

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 19 July 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Fruit of the Spirit / Faithfulness – King Hezekiah
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Galatians 5:16-26; 2 Kings 18-20:11; 2 Chronicles 29-32
- **CONCEPT:** The Holy Spirit helps me to be faithful

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God is faithful in keeping His promises to us, and that we should try to be faithful to Him, even when life gets tough.
- To help kids realise that God's Holy Spirit living in us makes us more like Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Treasure chest with home first aid box inside (from last week's activity demo)
- ✓ Fruit tree picture (the same one you used at the beginning of the series)
- ✓ Slide showing the word 'faithfulness'
- ✓ Tables (optional: decorated with tablecloths and fancy table centre decorations)
- ✓ Chairs (one for each child)
- ✓ Child actor – King Hezekiah, with robe and crown
- ✓ A fig (or a dried one if unavailable)
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

boy or girl whom you have known and played with for a long time. A best friend you promised to be best friends with forever! But one day, a new kid joins your class at school. This kid is really cool. You like the same kind of music. You watch the same TV programmes. You even have the same shoes! You can talk about stuff easily. You like playing together. You get along so well. Whatever did you do before your new friend arrived? ... Well, remember your old best friend? The kid you used to talk to? The kid you used to play with? The kid you used to think was cool? The kid who was always, faithfully, there for you when you needed a friend. Where are they now? Sitting alone in the playground, waiting for you, wondering what they did wrong, wondering why you don't want to be their best friend any more. You forgot about your promise. You stopped hanging out together, even though you had promised to be friends forever. You found a new friend to take their place. You were *unfaithful*.

To be faithful to someone means to keep your promise, trust and support them. To be unfaithful means to break your promise.

Today we're going to hear a story about a man who was faithful to God, even though the people around him had forgotten about God.

Ask kids to put their mats away. Set out tables together with chairs around them. This is to emulate the Passover feast. If you want, you could decorate the tables quickly with coloured tablecloths and fancy table centre decorations. Invite kids to sit on the chairs around the tables. Choose a boy to be King Hezekiah and dress him in a crown and robe where he sits. Sit at the table with the kids. Tell the story from your seat at the table.

4. Tell the story

After King David (the shepherd boy who killed Goliath, the giant Philistine), and after his son, King Solomon ruled in Israel, something terrible happened. The country broke into two parts. The tribes in the north couldn't live together with the tribes in the south, and so the country was divided into Israel – the northern kingdom – and Judah – the southern kingdom.

Years went by with many kings who did not love and obey God. They forgot about Him. They forgot how God had been with Abraham and Moses and Joshua and David and Solomon. These kings wanted to rule their kingdoms in their own power, without God. And so, many of the people living in the kingdoms also forgot about God. They stopped going to church. They stopped reading the old scrolls and talking about the wonderful things God had done for their families in the past. They stopped celebrating God's goodness ...

... until a man called Hezekiah became the new king of Judah. *Point to your dressed actor.* Hezekiah loved God. The Bible tells us that 'he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as [his father] David had done'. (2 Kings 18:3) Hezekiah trusted God and there was no other king like him among all the kings of Judah in history. He had promised to follow God and to obey Him. And God was with Hezekiah, helping him to do his work well and be a good king.

One of the first things King Hezekiah did was to repair the church. You see, the last king of Judah was a wicked man who had closed the

Tables (decorated if you like) with chairs

King Hezekiah actor / robe and crown

church and stopped the people from worshipping God. So Hezekiah sent his men to open up the doors of the church and start the big repair job. Those men worked hard to clean the church, to repair the furniture and make it ready for people to come back. King Hezekiah also told his people that they needed to clean out their hearts – to say sorry to God for what they had done wrong before. And so, the church opened again. Hezekiah and the people were so happy that God had helped them to prepare the church for them to meet together and praise Him. And God was happy with Hezekiah.

Soon after that, King Hezekiah sent out party invitations to the cities in Israel and the cities in Judah. He had decided that it was about time for people to remember the Passover party – a celebration that had been forgotten for over 200 years. This party was a special way through which people used to thank God and remember how He had set the Israelites free from their hard lives as slaves in Egypt a long time ago. King Hezekiah welcomed hundreds and hundreds of visitors from right across the two kingdoms to the city of Jerusalem, and together they celebrated around the tables with music, food, prayers and great rejoicing! *Point around the tables to illustrate the reason why we are sitting in this formation today.*

Hezekiah had been faithful to God. He had done everything he could to make the people in Judah turn back to God. But one day, Hezekiah got a frightening message from the king of Assyria, a huge empire in the Middle East. This king of Assyria did not love God. He planned to send his armies into all the great cities between the desert and the sea, and Jerusalem, Hezekiah's city, was top of the list.

