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# Introduction

In the beginning of class, John created his world. Oh, it didn't turn out looking like the magnificent perfect world that God originally created. But it was John's world just the same, cut from various colours of craft foam and glued together seemingly at random on to a misshapen circle. Five-year-old John was the beaming creator as he ran to show his dad at the end of class. 'Look, Dad, God made the world, and so did I! Will you hang it from my ceiling when we get home?'

Many early learners are just like John—perhaps at first saying, 'I can't do that' and then experiencing the thrill of accomplishment. *The Encyclopedia of Bible Crafts* provides you with 187 proven crafts for key Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation. You'll find age-level icons to help you choose crafts that children will feel successful creating, indexes that help enhance your Bible teaching sessions, step-by-step instructions and a teaching point that will help the child understand the Bible point and make a connection between the Bible and everyday life.

*The Encyclopedia of Bible Crafts* is an essential tool for all children's workers interested in helping children explore and understand the Bible. You can use this book in Sunday school, children's church, midweek group, after-school clubs, or any other place where children are gathered together. So get ready for unique, motivating crafts that will inspire your children to learn about the Bible in no time at all!

# Genesis

Age guide:  
5-7s

## God creates the world

Bible story  
**Genesis 1:14-19**

Bible point  
**God made the sun for us.**

### Activity

#### Sunrise surprise

Make a hanging sunrise to remind us to appreciate the beauty of one of God's creations.

##### ● You will need

4cm polystyrene balls, yellow poster paint, coffee filters, watercolours, small cups of water, orange pipe cleaners, white glue, paintbrushes, scissors, paper towels, 30cm pieces of string

##### ● Preparation

Paint the polystyrene balls yellow at least a day ahead.

##### ● Handy hint

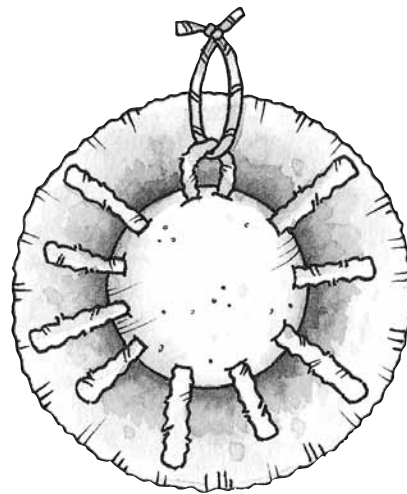
Paint your suns with little mess by pressing a craft stick into each ball to hold it easily. Press the other end of the stick into an upside-down egg carton to dry. Before class, pull out the stick and keep the hole at the back of the sun.

##### ● Step-by-step

1. Lay the coffee filter flat on a paper towel. Starting in the middle and going in circles, paint the filter red, yellow and orange.
2. Paint a thin layer of glue on one side of the filter, then set it aside to dry.
3. Cut four 2.5cm and five 5cm pieces of orange pipe cleaner. Bend one of the longer pieces into a U-shape and stick the two ends into the polystyrene ball to make a loop. Stick the other wires in the ball

to look like sun rays, alternating the long and short pieces.

4. Pour some glue into the centre of the coffee filter and then place the sun on it.
5. Tie a piece of string through the loop to hang your sun.



### Teaching point

When the children have finished, read the story of how God created the sun, moon and stars. Then ask:

- Why did God make the sun for us?
- If we didn't have the sun, what would happen?

Explain that when God created the world, he knew that we would need the sun to live. The sun gives us warmth and light and helps animals, plants and people to grow and be healthy. God made the sun for us because he gives us everything we need to live. Lead the children in a prayer to thank God for providing what we need, especially the sun.

# God creates the world

Age guide:  
7-11s

Bible story  
**Genesis 1:20-31; 2:15**

Bible point  
**God wants us to care for his creations.**

## Activity

Make a bird feeder.

### ● You will need

One-litre fruit juice or milk cartons, white spray paint, stapler, coloured tissue paper, coloured card, glue, paintbrushes, scissors, knitting yarn, sheets of clear sticky-backed plastic, craft sticks, felt-tipped pens, newspapers, aprons

### ● Preparation

Staple the tops of the cartons shut and paint them with white spray paint. When the cartons are dry, cut an arched semicircle on two sides, no lower than 2.5cm from the bottom. Cut one sheet of clear sticky-backed plastic to fit around each carton but do not place on the carton at this stage.

