

THE BOYS'
BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



Company Section

Scripture Project

2010 / 2011

“The Simpsons”

The Boys' Brigade

in the Republic of Ireland

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This years Scripture Project is taken from “Discover” the Company Section Programme Pack and takes a look at extracts from “The Simpsons” which can be used to provoke discussion. A Bible verse, and questions are suggested in each activity.

The aim of the seven activities is to use the Simpsons to explore the Bible in an exciting, fun and informative way.

- Activity 1 What brings true happiness?
- Activity 2 What is important in life?
- Activity 3 What difference has Jesus made?
- Activity 4 Why bother with Church?
- Activity 5 What’s the point of prayer?
- Activity 6 Why should I believe?
- Activity 7 What about suffering?

You may use any number of the above activities, but we would ask you to submit a project based on any one of the activities. The project should be based on the Simpsons and the chosen activity and may take any form that the young people choose. If in doubt, please contact Philip Daley at +353 (1) 296 4622 for support.

Projects must be submitted no later than Tuesday 31st May 2011

Please note that there will be no extension to this date and late entries will not be accepted

A panel will be formed to judge the entries

Notes for Officers

- The Point of this course is to teach the boys that our Faith should be a factor in our every day lives
- Please do not see this course as being rigid, you know your group so add in things you think are relevant take things out you think are not.
- If you need anything such as advice please do not hesitate to contact BB HQ at +353 (1) 296 4622 or email boysbrigade@eircom.net
- Enjoy this course, Scripture is all about stories and bettering ourselves as well as the young people so have fun with it while learning about those less well off.

The Simpsons

Aim: To use the Simpsons to explore the bible.

Introduction:

The following devotions are based around an extract from the Simpsons, which can then be used to provoke discussion. A Bible verse, and questions are suggested.

Activity 1 What brings true happiness?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To help the young people realise what true happiness is.

Equipment:

- Episode: "Simpson and Delilah" Season 2 (Chapter one – 05:43)

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:
"Simpson and Delilah" Season 2 (Chapter one – 05:43)
Homer lies to his company health plan in order to get a drug that restores his hair.
- Use Philipians 3:7-11

"The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness. I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it."

- What do you think makes you happy or content?
- Do you ever think if you had one more thing that would be the key to happiness or contentment?
- Do you think these are really the key to being "happy or content"?
- I realised that...

Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>

Activity 2 What is important in life?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To help the young people decide on priorities in their lives.

Equipment:

- Episode: "Simpson and Delilah" Season 2 (Chapter one – 05:43)

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:

"One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Bluefish" Season 2 (Chapter 3 05:55-11:10)

Homer orders a Blowfish that if not cut perfectly can be poisonous. An apprentice sushi chef believes he has cut the fish incorrectly. Homer is rushed to the hospital and told he has 24 hours to live. Homer thinking he is going to die makes a "to do" list.

- Use Luke 12: 16-21

"Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me." Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" Then he said, "Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own." And he gave an illustration: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. In fact, his barns were full to overflowing. So he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store everything. And I'll sit back and say to myself, My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?' "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

- Use John 14:6

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

- What did you think about Homer's priorities?
- What would your list of priorities be?
- How do they differ to Homer's?
- My priorities are...



Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>

Activity 3 What difference has Jesus made?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To help the young people see the difference that Jesus can make in their lives.

Equipment:

- Episode: "Treehouse of Horror V – Time and Punishment" Season 6 (Chapter 4 08:39-13:57)

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:

"Treehouse of Horror V – Time and Punishment" Season 6 (Chapter 4 08:39-13:57)

Homer tries to fix a toaster and winds up altering the fabric of time itself.

- Use 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 (this shows that the death of Christ altered the whole of history):

"Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that we have all died to the old life we used to live. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them. So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now! What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"

- Use Jeremiah 29:11-14 (... but we can also change the whole of history by what we do):

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me. I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and bring you home again to your own land."

- What did the death of Jesus achieve?
- Do you think you'll change the future?
- I believe...



Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>

Activity 4 Why bother with Church?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To discuss all aspects of Church.

Equipment:

- Episode: "Homer the Heretic" Season 4

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:

"Homer the Heretic" Season 4

While getting ready for Church, Homer splits his trousers and decides not to attend. The family suffer through the service. Homer has such a good time that he decides to stop attending church altogether.

- Use Revelations 4:11

"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created."

- Use Romans 10:17

"Yet faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ."

- What image of church do you have?
- Do you feel that you have to go to church?
- Is attending church compulsory?
- Why is it important?
- I go to church because...



Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>

Activity 5 What's the point of prayer?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To gain an understanding of prayer.

Equipment:

- Episode: "Bart Gets an F", Season 2

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:

"Bart Gets an F", Season 2

Bart is told that if he doesn't pass the test, he'll be held back in the fourth grade for another year. The night before the test he realises he is not ready, so he prays that God will create a reason for school to close. During the night it snows, and when Bart wakes up he finds that the school has been closed.

- Use Matthew 6:5-13

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray:" 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

- Why do you pray? What's the point?
- What can you pray about?
- How do you pray? Bringing in Lord's Prayer
- My experience of prayer is...
- Perhaps get the young people to write a prayer or pray in groups



Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>

Activity 6 Why should I believe?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To discuss belief.

Equipment:

- Episode: "Lisa the Sceptic" Season 9

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:

"Lisa the Sceptic" Season 9

When a development company breaks ground for a new mall, Lisa is concerned that an archaeological survey has not been done in the area. The developers agree to a survey, but during it they find a human skeleton with wings. People assume it is an angel. However Lisa doubts this and seeks a rational explanation. The skeleton turns out to be a hoax designed to promote a new mall.

- Use John 20:24-29

"One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who haven't seen me and believe anyway."

- What is a sceptic?
- What are you sceptical about?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to believe in God?
- Why do you believe? Creation – Romans 1:20, Personal experience – Revelations 3:20,
- I believe because...



Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>

Activity 7

What about suffering?



20-30 mins



Any

Aim: To discuss suffering.

Equipment:

- Episode: "And Maggie Makes Three" Season 6

Instructions:

- Show the following clip from the Simpsons:

"And Maggie Makes Three" Season 6

Homer asks that everything be frozen in place as his life seems perfect.

- Use Job 1:10, 20-21

"Job is an upright man who has it all. Satan suggests Job is only so upright because God has given him everything and he has it so good. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

... but Job's response is "At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

- Use 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

- Have you ever thought life is great and I wish it could stay like this forever?
- What does Job teach us about suffering?
- I can think of times in my life when...



Resources:

<http://www.thesimpsons.com>