

**Martin's
Scripture
Course**

MINIATURE HEROES

Little People

Big Faith
Even Bigger God

CLCGB NI

Martins Scripture Course

Miniature Heroes

Notes for the Leaders

- # This material can be used as a Scripture Course for which certificates can then be ordered from Jennifer Lockhart on jd-wright@sky.com
- # The Martins Scripture course is not examined with a written exam as the other sections are, each Martin who completes 4 or more weeks of the course and can say the memory verse corporately with the rest of the group is eligible to receive their Scripture Certificate.
- # While there is no specific badge for the Scripture Course some leaders may wish to award the “Me and God” badge those children who take part in 4 or more weeks of the course.
- # The Martins and Y Team courses follow the same topics to assist those who lead both sections or who run both at the same time.
- # Two songs and a memory verse are recommended at the start of this course which you may wish to teach the children and revisit at various stages throughout the 6 sessions. One of these songs, “Jesus You’re My Super-Hero” is also used in the Y Team Scripture Course for those groups who are teaching both age groups together.
- # We recognize that with an age range of 3-7 years there is a big difference between the understanding and development of the youngest Martins and the oldest. To help you to pitch this course at the appropriate level for your group we have included simpler “Mini Martins” and more advanced “Mega Martins” options in each session. Please choose the option which is best suited to your group. For those groups with an even mix of Martins throughout the age group we recommend using the Mini-Martins options for a few weeks and the Mega-Martins options for the remaining weeks.
- # A page entitled “Leaders’ Preparation Page” has been included at the beginning of each session to aid you in your planning, this page includes a check list of materials that you will need to collect in advance and any bible passages which we recommend that you read in preparation. These readings do not need to be read out to your members.
- # We recommend running this course over 6-12 weeks with one topic per week or spread over 2 weeks, however, this does not need to be 6 consecutive weeks.
- # We recommend that the “Bringing it to Life” section takes no more than 5-10 minutes.
- # Feel free to add your own style and to omit/add your own ideas, this material is just meant to be a help and guidance for you.
- # The memory pen supplied with this resource includes handouts, songs and useful links to aid you in leading this Scripture Course.

The Big Idea

During the “Miniature Heroes” Scripture Course the Martins will learn about five children/young people in the bible who, even though they were young, had big faith and were used by God. We hope that as the Martins learn about these bible heroes they will be encouraged and inspired to live their lives for God and to make a difference in their world for Him. We cannot be heroes for God in our own strength but only with His help and so the first session of this Scripture Course focuses on Jesus, the one who can help us to become “Miniature Heroes”.

Topics

1. Every Miniature Hero's Super-Hero - Jesus
2. Miniature Hero 2 - David
3. Miniature Hero 3 - Miriam
4. Miniature Hero 4 - Samuel
5. Miniature Heroes 5 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
6. Miniature Hero 6 - The boy who helped Jesus feed 5000!

Music

You might wish to teach the Martins “Jesus You're My Super Hero” and/or “Never be shaken” as the theme song for the “Miniature Heroes” Scripture Course. Both songs can be found in the Martins Folder of your memory pen.

“Jesus You're My Super Hero” is also used as part of the Y Team Scripture Course for those who may find this overlap useful.

Memory Verse

The recommended memory verse for the “Miniature Heroes” Martins Scripture Course is;

“I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

You might choose to teach the memory verse using the following ideas;

Use the “Martins Disappearing Memory Verse” on the memory pen. Have the children say the verse really loudly, really quietly, really quickly etc. If you feel they have followed the instructions well then you can move on to the next slide on which some of the words are erased. Continue with this until you have no words left. Alternatively, you might have the children “Super-hero Punch” the words off the screen while you discreetly click the slides forward.

Give each child a copy of the “Martin's Memory Verse Colouring Sheet” from your memory pen to color in and read the verse together.



As a group make up your own actions for the memory verse and practice them together as you say it.

“I” – *point at yourself*








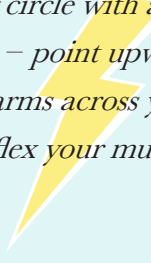
“Can do” – *thumbs up*

“All things” – *big circle with arms*

“Through Christ” – *point upwards*

“Who gives” – *fold arms across yourself*

“Me strength” – *flex your muscles*



Every Miniature Hero's Super Hero Jesus

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

In this Scripture Course we will be learning about lots of Miniature Heroes in the bible but for our first session we will be getting to know every little hero's ultimate hero, Jesus. We hope that the Martins will come away from this session in awe of what a powerful and loving hero we have in Jesus, who paid the ultimate sacrifice by dying in our place and whose resurrection was the greatest miracle the world has ever seen! By the end of this session it is our aim that the Martins will also realise that they cannot be heroes for God on their own but only through a relationship with Jesus and with his help. It is his "superpowers" working through us that can make us strong, brave and kind, like the heroes we will be learning about over the course.

Foundations

In preparation for this session please read the following verses.

"For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised up on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve, then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, the majority of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as it were to one born at the wrong time, he appeared also to me." **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering acute pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed - and He healed them." **Matthew 4:23-23**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" **Philippians 4:13**

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." **Philippians 2:13**

Leader's Checklist

You will need to collect toilet paper tubes for the Mini-Martins super hero cuffs craft.

