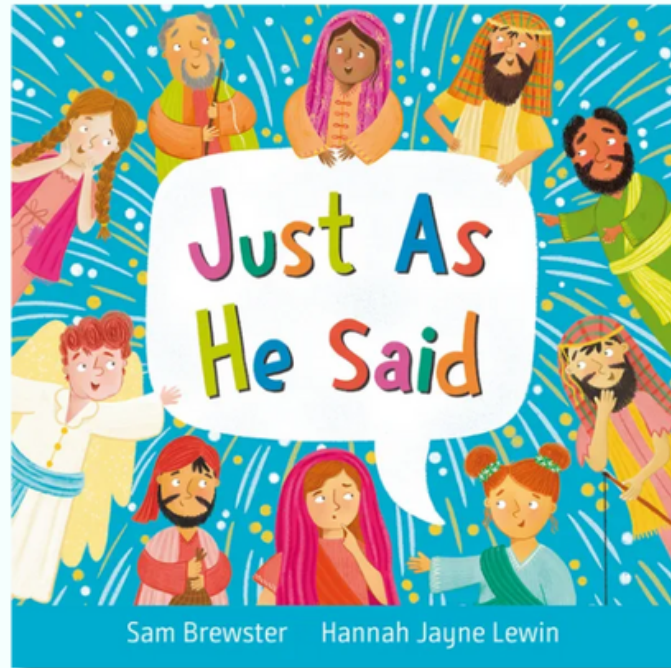


Toddler pack

Ages 0 - 5



- Session guide: Coping with scary times
- Song lyrics
- Activity 1: Colouring sheet
- Activity 2: Water play (musical statues)
- Activity 3: Craft - Storm in a bottle
- Prayer prompts

Objective:

To help children know that Jesus is with them when life is hard and scary because his words are powerful and true.

Outline:

- **Pray** (1 min)
- **Play the song:** hand out percussion instruments for the children to use while they're listening and singing. Or do actions. (1.5 mins)
- **Read & pull objects** (5 mins)
 - Read pages 5 - 8, then skip to page 25
 - Pull out objects from the bag and ask the questions as you read each page.
- **Complete the craft & activities** (30 mins)

Opening prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for a chance to learn more about you today and about how you help us when life gets hard and scary. We pray that hearing this true story from the Bible would teach us to know that because of Jesus you will never abandon us. Amen.

Song:

My God Is so Big, So Strong and So Mighty



Opening Questions:

1. **When do you feel scared?** I feel scared when it's dark - I'm scared of the dark! What about you? (Elicit answers: what about when you're riding a bike really fast? Or if you're doing something new that you've not done before...)
2. Life can be scary sometimes! And as we grow up there can be lots of difficult moments and that's normal. This story is all about how Jesus helps us with them.

My God is so big
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so big
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

He made the trees
He made the seas
He made the elephants too

My God is so big
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so big
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so big
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

The mountains are His
The rivers are His
The stars are His handiwork too

My God is so big
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
There's nothing my God cannot do
There's nothing my God cannot do
For You!

Read & pull objects:

Prepare a bag filled with four objects related to the story: 1. A spray bottle filled with water 2. Toy fish/rubber ducky 3. Toy boat 4. Toy man or woman

Pages 5 - 6

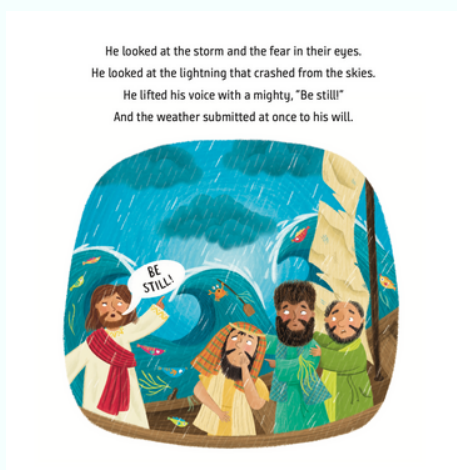
Ask a child to pull an object from the bag, talk about how it fits with the story e.g. toy man/woman - "Look, here's a man. There were lots of men on the boat with Jesus, do they look happy or sad? Sad! Let's see what happened to them."

Ask another child to pull another object: "Look here's some water *spray lightly* - these men in the boat were caught in a storm. Let's see what happened to them."



- What are the people (and animals) afraid of? The storm
- Would you be afraid of a storm?

Page 7



Ask a child to pull another object from the bag. Explain it's relationship to the story.

