

Exploring Bible Stories Through STEAM Activities

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STEAM Activities: Old Testament

Bible Story: In the Beginning (Genesis 1)

Big Idea: God created light- the sun (day), and the moon and the stars (night). God saw all that He had made- and it was very good! (Genesis 1:31) Our God is an awesome and creative God, and we are creative too, since we were made in His image. (Genesis 1:27)

Our Question: What can we do with light and dark? What will we discover?

Activity Idea: Light and Dark Experiments

What You Need:

- Flashlights, one per child
- An assortment of loose parts, some transparent (e.g., Magna Tiles) and some not (e.g., blocks)
- Black construction paper, one sheet per child (12" x 18", or cut in half for 9"x12")
- Jumbo pushpins, one per child (find on www.amazon.com)
- A sheet of Styrofoam or cardboard, one per child

What to Do:

- Talk about how God created light and dark, the sun, moon, and stars. Our God is an awesome and creative God!
- Talk about how a flashlight works, and how it provides light for us to see. Talk about shadows, which happen when an object blocks the light. Invite children to experiment with their flashlight and loose parts. Can they make shadows? What happens when they shine their light through something transparent, like colored beads, or Magna Tiles? If you have a light table, you can use that and lay objects on top of it. Invite children also to use their hands and a flashlight to make hand shadows against a wall in a darkened room. What are they noticing?
- Try this! Give each child black construction paper, and a jumbo pushpin. Place cardboard or Styrofoam underneath. After talking about how we see stars in the night sky, invite them to punch holes in their black paper. For older children, they can try punching holes

to form constellations, like the Big Dipper. When done, hold a flashlight behind the black paper, slowly moving it back and forth, to make the stars twinkle!

Resources: *God's Very Colorful Creation* (Tim Thornborough); *God Made Night and Day* (Hannah C. Hall); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *God Made the Stars* (J. W. Louis)

Bible Story: Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)

Big Idea: God kept Noah, his family, and all the animals safe and dry inside the ark as water covered the whole earth. When the ark rested on the dry land, God placed a rainbow in the sky, as His promise that water would never again cover the whole earth. God takes such amazing care of His children, and He always works all things for our good! (Romans 8:28)

Our Question: How could we create a boat that floats, holds weight, and is waterproof inside?

Activity Idea: Creating a Seaworthy Boat

What You Need:

- Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors
- Duct tape (any type or color)
- Foil
- Toy people and animal figures
- A tub and spray bottle, both filled (or filled halfway) with water

What to Do:

- First, draw your idea for making a boat. What will it look like? How will your passengers enter and exit?
- Use popsicle sticks or tongue depressors, joined together with strips of duct tape (which is waterproof), to create your boat. Or, use foil to create your boat, or any other materials you have on hand that could be used to make a sturdy boat that floats and will keep the passengers dry. Add a roof of some kind to your boat, if you like, to also keep your passengers dry and protected. If you enclose your boat totally, how will your passengers get in and out?
- When you're ready, place figures to represent Noah and his family, and add toy animals. Test your boat in a tub of water. Try moving the tub back and forth to create a current, and/or spraying water on top of the boat, to simulate rain coming down. Will your boat float? Will the passengers stay dry?
- If your boat didn't survive the water, or your passengers got wet, what adjustments will you make before trying again?

More Ideas:

- Sink and Float: Experiment with a collection of loose parts and a tub of water. What will sink? What will float?
- Creating a Rainbow: Try these fun resources: <https://momhacks101.com/rainbow-crafts-activities-for-kids/> ; <https://theimaginationtree.com/40-fantastic-rainbow-activities-for-kids/> ; 5 Ways to Create a Rainbow: Science Experiments You Can Do at Home <https://youtu.be/dIdE-pqYqbs>

Resources: *Noah and the Very Big Boat* (Tim Thornborough); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *Noah's Ark* (A Little Golden Book, by Barbara Shook Hazen and Diane Muldrow); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham)

Bible Story: Isaac Blesses Jacob (Genesis 27)

Big Idea: Jacob stole his father Isaac's blessing from Esau, by pretending he had hairy arms like his brother. Isaac was old and couldn't see well. He touched Isaac's "hairy arms", and thought he was Esau. God gave us amazing bodies, with senses we use to explore our world. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! (Psalm 139:14) Could we identify objects with just one of our senses? Our sense of touch? With just our fingers? With just our toes?

Activity Idea: A "Touchy-Feely" Activity

What You Need:

- A tub or paper bag with loose parts or other objects inside
- A blindfold

What to Do:

- Talk about how God created our amazing bodies. He gave us five senses, one of which is our sense of touch. Could we identify things with only our sense of touch?
- Invite children to use a blindfold (or just cover their eyes), and identify various objects by feeling it with their hands. How easy or difficult is that? Can they describe the characteristics of what they're touching? Is their object soft, bumpy, hard, smooth, etc.?
- Invite one child at a time to use their bare feet to touch an object. Can they identify it? Is it easier to identify objects with your hands, or with your feet?

Resources: *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *My Five Senses* (Ailiki)

Bible Story: A Basket Boat for Baby Moses (Exodus 1-2)

Big Idea: A mother hid her baby in a basket by the river. One day the king's daughter came by and found the baby. She adopted the baby as her own. That baby was Moses! God always has amazing plans for us, to give us a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11), even though it isn't always apparent to us. We can always trust God with our lives, no matter what!

Activity Idea: "A Boat That's a...Basket??"

What You Need:

- A few baskets, different designs, big enough to hold a baby doll.
- A baby doll and blanket
- Foil, plastic wrap, or other materials you might need to line your boat with
- A tub of water

What to Do:

- Experiment! Make predictions on whether the basket of your choice will hold the baby doll (our "Baby Moses"), and float in the water. Will your basket boat keep Baby Moses dry? If not, what will you add to the basket (such as foil, plastic wrap, etc., inside and on the bottom) to make it waterproof? How will you wrap up Baby Moses to protect him from the elements and keep him dry inside the boat?
- Try it out! Float your basket boat in the water. Does Baby Moses and the boat stay dry inside? Does it float?
- Another Idea: Invite students to create their own basket boat, using raffia-type straw (available on www.amazon.com). Since you'll want to make a smaller boat with this, substitute a smaller figure for Baby Moses, and use tissue as a blanket to wrap him up.

Resources: *Baby Moses in a Basket* (Caryn Yacowitz); *Moses and the Very Big Rescue* (Tim Thornborough); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley)

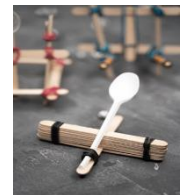
Bible Story: David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

Big Idea: David fought Goliath and won- with a launcher (sling), projectiles (stones), and God's empowerment! The battle belongs to the Lord (1 Samuel 17:47 and 2 Chronicles 20:15) - no matter what battle we face!

Activity Idea: Launchers and Targets

What You Need:

- Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors



- Plastic spoons
- Rubber bands or tape
- An assortment of soft projectiles, such as foil balls, pom-poms, cotton balls, etc.

What to Do:

- Brainstorm with children how to make a launcher. What materials would we need? Launchers can be as simple as a spoon, launching a pom-pom!
- Create a launcher of your choice. Create foil balls for projectiles, or gather soft, small items from your classroom to launch.
- Establish a target to be your "Goliath". This can be a paper plate target, a cup or tub, a tree outside, etc.
- Launch your projectiles at your target. Did a projectile hit your target?
- For little ones, give them a larger spoon (e.g., a serving spoon) as a launcher, and beach balls to move on the ground, to a target. Can they move their beach balls to the target?

Resources: *David and the Very Big Giant* (Tim Thornborough); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *David and Goliath (A Little Golden Book, by Barbara Shook Hazen)*

Bible Story: Elijah and the Ravens (1 Kings 17)

Big Idea: God provided food for Elijah, even though there was no rain, and not much food available. Elijah lived by a brook, and ravens brought him bread and meat every day. God provides all that we need, too! (Phillipians 4:19, Matthew 6:31-32)

Activity Idea: Ravens to the Rescue!