Every Miniature Hero's Super Hero Jesus

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Have the children sit in a circle and allow each child to name their favorite superhero. Ask the Martins what makes these characters superheroes. Remind them that superheroes save people. Tell them that we have our very own super hero, his name is Jesus and he died to save us from the mistakes we have made. He is very powerful, he can walk on water, heal sick people, bring dead people back to life but the most amazing thing is that he wants to be our friend and be our very own super hero.

Tell the Martins that with Jesus help we can be his little heroes and over the next few weeks we will be learning about some other boys and girls in the bible who have been heroes for Jesus!

Mega-Martins

Your Martins will most likely be very familiar with and eager to talk about popular superheroes from film and television. Start this session by having a chat about their favorite superheroes and the powers that they have. Print out a copy of the "Superheros" powerpoint from your memory pen or show it on a screen. See if the Martins can recognize the characters and can tell you their powers. (They are named in the notes at the bottom. There are quite a few so use as many or as few as you like.)

Ask the Martins what all of these super heroes have in common. Hopefully they will answer something along the lines of "they help/save people". Tell the Martins that we have a super hero who didn't just save a few people, he has saved the whole world. His name is Jesus and he died so that we could be forgiven for the mistakes that we have made and so that we can go to heaven when our lives here are over. He also has the best super power of any super hero, he came back to life after he had died! He is our very own superhero and he wants to make us his little heroes. With his help and his superpowers working through us we can be brave and kind and we can do amazing things for him! Over the next few weeks we will be learning about lots of young boys and girls who God made into miniature heroes for him.

The Fun Part

Choose whichever combination of crafts, games and music that suits the time and resources you have available.

Craft

Mini-Martins Super Hero Masks

- # Ready to use masks are available in some pound shops and online for reasonable prices. You can choose between buying these or printing and cutting out the “Super Hero Masks” template on your memory pen.
- # You will also need elastic string to tie to both sides of the mask.
- # The Martins can colour in their masks and add stickers.



Mega-Martins Superhero Cuffs

- # Provide each child with two toilet paper rolls, cut as shown.
- # We recommend sticking some shiny wrapping paper around them and allowing the children to add stickers. However, the Martins can also decorate these with their own superhero symbols using felt tips and stickers or paint.
- # You might also want to print super hero symbols or provide stickers which they can add to their cuffs.
- # Buttons can be added as a “Rocket launchers” or “Speed Boosters”.



Games

Mini-Martins Super Hero Obstacle course

Set up a obstacle course for your little superheroes to try out their skills. Some ideas could be;

- # Running fast like the Flash
- # Lifting something heavy like the Hulk
- # Saving a doll from a “tree” like Superman
- # Jumping a big distance like Cat Woman
- # Aiming your weapons (throwing beanbags into a hoop) like Iron Man
- # Balancing on a balance beam like Spiderman

For those groups who do box work this could be a good opportunity to introduce your Martins to some simple jumps and rolls.

Mega-Martins Super Hero Training Workout

Give your little superheroes a workout at your own Superhero Training Academy. Use the “Super Hero Workout” worksheet from your memory pen for instructions on exercises. When they have completed the workout the Martins become fully trained super heroes!

Wrapping it Up

Before the following prayer teach the Martins to do a “Superhero Amen”. For a “Super Hero Amen” you crouch down low and then jump up, punching one arm in the air like superman and shouting “Amen” in your deepest voice.

Dear Jesus

Thank you that when we believe in you, you become our very own super hero.

Thank you that you are the greatest super hero of all because you died to save the whole world. Thank you that you died for me so that I can be forgiven for the times I do the wrong thing.

Please help me to be a miniature hero for you and use me to help others.

Amen.

Miniature Hero 2

David

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

Even though David was much smaller and younger than the giant Goliath and had no battle training he knew that God was with him and would help him. David trusted in God's strength rather than his own and through him, God did the impossible! The shepherd boy killed the giant and won the battle for his people! We hope that through this session the Martins will learn that God is always with them, so they do not have to be frightened of things which might seem big and scary. This could be bigger boys and girls in the playground, big monsters in their imagination or big schools which they are moving up into. No matter how big or scary a problem might seem and no matter how small they might feel, they have a big God who is always with them.

