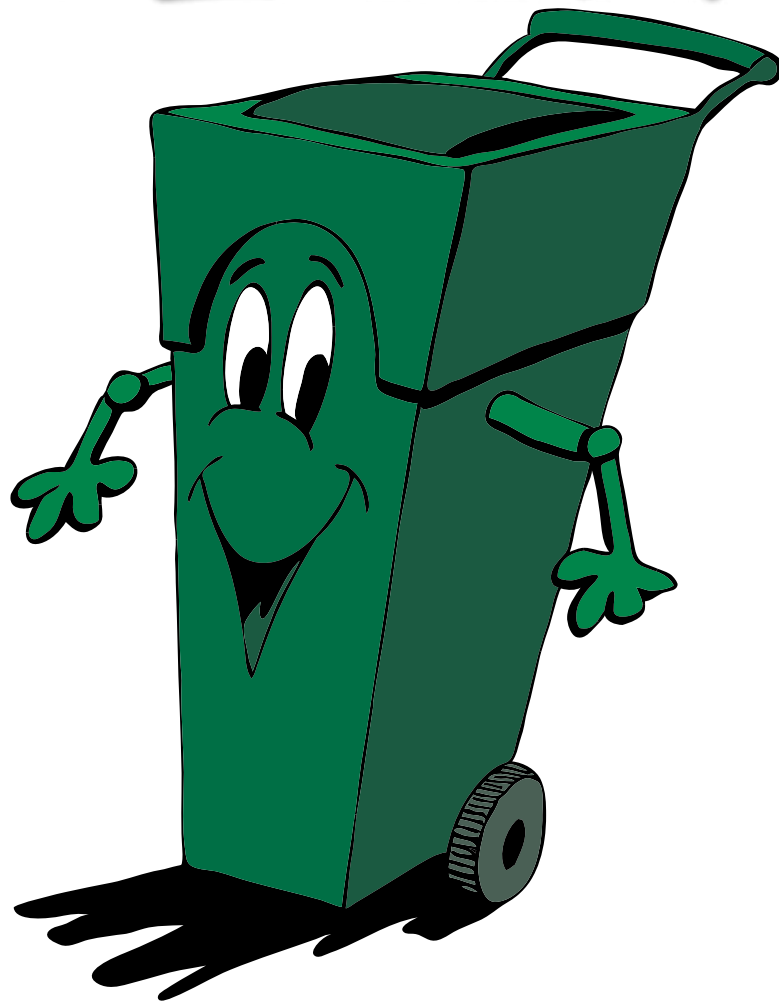


# BLAZING GLORY



ROBOTS WITH BEATTITUDES!

## ROBO 8

# ROBO 8: THE MERCIFUL ROBOT

Welcome to the eighth series of “Robots With Be-Attitudes”! This series is all about the Merciful Robot. Here’s a breakdown of what each weeks teaching is about:

## **Week 1 - A Pot of Mercy**

Page 3

## **Week 2 - Sticking Your Oar In**

Page 13

## **Week 3 - Uncharted Waters**

Page 22

Each week is followed by visual aids to assist with the teaching, a colouring sheet, and design sheets. If you want to find out more about how to use the teaching material see the accompanying user guide which can be downloaded from the website along with the other series of teaching.



**WWW.BLAZING-GLORY.COM**



# Week 1

## “A Pot of Mercy”

### The Benchmark

The robot has been through a rough ride of events. Removing the rough edges is all part of being prepared for heaven so that we come through with a soft and merciful attitude. Testing situations work like sandpaper in our lives. Friction is experienced so that mercy can be applied like a smooth crème to rough hands. This makes you supple and usable in God's hands. The children will learn from the Merciful Robot about the kindness found in the caring hands of Father God. He is rich in mercy and would rather forgive than punish people for their sins. Before dealing with any situation he takes a pot of mercy and gently rubs it onto the hands of his servants so that we can behave like him. He takes time to teach us his ways so that we are absorbed by the mercy he has shown to us. We can then carry out his works in a kind way touching others with his compassion. Working with Jonah your attitudes will be tested in this way. The children will learn not to run from their prejudices but respond to the needs of others with the same kindness Jesus has shown to them. The requirements are clear and simple; 'to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God'.

### Nailing The Point

Teach the children to place their hands into God's pot of mercy so that they are absorbed by the forgiveness they have been shown. This will soften their attitudes and enable them to show the same kindness to others.

#### Memory Verse

- Matthew chapter 5 verse 7

#### Colour Your World

#### Bible Verses Used

- Micah chapter 6 verse 8 (NKJV)
- Psalm 103 verse 10
- Jonah chapter 1 verses 1 - 3
- Hebrews chapter 12 verses 5 & 6
- James chapter 2 verse 13
- Proverbs chapter 15 verse 1
- Matthew chapter 18 verses 21 - 35 (Bible story)
- Matthew chapter 7 verse 1

#### Robo's Visual Aids

- 1) Memory Verse Poster
- 2) Tap-On Diagram

#### Wheelie Bin Stage Prop

- See Robo 1 Week 7

#### Robo's Teaching Guide

- 1) The Tool Box - "Rough Hands"
- 2) Oil Can - "Creme de la Creme"
- 3) The Word Box - "Soft Touch"
- 4) Box of Bright Sparks - "Copy Clap"
- 5) Power Tools - "A Harsh Blow"
- 6) Wheelie Wheelie Time?

#### Robo's Craft Box

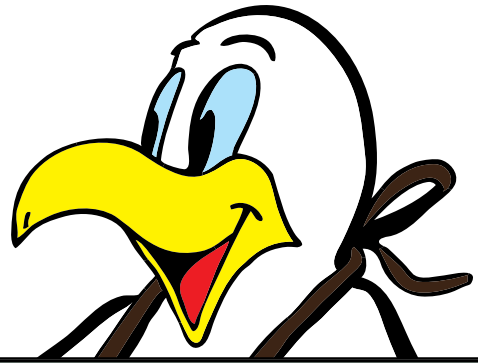
- 1) Handy Craft

#### Robo's Design Sheet

## Memory Verse

“Those who give mercy to others are happy. Mercy will be given to them.”

**Matthew chapter 5 verse 7**



### 1) Tool Box - “Rough Hands”



A large pot of ‘Nivea’ crème will be used to create the Merciful Robot’s head. This is to teach the children about mercy. Father God is just in all his ways but what controls his actions is his overriding desire to be merciful and kind. Throughout the session the children will apply Nivea hand crème so that they become absorbed in the understanding that Jesus has been merciful to them. This will soften their attitude when dealing with other people and unjust situations.



Play ‘Tap On’ as a fun starter. The children sit in a circle. Each put their hands outstretched on the table/floor so that their neighbours’ hands are between theirs. (See Visual Aid 2). The leader starts by tapping their hand on the table/floor. The next hand then taps. The tap is sent around the group in the sequence shown on Visual Aid 2. If a tap is done in the wrong place, that hand is out and must be removed from the circle. To change the direction of the tap, a double tap can be used at any time. The winner is the last person in.



Discuss the impact of your words and actions in the way you treat others. Read together Micah chapter 6 verse 8 (NKJV). Working with the Merciful Robot you will understand that God is just but loves to show mercy and forgive people their sins when they respond to his kindness in a repentant way. We must have this same kingdom attitude - this is what we should tap on to others because we have been forgiven.



Make x14 hands out of sandpaper and mount on a lollipop stick - See Robo’s Craft Box for instructions. On each individual hand display a word of today’s memory verse. Prepare an extra set to run as a race. Divide the group into 2 teams and ask them to sort the hands into order so that they read correctly. The winning team is the first to stand in a line waving their rough hands in the air with the verse in order. As an experiment use the rough hands to rub onto the skin of volunteers. Ask them to describe the sensation. Discuss how if God had dealt with us, according to our sins, then we would all have felt the harsh side of his hand. But he is rich in mercy and would rather forgive people their sins. (See Psalm 103 verse 10).



Wheel on the Merciful Robot and create his head following Robo’s Design Sheet. Introduce the story of Jonah. God asked Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh in Jonah chapter 1 verses 1 to 3 to warn them they would be judged for their sins if they did not repent. Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh and did not want them to be forgiven for their wrongs. He wanted ‘justice’ and not mercy. So he chose to run away and not do what God had asked him to do. Jonah had lost sight of God’s mercy towards him and had become harsh in his opinions. Discuss prejudice and how easy it is to judge other people, cultures or nations of their wrongs - instead of wanting mercy and forgiveness to be shown.



Give opportunity to make today’s craft so that one side of the craft hand is covered in sandpaper and the other side is covered in soft fur or felt. Talk about how you must always be just and fair. Never approve what is wrong but allow room for mercy and forgiveness in the way you deal with any difficult situation.



## 2) Oil Can - "Creme De La Creme"

Show the group an Emory board nail file. Nominate a selection of volunteers to come and have their nails filed into shape. Talk about the effects of the rough paper on the nail file. When God addresses sin in our lives he lovingly disciplines us so that we change and are shaped to become like him.



Read together Hebrews chapter 12 verse 5 & 6 and talk about loving discipline. Next give every child a squirt of Nivea crème to rub into their hands. When God disciplines his children it is because he loves us and will always have his hands rubbed in mercy. He is powerful and just but applies discipline for wrong doings with a gentle touch because he is kind and merciful.



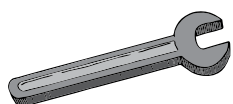
Give time for the crème to be absorbed into your hands whilst you think about the mercy you have been shown through Jesus. Allow time for everyone to pray quietly and repent of any wrong doings. When we live 'absorbed' in the understanding that we have been forgiven much, then we will not behave like Jonah who ran away from his prejudices.



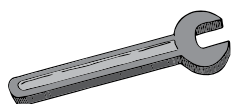
Pray together and think about the memory verse. Pray for those who you find difficult to love. You will be happy and blessed when your heart is softened with mercy. It is good for mercy to win over judgement. (See James chapter 2 verse 13).



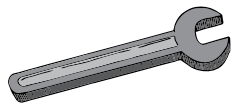
## 3) The Word Box - "Soft Touch"



Use the word hands from section 1 and cover the reverse of the hand with soft fur or felt as per Robo's Craft Box. Reflect on the two sides of the hand so that the children understand what it is to 'do justly' - sandpaper; and 'love mercy' - fur, so that they walk humbly with God.



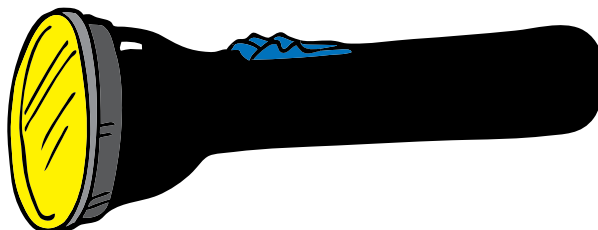
Ask 14 volunteers to come and hold a word hand so that the verse reads correctly. Once the children have done this a few times ask one of the volunteers to turn the hand over so that the group cannot see the word, but the furry/soft side of the hand. They must then recite the verse again. Turn over a second word hand and repeat the process until the group can recite the verse with no prompts at all.