- What did Jesus do to make the storm stop? Speak
- What did he say? Be still

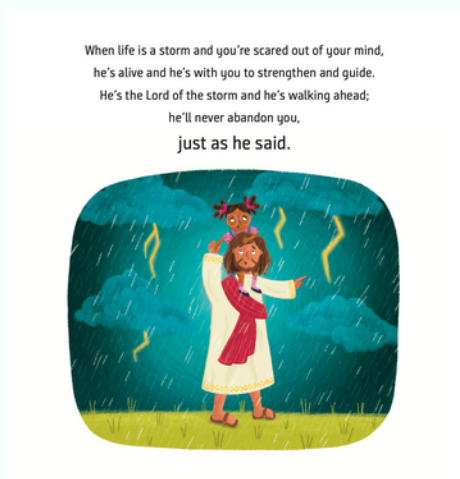
Page 8



Ask a child to pull another object from the bag. Explain it's relationship to the story.

- **What happened to the sea?** It calmed
- **Does the sea calm if you tell it to?** No
- **What does this tell us about Jesus's words?** They're very powerful and always come true! Even the sea listens to him.

Page 25



- **What does Jesus say to us when we're scared?** He'll never abandon us
- **Why can we believe him?** Because he said it! He is powerful and his words always come true.

Summary:

- **Jesus will never abandon us, even in scary, hard times. Whether we're in a storm, walking in the dark, riding a bike or starting a new nursery or playgroup.**
- **Why can we believe him?** Because he said it and his words are true and powerful.



HE'LL NEVER
ABANDON YOU
JUST AS
HE SAID

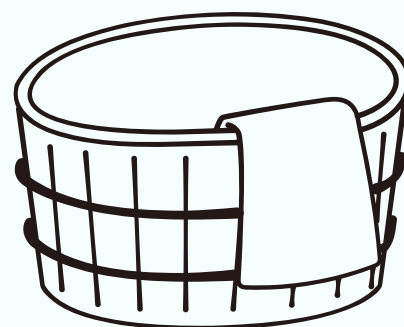
Water play

“Be still” (Musical statues)

If you're brave enough to get a bit (a lot) messy, set up water play area with a shallow amount of water. Use fans and bubbles and toy boats to recreate the scene. Practice saying: “Be still” and having the children stop their play at different intervals. Children appreciate sensory play and the contrast between loud and quiet, lots of movement and none. If you don't want to get wet then fill the tub with interesting blue material: crinkle paper / foil / fabric.

You'll need:

- A large tub (or specific water play equipment)
- Waterproof mat, tarpaulin or large towels to put underneath
- Water (or interesting blue materials)
- Toy boats, fish and people (that float)
- Fan (optional)
- Bubble machine (optional)
- Towels (for clean up)



Activity:

- Let the children play in the water with the boats
- Let them know that when you shout “Be still” they have to stop moving and playing, the one who is still moving will be ‘out’.
- Continue doing so until there is one winner.
- Message: “See how powerful my words are when I say ‘Be still’. Jesus managed to stop an entire storm with his.” So when he says ‘I will never abandon you’, we can believe him!