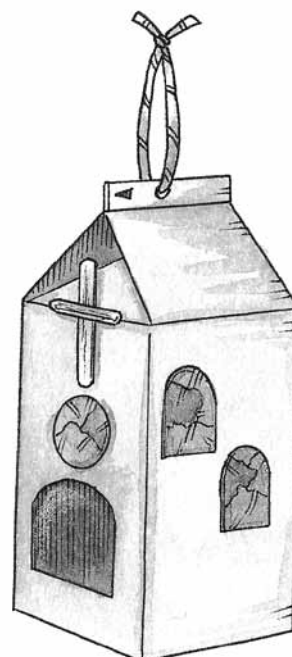
### ● Handy hint

To increase the children's interest in this project, research which birds live in your area. Bring in pictures, if you can, and share some interesting facts. Extend the Bible point further by giving each child some bird food (such as seeds, bread or dry cereal) in a resealable plastic bag to take home with the bird feeder.

### ● Step-by-step

1. Before beginning, give each child an apron to wear. Then colour two craft sticks with felt-tipped pens. Glue one stick to the other to make a cross.
2. Cut two 5cm by 10cm rectangles from coloured card and round off one short side on each to look like church windows. Cut one 5cm circle from the same paper.
3. Spread glue on one of the shapes. While the glue is still wet, cut tiny pieces of the coloured tissue paper and sprinkle over the glue. Repeat with the other two shapes, then trim the tissue paper from the edges.

4. Glue the long windows on the two uncut sides of the carton. Glue the circle above one of the holes on a third side to make the front.
5. Cover the entire bird feeder with clear sticky-backed plastic to waterproof it.
6. Poke holes in the top of the carton. Cut a piece of knitting yarn about the length of your forearm, from your elbow to your fingers, and thread it through the holes to hang. Glue the cross to the front, above the circle 'window', to complete your church bird feeder.



## Teaching point

Read Genesis 1:20-31 and 2:15. Then ask:

- How does a bird feeder help us to care for God's creations?
- Why did God put people in charge of everything living on earth?
- How have we done a good job? How have we done a bad job?
- What can we do to correct our mistakes and take care of all living things, as God wants us to?

Explain that God created so many amazing plants and animals here on earth. Taking care of them was not just Adam and Eve's job; that responsibility has been passed on to us. Every fish, flower and bird is here for a reason. Let's do our best to take care of them. Pray together, thanking God for all these wonderful living things.

# Noah builds the ark

Age guide:  
6-10s

Bible story  
Genesis 6:9-22

Bible point  
God blesses our obedience.

## Activity

Build an ark light-switch plate.

### You will need

Coloured craft foam, pens, scissors, tape, glue, fishing line or clear craft string, felt-tipped pens, glitter pens, double-sided tape or fun tack, and pre-made foam animals

### Preparation

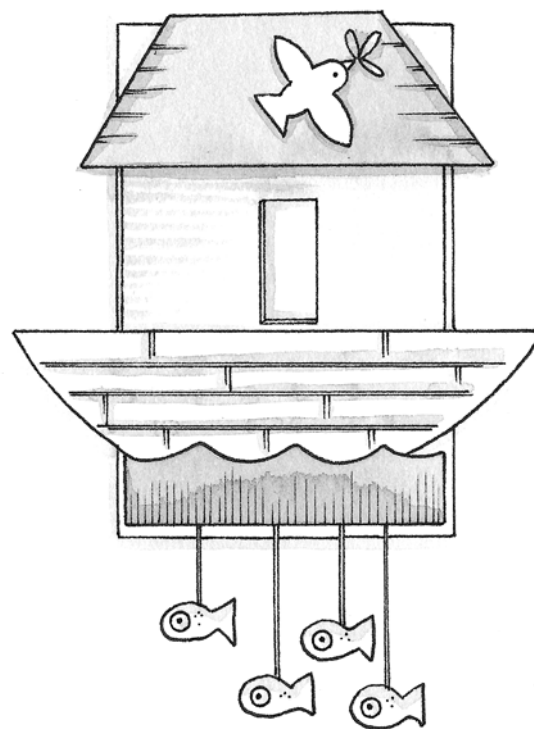
Copy and cut out several sets of the ark shapes found on page 11 for the children to trace.

### Handy hint

Add more dimension to the ark with extra craft items, such as sequins for the fish, sticks for the hull and clear glue for water drops (make sure the ark isn't too heavy to hang!). Create a switch plate cover yourself, and place it on a switch in the classroom to remind children of this lesson throughout the year.

