

BIBLE TIMELINE ASSEMBLIES

17. OUR FATHER GOD

Bible Base: Matthew 6: 9-13

Key Christian Belief: God listens to our prayers.

Main Point: To show that God is like the best dad we can imagine.

You will need:

- the attached PowerPoint presentation

Introduction

Point out (if true) that, although you have visited the school many times before, you don't actually know any of the children who are present. You don't know their names or anything about them,

Tell the children: 'Imagine that your best friend is coming up to introduce you to me. What might he or she say about you? Would they use any word pictures to help me get to know what you are like? For example...'

(For each of the examples below, show the relevant picture each time as you say the name of the animal.)

'If you hardly ever say anything and when you do, you speak very softly, your friend might say that you are as quiet as...? (A mouse)

If you can't sit still and are always moving around from one thing to the next, your friend might say that you are as busy as a...? (A bee)

If nothing ever scares you, your friend might say that you are as brave as...? (A lion)

If you are always cheerful - even first thing in the morning, your friend might say that you are as happy as...? (A lark)

Or maybe you are as wise as...? (An owl)

Perhaps your teacher would say that your whole class comes in to the room sometimes like a herd of...? (Elephants)

Word pictures like these can help us get to know what someone is like.

Suppose I asked the question "What Is God like?" what might you say?' (Take some answers and then ask 'Are there any word pictures that might help us?')

Input

People often have different ideas about what God is like. Here are some pictures that people might have in their heads when they try to imagine what God is like.

Santa Clause

Why might people think that God is a bit like Santa?

In some ways God is like Santa because He gives us lots of good things. But I think God might be disappointed if we only ever think about Him once a year or when we want something. There is more to God than that...

Doctor

Why might people think that God is a bit like a doctor?

In some ways God is like a doctor because He is able to help us when we are ill. But I think God might be disappointed if we only ever think about Him when we are ill. There is more to God than that.

Policeman

Why might people think that God is a bit like a policeman?

In some ways God is like a policeman because it is His job to see that people keep His rules. But I think God might be disappointed if we think He is only interested in catching us and punishing us when we do wrong. There is more to God than that...

Grandfather

Why might people think God is a bit like a grandfather?

In some ways God is like a grandfather - because He can tell you lots of stories about what He did and things that happened before you were born. But I think God might be disappointed if we think He can't help us today like He helped others long ago...

The good news is that we don't have to wonder or try to guess what God is like. The Bible tells us what He is like! The Bible's favourite word to describe God is...Father. He is like the best dad you can imagine.

Exploring Christian Belief

I don't know your dad. I know some boys and girls who don't have a dad, or whose dad doesn't live with them any more. I know some who have two people they call dad. I know some who don't know who their real dad is.

But all of us can imagine what the best dad in the world would be like and the Bible tells us that's what God is like. Someone who understands us and cares about us. Someone who is always ready to listen to us and help us. Someone who always gives us good things. Someone who teaches us the best way to live. Someone who is always ready to forgive us when we say sorry.

Best of all, Christians believe that God wants to be your dad! The Bible tells us that by choosing to trust and follow Jesus we can become part of His family. As we read or listen to what the Bible says we can get to know what He is like. And most of all as we learn to talk to Him and to trust Him we can find out for ourselves how wonderful it is to have a Father in heaven who loves us.

Prayer

Jesus taught His followers, when they were talking to God to call Him their Father. Then He gave them a prayer as an example of what they might say to God when they were talking to Him. We are going to finish with a simple version of the prayer that Jesus gave His followers.

Ask the children to keep their eyes open. Explain that you will say one line of the prayer at a time and show the children some actions to go with the words. Invite those who wish to say each line after you and copy the actions you do.

Our Father in heaven	Hands reaching out, as if in welcome
We want to honour you and do what pleases you.	Hands together as if in prayer, head bowed
Please give us what we need each day.	Hands cupped together as if ready to receive
Forgive us for the wrong things we do...	Wrists joined together (as if tied) then moving apart (as if untied)
...and help us forgive others too.	Repeat as above
Help us not to give in when we are tempted...	Two hands held up in front of the face, as if in resistance
But keep us safe from all that is evil.	Hug yourself
For we know that you are great...	Show muscles in both arms
...and you are good.	Thumbs up
Nothing is impossible for you.	Wag finger in front of face while shaking head
Amen	Thumbs up