

Shed for Lent

Station Five - Power or Service?

Story:

- temptation for Jesus to rule all the kingdoms of the earth

Focus:

- Jesus chooses between power and service

Scene:

- three large pictures of ancient world plus some wealthy-looking artefacts
- screen of white paper (which is both a screen for film and a graffiti space)
- candles and candle racks

Activities:

- watching film with Jessie J soundtrack
- signing wall
- lighting candle

Timings:

- settle 2 min
- story 3 min
- film 4 min
- activities 6 min

Things to bear in mind

- the children may find the anti-bullying theme to your activities difficult/challenging, which could make their behaviour difficult/challenging. Try to see the bigger picture ...
- think through how you will deal with it if they write something inappropriate
- yours is the only Station with naked flames, so please think through H & S
- protect data projector etc.

Text for Story

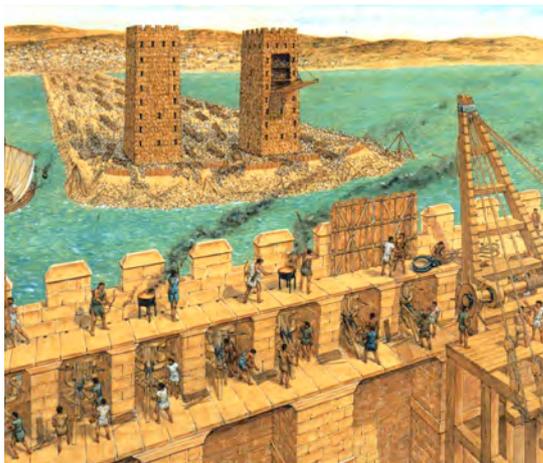
As he sat in the desert, Jesus began to think about being a king. He knew that he was the Messiah, and 'Messiah' means 'King sent from God'. But how would he live as Messiah? How could he take charge and be king, not just of one place, but of the whole earth? This was really going to take some organising. He would need people to believe in him and help him. There were so many kingdoms and peoples and places. He began to imagine some of the ones that he knew about - the pyramids of Egypt, the cities of Syria, the mysteries of Mesopotamia ..

Suddenly a thought came to him, 'I can help you with this - I can give you all the kingdoms of the world in the palm of your hand - if you do things my way.'

'What is your way?' asked Jesus.

'I can give you all the kingdoms of the world - just think what you could do with all that power and wealth.'

Jesus began to think about what he could do if he was king of the whole world, and he began to think about just how rich and powerful he would be - more rich and powerful than anyone had ever been in the whole history of the world. It sounded good, but he had to ask again:



‘What is your way?’ ‘Just worship me and do things my way, and it will all be yours.’

Just worship me .. this didn’t sound like God’s voice. Could he really worship someone else in order to do God’s work? Did it matter if he did something wrong, as long as the end result was good? Surely he could make things good for everyone if he was their King? Just worship me .. this really didn’t sound right. Worship is such a deep kind of giving, right from the heart. You can’t worship someone and then pretend it doesn’t matter.

Jesus made up his mind and perhaps he whispered to the desert, or perhaps he shouted:

‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only God!’

Introduction to Activity

Well, special as they are, none of these things were going to belong to Jesus. He gave them all up.

Pack away ‘jewels’ and precious-looking objects.

He gave them up, because the only way to have them was to do something wrong. People can be tempted to do something wrong so that they can be popular. Maybe they pick on someone and bully them, or look the other way when bullying is going on. People can make themselves feel powerful by picking on someone else, but it’s a cheap kind of power and it won’t last.

Put on Jessie J film

You can sign the screen now. You can just put your name, or you can write a message about caring for other people and refusing to do wrong to make yourself powerful. If you want to write something personal and private, you can do that and seal it in an envelope and we will burn it later as a prayer without opening it.

You can also light a candle as a thought or a prayer for someone.

Materials you need:

- scene with pictures of ancient world plus paper screen plus wealthy-looking artefacts
- candle racks and candles (plus lighter)
- data projector
- pens for writing on paper screen
- paper and envelopes and writing pens

Preparation:

- Learn story and make it your own
- set up scene and think through practicalities of moving to write and then to light candle

Notes