the structure of the Bible as Old and New Testament
- experience of hearing some Old Testament stories.

### SKILLS

Teamwork, group discussion, empathetic writing, speaking in role, sequencing text, Psalm writing.

### VOCABULARY

Old Testament, Bible, Jewish, Hebrew, Word of God, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jonah, David, Daniel, Psalm.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know that there are two parts to the Bible. Know stories about different people in the Old Testament who were called into friendship with God; recognise that psalms are special songs to praise and thank God. Understand that in the Old Testament we can discover some important images of God for Christians today.

**Less able children will** recall aspects of Old Testament stories; reflect on some things these stories tell us about God.

**More able children will** recall in greater detail Old Testament stories; understand how the Old Testament characters lived out their relationship with God.

A.T.1    A.T.2

2a    2b  
2b    2c  
2c

1a    1a  
1b

3a    3b  
3b    3c

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R1** Hear, read and explore key imagery that speaks of God in the Old Testament; stories of significant people in the Old Testament.

**L2** Hear about and explore signs of God's care and blessings in Scripture.

- Explore with children some reasons why we read books.
- What types of books do you like reading?
- What different types of books do we have to read? Which are fiction and which are non-fiction?
- Explain that the Bible is often referred to as God's Word, and is non-fiction even though it contains different stories.
- Children to re-call stories and events from the Bible that they can remember. Create a "Story Web" with the names they can recall.
- Play a game of charades with the children having to guess the story and characters.
- Explain that the Bible is not one book but many books.
- Talk to the children about the story of Jesus being found in four books called the Gospels. Children to learn the names of the Gospels.
- Explain the difference between the New Testament and the Old Testament. In this unit of work we are focussing on the Old Testament.
- Ask the children to recall important people in their lives and reasons why these people are special.
- Explain that in the Old Testament we find many stories of people who had a special friendship with God and who did important things for him
- Show children pictures of the Jewish scriptures on scrolls. Explain that the Old Testament is the Jewish Bible written in Hebrew. Look at some Hebrew writing.
- Talk with the children about the respect and the care shown to the scriptures because they are God's Word.
- Children to recall as much as they can of the story of Noah.
- What did God ask Noah to do? Why?
- How did Noah respond to Gods request?
- Imagine you are Noah what would you have said to God?
- Talk to the children about the word "promise".
- What does the word promise mean?
- Children to provide examples of different promises that they sometimes make.
- Are promises easy to keep? Why are they sometimes difficult to keep?
- What was the promise God made to Noah?
- Can the children identify the words in the text which speak about the promise?
- What was special about the promise of God?
- What does the promise teach us about God?
- Children to write the story of Noah and create a "Big Book" for the Reception Class. Help the children to explain the feelings of Noah at different times in the story and the special promise of God. Children to write the story as if they were Noah or his wife.
- Reflect with the children about what Noah might have been like after the flood. Do you think his relationship with God was still important to him? Why?
- Share with the children the story of Abraham and Isaac.
- Teacher to act in role as Isaac and re-tell the story to the children from your perspective. Invite the children to ask you questions.
- Make items for a "Story Sack" of Abraham and Isaac. Children can re-tell the story as one of the characters using items from the "Story Sack" to help them.
- What sort of person do you think Abraham was? Did he do what God asked him? How do you know? Do you think he loved and cared for his Son Isaac? How do you know?
- Create a "story-plan". Include all the following details.
- Where does the story begin?
- What did God ask Abraham?
- How did Abraham respond?
- What did Isaac have to do?
- How did Isaac feel?
- Children to imagine they are Abraham and Isaac. What sort of things might they talk about on the way back home?

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R1** Know a range of stories which speak of God and his people in the Old Testament; that the Church uses and reverences the Old Testament.

- Know that the Old Testament is a collection of books about stories and events that happened to the Israelite people before Jesus came.
- Understand that these stories remind us of God's love and care for his people.
- Talk and write about some of the important messages about God in these stories and events.

**L2** That God's blessings in creation are many and varied.

- Know the story of the call of Noah and the building of the ark.
- Understand that God wanted to protect his people and creation.
- Sequence and retell the story and explain its meaning and why it is an important story.

- Know the story of Abraham and Isaac.
- Understand that Abraham wants to do what God tells him.
- Retell the story and describe the thoughts and feelings of the characters.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

As this unit of work develops make a simple timeline of characters before and after the time of Jesus.