Foundations

In preparation for this session please read the following passage (do not read this to your group);

1 Samuel 17

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The first-born was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

Now Jesse said to his son David, “Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.” Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.” “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

Miniature Hero 2 David

Bringing it to Life

Please choose the teaching option most appropriate for your groups level:

Mini-Martins

Print off a copy of the “David and Goliath Poster” on your memory pen. Stick it on the wall or have one of the Martins hold it up, telling them that this is a picture of today’s story. Read them the following story and ask them to do the sound effects, listening for the following words:

- # **Israelites** – Cover faces and knock knees together
- # **Philistines** – “Booo!!” – pretend to jump out and scare each other
- # **Goliath** – “Roarrrr” – flex muscles
- # **David** – “God is with me” – point to sky

Do a few practices and then read the story:

“There were two great armies, God’s people, the **Israelites** and their enemies, the **Philistines**. The two armies met in a valley and got ready to fight each other. The **Philistines** had a secret weapon, a giant warrior called **Goliath**! **Goliath** was huge! **Goliath** was scary!! No one had ever beaten him! Every day **Goliath** would come out and dare one of the Israelites to fight him but no one was brave enough. **Goliath** would laugh at them and tease them! He said that if anyone could beat him then they would have won the whole war. One day a young boy called **David** came to visit his big brothers in the Israelite army and bring them some food. When he heard **Goliath** teasing the **Israelites** he decided that he would fight him. He knew that even though he was young and wasn’t a soldier, God was with him and would protect him. He went to the **Israelite** King and told him he wanted to fight **Goliath**. At first the King said, “**David** don’t be silly, you’re only a boy!” But soon he realized that God was with **David** and so he let him fight **Goliath**. The King gave **David** his armour and his sword to help him but it was far too big, he was only small. He told the King he didn’t need it. Instead he took his sling shot and chose 5 smooth pebbles from the stream to put into his pouch bag. When he slung a stone at **Goliath**, it hit him right in the middle of his head and he fell down dead with a mighty crash! The **Israelites** had beaten the **Philistines**! Even though **David** was only small, he had a big God and his God had protected! Even though we are young and sometimes things can seem really big and scary we don’t need to be afraid because God is with us too, we are never on our own.”

Mega-Martins

Tell the boys and girls that God’s army, in the bible, were called the Israelites and they found themselves fighting against an army called the Philistines. The Philistines had a secret weapon, a warrior who had never been beaten, his name was Goliath. If you have a tape measure, have the children help you to

measure out Goliath's height – he was six cubits and a span which is nine feet and six inches or 2.9 meters. Every day Goliath would come and dare one of the Israelites to fight him, saying that if they could kill in they would win the whole war, but they were all too scared. When they heard him shout their knees would knock together. Ask the Martins if they can pretend to be so scared that their knees knock together? One day a young boy called David came to bring some food to his brothers who were fighting in the army. When he heard Goliath daring the Israelites to fight him he said that he would do it, he knew that God was with him and would help him. At first no one took him seriously but soon he convinced them that he could stand up to Goliath with God's help. The King gave him his armour but it was far too big.

Bring with you the largest boots, hat and coat you can find and ask the smallest of your Martins to come up and try them on. Ask them to pretend to fight in it. If you have protective gear like a cycling helmet or ski wear this will be even better as you can tie this in with the armour being to protect David. Ask the Martins if they think their friend would be able to fight in these clothes? The armour was too big for David so he decided not to use it. All he had was a little sling and 5 smooth stones. Ask the Martins to count to 5 with you. When he flung a stone at Goliath it hit him on the head and he fell down dead. Little David had beaten the big giant!

Ask the Martins about the things that seem big and scary in their world? Be ready to prompt them with ideas. Remind them that even though they may be young, they have a big God who is looking after them and who they can ask for help. When something seems really big and scary they can remember they aren't on their own, God is with them.

The Fun Part

Choose whichever combination of crafts, games and music that suits the time and resources you have available.

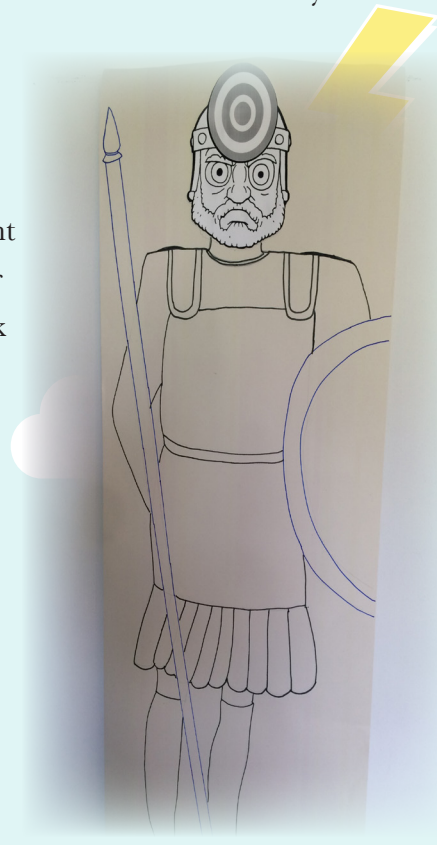
Games

Mini-Martins Target Practice

Take a roll of paper (wrapping paper or wall paper) and draw a giant Goliath onto it. Use the "Goliath Target head" document from your memory pen as the head of Goliath with a ready drawn target. Stick Goliath to the wall and give the Martins turns at throwing a ball/bean bag at him, trying to hit the target.
(See crafts for craft linked to this game)

Mini-Martins Pin the Stone on Goliath

A variation on "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Draw a picture of Goliath and stick it onto the wall. Use the "Goliath Target head" document from your memory pen as the head of Goliath with a ready drawn target. Give each child a go at being blindfolded and trying to stick a paper stone (with a glue dot/bluetac on the back) onto Goliath's head.