Talk about how it is not just about reading the verse but having it absorbed in your heart so that you are always just but ready to show mercy and forgive - just like you have been forgiven. This will enable you to apply God's soft touch to unjust situations.

## 4) Box of Bright Sparks - "Copy Clap"

Game option 1. Play a game of 'Copy Clap'. Sit in a circle, the leader begins clapping their hands slowly and the children copy. Once all the children are joining in the leader changes the actions to slapping thighs for the children follow. This continues, drawing the attention of all the children. Try clicking, tapping head, patting fingers etc... Also vary the tempo and volume of the action. This sounds very simple, but can often work well especially when concentration is waning. This could be developed by selecting a child to lead the group.



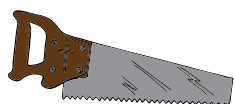
When complete, focus on the memory verse again. When you have known mercy and forgiveness you should be ready to show the same to others. Our lives should copy Jesus in all of his actions and attitudes. Remember, God will only pass his mercy on to you if you are ready to act in the same way towards others.

You must work towards developing and passing on this attitude so that others will see through your life the kindness of Jesus. Talk about ways the children can do this.

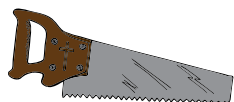
Game option 2. Play a game of 'Slap' with older juniors. The children will need to get into pairs. They must stand opposite each other, place their hands together and then hold their hands 1" away from the other persons paired hands. Number the pairs 1 & 2. On the leaders command No.1 pair must try and slap the hands of pair No.2. Pair No. 2 must pull their hands away when they think they are about to be slapped. If they do this more than 3 times when No. 1 has not attempted to slap their hand then No. 1 wins. To vary the game player No. 2 can be the one to slap their partner's hand.

Read together Proverbs chapter 15 verse 1. Discuss how harsh words that 'slap' others will result in more anger. Talk about how to defuse arguments with gentle answers. Always stand for truth but love mercy. Rub in some Nivea crème so that the children are reminded to apply God's mercy to their actions.

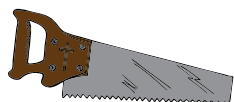
## 5) Power Tools - "A Harsh Blow"



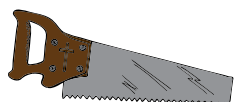
To stage today's Bible story a leader will need to be stationed inside the robot. They will need a selection of hand puppets to act out the story found in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21 to 35. The hand puppets for the story are the ones you made earlier, following Robo's Craft Box instruction. (Add wobbly eyes and faces to the hands for decoration). Alternatively use Wheelie Bin Stage Prop for extra puppet stage area if additional puppeteers are required. See Wheelie Bin Stage Prop Design Sheet.



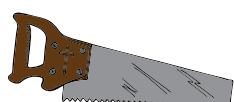
To visualise Peter's question of how many times we must forgive, the leader must hold their hands up so that they open the lid of the robot, rub in some hand crème and then use their fingers to count to 7. N.B. Only their hands are to be seen.



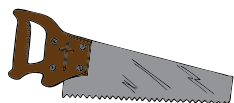
Whilst the narration continues the servant hand puppet is to be turned on the 'furry' side - as per the craft hand and the Judge is to be showing the sandpaper side of another craft hand. The two hand puppets act out the story. The furry hand is to beg and ask for mercy. When the Judge shows mercy to the servant the leader must turn the hand around to the furry side as he is forgiven his debt.



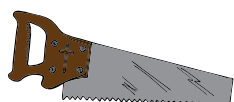
Later, in verse 28, the forgiven servant is shown - furry side, but when he sees the person who owes him money (another hand puppet) the hand is to be turned around to the sandpaper side. The second servant hand puppet faces the first servant furry side up and begs for mercy.



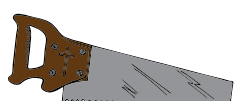
When the unforgiving servant refuses use a boxing glove to show him sending him to prison or slap the other puppet with the sandpaper side of the hand. Conclude the story from verse 32 with the Judge hand puppet calling for the unforgiving servant and in turn sending him to prison.



Using the hand puppets, explain the need for the debt to be paid - the sandpaper side requires justice. Our sin had to be paid for. Jesus paid the debt for our sin. And God who is rich in mercy forgives us our sin when we repent.



Look at the mercy applied to the first servant's case. When his heart was later tested it revealed an unforgiving heart that had lost sight of the forgiveness he had been shown. Talk about what it means to forgive others from your heart. This is important because when your heart is tested will you show mercy in the same way that God has forgiven you.



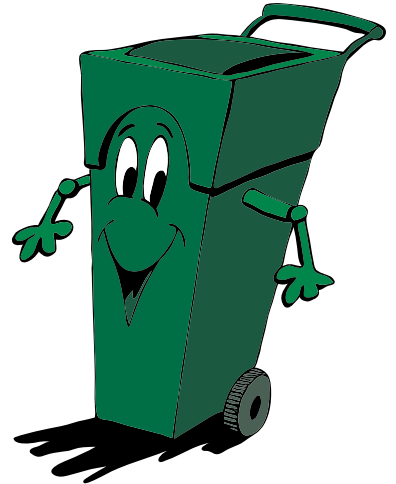
It is important to remember not to judge others. (See Matthew chapter 7 verse 1). Remember the mercy Jesus has shown you when he forgave your sins because this will enable you to forgive others in the same way you have been forgiven. If you give others a harsh unforgiving response God will treat you in the same way.