What You Need:

- Containers of various sizes and shapes (preferably clear)
- Pebbles; a variety of loose parts (porous or not), of various sizes and weights
- Water
- A plastic raven (Or crow: ravens and crows are similar- they differ some in size and tail feather patterns). You can find them on www.amazon.com. Or try making a raven from cardboard and adding a popsicle stick to make a stick puppet.
- Books or online resources about ravens

What to Do:

- Ravens, as well as crows, are very intelligent creatures! If you like, you can read the Aesop's fable, *The Crow and the Pitcher*, which illustrates their problem-solving capabilities.
- Let's solve a problem, as a raven would! Half fill a container with water. Estimate how many pebbles or other objects would be needed to raise the water level so the raven could get a drink. Pretend your raven is dropping one item into the water at a time, causing the water to rise, and count how many items until your crow can dip its bill into the water to get a drink. If you don't have a raven stick puppet to dip its bill into the water, use your finger as the bill.
- Another Idea: Ravens can transport up to 1.5 pounds, using their beaks. Of course, God made sure the ravens were able to carry a sufficient amount of food every day to feed Elijah, however much that was. Supply children with a variety of objects, and a food scale. Invite them to weigh the objects, singly, or combined together. How much is 1.5 pounds? What could a raven carry that weighed 1.5 pounds? You might also try playhouse food, or real food items for this.

Resources: *Raven Delivers Food* (Tim Dowley and Steve Smallman); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham); *The Crow and the Pitcher and Other Fables* (Eric Robert Morse); *My First Bird Picture Book: Learn About Birds* (Two Little Ravens)

Bible Story: **Young Captives in Babylon (from Daniel 1)**

Big Idea: Vegetables and water were healthy for Daniel and made him strong. We can be good stewards of the bodies God has given us, and honor God in that way, too.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Activity Idea: Growing a Vegetable Garden

What You Need:

- Vegetable seeds
- Planting soil
- Water
- A bed for planting, or containers

What to Do:

- Talk about what plants need to grow (sunlight, soil, water). Plan which vegetables you'd like to grow, and gather your materials. If you are using a bed, plan out which vegetables need more/less room, and decide where and how you'll plant your seeds.

- Invite children to help plant the garden, and care for it.
- Another Idea: Talk about the parts of a plant (roots, stem, leaves, flower). When we talk about vegetables, are we eating the root, stem, leaves, or fruit that develops from the flower?
- Talk about the wide variety of vegetables we can grow. Display a sample of a variety of different vegetables. Allow children to use their five senses to examine the vegetables. What colors, shapes, sizes, and textures are we observing?

Resources: *The Beginners Bible* (Karyn Henley); *My First Book of Growing Food* (Duopress Labs)

Bible Story: Daniel in the Lions' Den (from Daniel 6)

Big Idea: God protected Daniel by sending an angel to close the lions' mouths. The lions were big, but Daniel's God was bigger! All that is in the heavens and in the earth is God's. God is exalted as head above all. (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Activity Idea: Let's Learn About Lions!

What You Need:

- Books and online resources about lions

What to Do:

- Could the lions have eaten Daniel? Read about lions, and talk about what you know about them. Lions are meat eaters; they eat zebra, buffalo, and even elephants. A lion will actually eat almost anything it thinks it can overpower, so nothing is too big for a lion to attack. With that in mind, could a hungry lion have eaten Daniel? Yes, and because lions are social creatures, they would all have shared the kill. HOWEVER- even though nothing is too big for a lion to attack, God is bigger- and God sent the angel to shut the mouths of the lions.

