ST MARY'S REIGATE

TELLING GOD'S BIG STORY: PART 2

WEEKLY SQUISHY FUN FOR 0-5s
USING SENSORY PLAY TRAYS

The promise of Jesus | 28th Feb

'...we have all wandered away like sheep. Each of us has gone his own way. But He took our suffering on Him and felt our pain for us.

He was wounded for the wrong things we did. The punishment WHICH MADE US WELL was given to Him AND WE ARE HEALED BECAUSE OF HIS WOUNDS' **Isaiah 53 1-6**

What you'll need

This is a really tricky bit of scripture to understand...so let's use a sensory tray to help us

- **Sponges**

- **Water**

- **Bowls**

- **Food colouring (a pipette or mini syringe might make this a little less messy!!)**

How to set up the story for the sensory play tray

God made a promise after the flood to never destroy the world again- but there are still things which go WRONG which have to put RIGHT

So the idea of this activity is to make a mess in your tray by sploshing water and adding drops of food colouring .

Then explain to your little one that when things go wrong, when bad things happen, when we fall out and hurt each other, when we don't help people who need our help etc etc we make a mess-just like this..

Then you introduce another bowl with a sponge.

People mess up all the time-(you only have to watch the news to see..)

It doesn't stop God loving us, but when we mess up SOMETHING needs to clean that mess up-and that something is Jesus.

Jesus is like a sponge!

Then show them how to use the sponge to soak up the mess from the first bowl and squeeze it out into Jesus's bowl.

Keep going until all the 'mess' has gone from your bowl into Jesus's bowl

The Message

When Jesus came to die on the cross he 'CLEANED' us-he took our mess on himself and 'HEALED' us and MADE US WELL with GOD

A new promise | March 7th

Jeremiah 31 v33

I will put my teachings in their minds
And I will write them on their hearts
I will be their God

What you'll need

- **Edible heart sweets**
- **An ice cube tray**

Then all you'll need to do is pop a heart sweet in each compartment of the icecube tray and add water. Pop the tray into the freezer and wait for the ice cubes to freeze solid. Then pop the ice cubes out onto your sensory tray and allow your little one to play-as the ice cubes are handled they will begin to melt -and eventually they will end up with a heart in their hands (which they could eat if you were happy for them to!)

How to set up the story for the sensory play tray

God's old promise was broken by the people. They stopped listening to his rules (which he gave Moses on Mount Sinai on stone tablets). They stopped listening to the teachings of others.

So here in Jeremiah he makes a new promise - a promise to REVEAL himself to people DIRECTLY-straight into their minds and INTO THEIR HEARTS.

Then as they're playing you can be taking to them about God and how he wants their hearts and how we can invite him into OUR hearts and how NOW because of this NEW PROMISE we can KNOW GOD in our own hearts without having to be taught by any one else.

Activity 2

What you'll need

- **Heart shaped ice cube tray**
- **Food colouring or liquid water colour**
- **Tongs, Spoons, Ladles**
- **Bowls or Plates**
- **Aprons**
- **Spray bottle with water (optional)**
- **Paper towels (just to have on hand)**

If staining is a concern, water colours make a great alternative to food colouring

How to set up the sensory play tray

- Put 3-7 drops of food colouring into each heart shaped ice cube tray depending on size of tray and how deep you want the final colour to be

- Carefully fill the tray with water and place it on a flat surface in the freezer.
- Once the ice has set, dump the ice cubes onto a tray-12 ice cubes, should last an hour.

The Message

This is the God we know

The God who reaches out to us wherever we are

The God who pursues us and loves us and forgives us

God's promise kept | 14th March

From the time of Noah onwards God has promised to love us and save us.

Last week we saw how he was giving people a new promise

A new law

that would be written in our hearts so that we can all KNOW GOD for ourselves

And today we see how that is going to happen

Because today we get to JESUS… GOD'S ONLY SON

What you'll need

- **Coloured tubes or bowls**
- **Pipe cleaners**
- **Eyes (if you have them)**

How to set up the story for the sensory play tray

Jesus was sent sent into an unfriendly world to show us HOW we can LOVE GOD and KNOW GOD by telling the world about God, about 'the kingdom of heaven', and about how to live a life that would please God

But Jesus didn't do that on his own

Jesus gathers together 12 DISCIPLES (12 FRIENDS), who are going to help Him spread the GOOD NEWS about God

How?? By asking them to!!

Set up the sensory tray with fish and a hook (made from pipe cleaners)

Then as you tell the story of Jesus walking along the beach, ready to start teaching the world about his father God, you can say how he stopped and watched two fishermen-Simon Peter and Andrew fishing from the beach.

Jesus calls to them .

''COME follow me. I will make you fishers of men'.

As you say this encourage our little ones to start fishing and popping the fish into tubes or bowls.

What you'll need for Activity 2

- **shaving foam or frozen shaving foam and food colour or liquid water colour**
- **or Water beads**
- **and both trays need toy** **fish**

Or if your little one is still trying to eat everything you can use

- **blue jelly and edible fish**

How to set up the story for the sensory play tray

Tell the story as above

The Message

Jesus wants US to follow Him too. To listen to Him and to learn about God from him

You are like salt and light | 21st March

Matthew 5 v 13-16

You are the salt of the earth'... And 'You are the light that gives light to the world.

