

School R.E. Day: The Bible: Scripts

1 What is the Big Story of the Bible?

Creation

Parcel 1: Creation (*black cloth, containing cut outs of sun, moon stars, people, trees etc*)

In the beginning there was nothing. But then God created:

1. Light
2. Sun moon and stars
3. Sea and fish
4. Land and animals
5. Adam and Eve

But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They had to leave the garden. (*Box closes*)
We call this the fall

People of God

Parcel 2: Abraham (*brown cloth containing Abraham figure, small stars*)

1. God chose a man called Abraham
2. He promised Abraham he would have children, and they would have children... as many as the stars in the sky. God promised that Abraham's children would be The People of God.
3. Abraham and his wife Sarah had a son, Isaac. Isaac had two sons: Jacob and Esau. Jacob had twelve sons! Many, many more children were born.

Parcel 3: Egypt (*dull yellow cloth containing a blue cloth and a box with the Ten Commandments*)

1. Many years later, the People of God were slaves in Egypt, so God chose one of his people to rescue them – Moses.
2. Moses led them out of Egypt through the red sea. The Egyptian army were swallowed by the sea (*use blue cloth for effect*).
3. God promised he would take his people to a new land with plenty of food. God led them on a long journey through the desert.

4. While they were travelling through the desert he gave them lots of rules for how to live the right way. (*Show the stone tablets.*)

Parcel 4: The promised land (green cloth containing a variety of small crowns)

1. Eventually they arrived in the land God had promised them, and the people tried to follow all God's rules, but they found it was hard to be good all the time, and they kept getting things wrong.
2. God gave them a King to help them live the right way. King David tried to get all the people to follow God's rules, but they didn't always do it right. More kings and more kings, but still the people didn't follow all the rules. (*Show crown with stars scooped into it.*)
3. Eventually, because the people didn't follow all the rules, they lost the land God had given them and were scattered into the countries all around them. (*Crown tips out stars, and stars are spread.*)
4. But they were still the People of God, God still cared about them and he gathered them back together again in the land he gave them. (*Stars swept back together.*)

Then it was silent for 400 years.

Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation and Kingdom

Parcel 5: Jesus (*rainbow coloured cloth containing baby figure, star, cross, resurrected Christ picture, dove*)

1. Incarnation: a baby was born. The baby's name was Jesus. This was no ordinary baby, this was God's own son. The star comes from the beginning. (*Baby figure and star*)
2. Gospel: when Jesus was grown up, he told all the people about God and taught them how to live God's way.
3. But some of the people didn't like him doing that, so they had him killed on a cross, and buried in a tomb. (*Cross*)
4. Salvation: but three days later, Jesus came back to life. (*resurrected Christ picture*)
He told everyone that because of how he died and came back to life, everyone could be part of the Kingdom of God

5. Kingdom of God: Jesus sent them the Holy Spirit, who would help them all to follow God's rules. *(Dove)*

Jesus promised that one day he would come back again, and he would make the Earth all new, just like it was in the beginning.

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2 The prophets

We introduced this by describing the fall of Jerusalem, the exile in Babylon and the role of the prophet: "There are also people who come so close to God and God comes so close to them that they know what God wants them to say or do. These people are called prophets." (Jerome Berryman)

Sometimes the message of the prophets is a warning. Jeremiah lived in Jerusalem. He warned the people that it would be destroyed but this made the people angry. They put Jeremiah in the stocks and left him there overnight. At other times they put him in prison. *(Build set of three bricks and knock down)*

Sometimes the message of the prophets is full of hope.

The prophet Isaiah said, "The people who live in darkness have seen a great light" and "The lion and the calf and the fatling will live together and a little child will lead them" *(Battery candle, lion, calf and lamb, child figure)*

Sometimes the message is hard to understand:

The prophet Ezekiel lived in exile in Babylon. He had a vision of a valley of dry bones. He asked God, "Can these bones live?" and God told him that he would breathe new life into them. He promised Ezekiel that one day the people would live in a beautiful city called "The Lord is here." *(bones)*

Sometimes prophets don't want to be prophets:

The prophet Jonah ran away rather than take God's message to the people of Ninevah. He went on a boat but a great storm came and Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the water and the storm would stop. A big fish swallowed him. When it sicked him up onto dry land Jonah realised that he had no choice. He went to Ninevah and cried out that they were wicked and that God had

commanded them to be good. And the people of Ninevah repented. (*Ship, whale*)

We ended by talking of the role of prophets today

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3 Pass it on: How did the Bible come to us?

1 The first writers

The Bible is in two parts – the first part is called the Old Testament and contains a lot of the books of the Jewish scriptures.