### Step-by-step

1. Trace around the shapes of the roof, cabin, hull, waves, fish, bird and leaf from different-coloured craft foam. Then cut out all of these shapes.
2. Decorate the pieces using the felt-tipped pens and glitter glue pens. Glue the boat pieces together and add the pre-made animals, except the fish, to create an ark.
3. Cut one 9cm and one 10cm piece of fishing line. Tape the end of one piece to the back of one of the fish. Tape the other end to the back of the ark. Repeat with the other fish and line.
4. Stick two strips of double-sided tape to the back of your ark. When you get home, peel off the tape covering and stick your ark on a light-switch plate.



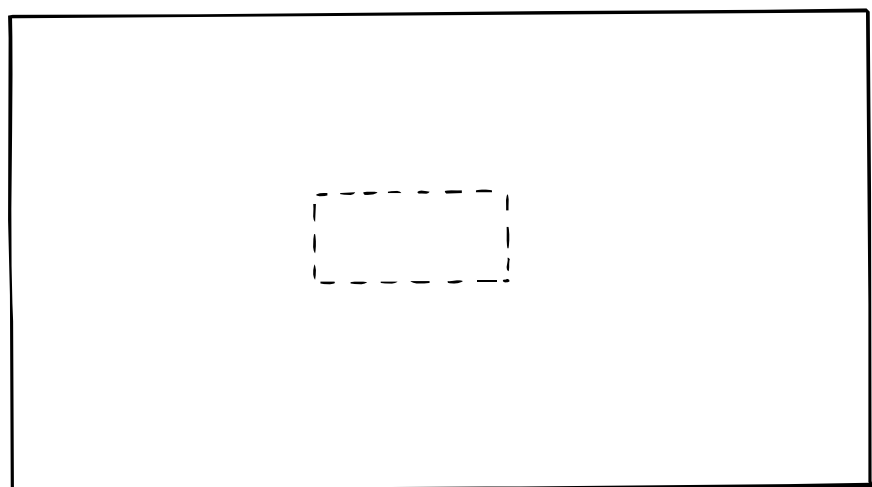
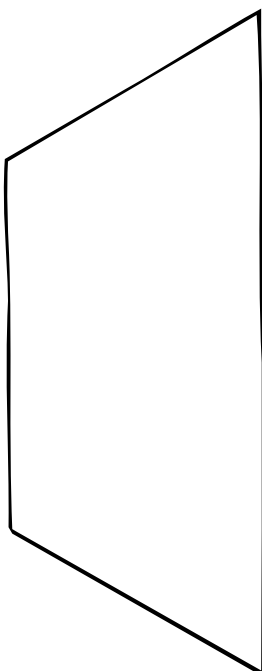
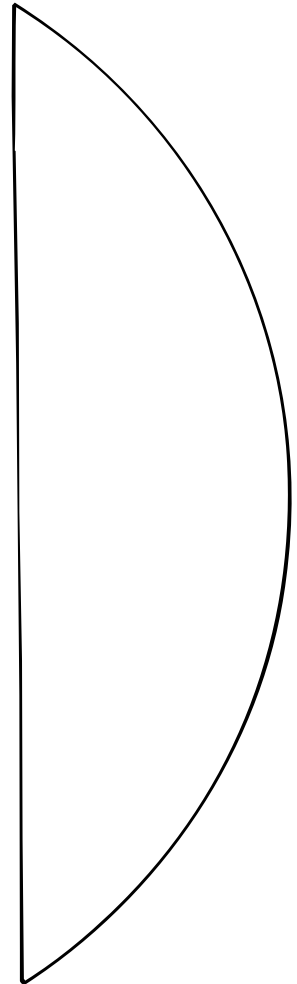
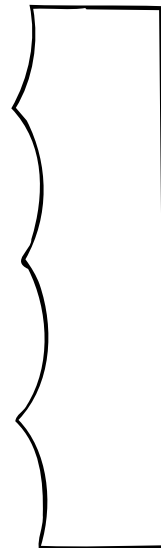
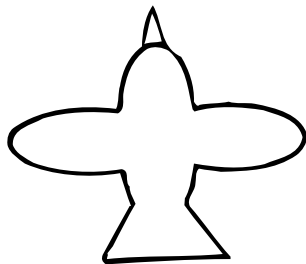
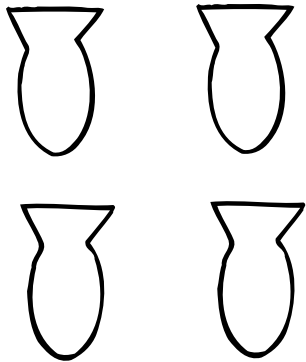
## Teaching point

Bring the children together and review the story of Noah and the ark. Emphasise the obedience of Noah and his family even though they were facing an overwhelming task. Because of their obedience, they were saved. Then ask:

- How might Noah have felt when God told him to build an ark in the middle of the desert?
- Can we think of times when it was difficult to do what we knew was right? What happened?
- What happens when we obey God?
- What will our light-switch plates remind us of each time we use them?

