

22 - 28 March 2020

Sight and insight

Related Bible reading(s): John 9.1-41



Yes I can 10 mins EA WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=locLkk3aYlk>

Ask everyone: what have you been told that you can't do? Or what might you believe is outside your capability? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=locLkk3aYlk>

Watch and talk about how we all have physical limitations or limitations that either we place or the world has placed on us. Jesus healed the man's physical disability and altered the limitations that were placed on him by society. Jesus calls us to have faith in him that he can change the way we see ourselves and what we can do.

Seeing with our senses 10 mins ES

Blindfold the young people then safely lead the whole group to a new place, ideally outside. Allow them to feel their way, notice any changes in smell and listen to the sounds. After five minutes, invite them to take the blindfolds off and share what they noticed and what the experience taught them.

Jelly bean tasting 10 mins E

Ask for volunteers from two teams to be blindfolded and taste a selection of jelly beans and identify the flavours (ensure there are no allergies or dietary needs in the group). The teams get a point for

Sensory prayer 5 mins ES

Invite the young people to choose an object from a selection on the table, e.g. wooden cross, s cup, piece of cloth, and to close their eyes. Encourage everyone to use their sense of touch and the object while they are praying either out loud or silently. They can swap objects as and when choose.

Seeing prayer 5 mins ES

With their eyes open, invite the young people to pray using what they see around them in the room. Give them a prompt: for each other, for the world, for their friends, for their journey of faith.

Songs to listen to and watch

Shout to the Lord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_alauL2xKA

The Lord's my Shepherd <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>

MOTHERING SUNDAY Exodus 2.1-10

Gather

Prepare the space

On Mothering Sunday we remember and say 'Thank You' to our mothers and to all those who care for us. Sometimes we know their names; sometimes we only remember the story. Today's story tells how God helps very different people to care for each other in difficult times.

- Prepare a collection of cut-out hands. Make sure they are of different shapes and sizes and on various coloured papers.
 - Collect and display materials you can use to help tell the story. These might include: a plain rug or roll of light brown felt for the underlay, a baby-doll wrapped in a blanket, a small basket for the 'baby', a piece of blue cloth to represent the river, some strips of paper to represent reeds and rushes, two crowns – one for Pharaoh's daughter and one for her 'son'.
 - Display a variety of fresh flowers. Have some already made into clusters or small bouquets, with others ready to be assembled. Be sure to have the necessary materials to hand.
- Set up a display of pictures of children and their parents or care givers from around the world. www.savethechildren.org.uk might be a good source of printable material.

Thank-you bouquets

Giving flowers is a good way to say thank you to someone special. Today we want to say thank you to our mothers and to those people who give us special help and care. Invite the children to listen for the helpers in today's story. Mention that when people help each other, God is there too.

Open the Word

The story unfolds

You might want to lay out the materials on the underlay as you tell the story.

This story happened a long time ago in Egypt.

(lay out the baby-doll wrapped in a blanket)

When this baby was born, it was a dangerous time. He was a fine baby boy and his mother did all she could to keep him safe.

(lay out the small basket for the 'baby')

When she could no longer protect him, the mother wove a basket and made it safe to put in the water.

(lay out the blue cloth to represent the river)

She put the baby inside and went down to the riverbank.

(lay out the strips of paper to represent reeds and rushes)

She hid the basket in the reeds at the river's edge.

The baby's sister stood at a distance and watched what would happen.

(lay out one of the crowns)

The daughter of the Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river.

She saw the basket among the reeds and sent one of her maids to fetch it. When she saw the baby, and heard him crying, she picked him up and held him.

'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said.

Then the sister came up and spoke to Pharaoh's daughter,

'Would you like me to get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child?'

Pharaoh's daughter said 'Yes'. She would also be willing to pay the woman to care for the child.

The sister went back and got the baby's mother and the woman took the child back home and cared for him.

(lay out the second crown)

When the baby was grown, the woman took the boy back to Pharaoh's daughter. She took him as her own son. Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses because she said, 'I drew him out of the river'.

An event remembered

This might be the way Moses' mother told the story.

It was such a scary time. Pharaoh had given the order that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed and many babies were dying. When my baby was born, and he was a strong healthy boy, I didn't really know what to do. We believed that God had promised to take care of us but it was hard to live without fear.