Mini-Martins Goliath, Goliath, David.

A simple variation on Duck, Duck Goose changing the words to Goliath, Goliath, David.

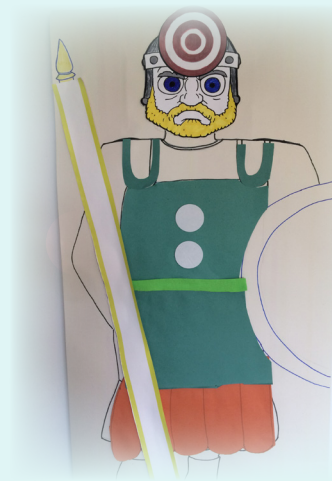
Mega-Martins Bowling for Goliath

Take two drinks bottles or Pringles cans and write Goliath on them. You can decorate them to look like a giant if you have time. Get the children into two teams and give each team 5 “stones” (balls or bean bags). Each child in the team will have 5 stones to defeat Goliath. Keep them at an equal distance back from their bottle/can. If they knock it down before they have thrown all 5 then they run to the back of their team and the next member goes. Have a leader ready to collect the stones for each child in between goes. The first team whose members have all knocked down Goliath/had their 5 attempts is the winner.

Craft

Mini-Martins - Colour in the Giant

To tie in with the Target Practice game, after you have drawn Goliath onto your roll of paper allow the children to decorate him together before using him for the game. You might also wish to cut out pieces of card and material to make his clothes as shown in the picture.



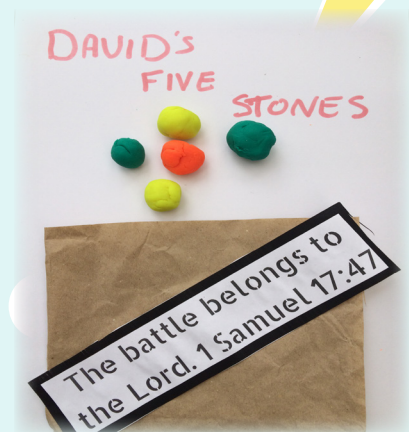
Mini-Martins “David and Goliath Colouring Sheet”

You can find this in the Martins Folder on your memory pen taken from Freecolouringpages.com

Mini-Martins David's Five Stones

Instructions

1. Let the Martins make some stones out of playdough or clay. If you're brave you could paint these next week once they have dried!
2. Give them a paper bag to take them home in.
3. Print out the David and Goliath memory verse from the Martins folder of your memory pen and cut one out for each of the Martins
4. Let the Martins stick a memory verse onto their paper bag.



Mega-Martins Stone Pouches

You will need:

- # Card board
- # Pens
- # Stapler

- # Blue tack
- # Felt Material
- # Scissors

Instructions:

1. Before the session cut some card or thick paper into strips, long enough to go around a child's waist. If your card isn't long enough staple 2 strips together.
2. Cut pieces of felt into rectangles.
3. Staple one side of the felt to the cardboard
4. Staple the edges of the other side to the cardboard, making a pouch but leaving a gap as the entrance of the pouch.
5. Cut circles out of card or paper
6. Give the Martins a pouch belt to decorate with stickers and pens
7. Allow them to choose 5 card circles (stones) and decorate them before storing them in their pouch.
8. The belt can then be secured around each child's waist using blue tac to hold the two ends together or a fold back paper clip for a more secure option.

(Alternative – you might use air drying clay or play dough instead of paper stones – these could then be used for throwing in some of the games)



Wrapping it Up

Tell the Martins that they are going to help you to say a prayer. When you clap your hands they will also clap theirs and shout:

“You are with me”

Say the following prayer:

Thank you God that when I feel scared,

You are with me.

When I feel alone,

You are with me.

When other people hurt my feelings,

You are with me.

When I feel really small,

You are with me.

Thank you God,

That you are with me.

Amen

Miniature Hero 3 Miriam

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

Miriam lived in difficult times, her people were slaves and Pharaoh had ordered for all of the baby boys to be killed. This included her little brother, Moses. However, because Miriam was brave and trusted in God she was able to be a part of God's big plan for her people. Through her actions Moses who would lead her people out of slavery was saved and found himself with a place in Pharaoh's house. We hope that through this session the Martins will learn that God can help them to be brave and can use them to be a part of his plans for good, even when things are difficult.

Foundations

In preparation for this session please read the following passage:

Exodus 1:22-2:14

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Miniature Hero 3 Miriam

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Gather the Martins around a basin of water. Have a selection of objects and ask them to guess whether it will float or sink before putting it in the water. Tell them that our story today was about a baby called Moses, who was put in the water in the River Nile. Do they think the baby would float? No, on his own he wouldn't but he was put in a basket. It seems strange to put a baby in a basket, doesn't it? His mummy had no choice, the bad King didn't like God's people and so he said all of the baby boys should be killed. His mummy tried to hide him but it was very tricky. Ask the Martins for some reasons why it would be hard to hide a baby. His mummy and sister put him in the river and his sister Miriam followed him to see where he would end up. Moses was found by the King's daughter who loved him straight away and decided to keep him. Miriam was very brave, she went to the King's daughter and said she knew someone who could look after him until he was older. The King's daughter agreed and Miriam was able to bring Moses home to her mum until he was old enough to go back to the palace. God had a good plan for Moses and because Miriam was brave he was able to use her to be part of it. God can help us to be brave too.

Mega-Martins

Tell the Martins that they will be helping you to tell today's story by doing some sound effects and faces.

Today's story starts with a nasty King (*show me your nasty faces*) who had made the Israelite people his slaves. He gave an order that all the baby boys were to be killed (*show me with your faces how the mummies would have felt about that*). There was one mummy who had a daughter called Miriam and a baby son called Moses and they decided to hide Moses from the soldiers. That was very tricky though because babies can be noisy (*can you show me the noise that babies make*). After a while they couldn't hide him anymore so they put him in a basket and set it in the River. (*Show me with your faces how Miriam would have felt as she followed the basket down the river.*) But guess what happened, the King's daughter found the baby and decided she would look after him! God helped Miriam to be brave and so she went to the Princess and said she knew someone who could look after Moses until he was older, her mother! The Princess agreed and Miriam got to take Moses back to his mummy until he was old enough to go to the palace! (*Show me with your faces how his mummy would have felt to have him home safe*)

God had a good plan for Moses and because Miriam was brave he was able to use her to be part of it. God can help us to be brave too. Ask the Martins if they can think of any times they might need to be brave and encourage them that God will help them and be with them.

The Fun Part

Choose whichever combination of crafts, games and music that suits the time and resources you have available.

Games

Mini-Martins Can't Cross the River Nile

This is a twist on the old game, "Can't cross the red sea." Children stand on one side of the hall and the leader stands in the middle, calling out instructions such as;

"You can't cross the River Nile unless you're wearing green"

Only those wearing green can cross to the other side of the hall safely. The rest must then try to cross the hall without being caught by the leader.

Mini-Martins Hide and Seek

As we think about how Miriam had to help hide her baby brother and keep him quiet you might wish to play hide and seek to think about what it would have been like to have to hide and not be heard.

Mega-Martins Don't Wake Moses

Have a leader lie down sleeping in the middle of the circle. They are "Sleeping baby Moses". Place a set of keys beside them. The Martins sit around in a circle and another leader chooses a child to creep forward and steal the keys. If Moses hears them he pretends to wake up slowly and cry, giving the child a chance to get back to their place and hide the keys behind them. Moses then tried to guess which child stole the keys. The leader remains as Moses but different children get a chance to steal the keys.

Mega- Martins Sleeping Babies

In the story of Moses, the soldiers would have been patrolling, listening out for any sounds of babies crying. Have the children lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. They are the babies. Have a few leaders walk around and listen for any sounds, if a child makes a sound they are out. The winning child is the last one left without making a sound. You might need to have a few leaders or boys and girls moving around trying to make the children laugh or jump.

Craft

Mini-Martins Moses in the Basket Picture

- # Print one copy of the “Moses River Craft” for each child from your memory pen. Print some copies of “Sleeping Moses” and cut out one baby for each child.
- # Give each child a bun case and let them stick baby Moses into it.
- # Stick the bun case on the river.
- # Colour in the picture.



But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.
Exodus 2:3

Mega-Martins Moses in the Basket Buns

- # Melt some chocolate.
- # Ask a few volunteers to crush some shredded wheat in a bowl.
- # Add the chocolate to the shredded wheat and allow a few of the Martins to stir it together.
- # Give each child a bun case and let them fill it with a spoonful of bun mixture. Make a small dent in the middle of the bun so it looks like a basket.
- # Add a Jelly baby as Moses.
- # Add some ready rolled icing as a blanket.



Wrapping it Up

Give each of the Martins a small piece of paper and some felt tips. Ask them to draw themselves being really brave, however this may look for them. Once they have finished have them place their pictures in a basket and say the following prayer with them.

God please help us to be brave like in the pictures we have drawn. Help us to be brave because we know you are with us and will never leave us.

Amen.

Miniature Hero 4 Samuel

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

Samuel was only a young boy when God spoke to him. While it took Samuel a little while to realise that it was God's voice he was hearing, once he understood, he listened and followed Him with all his heart. The aim of this session is to help the Martins to understand that they are never too young to get to know God for themselves and to follow Him.

Foundations

In preparation for this session please read the following passage:

1 Samuel 3

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." So Samuel told

him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

Miniature Hero 4 Samuel

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Set up two “beds” at opposite ends of the hall, one is “Samuel’s bed” and one is “Eli’s bed.” Tell the children that this story is about a young boy called Samuel who lived in God’s house, a place called the Temple. Samuel was looked after by an old man called Eli. We are going to follow Samuel through the story today. Samuel had gone to bed (*everyone should gather around Samuel’s bed*) when he heard a voice calling his name. He thought it was Eli so he ran into Eli’s room and shouted “Here I am”. (*Have the children run to Eli’s bed and shout “Here I am”. You might want to have a leader pretending to be Eli in the bed.*) Eli told Samuel he hadn’t called him and sent him back to bed. (*Have the children run back to Samuel’s bed and repeat this 3 times as Samuel continues to hear a voice calling him*) On the 3rd time that Samuel came into his room, Eli realized what was going on, God was talking to Samuel. He told Samuel to go back to bed and next time he heard the voice to say “Speak Lord your servant is listening”. (*Have the children run back to Samuel’s bed and lie down shouting “Speak Lord, your servant is listening”.*)

Explain to the Martins that God gave Samuel an important message that night. Samuel followed all that God told him and got to know him better and better as he got older.