Children to find pictures and toys of Noah and the Ark. Learn songs about the story.

Make a "Word Bank" for children to use with their writing.

The story sack could be used in assembly to retell the story to the rest of key stage one.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**L8** Explore Scripture passages which reveal God's love, e.g. psalms of thanks, trust, calls for help.

- The story reminds us that sometimes God asked his people to do difficult things. Children to recall some of the things they find difficult to do. How do you feel when you have to do difficult things?
- Children to create prayers asking for God's help with difficult things.
  
- Children to read the story of Jonah.
- Children to summarise the story into three parts, beginning, middle and end.
- Invent words and phrases which describe Jonah's attitude at the different stages of the story.
- Create a mime of the story.
- Explore with the children their experiences of finding it difficult to say "yes" to important requests. What happens when they don't follow the requests of their family and teacher for example? What difficulties does this create?
- Children to write a "story review" of the story of Jonah and explain what this story means to them.
- God called Jonah to do something special with his life for him. Christians believe that God asks them to do something special with their lives to serve him. Children to reflect on the meaning of this.
  
- Ask the children to think about their special gifts and talents and what they like about themselves.
- Children to work in pairs to think about their special qualities. From all this information create a class gift and talent chart.
- Share with the children the story of David and Goliath.
- What special gifts and qualities had David got? How did he use them?
- Children to role-play story and to take turns being David.
- "Hot Seat" David, children to ask questions using what, when, how and why? Work with the whole class on possible answers to these questions.
- Children to record in writing their questions and answers.
- Like David we are called to use our gifts and talents to serve God.
- Invite children to come up with possible suggestions about how they might do this (e.g. in class, in the playground and in school)?
- Review previous learning in Year 1 about the psalms.
- Explain to the children that King David and other people wrote the psalms. Explain that the psalms are songs and also prayers.
- Introduce children to a psalm.
- Identify some of the things that the person is saying to God in the psalm.
- Highlight some of the things the person is saying about God. Ask the children to talk about phrases and words in the psalm that they like and why?
- Identify words which praise and thank God and ask God's help.
- Children to write a review of the psalm and illustrate.
- Begin work on creating a class psalm. Discuss the sort of things you would want to talk to God about.
- Begin working on some verses together.
- Independently or in groups, children to write their own verses of a psalm.
- Teach the children some hymns that are based upon the psalms. You might just look at the chorus or one verse.
  
- Share the story of the prophet Daniel.
- What does the story tell us about Daniel's friendship with God?
- In what ways was Daniel brave? How do you know that he was courageous? What made him do some of the things that he did?
- Complete a character study on Daniel. Draw pictures and captions.
- Children to write their own book about Daniel, telling the story and highlighting what was important about him.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Know the story of Jonah.
- Understand that God wanted Jonah to tell the people to turn to him again.
- Retell the story and think of some reasons why it was important for Jonah to do what God wanted.

Create a class display of the story with labels and captions.  
Consider making a puppet show of the story of Jonah.

- Know the story of David and Goliath.
- Understand that God gave David special strength.
- Think of special gifts and talents that God has given us to use.

- L8** That God is faithful and loves everyone without distinction.
- Know that the psalms of the old Testament are special songs and prayers to God.
  - Understand some reasons why we thank and praise God and ask his help in prayer.
  - Identify words and Psalms that praise and thank God, and ask God's help.
  - Write own Psalms that express these ideas.

Consider creating a class book of psalms.

- Know the story of the prophet Daniel.
- Recognise that God protected him.
- Retell the story and discuss its message.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Genesis 6: 9-22* – Noah and the Ark

*Genesis 22: 1-14* – Abraham and Isaac

*Jonah* – Jonah and the Big Fish

*1Samuel 17* – The Story of David and Goliath

*Daniel 6: 10* – The Story of Daniel

*The Book of Psalms*

## OTHER LINKS

In creating a simple book of class Psalm there are some links here with developing publishing skills and what is required to produce a book.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use one of the Psalms studied in Collective Worship.
- Children to read the Psalms they have written in prayer time.
- Include prayers of thanks and praise to God.
- Create prayers asking God to help us use the gifts and talents we have received.
- Use some of the stories studied in Collective Worship.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**