

UNDER 5s APPENDIX

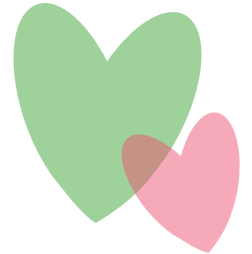
SNAPSHOT HOLIDAY CLUB MATERIAL – TODDLERS



Some of the activities in the main booklet are suitable for smaller children with very little adjustment – focus on short activities with lots of freedom, and lots of opportunity for sensory exploration and play.

Story

Use a good toddler's Bible to tell the stories and maybe use this video each time to reinforce the theme of love: https://youtu.be/rYVyaDh0N_0 You could make a heart shaped paper plate like Nicola does in the video to replace one of the crafts.



When exploring what's in the box

Use the special box or bag and sing "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of "The Farmer's in the Dell"). You could tap the top of the box twice after the word "box". Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

DAY 1 – LOVE IS CREATIVE – CREATION

What's in the box?

- ♥ A heart (remind the children that God loves creation and everything in it)
- ♥ A simple image of creation (explore with the children what you can see in the picture)
- ♥ Some plants and toy animals (explore what they look like and feel like, and what noise they make, if any. Each one is different – God made each one and loves them. How can we love them and look after them too?)
- ♥ A sun and moon (what do we love about the days and nights that God created? The warmth of the sun, maybe, and the stars at night – can we make our hands like sunshine and stars?)
- ♥ A mirror (God made you – what can you see in the mirror? What colour are your eyes? Is your hair curly or straight? Where is your nose? How many ears have you got?)

- ♥ A set of play people to act out the story, or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g., stones, felt, twigs etc)

Creative response

Junk modelling animals

Use some simple junk modelling, playdough or Duplo to create an animal or bird. (It is not about making an accurate representation – give their creativity chance to show!)

Talk about what sorts of things they like creating. Ask them what their favourite thing is that God created.

Sensory: Create a sensory tray with some soil and/or sand and some toy animals, making sure that children do not put toys in their mouths. If the children are not averse, add some water to change the texture. Children may also enjoy helping planting seedlings into pots but you will need fairly robust plants to do this.

DAY 2 – LOVE IS BRAVE – WALKING ON WATER

What's in the box?

- ♥ A heart (love is brave and we can have brave hearts too, because God loves us and helps us be less afraid)
- ♥ A medal (being brave doesn't mean you're not frightened – it means you don't let being frightened stop you doing something if you need to – and sometimes people get medals for doing brave things)
- ♥ A superhero (Peter was just an ordinary person, not a superhero, but he was still brave)
- ♥ A bath toy (knowing Jesus was his friend made Peter SO brave he could walk on top of the water)
- ♥ Wooden Spoon with faces on each side – happy and worried (sometimes we feel confident, sometimes we feel a bit worried – but God is always with us)
- ♥ A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g., stones, felt, twigs etc)

Game

Jumping on the Lily pad

Place some green pieces of paper shaped like a lily pad. Play some music and get the children to dance around the lily pads. When the music stops, everyone should jump onto a lily pad.

Creative response

Floating people

Use some different toy people and see if any float on the water. Play with boats and fish in a washing up bowl or tough tray together. You could add some bubbles for extra fun!

OR Place one or more water mats on the floor for the children to walk over and explore.

<https://amzn.eu/d/3rrM9p9>

Talk about times when they have had to be brave... going somewhere new, to the doctor, when our grown up leaves us at nursery. What does it mean to be brave? How can God help us to feel brave?

Sensory: Have a basket with different “watery” fabrics and textures, e.g. blue silky fabric, blue tissue paper, foil blanket, jiffy bubbles. Can you make gentle waves and rougher waves? Can you make watery sounds? What do each of the textures feel like if you put your feet on them?

DAY 3 – LOVE IS AN ADVENTURE – JESUS CALLS DISCIPLES

What's in the box?

- ♥ A heart (remind the children that Jesus loves us and invites us to be his friend)
- ♥ Megaphone (let's use this to invite others to play with us, to invite others to be Jesus' friend)
- ♥ Laminated invitation cards in envelopes (explore idea of being invited – I wonder what it's an invitation to... where... Who's inviting us?)
- ♥ Fishing game (some of the disciples who were called were people who caught fish as their job)

- ♥ Toy telephones (we could ring people and invite them to be friends with Jesus – how do you like to talk to people?)



- ♥ A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g., stones, felt, twigs etc)

Game

Follow my leader, or Simon Says

Explore different ways of moving or following what someone else does. Take it in turns to be the leader.

Creative response

Feet paint

Cover both feet in paint and print them onto a piece of A4 card (heels together) in the shape of a heart. (Alternatively, you could copy the illustration and use the footprints as a V in the word love.) Write the child's name somewhere prominent on the card. Include the following words on the card: "Come on – Jesus is calling you"

Prayer activity

Prayer walk

Create a large circle labyrinth on the floor for the children to walk around, using a rope or rolled up sheets. Alternatively, create stepping stones out of paper and encourage the children to take big steps from one to the next. Play with musical instruments as you walk round, loving and praising God.



