

JACK IN THE BOX FOR CHURCHES

YEAR ONE - GOD'S BIG PLAN

AUTUMN - SESSION ONE

Learning Focus: **God's Big Plan begins**

IN THE BOX

CLOTH, JACK (PUPPET), CHILDREN'S BIBLE
STORY PROPS: 2 FIGURES, A GARDEN FORK OR TROWEL,
A TREE, AN APPLE



Black text - Leader's Script *Red text - Prompts for Leader* Purple text - Songs

*Sit with the children in a circle. Place the box beside you.
Take out the cloth and spread it on the floor.*

Welcome - Hello Time

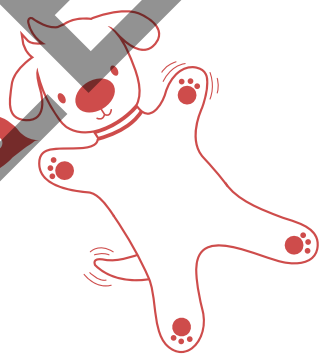
Take Jack out of the box and sing the song.



(Tune: The wheels on the bus)

Welcome everyone and say hello,
Say hello, say hello.
Welcome everyone and say hello,
I'm glad you came.

Hello



Jack has brought his favourite book, the Bible.

*Jack helps to take the Bible out of the box. Show the Bible to the children and place it on the cloth.
Meanwhile everyone sings.*



(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Here's the Bible, here's the Bible.
A special book, a special book.
What's inside it? What's inside it?
Let's take a look, let's take a look.

Learn - Story Time

Adam and Eve make a choice (Genesis 3)

Tell the story using the story props.

Long, long ago when God first made this beautiful world, it was **all** good.
Nothing bad, nothing sad; everything was very good. There was a man called
Adam (*take out figure*) and his wife called Eve (*take out figure*). Adam and Eve
lived happily together in a wonderful garden called Eden. Adam and Eve loved
looking after the garden (*take out garden fork*).



It was fun to dig and plant in the garden. *(Add actions)* I wonder what they might have grown? *(Accept ideas)* Adam and Eve were good friends with each other and they were friends with God too. In the evenings they liked to walk in the garden, talking to God. They were so happy!

God said Adam and Eve could go where they liked and eat whatever they fancied....except **one**. They must not eat the fruit growing on one tree in the middle of the garden. *(Take out tree)*

To begin with everything was fine. Adam and Eve were perfectly happy. They were never hungry, so they didn't want to eat the fruit that was not allowed.

But then Eve began to wonder. She looked up at the tree. "What's so special about **that** tree?" she thought, "Why can't we eat **that** fruit? I wonder what it tastes like?"

One day, one very sad day as it turned out to be, Eve was looking at the tree and the thought popped into her head, "Surely it wouldn't hurt to just try a single apple." *(Take out apple)*

So Eve decided to pick the fruit. She took a bite. "Mmmm," she said, "That's delicious. Adam, try some of this, it's really good!" And Adam did. They shared the fruit together and forgot about what God had told them.

Oh no! Now nothing was quite the same any more. Everything began to go wrong.

They had been friends with God. But now they started to feel rather afraid of him because they knew they had done exactly what he told them not to do.

They had been good friends together. But now Adam and Eve started arguing about lots of things. Sometimes they said unkind words to each other.

The garden had been really fun. But now it didn't seem to grow as well as before. They noticed things like weeds and thorns, and it began to feel like really hard work to grow their food. Sometimes they had aches and pains at the end of the day. *(Actions)*

Adam and Eve often felt sad and wished they had never chosen to eat that fruit. But what could they do now? They didn't know how to put things right.

God was sad too because he saw that his wonderful world had been spoiled. He saw that people had become selfish and unkind.

But God **did** know how to put things right. He wasn't going to give up on his beautiful world and the people he had made. It wouldn't be easy, and it would take a very long time, but God had a Big Plan to put things right in his world.

Reflect - Thinking Time

Can anyone remember what Jack likes to do when he's looked at the Bible? He likes to have some thinking time. *(Put finger on chin)* Let's sing the song.



(Tune: Here we go round the mulberry bush)

Now we're ready for thinking time, *(point to head)*

Thinking time, thinking time. *(point to head)*

Now we're ready for thinking time, *(point to head)*

What can I learn today. *(put finger on chin)*

Pretend that Jack is whispering in your ear.

Jack is thinking what it would be like if nobody ever argued or got cross or snatched things for themselves. How lovely it would have been if things had not gone wrong! I wonder why Eve and Adam chose not to do what God said.



Let's all have a quiet moment to think...

Pause, and then hear the children's ideas.

Respond - Prayer Time

Now we're going to get ready to talk to God. Let's sing.



(Tune: Twinkle, twinkle little star.)

We know God is always there, *(point up)*

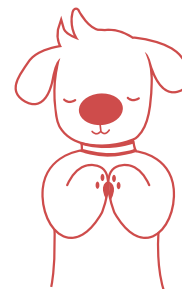
Now it's time to say a prayer. *(hands together)*

Stretch hands wide then give a clap, *(as sung)*

Fold them safely in your lap. *(as sung)*

We know God is always there, *(point up)*

Now it's time to say a prayer. *(hands together and close eyes)*



It's sad that your perfect world got spoilt. But thank you God that you still care about us and love us. Thank you that you promised to put things right. Amen

Goodbye Time

We've had fun with Jack but he's sleepy now and needs to go back in his box. We'll see him again soon.

*Invite several of the children to help you to put away the Bible and props while remembering what has been learnt.
As you sing Jack waves goodbye to the children.*



(Tune: first two lines of Baa Baa Black sheep repeated.)

Goodbye everyone, wave goodbye to Jack,

We've had fun and he'll be back. *(repeat twice)*

Jack goes back in his box.



Explore Together

- Draw, paint or cut and stick a picture of a lovely garden.
- Stick pieces of coloured tissue onto apple shapes.
- Make a tree with cardboard roll and green paper cut in a fringe for leaves. Or stick trees shapes onto paper and add screwed up green tissue pieces for leaves, and red circles for apples.
- Use playdough to make any kind of fruit, vegetable, flower, tree.
- Use fruit and vegetables to dip into paint and make prints.



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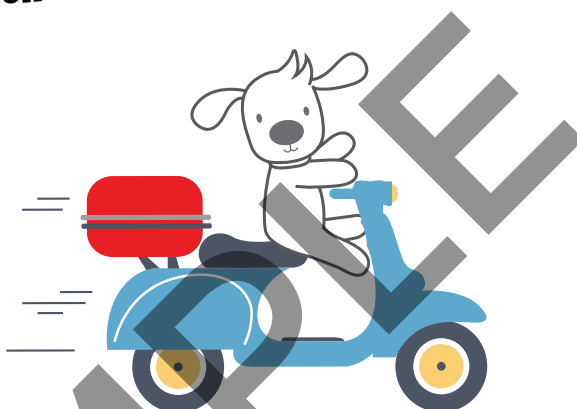
YEAR ONE - AUTUMN - SESSION ONE

IMAGINOR
— FOR CHURCHES —

Learning
How God's Big Plan began.

Story
Adam and Eve were happy in God's world until they made a bad choice to eat the fruit God had told them not to eat. But God had a Big Plan to put things right. (Genesis 3)

Talk
I wonder why Eve and Adam made a bad choice.
I wonder how God would like his world to be.



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