

BIBLE TIMELINE ASSEMBLIES

13: JESUS IS TEMPTED

Bible Base: Matthew 4: 1-11 and Hebrews 4: 15

Key Christian Belief: As one of us, Jesus is able to help us when we are tempted.

Aim: To show that we can rely on Jesus to give us the strength we need not to give in when we are tempted.

You will need:

Cadbury's Crème Egg (if possible straight from the fridge)

Normal Egg

Bowl

Baby Wipes / Cloth

Accompanying PowerPoint Presentation

Introduction

Show the crème egg and describe how wonderful crème eggs are. Get a volunteer to come up to the front. After peeling off the top of the wrapper, give it to the child to hold, smell, etc. but they are not allowed to eat it. Leave the child standing.

Explain that today's assembly is about strength. Begin to talk about strength using the pictures on PowerPoint.

Have a volunteer come up to the front and squeeze an egg at each end with their finger and thumb. The egg should not break, demonstrating that even a fragile egg has strength due to its shape. (Break it afterwards to show that it isn't a trick egg!)

Return to the child with the crème egg. Are they demonstrating strength? Discuss physical strength vs. inner strength. When do we need inner strength? When we are tempted to do something that is wrong e.g. lying, fighting, stealing, cheating etc. at school or at home. This is when we need inner strength. Our story today will help us to know that Jesus can give us that strength.

Story

Imagine you have a watch that the makers claim is unbreakable. How would you test that claim? Last time we saw that God has just told everyone that Jesus is His Son, and that He is 'well pleased' with Him. He was claiming that Jesus is perfect in every way. Now He allows Jesus to be tested so that we can see that this claim is true.

Jesus was tempted in 3 different ways. (Use PowerPoint pictures for this.)

Turning stones into bread

Jesus was being tempted to prove that if He had bread He would be satisfied. This is like us. We can think that if we have food to eat and all the things our bodies need we will be satisfied. This is not true. The only thing that will totally satisfy us is knowing God as our loving Heavenly Father.

Throwing Himself down from the top of the temple

Jesus was being tempted to perform a stunt to prove that He was God's Son so that people would accept Him. In the same way each of us may think that if we do something really daring, people will like us and become our friends. This is not the

case. If people only accept us because we do what they want, they are not true friends. God loves and accepts each of us the way we are. Each of us is special to Him. We do not have to do anything to make Him love us or accept us - He already does!

Bowing down to the devil

Jesus was being tempted to do what He knew was wrong in order to gain great power and wealth. In the same way we might be tempted to do something wrong in order to get what we want - e.g. sweets, a turn on the computer etc. In this situation we should realise that obeying God is more important than anything else because His love is worth more than anything else we could ever want.

Exploring Christian Belief

When we are tempted we can look to Jesus. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 4:15 “...[Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.” Therefore when we call on Jesus to help us we are not asking something of Him that He hasn’t already faced. He knows what we are going through. The only difference is that Jesus did not give into temptation.

Refer back to the volunteer holding the crème egg. This was an example to show how difficult it is to say no to temptation. It is not an easy thing to say no to temptation: it requires inner strength. As we have seen when we are faced with a difficult situation we can call on Jesus to help us say no to temptation. Just as Jesus did not give into temptation He can give us the inner strength to say no too.