The second part is the New Testament, the story of Jesus.

(Table on its side covered in hessian to represent a prison, brown cloak for Saul, quill feather and parchment coloured paper)

Here is Saul. After Jesus died his followers talked to many people about Jesus and many people were baptised and became followers of the Way – or Christians. Paul hated the Christians – he went out of his way to persecute them, to capture them and put them in prison.

One day when Saul had left Jerusalem on the Damascus road he saw a bright light – so bright that he fell to his knees and covered his face. Then he heard a voice saying “Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?”

“Who are you Lord?” he asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” the voice replied.

From that time onwards Saul became a follower of Jesus. He changed his name to Paul and travelled all over the Mediterranean starting churches. He had many adventures including being shipwrecked and thrown into prison. Even in prison he wrote letters to the churches. Paul’s letters are part of the Bible.

Paul: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Everyone: Pass it on. Pass it on (*The Bible is passed on until it reaches Luke*)

(Two tables on their sides covered in black cloth to create the front of the ship, cloak for Luke, quill feather and parchment coloured paper)

This is Paul's friend Luke who travelled with him and shared his adventures, including being shipwrecked. Although no one is absolutely sure about this many people think that Luke wrote two books in the Bible. One is his gospel which tells the story of the baby Jesus, people being healed and Jesus dying on the cross and appearing to Mary Magdalene in the garden on Easter Day. Luke also wrote the acts of the apostles which tells the story of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit and the story of Paul.

Luke: Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

Pass it on. Pass it on. *(The Bible is passed on until it reaches Brother Oswald)*

2 Brother Oswald the monk

(Cloth to create a bed for Brother Oswald, quill pen and illuminated manuscript paper, candle, trowel, basket, pretend vegetables, brown cloak)

It is 1.30 a.m. in the monastery, and Brother Oswald is getting up. It is time to prepare for the service of Matins. Brother Oswald has been a monk for 20 years. Brother Oswald goes to services in the church 8 times during the day. Matins, Lauds, Prime, Sext, Nones, Terce, Vespers, Compline.

In between services he has to work. Some of the time he works outside in the garden looking after the vegetables.

The rest of the time he spends copying out the Bible. The only way to have a copy of the Bible was to have one that someone had copied out. The monks had to take great care to copy out the words exactly but occasionally they did make little mistakes. They didn't just copy out the words – they also illuminated manuscripts with beautiful little pictures and designs, often using gold paint. *(Show picture)*

Without the work of Brother Oswald and other monks the Bible would have been lost.

Brother Oswald: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Pass it on. Pass it on. (*The Bible is passed on until it reaches Constance Hopkins*)

3 Constance Hopkins

(*Ship as for Luke, black cloak and white cap for Constance*)

Here is Constance Hopkins. The year is 1620 and Constance is travelling to the New World – what we call America – on a boat called the Mayflower. The passengers on the Mayflower came to be known as the pilgrims and they were leaving England because their kind of Christianity was being persecuted. They wanted to make a fresh start.

It was a stormy voyage – storm after storm swept the little boat and sometimes it was not safe to put up the sails. The Pilgrims must have wondered if they were ever going to get there.

Her faith was very important to Constance and the rest of the Pilgrims, even on the ship, and they met frequently to read the Bible and pray. They were among the people who brought the Bible to America...

Constance: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

Pass it on. Pass it on. (*The Bible is passed on until it reaches Brother Andrew*)

4 Brother Andrew

(*Chairs arranged to look like a car with steering wheel, Bibles. Military hat and jacket for the guard, jacket and hat for Andrew.*)

After the second world war the communist countries like Russia, Yugoslavia and Romania tried to stop people from practising Christianity and it was very hard to get Bibles in those countries. Some people tried to smuggle Bibles across the border.

Andrew was a Dutchman who was nicknamed God’s smuggler. Here he is in his car driving up to the border with Romania. He has hidden Bibles all over his car. When he gets to the border checkpoint he thinks that he is in luck as there are only a few cars ahead of him. But then he realises what is happening. The

guards are searching every car. If they find the Bibles they will take them away.

The car two in front of Andrew is not only stripped but they take the engine apart, take the seats out and take the hub caps off. Andrew knows that they will quickly find the hidden Bibles.

“Dear Lord, what can I do to protect these Bibles for Romanian Christians?”

Andrew realises that there is nothing he can do. He can only rely on God. So he changes his plan. Instead of keeping the Bibles hidden he gets them out and places some of them on the front seat. Then he prays to God for a miracle.