This evil king of Assyria told lies about Hezekiah and said terrible things about God. He told the people of Judah not to believe anything Hezekiah told them. He tried to make them stop believing and trusting in God and said that God wouldn't help them. But Hezekiah told his people not to listen to this evil Assyrian king. King Hezekiah prayed. He prayed really hard to God, telling Him about this problem and asking for help. Hezekiah trusted in God. He knew that God was bigger than the king of Assyria.

God heard Hezekiah's prayer. God said, 'I will defend this city and save it ...' (2 Kings 19:34). That night, God sent an angel to the Assyrian army camp to kill and destroy the evil king's soldiers. A hundred and eighty-five thousand men died that night! And when the evil king woke up and saw what had happened to his army, he ran away. God had saved King Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem! God took care of them, and the people were happy to trust and follow God.

King Hezekiah got sick, and it was serious. He thought he was going to die. One day, his friend, Isaiah, came to visit. Isaiah was a man of God; a prophet, a messenger. Isaiah told Hezekiah, 'You're not going to get better, Hezekiah. You're going to die.'

Hezekiah turned his face away. He was so upset. He cried so hard and prayed to God, '... O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully ... and have done what is good in your eyes.' (2 Kings 20:3) Hezekiah was so sad. He didn't want to die. But ... just a moment ... Isaiah – the man of God – had another message for Hezekiah from God. This time,

it was good news! Isaiah said, 'Hezekiah, God has heard your prayer and He has seen your tears. He is going to make you better! In fact, God is going to let you live for fifteen more years.' (paraphrase 2 Kings 20:5-6)

Isaiah didn't have a first aid box. He didn't even use wine or oil like the man from Samaria in last week's story. He made a special medicine out of mashed-up figs (*you could show kids a real fig, or a dried one, if they are unlikely to know what this is*) and spread it over Hezekiah's sore spots. Hezekiah started to get better! But he wasn't sure of this strange fig medicine. He asked Isaiah, the man of God, 'How will I know that God is faithful? How will I know that He will heal me and make me better like you say? I need a sign to know that God is faithful to His promise.'

Isaiah said, 'God will give you a sign that he is faithful. Can you see how the sun is shining through the window and making a shadow on the steps? Would you like to see the shadow move backwards ten steps, or forwards ten steps?'

Hezekiah thought about it. It would be too easy for the shadow to move forwards ten steps – that's what happens normally. So he said, 'Make it go backwards ten steps.'

Isaiah prayed to God. God made the shadow go backwards ten steps! It was a sign from God that He would be faithful to Hezekiah, heal him from his sickness and let him live for fifteen more years. Hezekiah was happy, excited and thankful to God.

5. Explain

Hezekiah came up against a lot of problems. He became king of a land that had forgotten about God. What did he do? Even though the people around him were not obeying God, Hezekiah opened up the church, had it repaired, and invited the people to join him in Jerusalem for God's special Passover celebration.

When the evil king of Assyria sent his armies to invade and take control of Jerusalem, what did Hezekiah do? He prayed and asked God to help him. God sent an angel to destroy the Assyrian army, and Hezekiah and Jerusalem were saved.

When Hezekiah got sick, what did he do? He prayed and asked God to remember his faithfulness. God decided to make Hezekiah better and give him fifteen more years to live.

When problems and worries came to King Hezekiah, he prayed. Hezekiah was faithful to God, even when things were going wrong. Hezekiah knew that God was bigger than his problems; he believed that God could do anything.

