

Company



GET INTO
THE BIBLE



30 MINUTES



IN THE
CUPBOARD

BRIDGES NOT WALLS



AIM

When we disagree or fall out with someone, we have two options – build a bridge or build a wall. As Christians we're called to reach out and be peacemakers. This activity explores how we can be peacemakers by being bridge makers.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- > Craft Materials (Card, straws, string, pipe cleaners, tape, dowels etc)
- > Weights (coins, sweets)

GET INTO THE BIBLE: BRIDGES NOT WALLS

THEME: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN VALUES



LEADER PREPARATION

A leader will need to sort out some appropriate materials for building bridges. Anything found in the craft cupboard would be suitable, as part of the activity is challenging young people's creativity skills to turn everyday items into a bridge.



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

- 1 Provide the group with some basic craft materials to build a bridge.
- 2 Once built test them by placing small weights on the bridge until they fail. Which bridge successfully held the most weight?

What is the purpose of a bridge? Bridges are designed to bring things together – roads, places, people. Think about bridges in your local area. If you took them all away, what places would become impossible to get to? Without realising it lots of us use bridges every day. They are an essential part of our lives.

'Building bridges' is a term used to describe efforts to improve relationships between two people. Sometimes we fall out with people or just don't get on with them. In these situations we are faced with two options, to build a bridge or to build a wall. One option puts obstacles in the way, blocks communication and doesn't solve anything. The other is a proactive, grown up way of solving a problem and making things better rather than worse.

Christians are expected to reach out to people. People who are both similar and different to us. We are called to reflect God's love. **'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'** John 15 v 12. **'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.'** Matthew 5 v 9.

Sometimes, just like in our activity, the bridges we build get tested. Something might happen that threatens to bring that bridge tumbling down. It's at those moments we have to make sure our bridges are built on strong foundations. As Christians, those strong foundations can be our relationship with God. When things get tough, we can turn to him for support.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

Visit the story of Joshua and the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6). Explore how with God on our side, we can destroy even the biggest walls in our lives. Do you have the same confidence in God's power that Joshua had?



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Please ensure only appropriate materials and weights are used when building and testing the bridges.