Resources: *Daniel in the Lions' Den* (Little Golden Books, by Pamela Broughton); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham); *Explore My World: Lions* (Amy Sky Koster); *Lion: Fascinating Animal Facts for Kids* (Tyler Grady)

Bible Story: Inside a Fish (from Jonah 1-4)

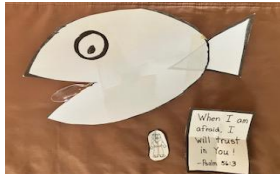
Big Idea: The whale swallowed Jonah. Jonah prayed a lot! After 3 days/nights God saved him and made the whale spit Jonah out on the land. God always provides His comfort and peace to

His people, in difficult situations. A great verse for this: "When I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3) Perhaps Jonah would have been comforted by that too!

Activity Idea: Whale Launchers

What You Need:

- A clear plastic cup
- Jonah and verse cutout
- Whale cutout
- Plastic spoon
- Tape (masking tape or scotch tape)



What to Do:

- How would the whale have spit Jonah out of its mouth? Try this launcher idea! Cut out an oval shape (for the body), and a triangle shape (for the tail). Cut out a mouth, and draw an eye. Glue the body and tail pieces together. Color your whale blue or gray if you like. Write out a verse (like a "secret message") on a slip of paper that could comfort Jonah inside the whale's belly while he waits the 3 days and nights. A verse could be: "When I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3) Draw and cut out a small figure of Jonah that would fit in the bowl part of a plastic spoon. Attach the stick part of the spoon inside of the cup, with the bowl end sticking out.
- Place both the verse (fold it to fit inside the cup), and Jonah inside the cup (whale's belly). When you're ready for the whale to spit him out onto dry land, place Jonah in the bowl of the spoon (which should be sticking out a bit from the whale's mouth). Depress the spoon, and watch Jonah fly! If you need to add some weight to Jonah, tape a small paper clip to him.
- Try placing some brown butcher paper for the land, and see if you can launch Jonah to land there.

Resources: *Jonah and the Very Big Fish* (Tim Thornborough); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham); *Jonah and the Whale* (Rainbow Books, by Sarah Toast). *Note: I have blackline masters of the whale body, Jonah, and Bible verse. Please email me if you'd like a copy.

STEAM Activities: New Testament

Bible Story: Jesus is Born (Luke 2)

Big Idea: When Jesus was born, Mary made a soft bed for him in the manger. God loves us and cares for us no matter what our circumstances! What was an impossible situation for Mary and Joseph- finding a place where Mary could give birth, God provided- in the form of a stable and a manger. God provides all we need! (Phillipians 4:19, Matthew 6:31-33)

Activity Idea: Make a Manger Bed

What You Need:

- Clay or playdough
- Straw
- A small baby doll figure to represent Baby Jesus

What to Do:

- Talk about what a manger is- a feeding trough. Some mangers were made from clay mixed with straw, or stones held together with mud. How could we create a model of a manger with those materials? How could we make it comfortable for Baby Jesus to use as a bed?
- Allow children to freely explore the materials. Talk about how the materials look, smell, feel. What kind of textures are they noticing? Will straw hold together, using clay or playdough? Invite children to use the materials to make a small manger for Baby Jesus. Another Variation: Try mud and stones outside. Will the mud dry and hold the stones together?

Resources: *Christmas in the Manger* (Nola Buck and Felicia Bond); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham)

Bible Story: The Wise Men Find Jesus (Matthew 2)

Big Idea: God put a special star in the sky, to guide the wise men. They followed the star a long way. They returned home a different way, so they wouldn't tell Herod where Jesus was. God guided them and led them, and didn't forsake them. He was with them all the way. That's a wonderful promise for us today! (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Activity Idea: Follow that Star!

What You Need:

- A flashlight
- A baby doll to represent Baby Jesus

What to Do:

- Ask children to gather in one spot in the classroom. Turn off the lights. Invite one child to use a flashlight (to represent the star). Ask the child with the flashlight to shine the light in the classroom, slowly moving the light so children can follow it until they find Baby Jesus (which you've placed in the room). After finding Baby Jesus, allow another child to use the flashlight, guiding children back to the starting point, a different way. We can always trust God as we follow Him, wherever He leads us!

