

St Saviour's Academy Values

RESPECT Exodus 3, 4



READ TOGETHER...

Moses and the Burning Bush

Moses led the sheep across the dry and dusty desert to Sinai, God's holy mountain. But in the stillness of the wilderness, while the sheep were grazing, Moses' thoughts were never far from the plight of his people the Israelites, who were suffering at the hand of the cruel Egyptian king. Moses had left Egypt years ago. He felt guilty and wished he could help his people, but what could he do? He was not brave, he was not a **respected** leader. Who would listen to him?

And then in the distance Moses noticed something very strange. A desert bush was on fire. The flames licked hungrily around the branches and yet, strangely, the bush did not burn up. He drew closer and as he did so, he clearly heard a voice call to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Yes, here I am" stammered Moses. "Take off your shoes", said the voice, "for you are standing on holy ground." Reverently, Moses untied his sandals and fell to his knees. "I am the Lord God of your ancestors and I have seen how my people suffer under Pharaoh. I have heard them call out to me to rescue them and now Moses, I am sending you to lead them to freedom." "But I am nobody, I am nothing. How can I go to the king and expect him to **respect** a simple shepherd? How can I ask him to let the people go?" But God replied, "Do not be frightened, I will be with you." "But what if the people will not listen to me?" said Moses. "What do you have in your hand?" "A stick." Moses replied. "Throw it on the ground." Moses did as he was asked. To his astonishment the stick turned into a writhing, angry snake. "Now bend down and pick it up by the tail." Nervously, Moses did as he was asked. Immediately, the snake once more became a stick. "When you perform this miracle," said God, "the people will believe that I have sent you. Take the stick with you for with it you will perform great miracles. Now go and do as I have commanded."

And so it was that on that ordinary day an extraordinary adventure began for Moses and for the people of Israel. It was a story that the world would never forget.

Bible story based on Exodus 3,4

Alternatives

The Ten Commandments Exodus 20: 1-21

FORGIVENESS Luke 19: 2-10



READ TOGETHER...

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Zacchaeus was a little man. He was a tax collector and had become rich by making others pay lots of money in taxes to the Romans and to him. He didn't have many friends.

When Zacchaeus heard Jesus was in town, he wanted to see him. But Zacchaeus was short and Jesus was always surrounded by a crowd. So Zacchaeus decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb a sycamore tree. From there he could watch for Jesus. As Jesus drew closer, he held his breath excitedly until Jesus stopped right beneath his tree. Jesus looked straight up at him! "Zacchaeus," said Jesus with a smile, "come on down. I want to stay at your house today!"

Zacchaeus hopped down. "You are welcome at my house, Jesus," he said with a huge grin.

But others grumbled, muttering to each other. "Why does Jesus want to go home with the rich, cheating tax collector? He isn't good enough for Jesus to come and stay at his house."

Zacchaeus heard what the people were saying about him and he wanted to put things right. He turned to Jesus and said, "Master, here and now, I promise to give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone in taxes, I will pay them back four times that amount."

Zacchaeus wanted to turn over a new leaf because Jesus believed that everyone deserved a new start and now Zacchaeus believed it too!

Bible story based on Luke 19:2-10



Alternatives:

The Prodigal Son – Luke 15.11-3

ASPIRATION

God will always be with us to help us when there is a big or overwhelming task before us.

In [Deuteronomy 31](#) through the first few chapters of the book of Joshua, we see the succession of Moses and Joshua in leading the people of Israel into the promise land. The Lord calls a young Joshua to follow Moses as leader of his people. Can you imagine the pressure Joshua must have felt? He was to follow one of the greatest prophets and leaders of the Bible - a man who had seen God face to face. It is no wonder that he was encouraged seven times within these chapters of the Bible to "be strong and courageous." This commission was spoken to him over and over again as he assumed the role of leader amongst a group of people who were tired and discouraged. For years they travelled through the desert with hopes of reaching the land God had promised them. They journeyed with their families having only what they desperately needed for 40 years with a new home as their motivation. They had yet to see that promise fulfilled when their faithful leader died and a new, young man took his place. But Joshua was strong and he was definitely courageous. He obeyed the calling and leading of the Lord and saw the people enter the promise land.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." [Joshua 1:9](#)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

HONESTY Luke 5: 1-11; Luke 22: 54-62; John 21: 15-19



READ TOGETHER... A Day That Changed Everything

It began just as any other day.

Peter the fisherman was mending his nets as he always did.

But then Peter met Jesus. On that ordinary day his life was changed for ever.

Peter was to actually see Jesus heal people who were ill, make blind people see again, and turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into a feast for 5000!

Peter became Jesus' follower and friend. "I will do anything for you" he said to Jesus. "Just say the word!"

"One day you will tell people you never knew me" said Jesus, "and then a cock will crow."

"No" shouted Peter "Never, Never, Never!"

Sure enough, life for Jesus did become difficult - difficult and dangerous.

The day came when Jesus was on trial for his very life. He needed his friend to stand by him. But Peter said "I don't know him, I never knew him, I never saw him before."

And at the end of the day a cock crowed.....just as Jesus had said it would.

Jesus was sentenced to death and crucified, even though he had done nothing wrong.

But death could not defeat God's Son! Three days later Jesus was alive again and went to find his friend, not to blame him but to forgive him.

It was a new day and Peter had another chance.

Everything was different!



Bible story based on Luke 5: 1-11; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19

Alternatives

- Jesus teaches his followers to be honest in their speech and to keep their promises - see Matthew 5:33-37.
- Joseph's brothers lie about his death - see Genesis 37:17-33 (the relevant song about this from the musical could be used to tell this story).
- Jesus warns people that dishonesty will always be found out - see Luke 12: 1-3.

FRIENDSHIP Mark 2: 1-12



READ TOGETHER...

Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely *had* to take their **friend** Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

Wasting no time they carried their **friend** on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their **friend** *must* meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole.

Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12

Alternatives

PERSEVERENCE Luke 18: 1-8



READ TOGETHER...

The Widow Who Never Gave Up

There was once a judge living in a town just like this one, said Jesus to the crowd of people who were listening to him and hanging on his every word.

This judge did not care much about God or justice. The crowd muttered to one another and smiled knowingly, they all knew judges like him! A poor widow, called Sarah, lived in the same town. She was being treated badly by her neighbour who was making her life very difficult indeed.

Sarah went to the judge to ask him to hear her case and give her justice.

At first the judge tried to ignore her. Silly old woman he thought. Why won't she leave me alone. Doesn't she realise that I have more important things to deal with?

But Sarah **persevered**. You are my only hope she told the judge. You must help me. Day after day she went to see him.

In the end, the judge was so exasperated that he thought to himself I will never get a minutes peace unless I help this old woman.

Finally he let her explain to him the problems that she was facing and agreed that Sarah's neighbour was indeed behaving very badly and must be made to stop at once. Sarah's **perseverance** paid off and eventually she got the justice she deserved.

So keep **persevering** and keep praying said Jesus to the crowd.

Bible story based on Luke 18:1-8

