

blessed

EG14

Bible Verses: Psalm 29, 34, 65, 67.

This session will help the children to unpack what it means to be blessed by God and how they can notice all the ways that they are blessed.

Blessing.

Warming Up

10 mins

 Game

Before the session cut out the letters BLESSING from several different colours of paper and hide them around the room. Divide the children into groups and challenge each group to find the letters in a particular colour. Tell them that there are 8 letters.

The groups should bring their letters together and try to figure out what the word is. Once everyone has got it, gather the whole group together (or if you have enough leaders, you could have a leader discuss the next bit with each group).

See if the children know what blessing means. You could use dictionaries to look up the meaning.

Say that today you're going to be thinking about what it means for God to bless his people. Ask if they have any ideas. Say that God blesses his people by making sure they have what they need and are safe. Say that often he chooses to bless us with more than we need.

The Point: For fun and to open up the subject.

Equipment

Coloured paper, scissors, dictionaries (optional).

Advertising God

Teaching Time

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

Divide the children into three groups - each with a leader - and give each group a Bible and ask them to find a different part of Psalm 65. Try to use the Contemporary English Version or something equally straightforward in language. Give group one verses 1-4, group two verses 5-8 and group three verses 9-13.

Ask each group to talk about what their bit says about God and then to make a big poster to advertise God to someone who didn't know about him. They should use the imagery found in their bit of the Psalm. Try and have a selection of photos or magazines with useful pictures for them to include in their piece.

Draw the group back together and ask each group to show their poster and explain about it. Ask the children how they feel about God being able to do all this stuff. Ask them why God makes all this happen.

Say that God is creative and that he loves to give us a world that we can enjoy living in. Say that one word we could use is 'blessing'. Blessings are things that God gives us just because he loves us - not because we've done anything to earn them. At the beginning of the Psalm, the writer says that God blesses his chosen people by inviting them to live near him. See if the children can think of other ways God has blessed his people that we find in this Psalm.

Ask the children if they feel that they share in the blessing... They do!

The Point: To explore how God blesses his people.


Equipment

Large pieces of paper, felt tips, magazines, photographs, glue, scissors, Bibles.

Fruit Kebabs

Take Away

10 mins

 Food And Cooking

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: Taste and See.

Set up the fruit chunks on a table with plenty of space for the children to get to it. Give everyone a wooden skewer and let them make their own fruit kebab by pushing the skewer through the pieces of fruit to stack them up.

Enjoy!

The Point: To taste and see that the Lord is good!


Equipment

Lots of different fruits cut up into large chunks, wooden bbq skewers, paper plates (to catch the juice!).

Shine On Me

Take Away

10 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: Follow the Blessing.



Read Psalm 67:1 from the CEV: “Our God, be kind and bless us! Be pleased and smile.” Now read it from the NIV: “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us.” Make sure the children understand that these are two different ways of saying the same thing.

Ask them to think about what God must look like when he smiles or lets his face shine on us. Encourage them to paint what they imagine - it might be quite abstract!

The Point: To think a bit more about the imagery in the Psalm and the way that God blesses us with his presence.

Equipment

Good quality paper or mini canvasses, paint in metallic shades, brushes, water.

The Lord Bless You

Response

5 mins

✝️ Worship and Reflection

Ask the children to find a space and sit or lie comfortably. Ask them to listen to the music and imagine God smiling at them. Play the track.

You could ask the children to feedback anything they saw or felt God say afterwards.

The Point: To feel God’s blessing.

Equipment

Recording of ‘The Lord Bless You and Keep You’ by John Rutter (it’s on itunes!) and the means to play it.

Peaceful Blessing

Response

5 mins

📄 Memory Verse

“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” Psalm 29:11

Ask the children to come up with some signs or actions for the key words in this verse (Lord, strength, people, blesses, peace). Say the verse together a few times complete with actions.

The Point: To learn scripture.

Equipment

None.