The evil king of Assyria did not believe in God, but God showed how real He is when he destroyed that king's army! Sometimes, we talk to people who don't believe in God. Sometimes they even laugh at us or say bad things about God. It can be very difficult to be strong when that happens. But we must remember the story of Hezekiah and keep believing that God is real and true. We don't have to be scared or hide away from those people who say bad things about God and who don't

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believe in Him. We just have to pray and ask God to help us be faithful to Him. Remember, He has promised never to leave us. God is faithful to us, and He wants us to be faithful to Him.	
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C. Prayer Net 10 minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. <i>Explain:</i> When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things, just like Hezekiah did. When Hezekiah prayed, God did amazing things! He healed Hezekiah's sickness and he made the shadow move backwards! When we pray, God hears our prayers just like he heard King Hezekiah's prayers. God doesn't always say 'yes' to the things we ask Him for. But you can be sure that He always does what is best. God loves us so much and He knows what's best for us. He is faithful; always looking after us, always loving us. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Encourage kids to trust that God, who is faithful, will do the best for us, even if we don't get the answer we want. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 6. Ask kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 7. Close in prayer. 	You'll need ... <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i>
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D. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their chairs away. Set tables at the side. 2. <i>Recap:</i> We can ask God's Holy Spirit to help us be: <p><i>Loving ...</i> like Mary, who poured her very expensive perfume over Jesus' feet;</p> <p><i>Joyful ...</i> like the dad who threw a great party for his lost son who came back home;</p> <p><i>Peaceful ...</i> like Paul and Silas when they were thrown into prison;</p> <p><i>Patient ...</i> like Joseph, who had to wait a long, long time to see and understand God's plan for his life;</p> <p><i>Kind ...</i> like Dorcas, who sewed clothes to help people who</p> 	You'll need ...
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<p>were poor and in need in her town;</p> <p><i>Good ...</i> like the man from Samaria, who cared for people and did his best to help them no matter who they were;</p> <p><i>and Faithful ...</i> like King Hezekiah, who trusted God right through his problems and worries.</p> <p>3. Sing a closing song. (<i>I am not Forgotten</i>)</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> God is always faithful to us. He loves us. He wants the best for us. Are you faithful to God? Do you always try to do what pleases Him? How can you be faithful to God? – Believe that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die in your place; tell Him you're sorry for the sin in your heart and ask Him to forgive you; ask Jesus to live in your heart and be your best friend and your guide each day of your life; and ask Him to help you become the person God wants you to be – full of the fruit of the Spirit.</p> <p>5. Remind kids to come back this evening. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 19 July 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse through 'faithful fig' rolling exercises.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making shadow puppets to re-tell the story of King Hezekiah in our Island Shadow Theatre.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Slide – Galatians 5:22 (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh fruit)
 - Pre-made card fig labelled 'faithfulness'
(which you will later fix to your display. See photos below.)
 - A packet of 'Fig Roll' biscuits
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Projector light and screen
 - Pre-made shadow puppet
 - Sets of 5 puppet templates (at least two sets to share between groups.
Templates included in materials.)
 - Pencils
 - Scissors
 - Lollypop / craft sticks
 - Glue sticks
 - Puppet script (included in materials)
- ✓ 'Fig Rolls' ready to serve (one per child)
- ✓ Pre-cut pieces of fresh or dried fig to taste (one per child)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>that. <i>Show kids a pre-made card fig labelled with 'faithfulness' that you will add to your notice board display.</i> A faithful fig to remind us of the medicine that Hezekiah put on his spots, which God used to make him better. I'm going to stick our faithful fig on the wall with the other fruit a little later.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Ask kids to lift their mats and carry them into a larger room, e.g. a sports hall. Have them line up side-by-side, at least arms-width apart, with their mats on the floor in front of them. 7. <i>Explain:</i> Figs – the fruit that Hezekiah's medicine was made of – don't grow in our country. In fact, not many people here had even seen a real fig until a few years ago! But everyone knew something that had figs inside it. Have you ever heard of biscuits called, 'Fig Rolls'? <i>Show kids a packet of Fig Roll biscuits.</i> Here's what they look like. There are lots of chopped up pieces of dried figs rolled inside a biscuit. Who remembers our memory verse? Let's say it altogether again. <i>Have kids say verse.</i> 8. <i>Explain:</i> Fig Rolls. Now I want you to start rolling! To start, roll your head from side to side. Next, roll your shoulders forwards. Now roll your shoulders backwards. Using your mat so you don't hurt your head, do a forward roll (tumble). Now do a backward roll. Stand up. Roll your shoulders again – forwards, then backwards. Roll your head from side to side. Well done! You are all Faithful Fig Rollers! 9. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. Ask kids to lift their mats. Take them back to your room. Have kids stack their mats at the back of the room. <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Pre-made card fig labelled 'faithfulness'</i></p> <p><i>Packet of 'Fig Roll' biscuits</i></p>
