SU Scotland

28. King

BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Psalm 47:7-8

This session also recaps some basic facts about the Bible and an overview of the story of the Bible so far

AIMS

This session is designed to be an introductory session to the second year of One Big Story. More time has been allowed for icebreaker games, and much of the Bible content is recapping the story so far. It also introduces the choice we have about whether to acknowledge God as King.

God created the world, but people rejected his rule, and this led to many problems throughout the Old Testament and continuing for us now. From the very beginning, God had a plan to provide a solution by sending Jesus.

PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages for this session and reflect:

- What has the story of the Old Testament so far shown about the difficulties that can arise when God is not honoured as King?
- What does it mean to honour God as King in our lives today?

Take some time to pray for your group.

GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

Name Game

You will need: chairs for the group to sit on, scarf

Have the group sitting on chairs in a circle, and one person standing in the middle of the circle. The person in the middle holds a folded scarf (or something else they can tap others with without hurting them).

If the group don't already know each other's names, go round the circle and get them to introduce themselves.

Choose one person who is sitting in the circle to start the game. They have to say their own name and then the name of someone else in the circle: e.g. David to Kirsty.

The person whose name they have said then does the same: e.g. Kirsty to Laura.

Meanwhile the person in the middle of the circle is trying to use the scarf to tap the leg of the person whose turn it is to speak before they finish saying the two names. If they manage to do this, they swap places and take a seat in the circle, while the person who was tapped takes the scarf and stands in the middle.

Cone/ Cup/ Card Flip Game

You will need: either disc cones, cups or cards (any kind of cards will work as long as it is obvious which side is the

(continued overleaf)

back and which is the front), timer

If your group meets in a large space like a gym hall and you have access to a set of disc cones, you could use these. Otherwise you could use cups or cards and play on the floor or on a table.

Lay out the cones, cups or cards with half the right way up and half upside down. Divide the children into two teams. Tell one team that their task is to turn all the items upside down, and tell the other team that their task is to turn all the items the right way up.

Set a timer for a minute and let the children attempt to complete their tasks. Once the time is up, count to see if more items are upside down or the right way up. The team that was aiming to turn them that way wins.

If you want to play another round, make sure you even up the number of items that are turned each way before you begin.

"Would You Rather..." Questions

You will need: printout of questions (from additional document: Would You Rather...)

Help the group get to know one another better by answering "Would you rather..." questions.

You could cut the sheet into slips with the individual questions on and let each person in turn pick one to answer, or you could simply ask the children questions from the sheet. With a larger group, you could split the children into smaller groups to do this activity.

King/ Queen For A Day

You will need: large sheets of paper, pens

Divide the children into groups of three or four, and give each group a large sheet of paper and a pen. Get them to imagine they were king or queen for a day and they could make any new law they wanted to.

What laws would they come up with that they think would make the world a better place?

Get them to write down some ideas and share them together.

Point out that two things are needed for this to work well: the king or queen needs to make good laws that are going to help the people, and the people need to follow them.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Introduction

Explain that in your group this year you are following a programme to look at how the Bible fits together as One Big Story. Tell the children that it is a two-year programme and some of them will already have completed year one. Today's session is a reminder of the story so far for those who were at the group last year and a chance to catch up for those who are new.

Bible Facts

You will need: Bible, cards (from additional document: Bible facts)

Print out the cards from additional document: Bible facts and hide them around the room before the children arrive.

Show the children a Bible, and tell them that they are going to hunt for some cards to find out some key facts about the Bible. Once the children have found them, go through each card in turn. (You could give the children the option to read the card themselves or to let a leader read it.)

1. **The Bible is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament.**

2. **The Old Testament talks about the time before Jesus was born as a baby and the New Testament talks about Jesus' birth and the time after that.**

3. **The Bible contains 66 individual books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New.**

4. **The Bible contains lots of different kinds of writing: history, poetry, letters, laws, and lots more.**

5. **The Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years by around 40 authors who were inspired by God.**

6. **The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, but it has been translated into English as well as over 670 other languages.**

7. **Christians believe that the Bible is the Word of God.**

8. **The Bible is one big story, telling how God created the world, how people messed it up, and how God had a plan to put things right.**

You could also use the Bible bookcase from One Big Story Session 1 (additional document: Bible bookcase) as a visual aid.

The Story So Far...

You will need cards from One Big Story Session 27 (additional document: One Big Story Recap)

Use the cards to briefly recap the story so far.

If you have several children who were part of the group last year, you could ask them to put the cards in order and get them to tell you what they remember about each one.

If most of the children are new

to the group, you could use the script below to fill them in.

Card 1: **The story of the Bible starts right back at the very beginning. It talks about how God made the world and everything in it, and he said it was very good. Because God made the world, he was in charge of it. He was King.**

Card 2: **Unfortunately, it didn't stay very good for long because people disobeyed God and chose not to follow his rules. They didn't want him to be King. Ever since then there have been things that are wrong with the world.**

Card 3: **God could have given up on people, but he didn't. From the very beginning, he had a plan to sort out the mess of the world, and it began with a promise to a man called Abraham.**

Card 4: **Joseph was one of the people who came later in Abraham's family. He was taken to Egypt as a slave but later he became a ruler in Egypt and all his family moved there.**

Card 5: **Hundreds of years later, the Israelites were slaves. (The Israelites was the name for the people from Abraham's family.) By now, Abraham and Joseph had died, but the Israelites were a great nation just like God had promised. God called Moses to rescue the Israelites and help them to escape from the Egyptians.**

Card 6: **Later, a man called Joshua led the Israelites into the land which God had promised to give to Abraham's family.**

Card 7: **That sounds like it should be the happy ending, but it wasn't because the people kept disobeying God. God still cared for them and he provided people called judges to lead them.**

Card 8: **The people decided that they wanted a king, so God gave them kings. So far in One Big Story we've heard about three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon. They did some good things, but none of these kings was perfect. The people were waiting for a perfect King to lead them.**

REFLECT & RESPOND

Who will be King?

You will need: a Bible

Christians believe that God is the perfect king.

Read Psalm 47:7-8 from a Bible.

Right back at the beginning of the Bible, we read that God is the one who made the world. That means that he knew the best way for people to live, but people didn't obey him. They didn't want him to be their king and that caused a lot of problems.

We can see this today when we look at the world around us or even at our own lives.

God had a solution though, and that was sending Jesus. We'll hear more as we go through this term about why Jesus was the solution to the problem, and the choice for us to think about as we do is:

Would you rather let God be king or you be king?

(Don't ask the children to answer this. Just leave it for them to think about. Bear in mind that some children may be new to the SU Group and just beginning to explore who God is. The aim here is not to encourage the children to respond at this point, but simply to raise the question as something to think about as they discover more of what the Bible says in the coming weeks.)

"Who Will Be King?" by Matthias Media provides a child-friendly presentation of the Gospel with some helpful illustrations. It can be purchased as a booklet, and it is also available online here: https://www.matthiasmedia.com/who-will-be-king

The first two illustrations may be useful for this session.

Prayer

If you have new children, briefly explain that prayer is talking to God, and lead them in a short prayer thanking God for the group and asking for his help in learning more about what the Bible says together.