Resources: *The Christmas Quest* (Janet Surette); *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *The Usborne Book of Bible Stories* (Heather Amery); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham)

Bible Story: Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Mark 2, Luke 5)

Big Idea: Four friends carried a paralyzed man to see Jesus, so he could be healed. However, the house was so crowded there was no way to get the man to Jesus. So they lowered the man on his mat, through a hole they made in the roof. Jesus forgave his sins, and healed him! The people were amazed at the miracle Jesus did. With God, all things are possible! (Matthew 19:26)

Activity Idea: Pulley Creations and More

What You Need:

- A small towel
- A baby doll, or stuffed animal
- Yarn or string
- A pulley

What to Do:

- Let's pretend our baby doll or stuffed animal is sick, can't move, and needs to see Jesus for healing. Place the sick friend on a small towel (mat). Talk about what pulleys do, and let children explore a few of them. How could we use a pulley, along with yarn or string, to help us raise and lower the friend to see Jesus? Would a pulley give us more power to raise and lower our sick friend?
- Tie lengths of yarn or string (you'll need one for each corner) to the towel. Tie the strings together at the top, and then attach another string to join the 4 strings tied together at the top, to the pulley. Place the friend on top of the mat. Hang the pulley on a door, and raise and lower the mat. Did the sick friend stay on the mat without falling?
- Try this! Check out this resource for making a simple pulley system with preschoolers. <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/pulley-simple-machine/>

More Ideas:

- Tie this activity to the story, "Paul in a Basket", from the *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham). Some followers helped Paul escape from the Jewish leaders by lowering him over the city wall in a basket. Experiment: How would you lower a toy figure up and over a wall? Ask children to first create a high wall with blocks or other manipulatives. Provide a toy figure; a small basket (or a small tub or container to represent a basket); yarn or string; and tape. Challenge children to create a way to help Paul get over the wall with the materials they have!
- Tie this activity also to the story, "A Wall Falls Down", from *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley). Rahab helped the two men sent by Joshua to check out Jericho. Since the king of Jericho wanted to catch the men, Rahab hid them on her roof. When it was night, she lowered the two men from her window, using a rope, so they could escape safely. Experiment: Use a tall box, laying on one side, to represent Rahab's house. Cut out a window in the box beforehand. Have two toy figures available to represent the two men. How can you lower a them through the "window", using a piece of yarn or string, to the ground below, without the "rope" breaking? If you have a play structure outside, you can pretend it's Rahab's house. Choose a place on it to be the "window", and lower your toy figures down! How will you attach your figures to the rope? Will they go together, or one at a time?

Resources: *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley); *Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional* (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham)

Bible Story: Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 and 6)

Big Idea: God feeds the birds. He beautifully clothes the flowers. We are important to God. We matter. He takes good care of us, too, and provides all we need! (Matthew 6:25-34)

Activity Idea: Birds and Flowers

What You Need:

- Books and online resources about birds and flowers
- Paper, pencil, a black Sharpie, and watercolor paints- enough for each child

What to Do:

- Talk about how God made a wide variety of interesting birds. Observe birds outside, and learn about birds in your area. What interesting facts can we learn about birds? For example, hummingbirds move their wings in a figure 8 pattern. Can we do that? A hummingbird weighs about the same as a nickel. Using a balance scale, a nickel, and a

supply of loose parts, weigh the nickel, and compare its weight to a loose part. What things are heavier than the nickel ("hummingbird")? What things are lighter? (perhaps a cotton ball?) What are we noticing?

- Talk about how God created beautiful flowers- in all colors, shapes, and sizes! Collect some flowers around your school, or invite parents to send in some flowers from their garden. Invite children to choose a flower, observe it, and draw the flower on paper with a pencil. What colors and shapes do they see? Then, invite them to trace the lines with a black Sharpie. Using watercolor paints, encourage children to paint their flower, using the colors they see. Children may share their creations after they dry.

