

## **Be Thankful** (used in a Primary assembly)

**Equipment needed:** An unusual present

### Story

Ask the children about the best present they have ever received. Then show your unusual present – I showed a pair of “How clean is your house” rubber gloves. After a bit of laughter, say that you must have been very good to receive such an exciting present.

Ask the children how many different ways they say thank you for things. Encourage them to come up with “verbally say thank you”, text messages, emails, letters etc. Say that it is important for us to be thankful for all that we have. Jesus tells us this in a story He told.

Ask the children if they have heard of leprosy and what they know about it. Explain about in Bible times there was no cure, being an outcast, lack of feeling to fingers & toes so got hurt without realising it.

Tell story in Luke 17 v 11 - 19

Jesus tells us about 10 men who had leprosy. Their friends didn't talk to them, their family didn't talk to them – how do the children think they would be feeling? When Jesus came along, they called out to him. Jesus did something amazing – he healed the men - they no longer had leprosy – it was a miracle!

Jesus told them to go to the Priests, as they would declare them healed of leprosy, they must have been jumping all over the place – so excited and happy.

One of the men came back to Jesus and said “thank you Jesus”. Jesus looked at him and asked the man if he was the only one healed. The man said they had all been healed but he was the only one who had come back to say thank you.

Jesus was delighted with the man for coming back to say thank you. We should be thankful for all that we have too. How many different things are we glad that we have? Encourage the children to think about their food, family, friends, clothes, homes, doctors, teachers etc. We take these things for granted but we should be thankful for them all.

We should try and remember to say thank you to anyone who give us anything or to anyone who does anything for us. Don't leave it to someone else to say thank you, just like the men in the story. We must also remember to say “thank you” to God for all that we have.

### **Free as a Bird** (used as a Children's address)

Sometimes in Inverness there is a van that pulls up into the shopping area. The driver and his assistant take out big bird cages and special perches for their wild owls, eagles and buzzards to stand on.

They are huge magnificent birds, but amazingly light when you get the chance to hold one of them in your hand. The man in charge will also tell you all about the birds of prey that he rescues and protects.

We are very lucky to have such amazing wildlife around us, mountains, rivers, lochs and the wild vast ocean's and seas all made by God.

I saw all these birds lined up standing on the branch that they had set up in Inverness, and decided to take the chance to see them flying and living in the wild. So I went to a place where you can see Falcons and Kestrels that used to be trained to catch rabbits (in the olden days) but now are kept safe and are released into the wild when they can hunt.

There was a show of Falcons flying super high in the sky and diving down to catch a piece of meat when the trainer would throw it into the sky, he also had a long length of thin rope and attached some meat to it and swung the rope around his head in a huge circle and the Falcon flew down and snatched the meat of the rope in mid flight.

The Falcon had amazing speed, could dive straight down like a stone and stop to catch or grab the meat in mid air. Everybody in the crowd gasped and applauded in amazement. We also got the chance to hold the Falcon.

Again, we saw big cages, and there magnificent hunting birds all standing on a branch, but we looked closer, these fantastic birds, big and power full were all chained to the branch and we felt a little sad, then we saw the Falcons were chained and also had a kind of mask tied round their faces they were blinded by the mask, these amazing birds chained and blinded.

I asked one of the men why the chains and masks on the Falcon. He said they have to blind the Falcon because if it sees the bright blue sky it has to fly up high into it, its instincts urge it to soar away freely into the sunny sky.

I thought that in a way that can teach us a lesson, we are chained and blinded by sin and the devil. Sometimes we can sense the bright endless freedom, happiness and love that Jesus has for us and our heart and instincts are to soar and be with God enjoying having faith in Him.

Believe in God, pray that he would cut the chains and take of the blinding mask of sin so that you can be free and live with him.

## **Wise & Foolish Builders** (Used in a Children's address)

I love cooking and I have taken in something I have made for my Sunday dinner – it's a trifle. In fact, I thought I would make 2 trifles!

Here is my first one. Lovely jelly! What's your favourite jelly? This jelly worked out very well because I read the instructions and did what they said. Well to make a trifle, I need to add some custard to this. Then cream, then 100's and 1000's (add all these on to make a good trifle). Lovely trifle!

Here is my 2<sup>nd</sup> one. As you can see, I have not followed the instructions and the jelly is a bit of a disaster. It said that I could make a pint of jelly and I wanted to make a pint and a half of jelly so I added more water. What has happened? The jelly has not set properly.

Oh well! We need to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> trifle so here we go. Add custard, then cream then 100's and 1000's. What have we got here – a big mess!

I was wise in following the instructions for the 1<sup>st</sup> trifle but foolish when making the 2<sup>nd</sup> trifle.

Jesus told a story about a wise man and a foolish man. They were not making trifle but building houses. (Show good trifle), the wise man built his house on solid rock so when the storms, big winds and rain came along, his house stayed standing, just like this trifle.

(Show 2<sup>nd</sup> trifle). The foolish man built his house on the sand and when the storms and the big winds and rain came along; his house collapsed and fell flat, just like this trifle.

**The reason Jesus told this story is because He is saying that to be wise, we need to do 2 things.**

1. Jesus is to be the foundation of our lives. When we love and trust Jesus, we have a friend who will never let us down when we go through the storms of life
2. We have not only to read and know the words and stories in the Bible; we have to do what they say.

Who thinks they are wise? Let's all be wise, love and trust Jesus and live the way He tells us to, in the Bible.

## A Christmas Assembly or talk

**Equipment needed:** A Christmas cracker

**Story:** Ask the children what things make them think of Christmas. A Christmas cracker can tell us a lot about the very 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas.

- **Surprise!** = We don't know what is inside this cracker until we open it. What surprises are you hoping to get this Christmas? Mary and Joseph got a big surprise, because God chose them for a very special job. An angel (Gabriel) came to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby and not just any baby! She had been chosen to carry God's own Son, Jesus. That was a big surprise for them!

Ask 2 people to come up and pull the cracker.

- **Loud noise** = Loud noises can give us a fright. What things scare us? The shepherds in the fields were frightened – why were they frightened? They saw angels and they were terrified, but the angels told them not to be afraid because they had good news to tell. What was the good news? Jesus had been born.

- **Joke / riddle** = There is usually a joke or a riddle inside the cracker. Let's see what this one says? Read the joke. The prophets in the Old Testament said what would happen about the time that Jesus was going to come. They told where He would be born and lots of things about His life. Not everyone understood this and not everyone could see that Jesus was the answer to all these things that had been written. But when we look at all that the prophets said 100's of years before Jesus was born, we can see clearly that all these things came true in Jesus. He was like the answer to a riddle.

- **Hat** = Let's find the hat inside this cracker. Put the hat on your head. Comment on colour, style etc. What is the hat supposed to be – a crown. Ask who wears a crown – a king or queen. It says in the Bible that Jesus is the King of Kings which means that He is the King of everyone, the King of the universe.

- **Gift** = There is something else in the cracker and we can't wait to see what it is. What is it? The gift. See what the gift is inside the cracker. The wise men brought gifts to Jesus, do you know what they were – gold, frankincense and myrrh. We love to get gifts at Christmas time and without Jesus, there wouldn't be a Christmas at all! We can't forget about Jesus at this time of year because Christmas is there to remind us about the greatest gift of all. And Christmas is the time that we remember that this gift, Jesus, came to earth for each one of us.

Well, there is more to a Christmas cracker than we thought. I hope when you pull your Christmas crackers this year that you think about the very 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas.