

The Rock, Sunday 19th July 2020

Sharing the Good News

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

Try to make each other laugh – tickling or other forms of physical contact is not allowed!

Ask if anyone was able to make their partner laugh? What sort of things did you do?

Was anyone able to NOT laugh?

The Point: Just for fun; tenuous link with the idea of trying to persuade other people to follow Jesus, sharing joy.

Story/ teaching time

Equipment

Lining paper or large piece of paper and pens.

Ask the children who has been to the park recently? What's it like at the park? What can they see? What do they do there? As the children answer, invite them to draw the things they talk about on the lining paper – so a duck, a tree, a pond, a swing and so on.

Now ask if anyone has ever been on holiday. Where did they go? What things did they see? Let them draw their suggestions on the paper here as well.

Has anyone been to the countryside recently or near the sea? What did they see? Did they see any animals? Again, add these suggestions as pictures to the paper.

Did anyone eat anything today or yesterday?
What foods do we like to eat? Do we know where they come from? Let them draw their suggestions on the paper. Everyone can draw a favourite food!

Ask where we get these things from – who gives them to us? Say that it is God who makes all these things and gives them to us to enjoy. Say, I wonder why He gives them to us? I think it's because He loves us.



You might like to read a few lines from Psalm 36:7-10. Perhaps have children do actions with you as you do. You could paraphrase the passage like this:

- God your love is so precious and special (hold your hands over your heart)
- You protect people like a big bird protects it's baby chicks (wrap yourself in a hug)
- You give people good things to eat and drink and fill their minds and bodies with wonderful things (pretend to eat and drink)
- You are the person who makes everything live (point up high as if referencing God)
- When we know how much you love us it helps us have the best life possible (put your thumbs up)
- So please keep reminding us how much you love us God. (hold your hands over your heart)"

Finish by reminding the group that God loves people, and that is why he gives us good things to enjoy.

Ask everyone to put their finger on one of the pictures that have been drawn as a way of saying thank you to God for these things. Pray a simple prayer over the group such as "Thank you God for all the wonderful things you give us because you love us. Help us to share this good news with others. Amen."

The Point: To think about the wonderful things God has given us to enjoy because He loves us and how we should share God's love with others.

Craft and activity ideas

1. Equipment

Printed templates (each A4 page can be cut to make 2) or paper with the words 'God gives me' and 'to show me He loves me' written in bold letters, and pens or crayons.



Give each child a printed template or prepared paper, and tell them it says 'God gives me' and then 'to show me He loves me'. Ask them to think about something that God has given them to show them He loves them and encourage them to draw a picture of it.

The Point: a reminder that God gives us gifts because He loves us.

Download

[God gives me .pdf](#)

2. Equipment

Collage materials, paper, glue and pictures of the world.

Provide the children with sheets of paper, collage materials and pictures of things in the world. These pictures could be printed from the internet or cut out of geographic or travel



magazines. Remind the children that God has given us a wonderful world to live in, full of beautiful things - all because He loves us. Encourage them to make a picture that reminds them of the amazing world God made for us.

The Point: A creative reminder of the amazing world God has given us because He loves us.

3. Equipment

Icing sugar, caster sugar, ground almonds, condensed milk, food dye, rolling pins, sweet cutters, baking trays and baking paper.

Sweet Heart recipe

For 60 small hearts you will need:

- 50g icing sugar
- 50g caster sugar
- 100g ground almonds
- 100g full-fat sweetened condensed milk
- Red food dye

Sift the icing sugar. Mix in the sugar and ground almonds.

Add the condensed milk and mix until everything is combined.

Now add the food dye and knead the colour well in.

The dough is now ready. If you want to roll it, it can go into the fridge for 20 minutes at this time; if you are happy to let the children squidge it into shapes it can be used as it is.

Either roll out the dough and cut heart shapes with it, or give each child a portion of dough and let them make their own shapes with it.

Place the shapes on baking paper to dry and harden.

There are two ways of doing this activity.

For a longer activity, make the mixture together, letting all the children watch and take turns in stirring and adding ingredients. Then let each child have a lump of the mixture to shape as they will (no rolling out in this version).

Or, for a quicker and cleaner activity, make the mixture beforehand and let the children roll it out and shape it as they like during the meeting.

If you have children with nut allergy, then it would be better to make peppermint creams (which can also be coloured red rather than green).



Peppermint cream recipe:

- 250g icing sugar
- Half an egg white (or use 2 ½ teaspoons of made up dried egg powder)
- 1 teaspoon of mint or strawberry flavouring
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 drops of food colouring.

Sift the icing sugar and add the wet ingredients, mixing well. Be prepared to add more icing sugar if the mixture is too wet. This

mixture can be rolled out straight away, no need for refrigerating. If using a rolling pin, make sure that you put icing sugar on the rolling pin to prevent the mixture from sticking.

Share with each other and talk about the importance of sharing the Good news of God's love with others.

The Point: To make visual (and edible) symbol of a heart to link into today's theme, sharing God's love and the Good News.

Prayer

Have the children crouch down low and practice jumping up high after you count to three. Do this a few times. Then have them practice shouting 'God Loves Me' as loud as they can, again repeat a few times. Then encourage the children to put this together, crouching down to

count 1,2,3 and then jumping up to shout 'God Loves Me'. Repeat this a few times as children will likely enjoy the repetition.

On the final time, pray a quick prayer when you are crouched down such as 'Dear God, thank you that you love us so much and I pray you would always remind us of your love and help me to share this news with my friends. Amen' before having the group do the jump/shout as loud as you can to finish.

The Point: A creative way to pray and reinforce the message that God loves us through rhyme.



THE ROCK

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