Resources: The Beginner's Bible (Karyn Henley); Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham)

Bible Story: Parables of the Kingdom: The Farmer's Seeds (Matthew 13)

Big Idea: The farmer planted his seeds. Some fell on the path, and the birds ate the seeds. Some fell in the rocks, so the roots couldn't grow and get water. Some seeds fell in the weeds, and got choked out. Other seeds fell in good soil and grew and grew. God causes us to grow too, physically as well as spiritually, by His Holy Spirit within us. We can grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus! (2 Peter 3:18)

Activity Idea: "Seedy Environments"

What You Need:

- Fast growing seeds, such as radishes
- The four different types of growing conditions: a flat path, a bed of rocks, in the middle of weeds, and good soil
- Books and online resources about plants and seeds

What to Do:

- Seed Planting in Different Environments: Plant seeds among some rocks, within a bed of weeds, exposed on top of the ground, and in good soil. Make predictions- where will our seeds grow best? As seeds sprout, compare and contrast. How are the plants faring? Why are some thriving while others may not be? Draw and write about how the plants are faring, in each of the four conditions. You could provide children with science journals, and have them document the progress of the plants in each environment.
- Read about plants and seeds, and what they need to grow. Why did our plants do best in the good soil, as opposed to the rocks and weeds and dry ground?

Resources: The Beginner's Bible (Karyn Henley); Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham)

Bible Story: Parables of the Kingdom: (Matthew 13)

- **Big Idea:** God's kingdom is like yeast. Yeast, when mixed with flour and water, rises and gets bigger, like God's love fills our hearts! (Romans 5:5)

Activity Idea: "Rising to the Occasion": Making Bread

What You Need:

- A simple recipe for bread (I have one- feel free to email me for it if you'd like)
- Ingredients for making a loaf of bread
- Utensils, measuring cups, a large bowl, and a loaf pan

What to Do:

- Use a simple recipe for bread that includes flour, water, yeast, and a little sugar (which helps activate the yeast).
- Gather your ingredients and other items. Make a loaf of bread together, following the recipe. Allow children to observe the rising process, and how the bread transforms from dough to the finished loaf. What steps did we use to make bread? What sequence did we follow? What chemical reactions did we observe? What different kinds of bread do we know of?

More Ideas:

- Tie this activity to the Old Testament story, *Elijah and the Widow*, from *The Beginner's Bible* (Karyn Henley). God took care of Elijah by directing him to go to a small town in Sidon, where a lady there would give him food. The lady only had a little flour and some oil, which was only enough to make bread for her and her son. Elijah asked her to make bread for him first, then to make some for her and her son. God made sure she had enough to feed Elijah, and her family, as well. How could we make bread, enough for us all to have some, and share with others?

Resources: The Beginner's Bible (Karyn Henley)

Bible Story: Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9)

Big Idea: Five thousand people came to hear Jesus speak. There was not enough food to feed all those people! A little boy had brought his lunch, which contained five small bread loaves and two fish. He offered to share what he had. Jesus multiplied that little lunch to not only feed all the people, but provide 12 extra baskets of leftover food as well. With God, all things are possible! (Matthew 19:26)

Activity Idea: "Playing With 2, 5, and 12"

What You Need:

- Assorted manipulatives, loose parts, or classroom objects
- A few hula hoops, laid on the floor; or yarn strands that have been arranged in circles on the floor
- Number cards for 2, 5, 12

What to Do:

- Reinforce number sense with your children! Place hula hoops or yarn circles on the floor. Provide children with manipulatives, loose parts, and/or classroom objects. Talk about the significance of the numbers 2, 5, and 12 in our story. (2 fish, 5 loaves, 12 leftover baskets). What does 2, 5, and 12 of something actually look like? Invite children to explore with you how much 2, 5, and 12 actually are (quantities). Invite children to start off by making groups of two objects in each of the circles. As they do that, hold up a large card with the number 2 written on it. When all the circles have the correct number of objects, invite children to check them to see if they are all correct. Now, invite children to count on and add three more items to each circle to make groups of 5, as you hold up the number 5. Next, add more items to make groups of 12, as you hold up the number card for 12.
- Talk about how we can combine numbers to make new quantities (such as starting with 2, and adding on 3 more to make 5). Talk about what types of things we'd like to have 2, 5, or 12 of. For example, we might like to eat 2 cupcakes- but not 5 or 12! What kinds of things do we know of that come in groups of 2, 5, or 12? For example, we have 2 eyes, 5 fingers on one hand, and eggs come in cartons of a dozen (12).

