**Two Primary Assemblies on Bible Friendships**

**Assembly One – Loyalty**

*Abraham and Lot - Abraham reminds us of loyalty and going above and beyond for friends. Abraham gathered hundreds of men to rescue Lot from captivity.* Genesis 14:14-16

Introduction

Welcome the children to assembly and introduce the theme of friendship and particularly some good friends from the Bible and what we can learn from them.

Game

Arm wrestle challenge. Before the assembly put 2 balloons up the sleeves of your jumper to make it look like you have big muscles. Invite someone out to the front who thinks they are really strong. Say that you are going to have a bit of an arm wrestle. Explain that the winner will get to break an egg over the head of the loser.

Do one wrestle (obviously you will win), then give them a second chance but invite them to ask a friend out to help them. Play another wrestle with 2 of them against you. This time, make sure the volunteers win! Get them to break the egg on you but make sure it is hard boiled! (You can always think of a less messy forfeit if you are going on somewhere else!)

Talk

Did you notice how much easier it was when they had a friend helping them. Doesn't it feel great when your friends are there when you need them. Today's story is all about exactly that.

Story

Abram and Lot had big families and they were both really rich. They were farmers and were doing very well! But there was a problem. You see, they both lived on the same land and there just wasn't enough room for the both of them.

Some of their family members had started to argue about little things – mainly the lack of space. So Abram and Lot decided something had to be done. Because they were such good friends they decided they would split the land and Abram said that Lot could choose first. Lot decided he was going to have the land that was the most fertile so that he could grow food and look after his animals the best.

Abram agreed and time passed.

Unfortunately for Lot, somebody else liked the look of his land. In fact they liked it so much that they decided they should take it from Lot. And that's exactly what they did. They took everything that Lot had. What Lot really needed was a good friend.

Abram heard about what had happened to Lot and it was now that he had a decision to make. What was he going to do? Help Lot and risk having all his stuff taken too, or leave Lot to it and protect what he had.

Abram knew there was only one thing to do and that was help his friend. He got as many members of his family as he possibly could and he crept up on the robbers. They took all of Lot's stuff back and chased them as far away as they could.

What a friend!

Challenge

Abram showed us what it means to be loyal, to stick by our friends. He could have been so mad that Lot took the best bit of land that he wouldn't have helped Lot but Abram knew that his friend needed him. Now I’m not suggesting you go and steal things back from someone but would you help a friend out?

Are you there for them when they need you even if it means giving up something you are doing?

Are you always there for your friends even if they have annoyed you?

If you want to be a good friend then you need to be someone that is loyal, that sticks around in the hard times as well as the good times

Prayer

**Primary assembly series on Bible Friendships**

**Assembly two – Faithfulness**

Ruth and Naomi

*Ruth is faithful. She follows Naomi to Israel to care for her.* Ruth 1:16-17

Introduction

Remind the children of last times assembly and see if they can remember the theme of loyalty. The challenge given was to see if they could be there for their friends when they were needed.

Game

Follow my friend.

Get out 2 best friends and ask them some questions about how close they are as friends. Ask how far they would follow each other. Say that you are going to put that into practice.

1. Offer chocolate on the other side of the room to one, and ask if their friend would like to follow them for some too.
2. Get the first friend to walk blindfolded around the hall. Once they have started, ask if their friend would follow and guide them round.
3. Get out a toilet brush and ask your first friend to go and clean the toilets. Then ask their friend if they would go with them.

Talk

Say that sometimes we go through nice times in real life, like the plate of chocolate: there are birthday parties and holidays and treats to share with our friends. But there are also toilet brush times: really sad times or really difficult times that we don't want to go through, but we have to. One way that God helps us through these bad times is by giving us friends to stick with us, even at the worst of times. Just like Naomi and Ruth.

Story

Naomi's husband had died, a long time ago. Naomi was delighted when her son married a beautiful girl called Ruth. The two women were great friends and loved sharing a house together. But then a very sad thing happened: Ruth's husband - Naomi's son - died. And Ruth and Naomi were all on their own.

They were both very sad, but they looked after each other.

Naomi had come from Bethlehem years before, so all her family were in Bethlehem, many miles away. She pointed towards Bethlehem and told Ruth that now her son was dead, she was going back home.

Now Ruth could have stayed with her old family in that country where they were, but she and Naomi were great friends by now, and she couldn't bear to think of old Naomi making the long journey to Bethlehem all on her own.

'I'll come with you!' she said.

'No, no, you stay here with your own people. You'll be a foreigner in Bethlehem,' said old Naomi. But

Ruth wouldn't listen. She knew what a friend had to do. She packed her things, said goodbye to her family and set off on the long journey with Naomi.

And do you know? While they were in Bethlehem, Ruth fell in love with a handsome rich man called Boaz, and they got married. Naomi was delighted all over again, that her dear friend Ruth had another chance to have a family. And indeed Ruth and Boaz did have a baby! And if you look at Ruth's family tree, you'll see that the baby grew up and got married and had a baby, and that baby grew up and got married and had a baby... and so on until in the end, another baby was born in Bethlehem... to another girl who was a long way from home... in a stable... I wonder who that baby was?

Challenge

So our friends are people who stick with us in good times and in bad times, and we should never take them for granted. If you want to be a good friend then it means being willing to follow your friends through their toilet brush moments – the difficult times when they really need you. I hope you can do that...

Prayer