

The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on the Bible, helping children and teachers to explore a sacred text. The assembly presentation explains that Christians believe that the Bible is a special book that is not only historical but has relevance to our lives today. It can help us to understand how God wants us to live and care for others.

There are various children's Bibles and Bible stories for children which you might find useful. Online, <https://bibleforchildren.org/languages/english/stories.php> is a useful resource and you can also find lots of examples on Youtube.

Engaging and Enquiring		
Focus	Questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Special books	Do you have a special or favourite book? What kind of writing is it? Bring in the book to share.	Ask children to bring in a book <i>of any kind</i> that is precious to them. Encourage them to look widely – for example a map book, recipe book, a photo album, a diary. Let them discuss their book with a friend and then ask for some feedback. Note down the different genres (you may need to add some books from the library to make the point) and then ask what makes that book precious. It could be a special book that was read to the child, a book that they found for themselves, a special gift, an audio story or a picture book. Link this to the Bible – a book of many different parts and topics, with different types of writing, told by many different people over many years, but all revealing God's will for his people. Be clear that Muslims, Jews and Christians share some Old Testament scriptures.
Different ways of conveying information	What different types of writing and other ways of conveying information are there?	Ask the children to think about the different ways that we convey information to each other, and how it can be passed down from one generation to another. Perhaps show pictures of different examples, from a variety of cultures, for them to label – songs, speaking, written stories, letters, signs (road or instructions), videos, plays, pictures and many others. The Bible uses lots of different types of writing and the words have been passed down for thousands of years.
About the Bible	What is the Bible? When was it written and what is it about?	The Re:request website has lots of useful pages to give background information about the Bible: https://request.org.uk/bible/introduction-to-the-bible/what-is-the-bible/ https://request.org.uk/bible/using-the-bible/ https://request.org.uk/bible/introduction-to-the-bible/the-books-of-the-bible/ https://request.org.uk/bible/introduction-to-the-bible/bible-for-everyone/ Barnabas in schools has a lesson idea: https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/idea/books-bible

Exploring

Focus	Questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Different languages	How do you write “care for all people” in different languages?	<p>The last part of the presentation says we should care for other people, and gives examples of how we can do this. It comes from the Bible, Matthew chapter 25 verses 31-40.</p> <p>The Bible has been translated in to over 2000 languages. Print out translations of a simple phrase about caring for others in lots of different languages and ask the children to copy and colour or decorate them. Perhaps include pictures of the phrase in sign language.</p>
Bible adventure stories	What exciting stories are in the Bible? What do they tell us about God’s relationship with humans?	<p>The puppets talked about some exciting adventure stories in the world’s bestselling book, the Bible. These were:</p> <p>David and Goliath – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zLAcUZkxHA https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/David_the_Shepherd_Boy_English.pdf</p> <p>Daniel in the Lions’ Den – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZV3eQ2PBqHE https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/Daniel_and_the_Lions_Den_English.pdf</p> <p>The story of Esther - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOPgxCeg0ow https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/Beautiful_Queen_Esther_English.pdf</p> <p>Plus there are many others too!</p>

Evaluating and Expressing

Focus	Questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Wall of wisdom – words for living	What wise words, sayings or rules to live by that might make the world a better place?	<p>Josiah found some wise words and rules that changed the way his people lived.</p> <p>Use a small display board and make a brick-style backing paper, or designate a specific brick wall and supply some chalk. Now invite anyone to contribute their favourite saying, or some words that, if followed, might help us to make the world a better place to live in. Pupils can write their words on the wall or on one postcard or post-it sized ‘brick’ to add to the wall.</p> <p>Ask the children to imagine what words Josiah’s people might have heard.</p>
Retelling Josiah’s story	What happened in the story about King Josiah and his people? What exciting discovery did they make, and what effect did it have?	<p>Retell the story of Josiah and his people using one of the types of writings in the Bible: in a poem, narrative story (history), news report or letter.</p> <p>The story of Josiah can be found in the Bible in 2 Chronicles chapter 34.</p>

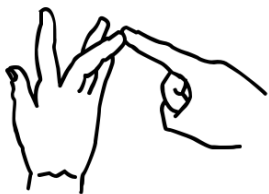
Song "For God so loved the world" by John Hardwick

This verse can be found in the New Testament at John 3:16

For God so loved the world
He gave His only Son
And whoever believes in Him
Shall not die, but have eternal life.



L is for the love that He has for me



I am the reason He died on the tree



F is for forgiveness and now I am free



E is to enjoy being in His company

Learn the sign language, sing the song in two parts, have fun!

Words and music by John Hardwick © 1993 Daybreak Music

See following Youtube link for actions to song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axvzjy8LjoA>

Go to <http://www.johnhardwick.org> to download 'For God so loved the world'.