



Remembering God's story

This session is for children aged 5 to 11

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

- To understand that stories in the Bible are still significant today.
- To understand that 'remembering' is important to families and to our Christian faith.
- To understand the importance of the Bible to Christians today.

RESOURCES

- Objects for Kim's Game
- Home-made 'Ark of the Covenant' (see photos, below)

Session

1. Play Kim's Game. Put everyday objects on a tray: allow players to see the tray for a short time (30 seconds or more depending on ages and abilities), then try to remember as many of them as possible.
2. Introduction: Today we are thinking about remembering things and why that is important
3. What are some of the ways we use to remember special events in our families?
Sending cards and presents for birthdays and anniversaries, listening to stories, parties, special meals etc.
4. Question: Can anybody think of anything we do in church which helps us to remember something that happened in the past? Answers might include:
Christmas – Nativity scene; Nativity play; Carols;
Holy Communion – The last supper; Jesus' death
5. Comment: Before Jesus, Jewish people had several special times during the year when they remembered when God had done special things.
6. Question: Can anyone think of any special celebrations in the Old Testament?

Ask for ideas and note them on a flip chart. Hopefully someone will mention Passover. Recap the story.
7. Show them the Ark of the Covenant that you have made.
8. Question: Does anyone know what this is a model of?

Talk about it:

Why was it made? (Recap the story of the Exodus and the giving of the commandments, who designed the Ark, where the Ark was kept etc)
Why gold?
Why Cherubim?
Who carried it?

9. Read Joshua 3:1 – 4:7

10. Take turns to act out the passage so that everyone has the chance to carry the Ark

11. The Ark helped the Israelites to remember (1) God's presence and promise (2) God's word [the 10 commandments are inside the Ark]

12. Christians believe that God can speak to us through the Bible and the stories it contains and that it reminds us that God loves us and will never leave us.

13. We don't keep our Bibles locked up in a box only to be used on special occasions, but it is still a very precious and special book. I wonder how we might show that it is special if we have one in our classroom or at home?

End with Prayer, thanking God for the special stories about him and his people that we can read about in the Bible and for special celebrations. Thank him for Jesus who shows us how much God loves us and for the people who have told us the stories about him that help us to understand more.