Explain that it's not always easy to do what God wants us to do. We can all imagine how Noah probably felt when he built the ark. Still, Noah obeyed God because he loved the Lord. And because he did, Noah, his family and the animals were saved. When we obey God, he is pleased with us, too!

# Ark template



# People build a tower at Babel

Age guide:  
7–11s

Bible story  
Genesis 11:1–9

Bible point  
We need God on our side.

## Activity

### Wie geht's ('vee gates'): What's up?

Create and play a game to understand the importance of God's support.

#### ● You will need

Cardboard tubes from rolls of wrapping paper or paper towels, medium-weight card, rulers, scissors, felt-tipped pens, copies of the game cards, and an egg timer or stopwatch

#### ● Preparation

Make several copies of the game card sheets (see page 13) and glue them on to medium-weight card. Practise saying the words on the cards so that you can teach the children correctly.

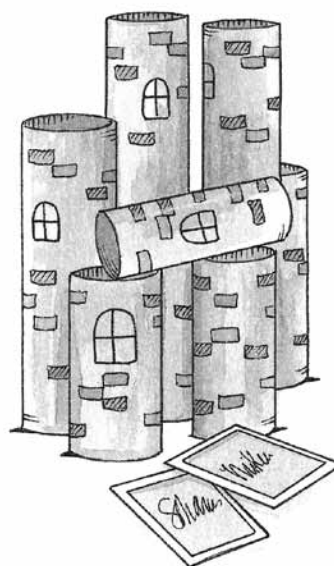
#### ● Handy hint

Let the children practise saying the words in the different languages with the English translations before beginning their game.

#### ● Step-by-step

1. Choose a partner to help you make and play the game. Work together for the first ten minutes to make the game and learn the rules.
2. Have one partner cut the cardboard tubes into different lengths, from 5cm to 10cm. (The more pieces you have, the bigger your tower will be!) Separate the tubes into two piles.
3. The second partner can cut out the game cards and mix them up.
4. Work together and use felt-tipped pens to draw windows and bricks on the tubes. As you work, practise saying the different words in German, Spanish and French.

5. Take turns with your partner being the Reader and the Builder and try to build the highest tower using only the cards for directions.
6. To play the game, the Reader chooses a card from the pack and reads the word to the Builder in a different language (without saying what it means in English). If the Builder guesses the correct move, he or she follows the directions by adding tubes 'up' or deleting tubes 'down' and then continues with another card. If the Builder guesses incorrectly, the Reader becomes the Builder and the game begins again.



## Teaching point

Play the game for as long as you have time. Gather the children together and read the story of the tower of Babel. Point out the vanity—and folly—of the people to think they didn't need God. Then ask:

- Was it easy to take directions from your partners? Why or why not?
- How did it feel when you could understand your partner and build your tower?
- What happened to the people of Babel who decided they didn't need God?
- What happens when God is your partner?

Explain that the people of Babel became proud and sinful. They wanted to build something bigger and better than anything God had made. They thought they didn't need God. God changed all their prideful plans simply by mixing up the languages that they spoke. When God is on our side, we can do anything!



<b>English</b> one up	<b>German</b> eins hoch (eye-ns haw) English: one up	<b>French</b> un en haut (uh on oh) English: one up	<b>Spanish</b> uno arriba (oo-no a-ree-ba) English: one up
<b>English</b> two left	<b>German</b> zwei links (svy links) English: two left	<b>French</b> deux gauche (deh go-sh) English: two left	<b>Spanish</b> dos izquierdo (doe-s iz-scare-do) English: two left
<b>English</b> none down	<b>German</b> keins runter (kye-ns roon-ta) English: none down	<b>French</b> ne pa en bas (neh paw on ba) English: none down	<b>Spanish</b> nada abajo (na-da a-ba-hoe) English: none down
<b>English</b> four up	<b>German</b> vier hoch (fear haw) English: four up	<b>French</b> quatre en haut (cat-ra on oh) English: four up	<b>Spanish</b> cautro arriba (cwa-troe a-ree-ba) English: four up
<b>English</b> three left	<b>German</b> drei links (dry links) English: three left	<b>French</b> troi gauche (twa go-sh) English: three left	<b>Spanish</b> tres izquierdo (trays iz-scare-do) English: three left
<b>English</b> two up	<b>German</b> zwei hoch (svy haw) English: two up	<b>French</b> deux en haut (dehz on oh) English: two up	<b>Spanish</b> dos arriba (doe-s a-ree-ba) English: two up
<b>English</b> three down	<b>German</b> drei runter (dry roon-ta) English: three down	<b>French</b> trois en bas (twa on ba) English: three down	<b>Spanish</b> tres abajo (trays a-ba-hoe) English: three down