Mega-Martins

Give each child a paper cup/bowl and a pile of jigsaw pieces/coupons/coins. This story is about someone who listened to God, so tell the Martins you are going to test how well they can listen. Read them the following story, every time you say the word “Samuel” they should put a coupon into their cup. The total number should be 7. Leaders can help them to count how many they have in their cup at the end and see if you have a winner.

“When **Samuel** was really young his mother brought him to live in the Temple, which was God’s house. He was looked after there by an old man called Eli. One night **Samuel** was lying in bed in his bedroom and Eli was lying in bed in his bedroom. **Samuel** heard a voice calling him, he thought it must be Eli and thinking something might be wrong he rushed into his room, saying “Here I am”. Eli woke up confused and said, “I didn’t call you, go back to bed!”. **Samuel** went back to bed but as soon as he lay down he heard the voice calling his name again. So up he got again and went into Eli’s room saying “Here I am!” Again Eli said, “What are you talking about, I didn’t call you!?”. So **Samuel** went back to bed and as soon as he lay down he heard the voice calling his name again! Up he got again and went into Eli. This time Eli realised what was going on, “God is speaking to you **Samuel**” he said. This time when you hear the voice you should say “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.” So this time when **Samuel**

went back to bed this is what he did and God spoke to him, giving him an important message. Samuel listened to God and followed all that he told him and as he got older he grew to know and love him more.”

Tell the Martins that even though they are young they can still get to know God for themselves and follow him.

The Fun Part

Choose whichever combination of crafts, games and music that suits the time and resources you have available.

Craft

Mini-Martins Samuel's Telephones

As today we are thinking about listening why not make some paper cup telephones with your Martins.

Instructions:

- # Before the lesson poke holes in the bottom of paper/ styrofoam or plastic cups and attach the cups into pairs using string.
- # Give each child a telephone and allow them to decorate them with felt tips, washi tape and stickers.

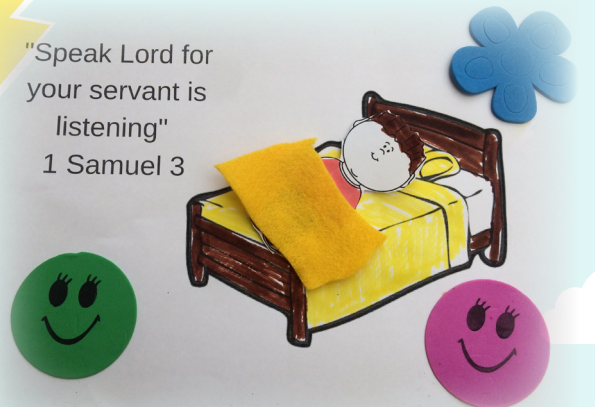
SAMUEL'S TELEPHONES!



Mega-Martins Samuel's Bed

- # Print one copy of "Samuel's bedroom" from your memory pen for each child.
- # Print and cut out the "Samuel" template so that each child gets a Samuel.
- # Children can colour in the bedroom and Samuel before gluing him into bed!!
- # Cut up some rectangles of material for the children to stick over Samuel as a blanket
- # Cotton wool balls can be used as pillows.

"Speak Lord for your servant is listening"
1 Samuel 3



"Speak Lord for your servant is listening"
1 Samuel 3



(As shown in the photo, to make this craft more exciting cut a slit in the bed and add a lolly pop stick to the back of Samuel so he can get "in and out of bed" as in the story)

Games

Mini-Martins Telephone Practice

If you made telephones as your craft give the children a chance to play with them. Put them into pairs to practice listening to each other on their phones.

Mini-Martins "Here I am"

Position your leaders at the four walls of your hall. Tell the children that they will be like Samuel who followed God when he called them. Leaders shout "Samuel" and the children will run to their wall. Once they reach the wall they shout "Here I am!". You might wish to make this game competitive by putting the last child to reach the wall each time out.

Mega-Martins Listening Ears

Have the children lie on their tummies with their heads on the ground and eyes closed. Make a noise such as closing a door, stamping your feet or coughing. Allow the children to look up, let them have guesses at what the noise was. To make this easier you could give them two options for example, was it a hand clap or a foot stomp.

Mega-Martins Listening Ears Worksheet

Print a copy of the listening ears work sheet and help the children to draw pictures of the sounds they like to hear. Give examples to help them think of what to draw, for example, they may like to hear music, their favourite television programme, their dog barking or a sweet packet opening.

Wrapping it Up

Have the children sit in a circle, go around the circle repeating the following prayer, leaving a blank for each child in turn to say their name.