## 6) Wheelie Wheelie Time?

To finish allow the children to rub in some more Nivea crème so that they learn to apply mercy in all of their actions. Review the memory verse and the things you have learned today.

As a final part of today's manicure, nominate a volunteer to have their finger nails painted blue. Discuss how the Merciful Robot is going to follow the adventures of Jonah. His heart was not soft and merciful and so he ran away from the Lord instead of going to Nineveh. Next lesson we will find him about to board a ship to Tarshish which will plunge him into the deep blue sea where his heart will be changed and his attitudes tested.

Pray together for the strength to be kind and merciful in your actions and attitudes each day. The state of your heart will be shown by the actions of your hands in the way you administer mercy to others.





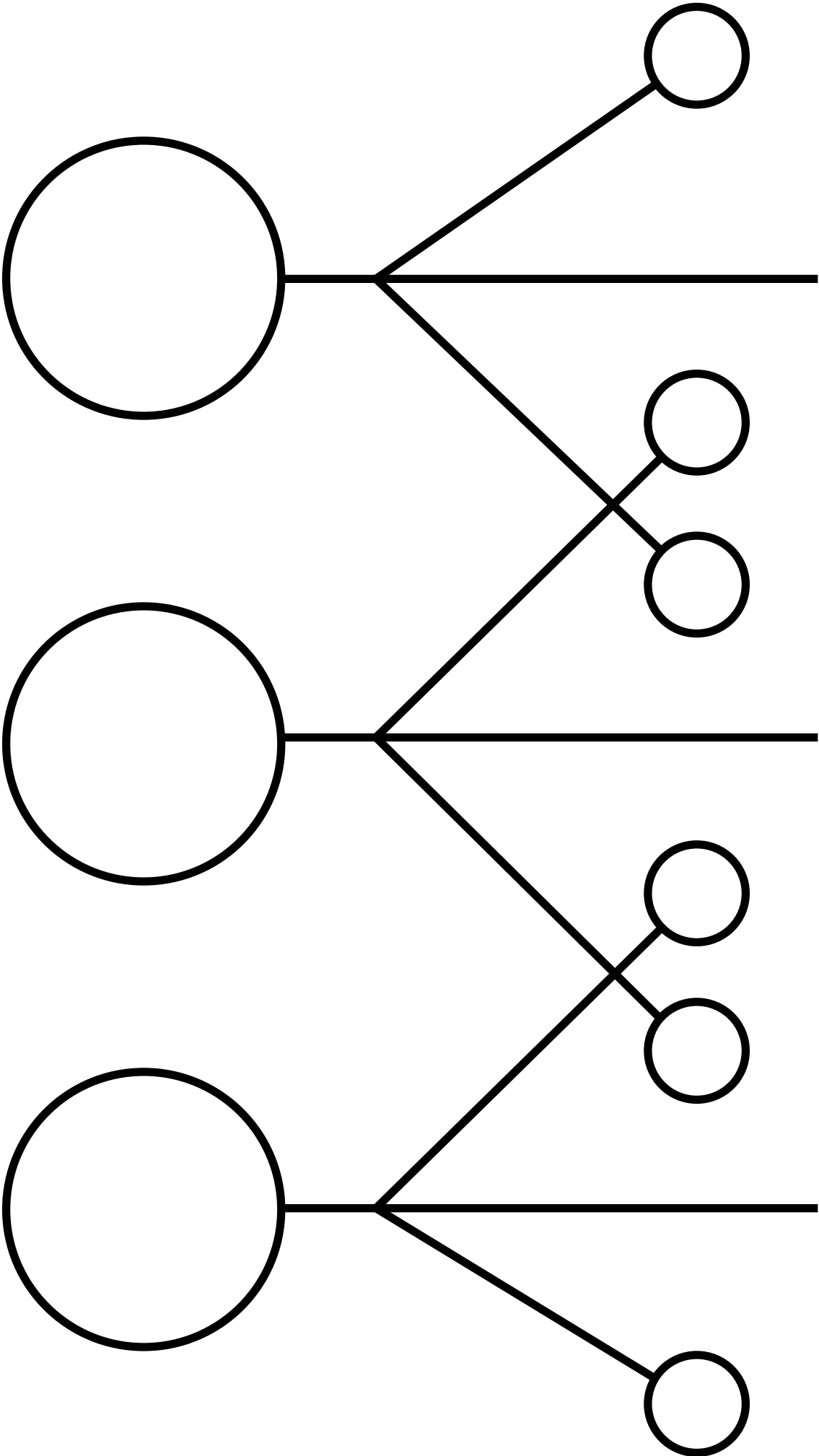
# Matthew chapter 5 verse 7

**"Those who give  
mercy to others are  
happy. Mercy will be  
given to them."**



**Matthew chapter 5 verse 7**





### Handy Craft

#### Materials:

- Recycled card
- Scissors, glue and felt tip pens
- Craft lollipop stick
- Craft felt
- Piece of sand paper

#### Instructions:

- 1) Give each member of your group a piece of recycle card, e.g. cereal box.
- 2) Draw around your left hand using a felt tip pen.
- 3) Cut out the hand print.
- 4) Using glue stick the piece of card onto the end of a decorated craft lollipop stick. The lollipop stick will work as a handle.
- 5) Draw around your left hand using a felt tip pen onto a piece of craft felt.
- 6) Cut out the hand print and glue onto the recycled card hand print.
- 7) Draw around your right hand using a felt tip pen onto a piece of sand paper.
- 8) Cut out the hand print and glue onto the other side of the recycled card so that it is now covered by both the felt and sand paper.
- 9) Include the memory verse by printing the words onto a sticky label and attaching to the hand.



