

Flames of Fire - Footsteps to the Feast for St Michael and All Angels'

Footmarks

Spend time with a Bible story by presenting it using 3-dimensional materials. This is a reflective approach to telling the Bible, based on the method known as [Godly Play](#).

Gather the group in a semicircle, using a back row of benches or chairs if necessary so that all the children can see the following presentation of the story clearly.

Tell the story using some carefully chosen items that you draw out of a golden box or from a tray, in the style of [Godly Play](#)..

The following presentation is a 3D reflective version of Psalm 91, in which the psalmist tells us that God's angels are watching over his people to guard them. It also includes a reference to Psalm 34:7.

You will need the following items. Try to find the most beautiful and attractive examples you can for each of these. The items should all be of about the same size.

A gold-coloured box or tray, large enough to contain:

- 6 different coloured felt squares, one for each section of the psalm. The colours should be sand, light blue, light green, grey, black and white
- a piece of rock
- a castle tower (perhaps the rook from a chess set)
- a piece of string loosely tied in a knot
- a small 'danger' traffic sign (red triangle)
- feathers
- a small model shield and sword
- a circle of flames in coloured felts
- a piece of rainbow ribbon
- an angel figure
- some small stones
- a wooden lion and a snake
- some small golden footsteps
- a red heart
- some praying hands (perhaps the famous Dürer picture)
- a cross

Try to learn this presentation by heart and focus on the objects as you place them down

on the felt squares, not on the children. Speak the story slowly and from the heart. At the end of the reflection, leave some space for the children to enjoy what the 3D psalm now looks like. Then you could move into some open-ended questions.

Storyteller

Place down the sand-coloured felt square, unfolding the presentation from your right to your left.

The songs of God's people were written down to help them trust God in good times and bad.

The book of Psalms in the Bible is a collection of these songs, which we still read or sing today.

Some were written by King David himself, who was called 'the sweet psalmist of Israel'. Others were composed by the priests who led the worship in the temple.

This is one of those psalms.

Place down the rock.

Then place your hand over the square to create a shadow.

Finally, place the castle on the square.

Trust in God. He is like the shelter of a great rock in a desert storm.

Trust in God. He is like the cool shade of a protective hand in the desert heat.

Trust in God. He is like the strong tower of a castle where we can be safe.

Place the light blue square to the left of the sand-coloured square.

Put down the loosely knotted rope, which you undo at the end of the second line. Place the danger sign on the felt as you say the last line in this section.

God is always nearby to rescue you.

He will free you from hidden traps.

He will keep you from every kind of danger.

Place the light green felt to the left of the light blue square.

Put down the feathers, then the shield and sword. Finally, put down the thin, fiery circle of felt around the whole of this square.

His angel wings will protect you.

His angel armies will defend you.

His angels will set up a defensive camp around you,

to keep you safe from all the dark forces that threaten your life.

Place the grey square to the left of the light green square.

Place the piece of rainbow ribbon across the square.

Hard things do happen but God will never let you down.

He promises to show you the way through.

If you make God your home, you will never be moved.

Place the black square to the left of the grey square.

Place the angel figure on the right-hand edge of this square.

Put the small stones randomly on to the square, as well as the lion and then the snake.

Slowly add the golden footsteps, twisting their way across the square, avoiding the dangers.

God has appointed his angels to look after you.

They will show you the way to go.

They will show you how to avoid dangers.

They will give you strength to overcome your greatest fears.

Place the final white square to the left of the black one.

Put down a red heart.

Put down the praying hands (model or picture).

Finally, put down the cross.

Stay close to the love of God.

He promises he will hear your prayers.

God will stick by you in times of trouble.

God is always nearby to rescue,

and he will show you the way of escape.

Wondering questions

- I wonder what you like best about this story?
- I wonder what you think is the most important part?

- I wonder which part of this story is about you? Where are you in this story?
- I wonder if there is any part of this story we could leave out and still have all the story we need?

Downloaded from Barnabas in Churches - resourcing work among children and families - www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk

Visit our website for ideas, books and resources, news and information about our work and ministry. All that we do is only made possible through generosity of those who support us. Find out more about supporting us - www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/support-and-donate/

© BRF 2012 | Visit www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/terms/ for copyright.