*Thank you, God, that you want to get to know and speak to (**children insert names**).*

Amen.

Miniature Heroes 5

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were only young boys at the time of this story yet they loved God and put him first even when that was the most difficult thing to do. By choosing to worship only God and not bow to the King's idols they faced being thrown into the furnace. However, their faith was so strong that they knew God could protect them and he did, they made it out of the furnace unharmed! We hope that the Martins will learn through this session that God is with us even in the toughest of circumstances and that we can trust him to look after us. This story will also teach them what it means to be brave and follow God even when this is not the easy or popular option.

Foundations

In preparation for this session please read the following passage:

Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do. As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach,

Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.” Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Leader’s Collection Checklist

For Mega-Martins Craft, Furnace bottles, you will need to collect plastic bottles.

Miniature Heroes 5

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

If your Mums and Tots group has a musical box with tambourines etc. borrowing this will really bring this story to life! Tell the Martins that they are the King's Bands and split them into two teams, the "Noisiest" and the "Rowdiest" or any other names your Martins come up with! Everytime you mention the "King's bands" in the story the two bands should play their instruments (If you don't have a music box they could just stamp their feet and clap their hands). Make it a competition to see who can be the noisiest each time but also who can stop the quickest on your signal, hopefully this will help you to keep some order. Have another leader keeping scores.

Read the following story:

Today's story is about three boys who loved and followed God above everything else. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The King made a huge golden statue and had ordered that every time his **band** played music everyone who heard it should bow down to this statue. But when the **King's Band played** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down, they wouldn't worship anyone, except God. The King said that if they wouldn't bow they would be thrown into the fiery furnace but still when the **band** played Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said they would only bow down to God. They believed that God would protect them. The King decided to throw them into the fiery furnace and because he was so angry he turned it up seven times hotter than normal. He tied Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego up and threw them into the fire because they hadn't bowed down when his **band** played. Soon people started to shout because only three boys, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, had been thrown in the fire but they could see four walking around in the furnace!! God had sent an angel to protect Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The King couldn't believe his eyes and he called them to come out. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire completely unburnt, their clothes didn't even smell of smoke! The King released that their God must be very powerful and that he had protected them. From that day on, when the **band** played, they didn't have to bow down.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego followed God no matter what and he protected them. He can still look after us today and wants us to put him first in our life just like the boys in the story did.

Mega-Martins

Split the Martins into three teams and give them each a name either Shadrach, Meshach or Abednego. Place a team leader with each team. When the team hears their name, they must jump up shout their name and sit down as quickly as possible, forming a type of Mexican wave. Give points for the team who does this best each time Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are mentioned and have a winning team at the end.

Read the story given in the “Mini-Martin’s, Bringing it to life” to your group.

Crafts

Mini-Martins Paper-Plate furnaces

- # Give each child a paper plate
- # Print and cut out the “Paper plate furnace” template from your memory pen.
- # They can colour in and glue the picture to their plate
- # Provide lots of small pieces of red, orange and yellow tissue paper to be stuck all around them like the furnace.



Mega-Martins Furnace Bottles

- # Give each child a plastic bottle and a marker.
- # They can draw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego on the bottle. Alternatively they can colour in and stick the “Paper Plate Furnace” template from their memory pen to the bottle.
- # They can now rip off strips of red, orange and yellow tissue paper and stuff these into the bottle to make a furnace.



Mega-Martins Furnace Mosaics

- # Cut a rectangle out of the centre of a piece of black card.
- # Give each child a piece of greaseproof paper which they should cover on one side with glue.
- # The Martins can rip off pieces of red and orange tissue paper to glue to the greaseproof paper.
- # Help them to glue their greaseproof paper to the card
- # From the left over card cut out 4 stick figures per child which they can stick to the mosaic.



Games

Mini-Martins Musical Statues

As this story was about a gold statue it's the perfect opportunity to play this old favourite. You could either use some music or choose a few children to be your "live band" with their musical instruments!

Mini-Martins Into the Furnace/Out of the Furnace

Put a line of tape along the ground in your hall or use the existing sports court lines. One side of the line is "In the Furnace" the other side is "Out of the Furnace". The Martins must jump from one side to the other as you shout "Into the Furnace" and "Out of the Furnace." If they fall "In" when they are supposed to be out or get the instruction wrong then they are put out. The last child not to be put out is the winner!

Mega-Martins "The King Says"

This is a take on "O'Grady Drill" or "Simon Says". Line the children up and give them instructions such as "The King says right turn", "The King says jump on the spot", "The King says rub your head". If you give an instruction without saying "The King Says" before it and a child follows the instruction then they are out/ thrown into the furnace!!

Wrapping it Up

If you have clear umbrella or poncho (available in most pound shops!) bring this and discuss with the group how it protects us from the rain. God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fire and he can protect us from the things that scare us too.

Put the umbrella in the middle of the group and give them some washable pens. Let them write their

names on the umbrella as a way of asking God to protect them. Hold the umbrella above the group and say the following prayer.

Thank you, God, that you can protect us like you protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Thank you that you are always with us. Protect us from the things that we are scared about and help us to follow you even when it isn't easy.