# Robo's Design Sheet

## Wheelie Bin

### Materials:

- 1 metre length of coloured plastic
- Sellotape & scissors
- Card
- Stapler
- Blue crepe paper
- Buttons

### Instructions:

- 1) Cut the length of plastic to size and cover the lid of the bin. Secure with Sellotape.
- 2) Pierce a hole in the plastic where the chrome hole appears.
- 3) Make a robot's head to look like a pot of Nivea crème.
- 4) To do this we took a length of white card to create a large rim and stapled the ends together – like a wide head band.
- 5) Cover the card head band with blue crepe paper, securing it with Sellotape.
- 6) Cut out a circular lid out of card and cover with blue crepe paper. Secure it to the rim by taping the underside of the head band to the circular piece.
- 7) Create the robot's face as per our photo using white card. For the eyes we used buttons.
- 8) Secure the head to the lid of the bin either using strong Sellotape.
- 9) Or make card strips which fix on the inside of the head band, feed into the chrome hole and secure with Sellotape, by securing with tape from the underside of the lid.





# Week 2

## “Sticking Your Oar In”

### The Benchmark

Today the Merciful Robot will be fitted with a pair of rowing oars for arms. This will teach the difference between ‘just deserts’ and God’s unfailing mercy towards his children. The children will learn how Jonah stuck his oar in by giving his opinion on whether the people of Nineveh deserved the opportunity to repent. His heart was self righteous and so found himself in the belly of a large fish requiring his own helping of grace. He cried out to the Lord whose mercy never stops. He wobbled in the belly of the fish promising to do whatever was required. God never stopped loving Jonah even though he had run away. God, in his mercy, delivered Jonah safely to land. He was given another opportunity ‘to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with his God’. From today’s adventures the children will discover the unwavering consistency of God’s love and his relentless heart to show mercy to people. Should they wobble with the assumption that “it’s not fair” they are to be firmly reminded that his mercy will never stop.

### Nailing The Point

God enjoys being kind to people. He will take every opportunity to have mercy on us and will even throw away all our sins into the deepest seas.

#### Memory Verse

- Lamentations chapter 3 verse 22

#### Colour Your World

#### Bible Verses Used

- 2 Peter 3 verse 9
- Jonah chapter 1 verses 3 - 17 (Bible story)
- Romans chapter 8 verses 32 & 33
- 1 John chapter 1 verses 9 & 10
- Micah chapter 7 verse 19
- Hebrews chapter 10 verse 24 (NKJV)

#### Robo’s Visual Aids

- 1) Memory Verse Poster

#### Robo’s Teaching Guide

- 1) The Tool Box - “Wibble Wobble”
- 2) Power Tools - “Troubled Waters”
- 3) The Word Box - “2nd Chance”
- 4) Oil Can - “Sunk”
- 5) Box of Bright Sparks - “Stirred Up?”
- 6) Wheelie Wheelie Time?

#### Robo’s Craft Box

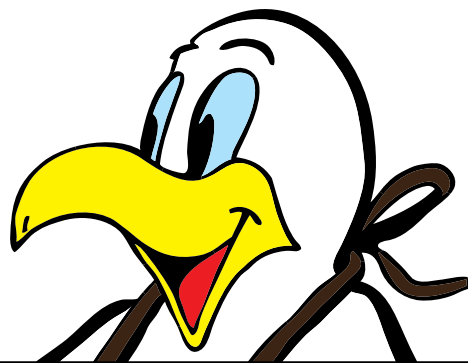
- 1) Wooden Spoon Puppet

#### Robo’s Design Sheet

## Memory Verse

“The Lord’s love never ends.  
His mercies never stop.”

**Lamentations chapter 3 verse 22**



### 1) The Tool Box - “Wibble Wobble”



One phrase that causes people to wobble is the expression “it’s not fair”. This phrase is stirred up out of childish attitudes. Jonah wobbled when he was faced with the task of delivering a message of repentance to the people in Nineveh. He ran away because he thought it was unfair that they should be given the opportunity to repent. He stuck his oar of opinion in and stirred up a sea of trouble for himself.



Each child will require a wooden spoon to stir up today’s lesson. Introduce the theme of ‘sticking your oar in’ so that trouble is stirred in light of Jonah’s response to God’s request. Try a big group stir with your wooden spoons. A stirring fun starter for younger children is to see how long they can balance their spoon on the end of their nose.



As a fun starter game for older juniors, ask the group to put their wooden spoons in the centre of your group circle. The children must walk around in a large circle whilst music is played. When the music stops they must race to pick up a spoon. Once they have the hang of the game remove a spoon or two. Repeat the game and those who fail to pick up a spoon are eliminated. This game may be boisterous and could stir up trouble. Discuss with the group attitudes that emerge throughout the game.



Wheel on the Merciful Robot and attach the oars as arms. See Robo’s Design Sheet. Talk about how today you will follow Jonah out to sea. He had stuck in his oar of opinion regarding the people of Nineveh and had stirred up trouble for himself with God. God is just but loves to show mercy to people. Jonah was being asked to have the same attitude. He thought he knew better than God - and that’s asking for trouble! To illustrate this and for the children to use their wooden spoons as oars make a large jelly in a clear bowl. Allow the group to take it in turns to stir the jelly.



If you question God, whose ways are higher than ours, you stir up trouble. The result is that your faith will wobble, just like Jonah. God loves to be kind and took Jonah through a sticky situation so that he could have a change of heart. What happened to him and did he change once the questioning ceased? Leave the jelly to cool.

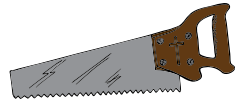


From today’s memory verse teach the children about the merciful nature of Father God. Look up and read the verse. To make the verse visual play a ‘Spoon and Spool Race’. You will require x2 wooden spoons. Stick a memory verse label on each spoon. Use x2 spools of thread/fishing line and tie to each spoon. Divide the group into 2 teams and line up side by side. Hand their respective spoon on a fishing line to the first team member at the bottom of each line. On the leader’s command they drop the spoon down through their top clothing and onto the floor, pick it up and hand it to the next team member. They repeat the process until it reaches the person on the end of the line. The first team to thread the spoon and thread down the line are the winners. Discuss the lengths Jesus went to so that you could be saved - because his love never ends and his mercy never stops. (Read 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9).

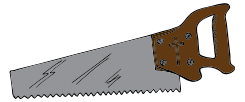


## 2) Power Tools - "Troubled Waters"

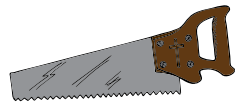
The Bible story is to be taken from Jonah chapter 1 verses 3 - 17. An actor who is to be Jonah will need to be stationed inside the robot with a wooden spoon. The children will need their wooden spoons to participate in the action too.



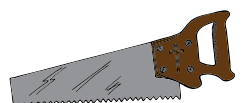
Wheelie, Wheelie? Set the scene by having Jonah being run around the room frantically whilst stationed inside the robot. The audience are to be the sailors in the story. Line the audience up two by two holding their spoons ready to row. When Jonah joins them station the robot at the top of the line to stage the story. The sailors are to rock from side to side to show the storm raging and Jonah can throw some items from inside the robot to illustrate things being thrown over-board. When Jonah goes to sleep close the robot's lid.



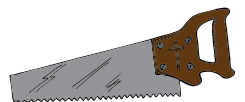
In verse 7 the sailors try to determine who has caused God to be angry. To make this interactive play a game of 'Guess Who' with your wooden spoons. Nominate a ship mate who is to be blind-folded. Next, silently select some sailors who are to be identified with a wooden spoon by the blind-folded ship mate.



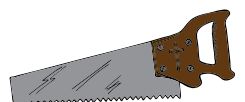
To do this they must stand still and not make a sound whilst the ship mate pokes and prods them with their spoon trying to find out who they are. Meanwhile, the 'touché' tries not to laugh whilst being poked and prodded. After a few attempts resume with the story as the captain throws lots to see who has caused all the trouble.



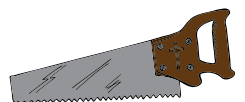
To picture this with your group assemble them in a large circle with Jonah - inside the robot - at the top of the circle. They are to throw in their lots which are their wooden spoons into the centre of the circle - including Jonah. On the leaders command they must race to retrieve their spoon and sit back in a circle as quickly as possible. As Jonah is inside the robot he will not be able to reach his. This is to show that the lot has been drawn on Jonah.



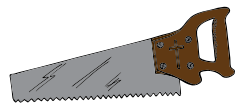
Continue with the narration. When you reach verse 13 the men try to row to safety. To envision this ask the group to form the two by two line and begin to row together as hard as they can. When Jonah is thrown over-board wheel the robot around and attach to the front torso of the robot a picture of large fish, which is where he remained for 3 days.



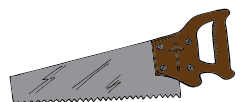
Conclude the story with the bowl of cooling jelly. Put into the jelly some small mandarins as small fish and a large tinned pear as the large fish that swallowed Jonah. Discuss what happened to Jonah with your group. Hand the bowl of jelly to Jonah inside the robot and then wheel him away. Talk about how it will take time for Jonah to change just like it takes time for the jelly to set. (The jelly will be used next week to finish the story).



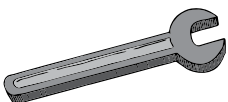
Jonah wobbled and wailed inside the belly of the whale asking God for mercy. Ask the children to read his prayer in chapter 2 during the following week so that they can discover for themselves what lengths God went to as he saved Jonah and the people of Nineveh.



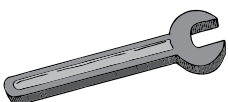
Discuss with older juniors the lengths God went to by giving Jesus to be punished for our sin to save us. He is just and sin had to be punished but he loves mercy and made a way to make us right. Read together Romans chapter 8 verse 32 & 33. Give opportunity for any children to become Christians if they have not already done so.



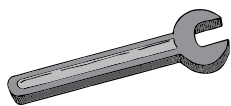
## 3) The Word Box - "2nd Chance"



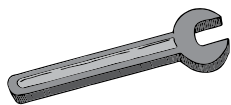
What can you do if you fail God and miss opportunities to serve him? To look at this question and to reinforce the memory verse, run the following egg and spoon race.



On hard boiled eggs write the individual words of today's verse. Prepare extra sets to run as a race. Divide the children into teams and station them at the start line with their wooden spoon. Assemble them in the order they are to race. On the leader's command the first player in each team must pick up the first 'egg' word, place it on their spoon and then place the other hand behind their back. (They cannot use this hand to steady the egg). The first players must race to the finish line without dropping the egg off their spoon.



If they drop the egg they must pick it up and continue from where it fell. When the first player has completed the race the second player picks up the next 'egg' word and repeats the process. Continue until each team has all of the 'egg' words lined up in the correct order on the finish line. Read the verse together.



It's easy to fail like Jonah. Our sinful nature is not like the perfect nature of God. We often fall short of his holy but loving standards. If you fall and display unforgiving attitudes what should you do? (See 1 John chapter 1 verse 9). God is kind when you repent. He will give you a second chance to get back up from where you have fallen and continue the race, running with the right attitude into all that he has planned for you to do.

#### 4) Oil Can - "Sunk"

To prepare the children for a time of prayer and worship bring to the centre of the group the robot with the picture of the large fish on the front. Talk about how you have left Jonah here until next week so that you can see a change in his attitude. Change takes time.



Give each child a small piece of paper with the word 'sin' printed on it and discuss what this small word means. Discuss how everyone has sinned. (See 1 John chapter 1 verse 10). But God loves to be kind and show mercy. He does this when people repent and change their hearts. Jonah spent x3 nights inside the belly of the fish so that he would repent and have a change of heart towards other people. (For fun the leader who was inside the robot for the sketch could still be inside making groaning noises?)



Ask the children to think about the things they may have done wrong - even if it is just a wrong attitude - they need to change. Pray quietly and then ask them to fold up the small piece of paper. What does God do when you repent?



Read Micah chapter 7 verse 19. Now ask the children one at a time to come and put their 'sin' paper inside the robot thinking about their wrongs being thrown away into the deepest sea. Talk about how when you do this you must then live in a new way with a new nature that is like Jesus. Pray together and ask for the strength to change from the inside out.



#### 5) Box of Bright Sparks - "Stirred Up"



Assemble the group together and ask them to use their wooden spoons to stir the air. Discuss how Jesus wants you to be stirred up to love and to do good deeds. Just like this spoon has been used to stir up trouble, it can also be used to do good things. Read together Hebrews chapter 10 verse 24. (See also NKJV). The lessons of Jonah are to stir you up to change so that you can do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Remember this is what God requires of his children.



You can make your wooden spoons into spoon puppets by following the instructions on Robo's Craft Box. When the Holy Spirit is in control of your life you will be stirred to show love and mercy. You will also be ready to do the good works he has prepared for you to do.



As an extra game option play the game 'Spoon'. Put a stool upside down. At each leg of the stool stands a player. The players are blindfolded. Each of them holds a spoon in their hand. On the leader's command the players make 3 steps forward, turn around and try to place the spoon on the leg of the stool as soon as possible so that it balances. Repeat with different players depending on time.



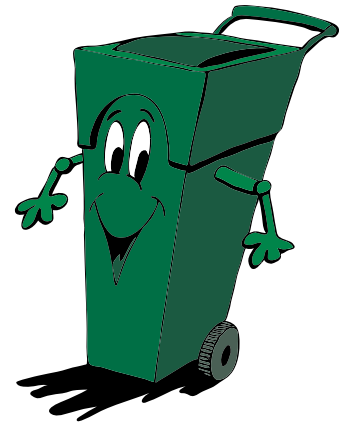
Discuss the balancing act between 'justice and mercy'. As a Christian we should do justly and live uncompromised. We should make a judgement between right and wrong based on God's word. But what about mercy? How can we behave righteously and also have a merciful heart? We must leave the outcome to God. His love balances his actions. We are his servants and Jesus is the Judge. We should always obey his instructions but with a merciful heart never judge others.

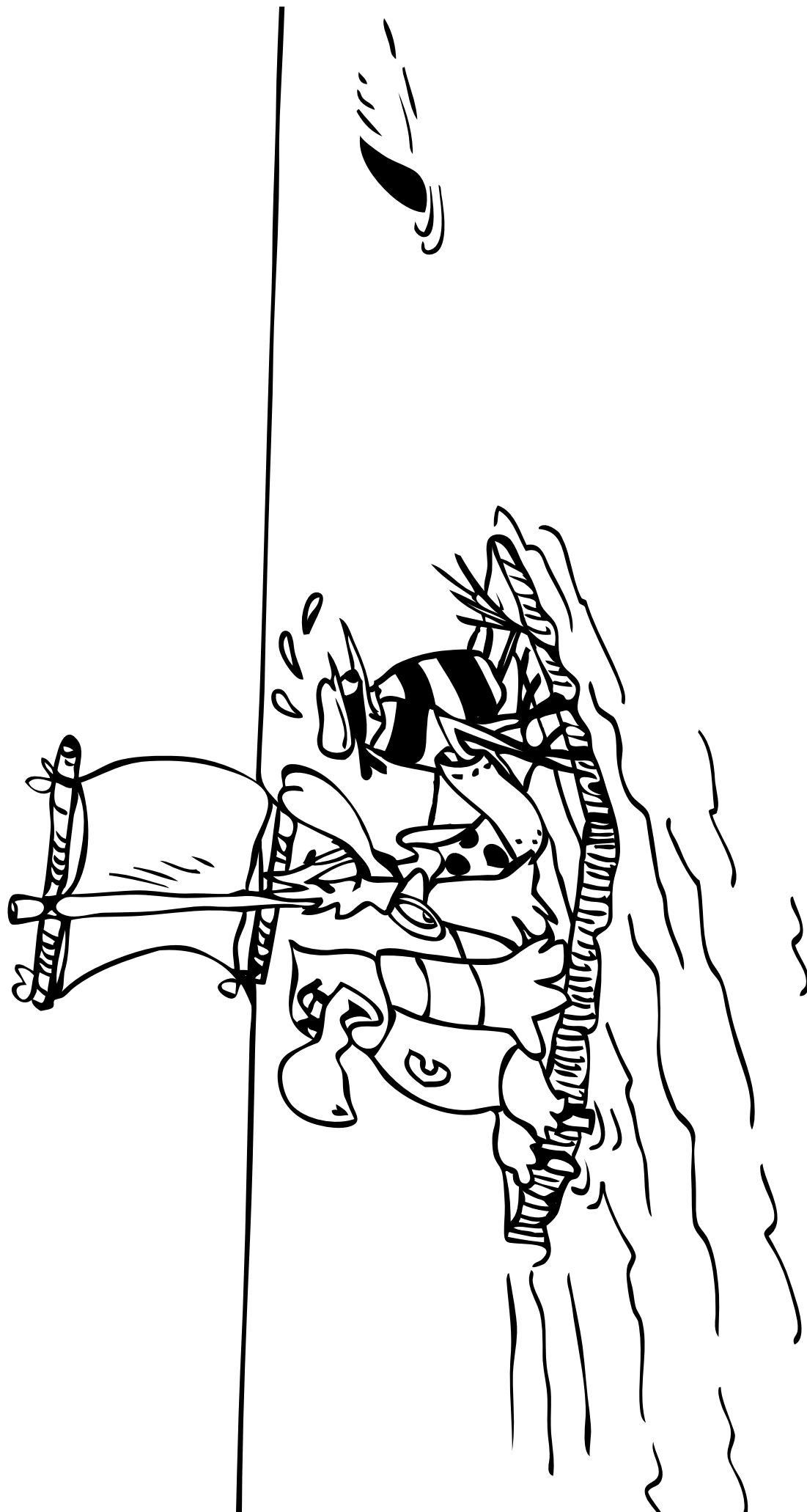
## 6) Wheelie Wheelie Time?