# God makes a covenant with Abram

Age guide:  
6–10s

Bible story  
Genesis 15:5–6

Bible point  
We can believe God's promises.

## Activity

### Inheriting a galaxy

Make a jar of stars.

#### ● You will need

Baby food jars with lids, narrow masking tape, aluminium foil, star hole punch, silver glitter, golden syrup, water, blue food colouring, blue foil star stickers, glue, silver ribbon

#### ● Preparation

Have two separate work areas—one for filling the jars and another for decorating the outsides. Have warm soapy water and towels handy to rinse off the golden syrup.

#### ● Handy hint

Give children even more choices for their galaxy with small sequin stars and moons, which you can purchase in large quantities at craft shops. Also, you can use glitter pens to decorate your foil lid.

#### ● Step-by-step

1. Fill a small glass jar a little more than half-full with golden syrup. Add one drop of blue food colouring and water, leaving about 1.5cm of air at the top.
2. Punch 10–15 stars out of the aluminium foil and drop them into the jar. Sprinkle in silver glitter, screw the lid on tightly, and shake to mix well.
3. Seal the lid with masking tape. Cut out an 8cm circle of foil, shape it to cover the lid, trim the edges and glue it on.
4. Place the blue foil stickers on the top of the lid and tie a 40cm piece of silver ribbon into a bow around the neck of the jar, covering any masking tape.
5. Shake to enjoy your family of countless stars.

## Teaching point

When finished, gather the children together and read Genesis 15:5–6. Explain why God made this promise to Abram and how he kept his word. Then ask:

- What promise did God give to Abram?
- What did Abram do to earn such a great blessing from God?
- What promises can you believe God for?
- How will your miniature galaxy remind you to believe God's promises?

Explain that God planned great things for Abram, but Abram needed to obey and trust God. When we believe what God promises us, even though we don't understand, we learn that God always keeps his word. We can't count how many stars are in the sky, but we can always count on God. We can believe God's promises to us.

# Isaac marries Rebekah

Age guide:  
6-10s

Bible story  
**Genesis 24:1-4, 10-27**

Bible point  
**Serve others gladly.**

## Activity

### A well of kindness

Make a well.

#### ● You will need

Empty soup cans, light brown coloured card, clear tape, scissors, pencils, black felt-tipped pens, brown pipe cleaners, unsharpened pencils, egg cartons, hole punch, 30cm pieces of knitting wool

#### ● Preparation

For each child, cut out one cup from an empty egg carton. Cut pieces of light brown card about 20cm by 20cm.

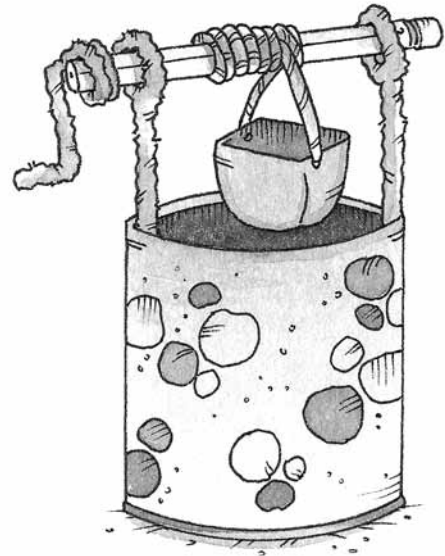
#### ● Handy hint

If you use waterproof glue instead of clear tape, and small plastic cups instead of the egg carton cups, children can really draw water from their wells!