Storm in a bottle

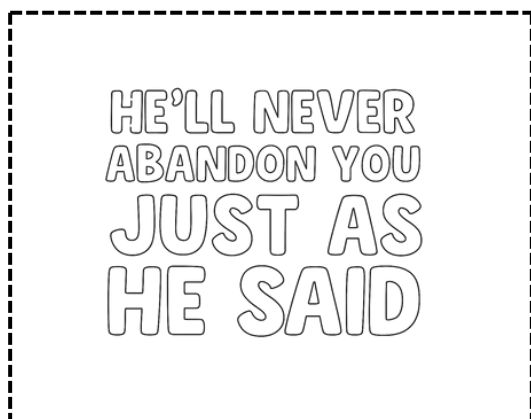
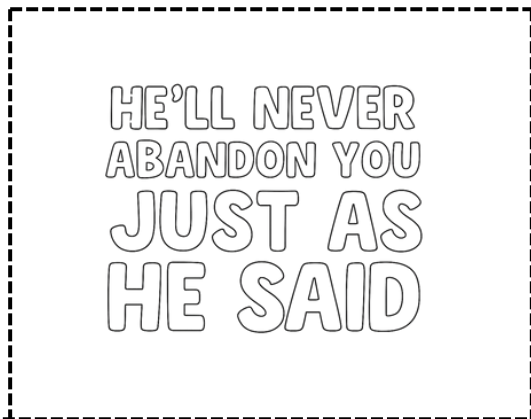
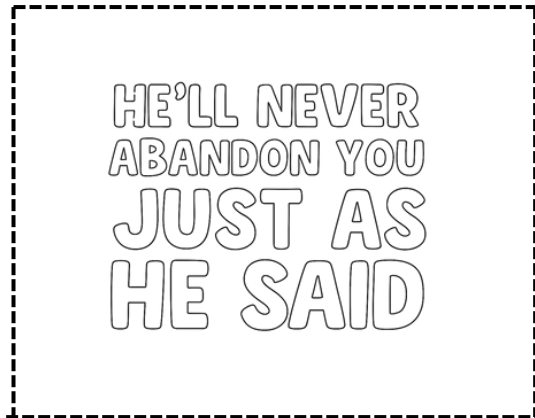
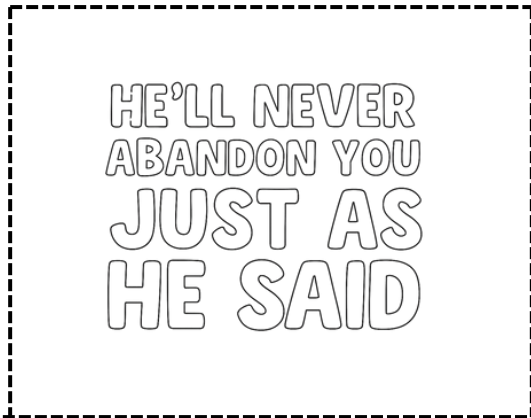
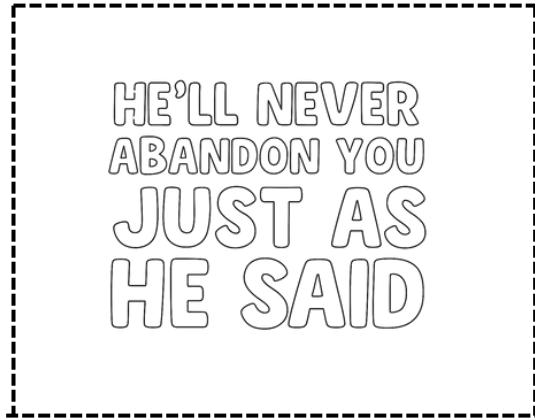
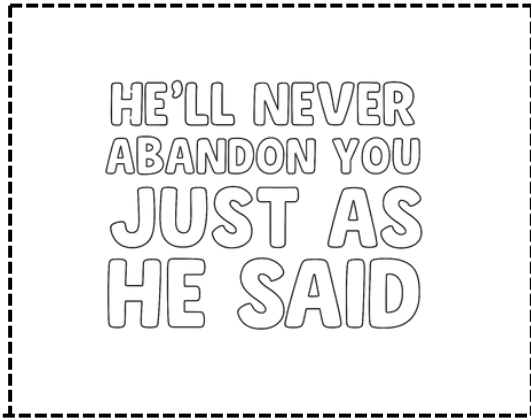
You'll need:

1. A clear plastic bottle (with a secure, screw-on lid)
2. Water
3. Olive oil (or baby oil, which is clearer)
4. Optional: food colouring, glitter, sequins, little lego or laminated figure (to symbolise Jesus) or small beads
5. Print outs: "He will never abandon us. Just as he said" (ideally on transparent paper)
6. Glue
7. Tape

Steps:

1. Fill the bottle about two-thirds full with water.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring.
3. Slowly pour in baby/olive oil until the bottle is almost full — usually about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total volume.
4. Fill with little animal sequins or small beads etc
5. Seal the lid tightly (hot glue or tape it shut for safety).
6. Cut out the templates below and stick to the bottle (but not so it obscures the contents)
7. Shake it up — then watch!





Prayer prompts

You are strong
enough to help with
ANYTHING, God



God, you are
such a trusted
comforter and
guide!

That you're
always with us,
even in difficult
times



That because
of Jesus, you'll
never abandon
us

For not
believing your
words



For not coming to
you when things
are scary

Give us more belief
in the power of
your words



Help us trust you
are with us when
we're scared

Teach your
children this
prayer
format!



If you want more...

Enjoy more of our catchy, rhyming toddler books

Also by
Sam
Brewster



Hardback book
about God's
existence



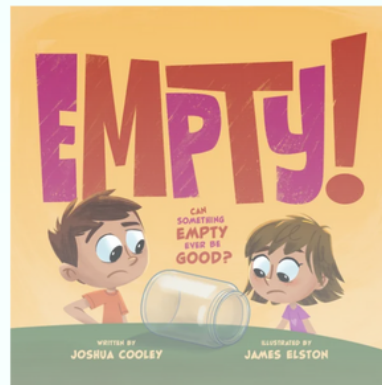
The gospel
with a
singalong
video



Christian
version of
'Twas the
Night Before
Christmas



Guide to
reading the
Bible



Humorous tone.
Looks at the
resurrection