People don't hide a light under a bowl....In the same way you shuld be a light to people.

Live so that they will see the good things you do'.

What you'll need

- **Salt**
- **Food colouring**
- **Shaker (if you have one)**

How to set up the story for the sensory play tray

Jesus came to tell people how to follow him-how to live a life pleasing to God and how to get eternal life.

He came to tell us that we have to keep on keeping God's rules. That we need to stand up for what we believe. That we need to act on our belief in God so that people 'will see the good things we do' and we need 'to live so that they will praise your Father in heaven'. So how do we do that?

Well, in this story Jesus tell us we need to be like salt. *EH*?? How can we be like salt?? We look nothing like salt!

Well in those days salt was a precious thing-it gave taste to food that had none and kept precious foods from going bad-in other words it made a BIG difference to peoples' lives and the lives of those around them. And that's what Jesus is asking us to do-with the way we speak to people, care for people ad pray for people-especially in these tricky times. So take a tray-cover it in salt and then add food dye and as you see the changes think of all the ways you can help and change things for those around you.

Jesus also told us to be like lights-shining in the darkness-making a difference

What you'll need

- **Under-the-bed style clear storage box. Try to find a large flat one with a snap-on lid (a large flat one that fit under the bed is a good siz**
- **2-3 Sheets of White Tissue**
- **Aluminum Foil**

- **Clear Tape**
- **String of LED lights with their own battery pack or individual push on Led lights**
- **(OPTIONAL) Extension cord: if you are using plug in lights (will need to cut a hole in side of tub to run the cord through)**
- **Gather a Variety of Translucent Play Materials like coloured salt, sand, paint, water beads…**

HOW TO MAKE A SENSORY LIGHT BOX

1. Line the inside of the tub with aluminum foil for good light reflection
2. Line the underside of the lid with 2-3 sheets of white tissue paper and use clear tape to keep it in place; The tissue paper helps diffuse the light and disperses it more evenly across the top of your light box, as well as “hiding” the light source below; use clear tape as masking tape may leave distracting spots where the light does not shine through the paper
3. Place the string of LED lights or the push-on LED lights around the bottom of the tub – and use some double stick tape underneath each one to help hold in place-you want good light coverage across the box so decide how long or how many for yourselfGather up the items your child will be using and let them enjoy this new play experience.

The Message

Jesus wants us to ‘shine’ and make a difference in the world

Jesus-the KING-arrives in Jerusalem | March 28th

‘Many people laid their coats on the road before Jesus . Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road’. Matthew 21v8

What you’ll need

- **A tray**
- **Leaves**
- **Safe scissors**
- **Cooking utensils**

How to set up the story for your sensory tray

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey the people cheered and shouted ‘HOSANNA TO THE KING!!!’ which means we praise you and adore you ! As a sign of respect the people cut down palm leaves for him to walk over.

As your little ones begin to cut up the leaves in their trays talk to them about Jesus-who He is to you and why YOU think he’s the most important ‘king’ to have rule over our lives.

Activity 2

You could do hand painting to create the palm leaves and a footprint

to create the donkey

The Message

Jesus came to be our king-how can we praise and adore Him today?

The king is ALIVE! | 4th April

Two woman went into the garden where Jesus's body had been laid and the met an angel who said:

'Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on a cross. But he is not here. He has risen from death as he said he would.' Matthew 28v5-6

Sensory play-New life ....Easter gardens!!

What you'll need for Activity 1

- **Edible easter garden!**
- **Green rice/cereal/jelly for grass**
- **Raisins for path**
- **Iced gems/mini eggs- for flowers**
- **Muffin-for hill**
- **Chocolate finger/ matchstick- for the cross**
- **Biscuits -for the tomb**

How to set up the story for the sensory tray

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey-sprinkle the green rice, cereal or jelly to represent Jerusalem

Jesus knew he was going to die soon so he went to a garden to pray to his father God for strength-add our iced gems or mini eggs to represent the garden

Soldiers arrested Jesus and took him to be judged-sprinkle on the raisin path

Even though He had done nothing wrong, they said Jesus was guilty and they took him to a hill-use your muffin-and put him on a cross to die-use your match sticks or chocolate fingers to make a cross (if you melt a patch with a hot spoon they stick easily but then need time to dry)

They then put Jesus's body in a tomb and rolled a stone over the front to stop anyone from stealing the body-use the biscuits to make a tomb and roll over a door

Then, on the third day, when the woman came to see Jesus's body, THE TOMB WAS EMPTY!!

What you'll need for activity 2

- **Tray**
- **Soil**
- **Pots**
- **Little trowels**
- **Sprigs of grass and flowers**
- **Cress seeds**
- **Little watering can**

How to set up the tray for the story

Jesus came to give us NEW LIFE. He did this by dying on a cross.

Take a pot and fill it with earth.

Jesus's body was buried. Bury some cress seeds in the pot.

But after three days HE CAME BACK TO LIFE

Have your little one water the pot and leave it somewhere in the warmth and the light.

On the third day you should see the cress growing-that is like Jesus, coming back to life after three days!!

Then et them continue to have fun with the tray, shovelling dirt into pots and planting and watering their 'gardens!'

The Message

JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE-JUST AS HE HAD PROMISED!

He did this to show us that when we die-it is not the end-there is another life to be had in Heaven-a life with God-that is perfect and which goes on forever !