Resources: The Usborne Book of Bible Stories (Heather Amery); Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham); The Beginner's Bible (Karyn Henley);

Bible Story: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

Big Idea: The Good Samaritan showed love and compassion, and gave his time, and money to help a wounded person who had been robbed. What a wonderful example of extending God's love and kindness to others! And what a privilege we have- to love one another, as Christ loved us. (John 13:34-35)

Activity Idea: "But How Do I Move Him Without a Donkey??"

What You Need:

- A child to play the Good Samaritan

- A medium to large sized stuffed animal or doll to play the part of the "wounded man"
- The audience, which is the rest of the group
- Anything you have in the classroom to help solve the problem (which follows)

What to Do:

- The Good Samaritan was able to transport, on his donkey, the wounded man who was not able to walk to the house where he could recover. Our problem: How will our "Good Samaritan" move our "wounded man" from one area (in the classroom) to the other, without a donkey?
- Brainstorm ideas with children. How will our Good Samaritan move our injured man (the stuffed animal or doll) safely? Could we use anything in our classroom to help us? For example, we could use a sheet of butcher paper as a stretcher, if we have that available. But then, you'd need another person for the other end, and the Good Samaritan was by himself. How would we solve that problem?
- We could also consider and discuss having a child play the part of the injured man. How would we move the child safely? Is that possible? (Probably safer to use an inanimate object!)
- Before transporting our "injured man", will we need to apply bandages? What part of him is hurt, and how would we do that?

Resources: The Usborne Book of Bible Stories (Heather Amery); Jesus Loves Me Bible: Storybook and Devotional (Angela Abraham and Ken Abraham); The Beginner's Bible (Karyn Henley);

Bible Story: Parables of the Kingdom (Luke 15)

Big Idea: Jesus told many parables! One was about a man with 100 sheep, who left the 99 to find the one that was lost. Another was about the woman who had 10 silver coins. One day, when she counted them she found she only had 9. Where could the other one be? She searched high and low for it. She was very happy to find it. God loves us so much! (1 John 4:16, John 3:16) He cares about each and every one of us, even more than the shepherd cared for the one lost sheep, and the woman cared about her one lost coin.

Activity Idea: "How Many is 100? How Many is 10? Count, Count, and Count Again!"

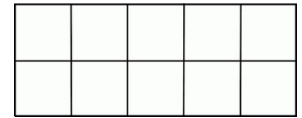
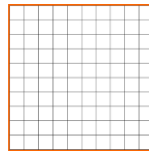
What You Need:

- Collections of small items (for example, pom-poms, buttons, bottlecaps, pennies, etc.) that can be counted to make groups of 10 or 100
- A 100 square number grid, and a 10 frame for each child

What to Do:

- Give each child a 100 grid. Invite them to make a group of 100 by laying items on top, or gluing them, to give an idea of how many 100 is. Then, remove 1 from your grid and pretend it's the lost sheep. Discuss how 99 compares to 1. The shepherd cared so much for each one of his sheep, that he left the 99 to find the 1 that was missing! Another idea would be to hide the one missing "sheep" and invite children to hunt for it in the room, and restore it to the other 99.
- Try this activity with a ten frame, too. Remove 1. How does the 1 compare to the other 9? As above, you can hide the one, and invite children to find it and restore it to the other 9.
- You could also do this as a group. Create a large 100 grid or ten frame and lay it on the rug. Ask children to help you find classroom objects to place on the grid or ten frame. As children close their eyes, hide one object from the 100 grid, or ten frame, and go on a hunt to find and restore the lost one!

Resources: The Beginner's Bible (Karyn Henley)



Notes: