

GOD'S WARDROBE: NEW CLOTHES FOR A NEW LIFE

BIG IDEA

When Jesus comes into our lives, the Holy Spirit gives us a new wardrobe, and the best piece of clothing is LOVE.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Cut out the labels from the appendix and Find 8 pins or tape to fasten labels to clothes

Find a water pistol or plastic spray bottle

Buy a block of chocolate and wrap it like a gift (in pretty paper or even aluminum foil!)

Put six or seven pieces of clothing into a pillow case or grocery bag (e.g. Dad's striped pyjama pants, a scarf, a necklace, a lacy blouse. Make sure some of them are funny or way out, like fairy wings or Grandad's tartan waistcoat)

Put everyone's raincoats in a pile (optional: put in another grocery bag labelled 'LOVE')

Put the gift, labels, pins/tape, and water pistol in the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

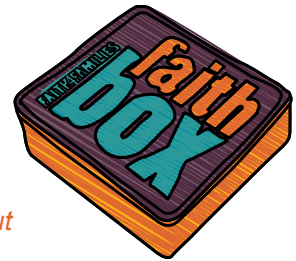
SEND THE CHILDREN ON A HUNT to find their favourite cap/hat and wear it back to the table.

Take the wrapped chocolate out of the box and put it on the table.

When you wear your cap it tells us something about you.

Everyone say why their cap/hat is their favourite and what it says about them.

When Jesus comes into our lives, God gives us new clothes to wear. These new clothes make people recognise something about us. They are invisible clothes but they identify the sort of person we are, even better than real clothes do.



GAME

Hand the bag of clothes around and each person, without looking, pull out one piece of clothing and put it on.

HAND AROUND THE LABELS, and each person take one and use the tape/pins to fasten it to their garment. Keep going until all the labels are used.

READ

Colossians 3:9-11 says that when Jesus comes into our lives, we are done with our old life and we put on our new nature. It's like a dirty set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire.

Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with His label on...

“ So chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. ”

Col. 3:12-14, The Message

EXPLORE

Have everyone explain the label or labels they have on their garments.

From that reading, what do we not already have on? LOVE. Hold up a raincoat from the bag, and explain that this is their all-purpose garment which goes over everything else and covers it. God says we must never be without love.

GAME

YOU HAVE TO RUN OUTSIDE, run around a tree (clothesline/whatever) come back, find your raincoat out of the pile and put it on and line up against the fence, ready for a race.

Now everyone must run to a point and back to the fence as a parent stands in the middle and sprays everyone with a water pistol or spray bottle as they pass. See how many times you can get past without being sprayed!

Wipe everyone off and come back for your family talk.

When we wear God's love (when we live in it and give it to others), His love protects us like our raincoats protect us from getting wet. When you have love, you can overlook niggling, annoying or upsetting things. When you have love, you can overcome meanness and nastiness and repay it with kindness. This is God's kind of love.

QUESTIONS

Did your raincoat protect your clothes from getting wet?

How does LOVE protect us?

What could you say to someone who hurts you, but you want to forgive them? (*"It made me feel really upset when you _____. But I want to forgive you so we can be friends."*)

How do you feel after you've forgiven someone?

What happens when we don't forgive?
(How do we feel?)

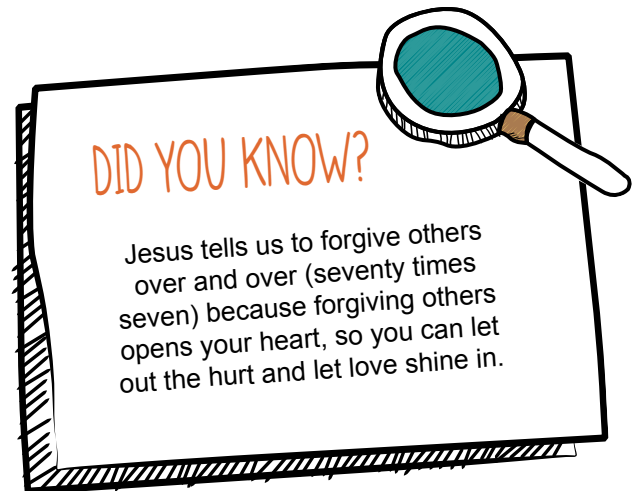
Tell us about a time when you felt really grateful that you were forgiven. (Mum and Dad might have some good stories to share here.)

OUT OF THE BOX

Pick up the wrapped chocolate as you read...

The most wonderful pieces of clothing God has given us are actually gifts that we hand onto others. God gives us the garment of love so that we can give love to others. God gave us forgiveness when Jesus died for our sins. Now he tells us to be quick to forgive others.

Let the children unwrap the gift. Then Dad or Mum open the block of chocolate and give everyone two pieces. Each person eat one piece and give one to the person next to them, saying "Because of God's goodness to me, I can give some to you."



PRAY

Thank you God for loving and forgiving me. Help me to generously forgive others.

Everyone ask for God's help to practice the attribute you are going to work on this week.

LIVE

Each person take the label from the clothing they used in the game and put it on the curtains in their bedroom or mirror in the bathroom. Ask God every day for help to grow into that piece of clothing from God's wardrobe.

Try to say "I love you" to someone every day.

FAITH BOARD



*To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.
- Lewis B. Smedes*

OTHER IDEAS

1 During the week work towards giving out a kindness award at the next Faith Box time. Each member of the family has to write down, or let Mum or Dad know, when they see other members of the family being kind (i.e. they vote for others but they can't vote for themselves). Notice acts of kindness in others, and don't mention what you have done.

2 Reinforce the above slogan on forgiveness, by a game where you run a race, either piggybacking someone or carrying a very heavy pack. Then you get the children to let go of any unforgiveness – i.e. drop the piggyback rider or pack, and run the race again experiencing how free and light you feel, and how much faster you can run!

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Plastic or paper plates
- Effervescent tablet
- Treats (biscuits)

APPENDIX



SESSION ONE

LABELS TO PIN/TAPE TO YOUR "NEW WARDROBE"

QUICK TO
FORGIVE

HUMILITY

KINDNESS

QUIET
STRENGTH

COMPASSION

EVEN-
TEMPERED

CONTENT
WITH 2ND
PLACE

DISCIPLINE