I hid my new baby boy away as long as I could and I kept praying. Then I had an idea: it was dangerous but it was all I could think of to do.

I wove a basket from papyrus reeds and made it watertight. I wrapped my baby very carefully, and with much fear and many tears of my own, laid the baby in the basket and hid the basket in the reeds by the river.

My daughter stayed to keep watch and to see what happened. The next bit I only heard from her! Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe. When she heard the baby crying she took him up. My clever daughter did just the right thing. 'Would you like me to go and find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby?' It all worked out better than I could have dreamed. Pharaoh's daughter even paid me to take care of own son!

When he was old enough, I took the boy back to Pharaoh's daughter. She took him as her own son. She named him 'Moses' because she said, 'I drew him out of the river'.

Well, Moses, you had three good women to care for you – and that was just the beginning of the story.

TALK ABOUT

- Watching and being ready to help at the right time was a very important thing for the baby's sister to be able to do in today's story. When have you seen a way to help a member of your family ... or a friend? When has someone, even quite young, been able to help you?
 - Being surrounded by helpful people was very important for this baby. How has your family been important to you? Who are the helpful people close to you who have become part of your wider family?
 - The heroes in today's story are all women... the baby's mother, his sister, Pharaoh's daughter ... and even her handmaidens. Their names aren't written down; nevertheless their stories are remembered. Who are the women who have been heroines in your life? Can you share their stories ... even if you don't remember their names!
- God works through people to care for those who need help in difficult times. What other Biblical stories of heroic and care-giving women can you remember? Who were the women who were very helpful to Jesus? Who are the people who are very helpful to you?

RESPOND TO THE WORD

Collage creation

Spread out a large sheet of paper with 'Thank you' already written on it. Remind the group that the mother, the sister, and Pharaoh's daughter were all helpers for Moses in this story. Ask the children to name those who are the helpers for them. Pass out the hand shapes and let the children paste two or three onto the collage as a 'thank you' to their own helpers. Suggest that they might like to draw a picture or write in the helper's name. They might like to cut out a shape of their own hand and paste it on nearby.

Card making

Provide materials for the children to make a 'thank you' card for someone who has been especially helpful. Maybe some would like to make a 'thank you' card as a way of remembering those who helped baby Moses in the story.

Picture the story

Give each child four blank A6 cards or a sheet of A4 paper they can divide into four. What objects or pictures would they draw in each box to help them remember the story? The materials on the underlay might give them some drawing ideas. Ask if there is anyone who would like to try to retell the story to the group. Encourage the children to take their work with them and to use their pictures to share this story of real helpfulness with someone else.

Weaving a basket <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpapermoses.htm>

The mother in the story wove a basket for her baby. Use the pattern on the activity sheet and prepare materials for the children to weave a basket also. They will need: the basket pattern, several strips of coloured paper, scissors and glue or sticky tape.

Cut out the basket and then cut the slits indicated by the dotted lines. Weave the strips of paper in and out through the slits. Secure the ends by folding and taping/gluing them onto the inside of the shape. When the weaving is complete, fold the basket along the bottom lines. Bend the two ends inside and secure them.

The children might want to make a baby Moses to put in this basket or use the basket as a way of taking a 'thank you' posy to someone who is special.

Pretty bouquet

Using the posies already assembled as a model, invite the children to make some more bouquets to share with those who have been caring and helpful. They might want to make a special card or a basket in which to put the flowers. They might be happy to assemble several bunches of flowers that can be shared with people in the congregation later in the service.C

PRAYERS

Here is a second verse to the opening action rhyme that can be used as a prayer:

Thank you, God, for helping hands, *(hold hands open in front, palms up)*

thank you, God, for hands that play. *(move hands about, wiggle fingers)*

Thank you, God, for time together *(join hands in a circle)*

and that you're with us when we pray. *(look at each other with a smile.)*

A prayer to share

O God, our creator,

you have made us all and we are yours.

You care for us as a mother, tenderly caring for her children.

When we are unwell, in danger and alone

you enable people to bring their hands and their hearts

and come to be our helpers.

Thank you for all the love and care which comes our way.

Help us to be open to where you will send us to care for others.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.