

Activity Instructions

Today is Mother's Day so the theme is all about being helpful, loving and caring towards those around us. We are looking at the stories of some women in the Bible to help us explore this theme.

Activity 1: Dress the baby!

Have a race to see who can dress the baby! (a doll or teddy) the fastest. Alternatively, you could see who is quickest to help the youngest member of the family to put on a large t-shirt or shirt and large shorts (or any other items you choose) over their normal clothes.

Talk about how difficult it can be to get clothes onto a baby who wriggles etc as you try to dress them. Also, how easy do you think it would be to hide a baby especially when they cry?

The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw what a beautiful baby he was and kept him hidden for three months. Exodus 2:2

Activity 2: The meaning of your name

I wonder what your name means? If you don't know then you could check it out on this website: <https://www.meaningofthename.com/> You could also check the meaning of some of your friend's names. Then name Moses means 'drawn out', that is why Pharaoh's daughter named the baby Moses.

Later, when he was older, the child's mother brought him back to the princess, who adopted him as her son. The princess named him Moses, for she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'
Exodus 2:10

Activity 3: Does it float?

Make a basket shape out of different materials, like paper, card, playdough. Try them out in a basin of water. Do they float? How long do they float for? Do they still float if you put something in them? Perhaps you could look around the house and see if you have any toy baskets or items that you could pretend were a basket – like a Duplo block turned upside down. Do some items float better than others?

Read the Bible verse together and talk about what the baby's mother did to make the basket watertight before putting it in the river with her baby in it. Why do you think she did that?

But when she could no longer hide him, she got a little basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the edge of the Nile River. Exodus 2:3

Activity 4: Prayer activity

Hannah had no children and she was really sad so she talked to God about it. Are there any things that make you really sad? You can always go to God and chat about it. Tell God what is happening and what is making you sad. And even if you are not sad you can still chat to God about all that is going on. God is always ready to listen to us chat about all the sad and happy things in our lives. Sometime we might not have words to describe what we are

feeling or we might find doing something helpful when we are chatting to God so we might draw what we are chatting about or make something to describe what we are feeling. God knows what is on our minds and hearts and he understands. Spending time with God is always good, it might not always sort all our problems out but it gives us strength and courage and helps us to feel God is with us.

Once when they were at Shiloh, Hannah went over to the Temple after supper to pray to the Lord. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance. 'Oh no sir!' she replied, 'I'm not drunk! But I am very sad and I was pouring my heart out to the Lord.' 1 Samuel 1: 9 & 15

Activity 5: Paper plate basket

Take a paper plate and cut the centre circle from it. Fold the inner circle in half and cut along the fold line. Staple the handles to both sides along the straight edge. Now fold the outer rim in half and cut along the fold marks for the handles of the basket. Now staple the two pieces together along the curved edges. To complete your basket, decorate it in any way you like. If you need some ideas: you could colour it, draw flowers or hearts on it, stick some stickers on it, but you may have better ideas! You might also like to make some paper/card flowers to put into it. Draw some flower shapes on card or paper, colour them in and cut them out. For the stem you could use a piece cut from a straw, a craft stick, or a strip of card.

Ruth collected grain, ground it into flour and brought it home to her mother-in-law so that they would have food to eat. I wonder who you will give your basket of flowers to, to say thank you for looking after or helping me.

One day Ruth said to Naomi, 'Let me go into the fields to gather leftover grain behind anyone who will let me do it.' Ruth 2:2

Activity 6: Make a gift

The Bible story about Dorcas tells us that she was always doing kind things and helped the poor by making clothes for them. I wonder what helpful and kind things you could do for someone. Perhaps you could make a card: to say thank you for someone who has done something kind for you, or to cheer someone up who is having a hard time, or to welcome someone who is new. Or you could make a gift: if you are good at sewing or knitting maybe you could make something, like Dorcas did, to help someone in need; or if you are good at cooking you could bake a cake, or biscuits, or bread to donate to a charity or to give to someone who needs cheering up, a helping hand, or to say thank-you. You could work individually or together as a family. I wonder what you will make and who you will give it to.

There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. Acts 9:36

Activity 7: Natural purple tie-dyeing

Warning wear gloves when using the dye as it will colour your skin too!

Place 1 cup of water and ½ cup of blueberries along with 2 tablespoons of white vinegar in a saucepan and bring it to the boil and then let it sit so that the colour is extracted. The

vinegar helps the dye set. This quantity is enough to dye a piece of fabric 30cm X 30cm or similar small item. It can be scaled up for larger items.

Now take a piece of white cloth, it might be a pillowcase, a t-shirt, socks, a tea-towel, or a plain piece of cloth that you will make something from. Tie elastics or string around some parts of your item tightly and then place it in your dye. Leave it there for several hours or over-night. Then rinse it, remove the elastics or string and rinse it again. Hang it out to dry. Enjoy your tie-dyed item. If you like you could link this activity with the one above, make a gift and use the item you make here as your gift.

One of them was Lydia of Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. Acts 16:14

Activity 8: Food to share

Decide if you would like to have afternoon tea or a small party. Also decide whether you will do it together as a family or share it with another family. Now decide what food you will have and prepare it together. Perhaps you will make some sandwiches and or cakes, or maybe you will use treat foods you have in your store cupboard, or you may cut some fruit and vegetables and have dips.

Lydia had heard Paul talking about all that Jesus had done and she became a believer. Then she asked Paul to come and visit her house. I wonder what food they had that day. Would it have been like the food you have or do you think it would have been different? Why do you think that?

She was baptized along with other members of her household, and she asked us to be her guests. 'If you agree that I am faithful to the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she urged us until we did. Acts 16:15