Here comes the guard. Andrew has been waiting for hours while the other cars are stripped and searched. Now it is his turn. But the guard waves him through. Andrew can't believe it – he and the Romanian Bibles have made it through the checkpoint. When he looks in his mirror he can see the guards stopping and searching the next car. He is the only one who has made it through. Now he can give the Bible to the Romanians.

Andrew: The Lord is with me. I won't be afraid.

Pass it on. Pass it on *(The Bible is passed to the guard)*

Guard: This is the word of God...

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4 How Christians use the Bible today

(Room set-up: Children to be sat one either side of a long wavy “path” (path marked out by mini cones or fabric) The room should be darkish so the lamplight shows up. Have a lamp and a Bible.

At the start, choose two children to be the lamp carrier and the Bible carrier – they need to be confident readers and able to walk slowly along the path)

Session leader: “Christians believe that although the Bible was written down by many different people, God gave them the words to write. So they believe the words of the Bible are God's word.

There is a verse in the Bible which says “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”

Christians believe that God’s words in the Bible can help them find their way through life, just like a lamp lights up a path to walk along.

As this lamp is carried along our path, we will hear how God’s word has been a light to the path of some Christians.”

(Lamp carrier and Bible carrier begin to walk slowly along the path. At each stop the lamp carrier picks up the card to read the words of the Christian, The Bible carrier turns over the card to read “God’s word says... Then everyone joins in to repeat the verse “Your word is a lamp...”)

Stop one:

God’s word says

“I hope my words and thoughts please you.

LORD, you are my Rock, the one who saves me.” Psalm 19:4

Klara says “Often it is easy to get carried along with people who gossip and moan –this verse helps to guide my thoughts and words throughout the day. I try to say this verse as a prayer most days – so what I say to people is positive and encouraging rather than negative and moaning.”

God’s word says

“I hope my words and thoughts please you.

LORD, you are my Rock, the one who saves me.” Psalm 19:4

Everyone “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”

Stop 2:

God’s word says

“Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God’s peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Clare says “I get worried very easily. Sometimes if something is worrying me I will get so anxious about it I even feel sick! When I get worried and anxious I remember this verse, which tells me not to worry about things, but instead to pray to God about them, and that when I pray God will give me peace in my heart and peace in my mind. When I have prayed about something that is worrying me, I usually do feel much better.”

God’s word says

“Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God’s peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Everyone “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”

Stop 3:

God’s word says

“I know that my Defender lives,
and in the end he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶ Even after my skin has been destroyed,
in my flesh I will see God.” Job 19:25-26

Tony says “Whenever I feel a bit unsure about anything to do with my faith, how much God loves me or if people laugh at me because I’m a Christian, I remember Job’s words of certainty, even in the most difficult time. It’s like God has made me a promise and wanted me to remember it whatever life throws at me. “

God’s word says

“I know that my Defender lives,
and in the end he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶ Even after my skin has been destroyed,
in my flesh I will see God.” Job 19:25-26

Stop 4:

God's word says

“Do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. ³² Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.” Ephesians 4:31-32

Sarah says “There was a time when one of my closest friends did something really unkind to me, and they really hurt me. I wasn't sure if I wanted to be friends with them anymore, I was feeling angry because of how unkind they had been. I wanted to be unkind to them, to make them hurt as much as they had hurt me. This verse told me that I should forgive them just like God forgives me. It wasn't easy to forgive them, but I did, and I'm so glad I did because now we are good friends again.”

God's word says

“Do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. ³² Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.” Ephesians 4:31-32

Everyone: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Stop 5

God's word says:

“I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of his glories and grace. I will boast of all his kindness to me. Let all who are discouraged take heart.” Psalm 34 1-4

Gail says: “When I was young someone hurt me really badly. I was devastated. It was then that I read Psalm 34. I realised that however hard things were I still needed to praise God. Although I felt really sad I could cope because I knew the Lord had work for me to do.”

God's word says:

“I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of his glories and grace. I will boast of all his kindness to me. Let all who are discouraged take heart.” Psalm 34 1-4

Everyone “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”

Session leader: Did you hear how God’s word helped each of the Christians along the path?

Let’s hear the words again. As you hear them, try to remember in your mind how they helped the Christians on their path.

(Read each Bible verse aloud again)

I wonder which word you remember the most?

I wonder if you felt any of the Christians on the path were a bit like you?

I wonder if any of the words were special for you?

Response activity:

You each have a paper lamp. Take some time to think about what words or stories are like a lamp to you. What words or stories help you to find a good way to live? What words or stories have encouraged you? What words or stories have made you feel better? It might be some of the words or stories you have heard today, or it might be some words or stories you have heard before. Write or draw your words or stories on your lamp.

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