

Week 1 Rules, Rules, Rules



Aim

To understand that rules give us a framework in which to live our lives.



Resources

Snakes and Ladders board with dice and 4 counters.



Let's think of a time when...

...we were playing a game with our family or friends. I wonder if there is anyone here who likes playing Snakes and Ladders? I need three volunteers to come and play a game of Snakes and Ladders with me (*choose three children*).

OK, let's get straight on with the game. I'm the eldest so I'll go first (*shake dice and move counter*). Actually I think I'll have another go (*move again*). You can have a turn now (*give dice to first child*). My turn again – I seem to be doing quite well. In fact I'm doing so well I think I ought to double my next throw! Oh, would you like a turn? (*Hand dice to second child*.) I think it's probably my turn again. (*Turn to third child who has not had a turn*.) What's the matter with you? You don't seem to be doing well here. You've not even moved from the starting space. (*Look at watch/clock*.) Oh dear, it seems we've run out of time. Let's see who the winner is – who's moved the furthest up the board – wow it's me! I'm the winner! Fantastic!

How did you feel playing that game? Was there a problem? (*Hopefully someone will recognise the fact that there were no rules being followed*.) Even a simple thing like playing a game becomes a lot more complicated and frustrating for us when we don't have rules to follow. Imagine what a difference rules make to our lives!



Let's listen to a story about...

...Moses, who had led the Israelite people out of Egypt and into the desert. They had been slaves in Egypt and now they had their freedom, but they were hungry and tired and always complaining. They were feeling frustrated and uncomfortable about their new situation. Perhaps it was not going to turn out to be as wonderful as they had hoped.

But God had plans for his people, and he called Moses to meet with him on the top of a mountain. The mountain was called Mount Sinai and when Moses reached the top he heard God's voice speaking to him through a thick cloud.

God gave Moses ten rules for the people to follow. He began with rules about how the people should respect God, not worshipping other idols, not using God's name as a swear word and keeping one day each week special. He then gave them rules about how to treat each other. He told them not to lie, to respect their parents, not to kill or steal, and to be thankful for the things they had rather than always wanting what others owned. Moses told these rules to the Israelites and they tried to follow them. Sometimes they found them too hard so they just didn't bother, and when that happened, wars broke out and people were hurt and things tended to go wrong.

Rules, Rules, Rules

Fifteen hundred years later when Jesus was alive and travelling around teaching and meeting people, he was challenged one day by a group of Pharisees. They were really strict about keeping all the rules and they were trying to trick Jesus because they said he had broken one of the rules by making someone well on the Sabbath (their special day). They asked him which of the rules was the most important. What could Jesus say? He told them, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. Love your neighbour as you love yourself." He had managed to sum up all their rules into just two rules. Two rules of love, to love God and to love other people. What other rules do we need?

Based on Exodus 20:1-17 and Matthew 22:34-40



Let's light a candle as we think about...

...rules which we try to follow each day. Do we always do our best to try and follow the rules? Are there times when we deliberately break rules, or try and persuade others to join us in something which we know is wrong?



Let's get ourselves ready to pray

Dear Lord,

Help us to think about the rules which Jesus gave, to love God and love other people. Help us to treat our friends and those around us, in the same way that we would like to be treated, with love and respect.

Amen.

Lions and Tigers and Bears.



Aim

To understand that we start small so that we can think big.



Resources

A piece of orchestral music.



Let's think of a time when...

...you couldn't do as much as you can now. Think back to when you first tried to count, or draw, or eat solid food for that matter! Hands up if you were able to do it perfectly straight away. The fact is none of us is born with the ability to do very much at all. (*Ask the children if they can think of things that babies can do straight away – mainly crying, sleeping, eating, burping and filling nappies.*) Anything else comes with practice and lots of it.

But have you ever felt like you're never going to get any better at something? Or maybe you feel like what you do isn't very important or worthwhile? Sometimes, we don't realise that what we're doing now may be a stepping stone to something much better. If you never learnt how to eat apple mush when you were a baby, for example, you wouldn't be able to tuck into your roast beef and Yorkshire pudding now. And even the greatest artists started off by drawing stick men.

Listen to this piece of music and see if you can pick out the different instruments. (*Play the music.*) Can you tell me what instruments you could make out? (*Get suggestions from the children.*) Some of the instruments were obvious and some not so, and if you heard any of the instruments playing their part on their own, it would have sounded a bit strange, but when you put all the parts together, they make a beautiful sound.

The Bible warns us not to despise "the day of small things". Every small thing we do today is a building block to the great things we can do tomorrow.



Let's listen to a story about...

...a boy who thought killing giants was a doddle. You probably know the story – army meets giant, giant shouts at army, giant scares army, boy meets giant, boy kills giant. The boy, of course, was David and the giant was Goliath. But how did David do it? He was probably only about 15 or 16 years old and he hadn't had any previous giant-killing experience, so what made him so confident – not to mention brave?

Well, Saul, the king, was wondering the very same thing when David told him he would kill the giant. In fact, after Saul and his men had all picked themselves up off the floor and stopped laughing, he asked David how he thought he could possibly beat a brute like Goliath.

David explained that, as a shepherd boy, he had had to protect the sheep from time to time from wild animals. He probably started small – battling with badgers

Lions and Tigers and Bears.

and grappling with grass snakes – but this was all just training for the big time.

Occasionally, he would come across a real challenge. He told King Saul how he once had to fight a bear and another time how he had to stop a lion from eating one of his sheep. When he pulled the sheep out of its mouth, it turned on him – the lion, that is, not the sheep – and David had to grab it by the mane and clobber it with his shepherd's crook. And you thought it was easy looking after sheep!

You see, David didn't just wake up one day and decide he was going to kill a giant. God had prepared him for that moment. Every time he protected his sheep from attack, he was learning new skills and becoming braver and braver, so that by the time old Goliath turned up, he didn't stand a chance.

Based on 1 Samuel 17:32-37



Let's light a candle as we think about...

...the great things we would like to do in the future. What skills do you need to develop? What steps do you need to take today to reach your goal?



Let's get ourselves ready to pray

Dear Lord,

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Amen.

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More Resources from **twelve**baskets



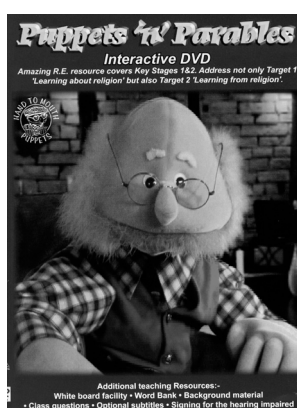
Together Again CD
12 songs to complement SEAL themes



Together Again Music Score & Lyrics
Music for all 12 songs as a printable PDF



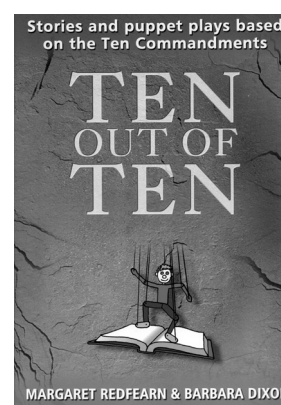
Rhema
Using a blend of music, theatre and fun to work in conjunction with KS 1&2 RE



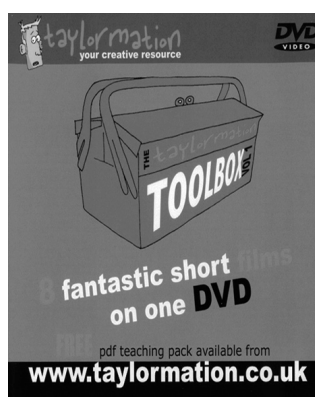
Puppet 'n' Parables DVD
10 parables illustrated using puppets & animations



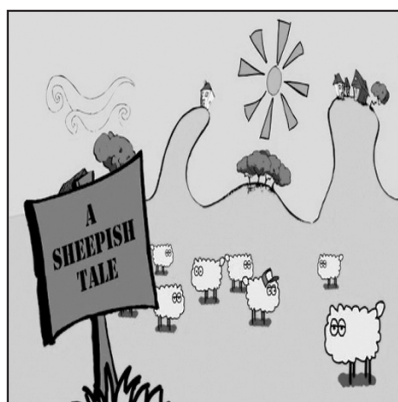
Puppet 'n' Parables Video Clips
Individual clips from the DVD



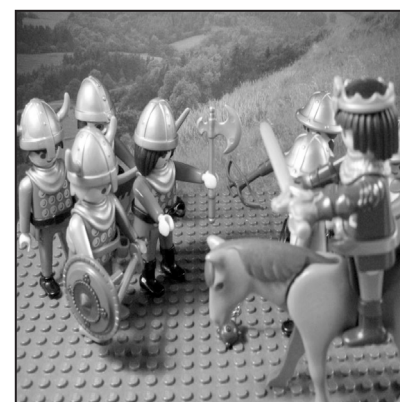
Ten Out Of Ten
Stories and puppet plays based on the 10 commandments



Taylorimation DVD
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Taylorimation Video Clips
Individual clips from the DVD



Brompton Bible Stories
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