

## **SCRIPTURE**

#### 1 Kings 13: The Shriveled Hand

Read 1 Kings 13. One day God sent a man to Bethel where King Jeroboam lived. God gave him a message to deliver to the king. Jeroboam was standing by an altar to burn incense when the man of God spoke. He told him, "As a sign of things to come the altar will be torn in two and the ashes will pour out of it." Then it happened just like the man of God said. The altar broke in two and ashes came pouring out of it.

King Jeroboam did not like this one bit! So he raised his arm and commanded his soldiers, "Seize him!" But right then something terribly frightening happened. King Jeroboam's hand dried up right before their eyes. He could not even pull it back to himself. It was just an old, dry, shriveled hand that would not move. "Please, please pray to God that he restore my hand," Jeroboam cried. The man of God prayed and just like that, his hand was back to normal.

## **DISCUSSION**

What might you be thinking if you were nearby and saw the altar torn in two and ahes pouring out of it?

Can you imagine how afraid you would be if all of a sudden your hand shriveled up and turned to bones?

Why did this happen to King Jeroboam?

What can we learn from this lesson? Be obedient to God, serve only the one true God and do not try to do things your way, but God's way.

### **ACTIVITY**



#### Wikki Stix Skeleton (or use pipe cleaners)

Kids love molding these cool wax stix and they are so inexpensive! Kids can mold a skeleton or for older ones, try making a skeleton hand.

Looking for other ideas? Try using mini pretze sticks, marshmellows and icing on a plate. Kids can snack while they play reinforcing God's word as you go.



## **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Ezekiel 37: The Valley of Dry Bones**

Read Ezekial 37. Ezekiel was a prophet. God grabbed Ezekiel and took him setting him down in the middle of a valley covered with dry bones. They were everywhere he looked. He stepped over tons of old, dry bones bleached by years of lying in the sun. God spoke to the dry bones. The bones listened as God spoke to them, "Watch this, you will come to life. Then you will realize that I am God!" Then there was sound, a rattling. The bones shook and began moving. They were coming together, bone to bone forming complete skeletons right before Ezekiel's very eyes. He kept watching as sinews formed, then muscles covered the bones, then skin stretched over them. There were piles of bones everywhere and now there were bodies. But they were not alive so God told Ezekiel, "Speak to the wind." So he did. And the wind began blowing in from every direction. It moved through the bodies making an eerie sound as it blew air into them giving them breath, bringing them to life. The bodies rose up and formed a very large army.

## DISCUSSION

Imagine yourself all alone in a dry, dark valley. There are bones everywhere you turn. You try to go around them but there are so many you trip over them. What would you be feeling? Maybe a little afraid?

Do you know what God said these bones that came back to life represented? God told Ezekiel, "These bones are like the whole family of Israel. The people believe their bones have dried up and their hope is gone." God told Ezekiel to tell the people of Israel he would restore them and give them their home again.

What can we learn from this lesson? God loves His people! He loves US!

## **ACTIVITY**



#### **Q-tip Skeleton**

First, have each person draw a skull on white paper making sure to give it eyes, a nose and mouth. The skeleton is about to come to life so it should be a very happy skeleton. Then, cut it out and glue to black paper for stronger effect, or for ease, leave on white paper and glue Q-tips to it.

Next, use Q-tips to create the spine and ribs.

Give it legs and feet.

Don't forget the arms and hands.

You'll need to cut some to make the hands and feet.

For added effect, use spray glow-in-the dark paint ahead of time to spray Q-tips for kids. When they are done, turn out the lights and see the glow.



## **SCRIPTURE**

#### 1 Samuel 28: The Sorcerer of Endor

Read 1 Samuel 28. Samuel was a prophet. After he died, he was buried. Saul was king at this time and had stopped obeying God. Now King Saul found himself in a real pickle. He did not know waht to do. Then, he got a very bad idea... he would bring the Samuel's ghost to talk to him. He went to see a socerer who did what King Saul asked not knowing it was the king. She said, "I see a spirit coming out of the ground. He looks like an old man wearing a special robe." Saul knew it was Samuel and bowed down touching his face to the ground. "Why did you bother me? Why did you bring me up from the dead?" Samuel asked. Samuel was not happy about this at all!

"I'm in trouble and God has left me. He won't answer me anymore. I need you to tell me what to do," Saul begged. Samuel said, "God is doing what he said he would do. He is tearing the kingdom out of your hands and giving it to David because you would not obey him. The Philistines will defeat you. Tomorrow you and your sons will be here with me."

### **DISCUSSION**

Saul was not allowed to call up ghosts from the dead. That was, and still is, against God's law. What if you were there and saw a ghost? Would you be afraid?

What did Samuel mean when he told Saul that he and his sons would be with him tomorrow? Samuel told him they were all going to die.

We need to remember that God warns us not to play around with sorcerers, spells and ghosts. Bad things can happen so have fun telling fun ghost stories, but never try to really contact a dead person.

## **ACTIVITY**



#### **Lollipop Ghosts**

This activity is so easy! All you need is a lollipop with a big round head (not the circle ones), a Kleenex, yarn and black marker.

Lay the Kleenex over the lollipop and tie the yarn just under the lollipop. Use the marker to give the ghost some eyes and maybe even an eerie mouth.

Let kids make several. One to eat and one to share with a friend while telling them the story they learned from the Bible.



## **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Daniel 5: Ghost Writer**

Read Daniel 5. This tells us about the time King Belshazzar gave a big party for 1000 of his officials. King Belshazzar ordered his servants to bring the gold and silver cups that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem. Together all the people drank from them and gave praises to the their gods which were just idols. They were having a good time when all of a sudden from the dark room a person's hand appeared and began writing on the wall. The ghostly fingers scratched words in the plaster of the castle wall near the lampstand. The king was watching as the hand wrote: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPARSIN

King Belshazzar was so afraid. His face became white from fear and his knees shook and knocked together. His legs were so weak he could not even stand. Daniel came to tell him what the writing meant, but the king wasn't going to like it... Mene: God has counted the days until your kingdom will end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found not good enough. Uparsin: Your kingdom is being taken from you and will be divided. That very same night, King Belshazzar was killed.

### DISCUSSION

What is going on at the very beginning of this bible story?

Imagine going to a party in a big, dark castle. You are having lots of fun when all of sudden things go silent. Everyone is watching a giant, ghost hand write mystery words on the castle wall. The bibles says the king was so araid he turned white and his knees shooked so hard they knocked! That must have been scary!

What can we learn from this? The king was disrespecting God by drinking from the cups from the temple. NEVER disrespect God. God is holy and all powerful. Honor him always.

## **ACTIVITY**



#### **Hidden Message**

I would have one ready for the kids to unveil the mystery writing, then let them make one too.

On a piece of paper, use a white crayon to write "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Uparsin"

Use watercolor paint to reveal the mystery. Simply paint of the words and they'll appear! It's magic...

Now, let kids make their own to take home and retell the Bible story.



## **SCRIPTURE**

#### Mark 5: Demon Possessed

Read Mak 5:1-20. A man was possessed by demons. He lived in the tombs among the dead. He cut himself with stones, tore off his clothes and screamed at night. While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him and ran to him bowing down. Jesus said, "Evil spirit, come out of this man!" But the man shouted, "What do you want with me, Jesus, son of God? I beg you, do not torment me!" Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?" And the demon answered, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us." The evil spirts, the demons, living in the man begged Jesus again and again not to send them far away. Jesus saw a large herd of pigs eating on a nearby hill. The evil spirits begged, "Send us to the pigs. Let us go into them." So Jesus allowed them do this. Once the evil spirits entered the herd of pigs, the pigs ran down the hill and into the lake where they all drowned. There were about 2000 pigs.

### DISCUSSION

The town was afraid of this man? Why? Can you describe what he must have looked like and where he lived?

The demon new this was Jesus right away and the demon was afraid. What did he say his name was and why? Wow! That's a lot of demons!

What did Jesus do? Healed the man by sending the demons into a herd of pigs that ran into the lake and drowned.

### **ACTIVITY**



#### **Graveyard Pudding**

The demon possessed man lived in the graveyard, how scary!

You'll need: Prepared pudding cups, Oreos, crushed, 1 bag Milano cookies, 36 gummy worms, Chocolate sprinkles, Food-safe marker or black decorating gel, Clear cups, glasses, or bowls

Directions: Spoon the "dirt" into each cup: First Oreo crumbs, then pudding, and top with chocolate sprinkles. Write RIP (or a silly tombstone message) to the top half of a Milano cookie with the food-safe marker or decorating gel. Stick the tombstone in the dirt. Poke some worms in the dirt.

Now, let's eat!