

## **Ten Must Know Bible Stories Project Report.**

**April 2017**

**We are using the opportunities the RME curriculum provides to transform how children hear, learn and explore Bible stories in school.** Collaboratively with school staff we are writing and delivering material which uses Bible stories as contexts for learning. We creatively teach the story and help the children consider what it tells us about God and how it could relate to their life. School staff will further embed the story by basing their literacy, numeracy, art, health and science teaching on the story. Recognising the value of learning outdoors we are where possible teaching the story in outdoor settings.

Since our project started in August 2016 we have:

- Written and trialled resources to teach 9 (out of the 10) Bible Stories in Primary schools and to help staff use them across the curriculum.
- Worked with 27 classes, helping over 650 children explore the Bible and their understanding of Christian belief across 8 schools.
- Hosted 9 teacher training sessions each focussing on a different Bible Story.
- Developed our website [tenbiblestories.org](http://tenbiblestories.org) where all our resources can be found and downloaded.
- Started a social media presence drawing attention to and promoting our resources and the benefits of RME
- Begun to network with other organisations working in Scottish Schools to best decide how we can share and promote our resources.

Our project has been incredibly well received.

### **Feedback from teacher training sessions.**

What did you find useful?

“Brainstorming of cross-curricular ideas.”

“Making story more active during story telling.”

“Brilliant ideas.”

“Excellent ideas, approach to RME and extremely useful to do in the class.”

“Loads of ideas to be explored and group discussion highlighted multi curricular links.”

### **Feedback from staff after classroom sessions:**

“Although I have known the story of the Prodigal Son for most of my life I now have a much greater understanding of it. It was beneficial for me to see you delivering the lessons and activities and I would now be quite confident to use the materials again. It has also given me ideas for future lessons. I will be looking at the materials currently available on your website and I think I will be able to use them more confidently.” (Teacher)

“I was asked to work with you and I wasn't sure about it. I thought RME was going to be boring. But this has been brilliant.” (Teacher)

### Feedback from children:

*"The discussions were exciting. I liked hearing what other people were thinking"*

*"I learned that you should forgive people"*

*I enjoyed it because "I know a lot more about Christians and their beliefs"*

*"I learned that Christians believe in only one God"*



### In the next phases of our project we plan to:

- meet with staff who have been involved to review and plan the next phase. We want to ensure it is sustainable and useful to schools.
- Complete the development of our resources and website.
- Explore the possibility of creating videos of our schools worker telling the stories to help staff use the resources independently.
- Increase our presence on social media and explore other ways to promote our resources and encourage teachers and chaplains to use them.
- Continue to work with children in our local schools.
- Continue to deliver teacher training sessions and explore the possibility of training chaplains and other church workers.

Please do visit our website to see many pictures and videos illustrating our work.

Tenbiblestories.org

Thank you for your support of our project,

Sue Thomson

Schools Worker

10 Must Know Bible Stories Project.

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Note of support from Jenny Watson, Headteacher Middleton Park Primary School.

### **Ten Bible Stories as a Context for Learning – letter of support**

It has been a privilege to work with St Columba's Church, and in particular Sue Thomson to develop our RME programme at Middleton Park School. The partnership approach with teachers has resulted in a pioneering programme to explore delivering the ten key Bible stories as contexts for learning across the curriculum. The value of this work has been recognised and is further being developed and rolled out across the Oldmachar and Bridge of Don schools and churches. This approach has empowered targeted classes to have a genuine voice in discussions about belief and faith and engaged them in a personal search for meaning and moral values through being fully involved as active participants.

Sue has taken the lead in developing resources for the ten Bible Stories in partnership with schools in the Bridge of Don as well as teachers from across Aberdeen City. These have been webmounted to allow a local, national and worldwide audience to tap into these fantastic resources.