

Age 6-7

Note: any activities involving photographing pupils must have parental permission.

Background information for Meet the Curtis family

- The pupils are introduced to the Bible through the Curtis family. Pictures of the family can be printed from the **presentation** and used to create a display and can be used as talking points.
- The King James Bible is introduced as 'Grandad's Bible'. The family are celebrating because Grandad's Bible is 400 years old in 2011. The time span (400 years) is difficult for this age group, just communicate an impression of age.

Background on Grandad's Bible Psalm 23:1-2

- Psalm 23 is introduced in different forms: Grandad's King James Version and Ben and Eva's children's Bible. Rolling over words gives an explanation.
- This is known as a 'Psalm of David'. This is the same David that fought Goliath.
- David was a harp player and a shepherd in his early years. The psalms are poems that were probably sung in early Jewish worship. They are still used in worship by

Christians and Jews. Many people will know this psalm as the theme music for the Vicar of Dibley.

- Jewish shepherds led sheep; they did not drive them or use dogs.

Background information for using a shoebox story

- A shoebox story has all the props needed to tell the story within the box. The box is covered with suitable paper reflecting the nature of the story. The paper might reflect the mood of the story or it might reflect some of the content of the story.
- The fact that the story is in something that looks like a gift box reflects the Christian belief that the stories of the Bible are like a present from God and they have something to say to people today.
- You will need to gather your props before the session and cover the shoebox. You can deliver the script yourself or it can be done with one person moving the figures and another person reading.
- Encourage pupils to join in.
- The pupils can replay the story but all items must be child-safe.

- The shoebox story can be told on its own or can be followed or preceded by the more straightforward retelling of the Bible story (provided).
- Within each story, a phrase or saying from the King James Bible that has come into English is embedded in the text. This can be followed up after the story.
- The shoebox stories were written for particular age groups but they are flexible.

Background information on Baby Moses

- There is one phrase from the Bible embedded in this script: 'To pour your heart out'. It originally came from Psalm 62:8 and means to express your secret thoughts and feelings, 'to share those with another person.'
- The Israelites (Hebrews) had gone to Egypt hundreds of years before this story is set when there was no food in their own land. The kings of Egypt (Pharaohs) got worried about this large group of non-Egyptians on their border and so tried to reduce their number by making them slaves and killing the boy babies by throwing them in the Nile. This needs handling sensitively and is phrased carefully in the story so as not to be explicit.
- In this story we see a family desperately trying to save their son. Implicitly behind the scenes is God. This baby is saved to become the great leader who would lead his people to freedom.
- Moses would have been breast feed by his mother for about three to four years. Children were very highly valued in Hebrew society.

- Moses received an Egyptian education, became familiar with the palace as he grew up, yet he was an Israelite (Hebrew). This would put him in the perfect position to negotiate with the king for the release of the Hebrew slaves when he was older.
- For Christians this story is about the beginning of God's plan to save the Hebrew people through the leadership of Moses. Just as God worked through Moses when he grew up, so he worked through the love of the family for their child and through the princess to save Moses as a baby.

Resources

www.topmarks.co.uk/judaism/moses/index.htm The story of Moses for pupils

Signs can be added to stories:

www.christiansigns.co.uk/public/search.php
Database of signs associated with Christian worship

www.britishsignlanguage.com/ Moving pictures for basic signs

S Piper, *The Lion Read and Know Bible* (Lion)

M Barfield (ed), *Big Bible Story Book* (SU)

P Alexander, *The Lion First Bible* (Lion)

T Dowley, *My First Story Bible* (Candle Books)