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<p>G. Activity 15 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set out tables as a workspace. Divide kids into groups of five. Have each group stand around a table. 2. <i>Explain:</i> When Isaiah put the fig medicine on the king and told him that God was going to make him better again, Hezekiah wasn't completely sure. He wanted a sign from God. 'How will I know that God is faithful?' he said. 'How will I know that He will heal me and make me better like you say? I need a sign to know that God is faithful to His promise.' <p>Isaiah said, 'God will give you a sign that he is faithful. Can you see how the sun is shining through the window and making a shadow on the steps? Would you like to see the shadow move backwards ten steps, or forwards ten steps?'</p> <p>Hezekiah thought about it. It would be too easy for the shadow to move forwards ten steps – that's what happens normally. So he said, 'Make it go backwards ten steps.'</p> <p>Isaiah prayed to God. God made the shadow go backwards ten steps! It was a sign from God that He would be faithful to</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Tables</i></p>
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<p>Hezekiah, heal him from his sickness and let him live for fifteen more years. Hezekiah was happy, excited and thankful to God.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> God used a shadow to show Hezekiah that He would keep His promise. Shadows are great fun to play with, aren't they? Have you ever tried to chase your shadow when you're walking in the street on a sunny day? Have you ever tried to make shapes on the wall when there is a light shining on it? We could even make shadows here on our screen with the light from the projector. <i>Make a bird or butterfly shadow with your hands by standing between the projector light and the screen.</i> Today we're going to make shadow puppets. And when they're finished, we're going to watch them tell King Hezekiah's story in our Island Shadow Theatre.</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> Here is a puppet I made. <i>Show kids your pre-made puppet.</i> This is King Hezekiah. I made him by drawing around the shape onto a piece of card. Then I cut him out. Then I used some glue to stick him to a lollypop stick. That's it. Easy. But we need more than the king for our story. We need five different puppets – a king, a church, a party, a prayer and an angel. So, each person in your group has to make a different puppet before we watch them in our shadow theatre.</p> <p>5. Give each group a set of the five puppet templates. Provide pencils and scissors for kids to draw their shapes and cut them out.</p> <p>6. Give each child a lollypop or craft stick. Provide glue sticks and help kids glue their puppets to the sticks.</p> <p>7. When all puppets are made, tidy up and set tables to the side. Have kids sit on the floor facing the screen, close to the screen.</p> <p>8. <i>Explain:</i> Now it's time to see our puppets in action. I'm going to read the story of King Hezekiah. When you hear me say King Hezekiah, everyone with a king puppet should hold up their puppet in the air so that we can see the shadow on the screen. The same for all the other words. Let's practise first. <i>Kids should hold up their puppets to make shadows as you say the following words.</i> King Hezekiah! Church! Prayer! Angel! Party!</p> <p>9. Read the script and encourage kids to make shadows with their puppets as you read. The script has been highlighted at the appropriate points when you should see a shadow.</p> <p>10. Congratulate kids on their dramatic shadow puppet theatre performance! Suggest that they make shadows at home with their puppets to help them remember the story of King Hezekiah.</p>	<p><i>Projector light / screen</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made shadow puppet (King Hezekiah)</i></p> <p><i>Sets of 5 puppet templates</i> <i>Pencils</i> <i>Scissors</i> <i>Lollypop / craft sticks</i> <i>Glue sticks</i></p> <p><i>Puppet script</i></p>
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <p>1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (<i>I am not Forgotten</i>)</p> <p>2. Ask kids to recite the memory verse once more altogether. Let each child taste a 'fig roll' biscuit and a piece of fresh or dried fig to remind them that the fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness.</p> <p>3. Remind kids that when Hezekiah prayed, God did amazing things! He healed Hezekiah's sickness and he made the shadow move</p>	<p><i>You'll need ...</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Fig Rolls</i> <i>Pieces of fresh/dried fig</i></p>
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backwards! When we pray, God hears our prayers just like he heard King Hezekiah's prayers. God doesn't always say 'yes' to the things we ask Him for. But you can be sure that He always does what is best. God loves us so much and He knows what's best for us. He is faithful; always looking after us, always loving us.

4. Close in prayer.

5. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.

Name tag box