#### ● Step-by-step

1. Measure and cut the card to cover your soup can, leaving a little extra card at the top. Use a black felt-tipped pen to draw stones on one side and then tape the paper to the can. Carefully tuck the extra card inside the can to cover any sharp edges and tape it down.
2. Twist two pipe cleaners together, leaving the ends sticking out to form a Y shape. Repeat with two more pipe cleaners. Tape them opposite each other inside the can.
3. Place the unsharpened pencil in the groove of the Ys and twist the ends together to close in the pencil. Bend a third pipe cleaner on one end of the pencil to make a handle.

4. Punch two holes opposite each other in the egg carton cup. Thread one end of the wool through both holes and tie it to itself 5cm above the cup.
5. Tie the other end of the wool to the middle of the pencil and wind up.



## Teaching point

Ask the children to bring their completed wells with them and pretend to draw water as you tell the story of how Rebekah willingly served Abraham's servant. Then ask:

- Why did Rebekah give water to the servant and his camels?
- What happened when Rebekah showed kindness?
- How do you feel when you are kind to a person or animal?

Explain that it's not always easy to do something nice for someone. Sometimes, we're tired after a long day or we might be busy. Still, Rebekah drew water from the well for Abraham's servant and all his camels, and she was asked to become Isaac's wife. Even if we don't hear a 'thank you', God sees what we do. When we are kind to others, it makes three people glad: the person we helped, ourselves and God! Let's remember to serve others gladly.

# Jacob's dream at Bethel

Age guide:  
6-10s

Bible story  
Genesis 28:10-22

Bible point  
God is always with us.

## Activity

### A stone pillar

Make a memorial stone paperweight.

#### ● You will need

Clean flat stones found outside, pieces of coloured felt, wood glue, scissors, pens, thin felt-tipped pens, scrap paper

#### ● Preparation

Collect four or five small flat stones per child, or ask the children to bring in their own.

#### ● Handy hint

Glues work differently depending on many factors, including the temperature in your room and the porosity of the stones. Experiment to find what works best for you, and remember that all glues must be allowed to set before there is a permanent bond.

#### ● Step-by-step

1. Invite the children to spend a few minutes thinking of a time when they knew that God was with them. Ask them to remember this as they make their pillar of stones.
2. Trace around the bottom stone on a piece of felt. Cut out the felt shape and glue it to the bottom of the stone.
3. Begin the pillar by gluing two flat stones together. Wait a minute for the glue to set and then repeat to add two more stones.
4. Using the thin felt-tipped pens, write 'I am with you', one word on each stone.

## Teaching point

While the glue dries on the pillars, gather the children together and read Genesis 28:10-22. Explain that the stones are not something to be worshipped, but are to be used as reminders of God's presence in our lives. Then ask:

- What does your stone pillar mean to you?
- Why was the stone in the story special?
- How is your stone pillar like Jacob's?

Explain that many people in the Bible marked a special place with a pillar of stones: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Joshua are just a few. These pillars reminded people that God was always there to help and protect them. The stone pillar paperweights we made today can remind us of the same thing: God is always with us, watching over us and guiding us to make the right choices. Isn't it great to know that he's there?

# Joseph has disturbing dreams

Age guide:  
5-7s

Bible story  
Genesis 37:3-4

Bible point  
God wants us to forgive others and  
be free.

## Teaching point

Gather the children together and let them show each other their magnets. Briefly tell about the coat that led Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery, how Joseph prospered in Egypt and how, ironically, he saved them years later. Then ask:

- Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?
- How did they treat him?
- How did Joseph pay them back?
- Why does God want us to forgive each other?

## Activity

### Joseph's troublesome coat

Make magnets of Joseph and his colourful coat.

#### ● You will need

People-shaped biscuit cutter, craft foam, narrow coloured fabric ribbon in different colours, black wool, wiggly eyes, white glue, thin black felt-tipped pens, sticky-backed magnets, scissors

#### ● Preparation

Use the cutter to trace and cut out one person from craft foam for each child in your class.

#### ● Step-by-step

1. Choose a foam person to be Joseph. Cut strips of coloured ribbon to design Joseph's coat. Put glue on to Joseph's body and place the ribbons down on to the glue.
2. Cut and glue short pieces of black wool on Joseph's head and use the marker to make his face.
3. Place a sticky-backed magnet on the back of Joseph's coat. Write the child's name on the back and set the magnet aside to dry.

Ask the children how it might have felt to have been Joseph's brothers. They were so angry when their father gave Joseph the beautiful coat that they sold him into slavery, but Joseph forgave them and saved his family from starving many years later. Even though Joseph was a slave, he was free in his heart from bad feelings like hatred and anger. That's because he forgave his brothers. God will always turn that into something good! God wants us to forgive others and be free.