

# The Rock, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## New school year and changes BUT God never changes!

### Warm up

Dance to, join in with the actions  
and sing our Rock song.

This video has the words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>



This video has the actions: <https://youtu.be/8dbOgbRxC1M>

### Getting started

#### *Equipment*

Clip from 'Finding Nemo' (Disney Pixar) and the means to play it.



Summary of clip: At the beginning of the film, Nemo is excited about his first day at school but the interference of his overprotective father has dire consequences.

**Start of clip:** 05:00 (Chapter 3)

**End of clip:** 14:40 (Boat propeller starts)

**Length of clip:** 9:40

Watch the clip together or just talk about the start of the new school year. Ask the children if they remember their first day of school. What was it like? How did they feel? How is Nemo's school similar to the ones we go to? (You might bring out issues of people pointing out the different things about you, learning, school trips, some children not doing what they are told.)

Where does the teacher take the pupils? What do Nemo's new friends do? What happens because they do this? What other choice could Nemo have made?

What are the consequences of not doing what you're told at school? Why should we do what we're told (apart from so that we don't get into trouble)? What is the point of school? (Bring out the point that we learn about stuff at school but we also learn how to behave with other people.)

If your children have more concentration left at this point, you could make a list of good things we learn at school and bad things we learn at school (i.e. by falling in with the wrong people).

What does God think about school? (Use e.g. [Proverbs 22:6](#), [1 Timothy 4:12](#), [Proverbs 4:13](#) and [Jeremiah 29:11](#) as examples.)

**The Point:** To show some of the influences on us at school and to think about what's helpful and what's not.

## Story/ teaching time

Say that there is a bit in the Bible that talks about the ways that we should try to behave.

Read [Romans 12:1-2](#) to the children.

Say that this verse applies to children as well as to grown ups. Where do children spend most of their time? In school! Make a new list of bad things that people get up to at school (not listening, picking on other people, being rude to the teacher, not working hard...). Ask the group if they think this is the sort of behaviour that God likes. It isn't. Again, with a different coloured pen, ask the children to come up with the opposites. Are these things that God would be pleased with? Probably!



Say that it's very easy to go with the crowd and join in when people are mucking around or being disruptive or picking on someone but, if we have chosen to follow Jesus, we need to take this bit of the Bible seriously and live in a way that we know will please God – even if that's different from other people!

**The Point:** To show that living as a Christian at school means not conforming to the world's way of behaving.

## Craft and activity ideas

### 1. Equipment

Ingredients (see main description), mixing bowls, whisks, spoons, paper cases, bun trays, oven, icing sugar.

In this activity, you'll make cakes that look normal on the outside but are surprising inside. This is to remind the children that, when we follow Jesus, we look very different on the inside and behave differently, even if we look similar to the people around us on the outside.

Ingredients (makes 24):

4 eggs

225g (8oz) sugar

225g (8oz) self raising flour

225g (8oz) butter, melted

A few drops of food colouring - any colour you like!



Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 and line 12-hole fairy cake tins with paper cases.

Whisk the eggs and sugar together in a bowl until light and fluffy.

Add a few drops of food colouring to the mixture.

Carefully fold in the flour and butter.

Pour the mixture carefully into the paper cases.

Bake the cakes for 15-20 minutes, or until golden-brown on top and a skewer inserted into one of the cakes comes out clean.

Set aside to cool for 10 minutes on a wire rack before removing from the tin.

Once the cakes are cool, mix a small amount of water with 200g icing sugar to make a thick glaze icing. Ice the cakes so that the whole top is covered. Leave them to set.

**The Point:** To remind the children that following Jesus means that we are different on the inside – and that makes a difference in how we behave at school.



## **2. Equipment**

Paper, pens, sponges, saucers of paint..

Let the children draw pictures of themselves in the middle of the paper. Then, round the edge, they can sponge blobs of paint so that they are surrounded – just as God surrounds us with his protection.

**The Point:** A reminder craft

## **3. Equipment**

The attached word search (PDF), pens/pencils.

Complete a word search.

**The Point:** For fun on the theme of school.

## **Download**

[IN04 School Wordsearch.pdf](#)

## *Prayer*

## *Equipment*



Paper and pens.

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to think of something that they are scared of and to draw that thing on their paper, it might be about school, their new class and the changes they've experienced over the last week. Now ask them to remember that God is always with them to protect them. Ask them to look at the picture they have drawn and to think about the fact that God is with them - they could draw a picture of Jesus if it helps.

Pray aloud, thanking God that he is with us when we are afraid and asking him to help us not to be scared but to trust him. **The Point:** To remember that God is with us when we are scared.

# THE ROCK

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)