Talk: Who calls you and what sort of things are they calling you to do together? Why do we call out to someone? God calls us because he loves us and wants us to be his friend.

Sensory: Go for a sensory walk – use trays with different surfaces in (sand, feathers, water, jelly...) and walk through them with bare feet or sit alongside them and explore them with your fingers. Be careful not to slip, and have wipes and towels nearby.

Play: We're going on a bear hunt.

DAY 4 – LOVE IS BELONGING

– ABRAHAM AND SARAH

What's in the box?

- ♥ Heart (we are all part of Jesus' loving family)
- ♥ Battery operated tea lights/ torches and star shapes (think about lots and lots of stars twinkling in the sky. Can you make a twinkling movement with your hands? Hide the lights with your hand and then reveal them one by one)
- ♥ Sand bottle (explore the sand together – it's made up of lots of teeny tiny specks of sand, far too many to count)
- ♥ Things that belong together, e.g. pair of socks, pair of gloves, knife and fork (we belong with God – we're all part of one family)
- ♥ A set of play people to act out the story, or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g., stones, felt, twigs etc)

Game

Make a circle and sing these words to the tune of the "Farmer's in his den".

Abraham's in his tent,
Abraham's in his tent,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
Abraham's in his tent.
(with one child in the centre of a circle)

Abraham has a wife,
Abraham has a wife,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
Abraham has a wife.
(Abraham picks a wife)

Sarah wants a child,
Sarah wants a child,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
Sarah wants a child.

God gave them a child,
God gave them a child,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
God gave them a child.
(all cradle a pretend baby)

Isaac was his name,
Isaac was his name,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
Isaac was his name.
(Sarah picks a child)

They all belong to God,
They all belong to God,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
They all belong to God.
(clap hands)

We all belong to God,
We all belong to God,
E -AH – A – DE- OH
We all belong to God.
(gallop round in a circle)

Prayer activity

Starry sky

Cut some star shapes into a piece of paper. Hold the paper an inch or so above the light end of a torch to project stars onto the ceiling. You could do this with several torches.



Once everyone is lying on the floor, turn the lights off in the room and shine the torch onto the ceiling. Get everyone to lie down quietly, gaze at the stars and whisper, "I belong to God's family"

Talk about what it means to belong. What things can everyone think of that belong together: knife and fork/ a pair of socks/ mother and baby animals. Who do you belong to? Did you know that you belong to God too?

Sensory: Use a tray and fill it with dark blue coloured pasta or rice or jelly. Hide pairs of things in there and see if you can find the things that belong together.

*Adapted from the Words & Music: Traditional
Arrangement: Ian J Watts/Mike Wilbury*

DAY 5 - LOVE IS SURPRISING - INCARNATION

What's in the box?

- ♥ A heart (we can sometimes find love in surprising places)
- ♥ A child-friendly nativity set (retell the story together, drawing out one piece at a time)
- ♥ Dressing up clothes for nativity (if the necessary permission has been sought, you could photograph children in the costumes)
- ♥ Baby doll – try acting out being surprised when baby Jesus is revealed

Creative response

Jumping toys

Allow everyone to explore a variety of different surprise toys.....suckers which pop up/ toys which are like a jack-in-the-box/ press button pop up.

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/mini-jumping-poppers>

<https://amzn.eu/d/4TrutTC>

Game

Pass the parcel

Wrap up a small doll. Ensure there are enough layers on the parcel for everyone to have a go.

Explain to the children that they are going to play pass the parcel and that there is a surprise under each layer. You may want to ensure the group understand that the final item in the parcel is not for them to keep but there is something under each layer for them.

As each layer is opened, create a feeling of wonder and surprise at what might be inside. Inside each layer have a sweet and a little task for them to do:

Jump up and down/ do star jumps/ fist bump someone/ spin round/ shout surprise.

When the last layer is taken off, explain that Jesus came as a baby to show his love to us.

Talk about what surprises you. Do you like surprises? Explain why baby Jesus was a surprise for everyone. God only gives us nice surprises.

Game

Where is....

Use a large piece of cloth to cover one of the children – if they are nervous about being covered completely, just hold it in front of them so that they are hidden behind the cloth.

Use the tune to “London’s Burning” and sing “Someone’s hiding, someone’s hiding, who is it, who is it? Can you find them, can you find them? It’s... “ and then pull the cover off and say the child’s name as though you’re really surprised. Everyone can do a “surprised” face and cheer.

Sensory: Wrap a variety of small toys in different colours and textures of wrapping paper. Let the children feel them and shake them and then slowly unwrap them. Remember to be really surprised by what’s inside!

Alternatively, get the children to be really quiet and gather round a tray with a little pile of bicarbonate of soda in it. Hold a pipette above it with vinegar in, and suddenly drop a few drops of vinegar into the bicarbonate of soda and see what happens.