In Jesus name

Amen.

Miniature Hero 6

The Boy Who Helped Jesus Feed 5000!

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

In the story of the feeding of the 5000 Jesus uses a young boy who is willing to give everything he has, to do an amazing miracle. While the boy didn't have very much, what he did have he gave to Jesus and that was enough. Jesus can take our small efforts and offerings and make them into something much bigger, all he asks is we give him what we have, even if we don't feel we have much to offer. Through this session we hope that the Martins will understand that if we give Jesus all that we have, even if we feel like that isn't very much, he will use it and do good things through us.

Foundations

In preparation for this session please read the following passage;

John 6:1-13

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Miniature Hero 5

The Boy Who Helped Jesus Feed 5000!

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Have a picnic!! Set out some blankets on the floor for the Martins to sit on while you tell the following story.

Tell the Martins that one day Jesus was talking to a big crowd of people. *What is the biggest number they know?* Well in this crowd there were 5000 men and they all probably had women and children with them!! It got to dinner time and the crowd had nothing to eat! Jesus' disciples came to him very worried because the crowd was hungry! "What will we do?" they said! Just then a little boy came to Jesus with his packet lunch. *Show the Martins a lunch box with some bread and some fish shaped crackers/biscuits in it.* His mum had sent him out with 5 little pieces of bread and 2 little fish. "This will never be enough for all these people", the disciples worried, but to their surprise Jesus was pleased. The little boy had given everything he had and even though it wasn't very much, that was enough for Jesus to use! He got everyone to sit on the ground, just like we are doing and began to break the bread and fish up so it could be passed out to the crowd.

Pass the bread and fish crackers around so that everyone gets some.

It was a miracle, there was more than enough for everyone. There was even enough left over to fill 12 baskets! Ask the Martins to help put any left overs into a basket.

Mega-Martins

Do some counting practice together, see if the Martins can work out how many people are in the room. Explain that our story today is about a much bigger crowd, there were 5000 people listening to Jesus!

Give each child a piece of pink/red playdough and a piece of yellow/orange/white playdough.

Explain to the Martins that after a while of listening to Jesus the crowd were getting hungry but there was nothing to eat! A little boy brought his lunch to Jesus to be shared between everyone. But the disciples laughed, he only had 2 little fish and 5 little loaves of bread.

Ask the Martins if they can make 2 fish and 5 loaves from their playdough. You might need to show them an example or picture.

Jesus was very pleased because the little boy had given all that he had and even though it wasn't very much, he was able to use this. He began to break the bread and fish up and hand it out. It was a miracle, there was more than enough to feed all 5000 people!

Ask the Martins to see how many little pieces they can break their play dough into!

There was so much left-over food that the disciples filled 12 baskets with it, ask the Martins if they can count to 12 together with you.

Remind the Martins that even though the little boy didn't have very much to give to Jesus, he gave everything that he had and Jesus was able to use that to do an amazing miracle. We might feel like we don't have very much to give Jesus but all he wants is for us to give him our hearts. If we follow him with all we've got, he can use us too, just like the boy in the story.

Craft

Mini-Martins Shiny Fish

Print a "Shiny fish" template for each Martin. Let them colour them in and glue on pieces of tin foil and any other colourful material you can get your hands on.



Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11

Mega-Martins Rice Krispie Baskets

You will need;

- # Melted Chocolate
- # Rice Krispies
- # Bun cases
- # Fondant icing (preferably pink and yellow)
- # Cocktail sticks
- # Lots of spoons!
- # Icing pens

Make chocolate Rice Krispie buns with the Martins but leave a hole in the middle, making a basket shape, where they can add fish and loaves, made out of coloured fondant icing. You may wish to have these pre-made and just let them make the fish and loaves for a less messy craft! The bread can be made by rolling bits of fondant icing in their hands. Cocktail sticks can be used to cut a fish shape in some rolled out icing. The cocktail sticks or icing pens can be used to make the pattern of scales, eyes and a mouth.



Games

Mini-Martins Fish and Bread Relay

Split your group into teams of no more than 7. Print and cut out one copy per team of the “Fish and Loaves” template from your memory pen. Line the teams up at one end of the hall, setting up an obstacle course in the middle and placing a basket at the far end. The children must race to get all of their fish and loaves into the basket, one piece at a time. The first team with all of their pieces in the basket wins.

Mega-Martins Colouring Sheet

Print of a copy of the “Feeding 5000 Colouring Sheet” from your memory pen and let children colour them in. (Worksheet taken from nextbook.co)

Wrapping it Up

This prayer activity combines your snack time and prayer time together!

Give each child a slice of bread and a children’s knife. Encourage them to think about the things that they can give to God e.g. their heart, time, sharing with others. Encourage them to cut these shapes into the bread or to draw them on their bread using Nutella/jam. Once the bread has been cut and eaten say the following prayer.

God, you see the pictures we have drawn to you and we know it makes you really happy that we want to give all of these things to you. Please take all of the things we have given you, our hearts, our love (insert other examples which children have shared) and use them to do good things. Please use us, just like you used the little boy’s lunch to feed a big crowd.

In Jesus name

Amen.