Wheel to the centre of your group the Merciful Robot as you review the lessons you have learned today. Give time for the children to ask questions and let you know the things that they have learned.

Check out the jelly and see if it has set. Give it a final stir and then put into a fridge ready for next week's lesson.

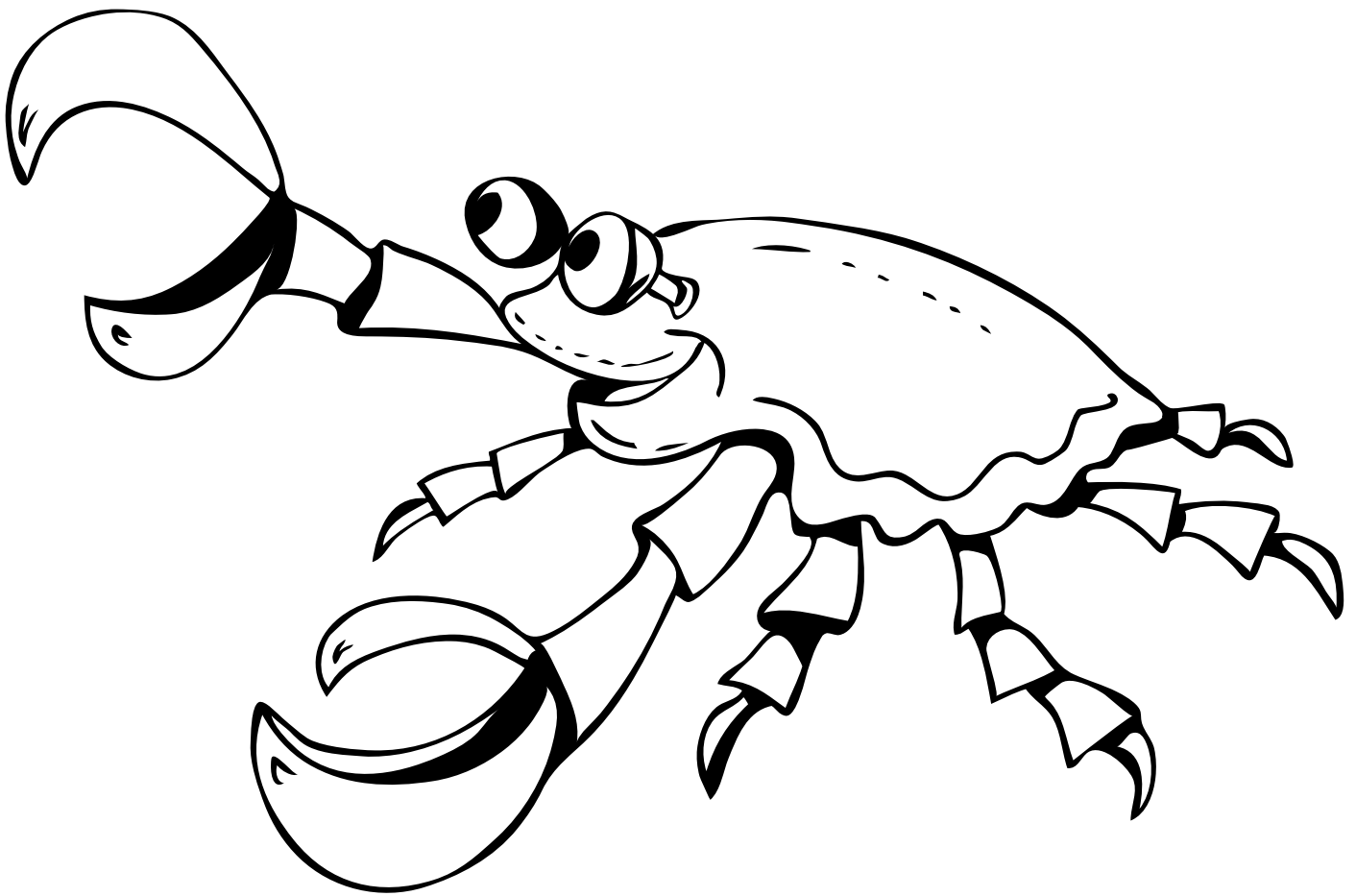
Talk about how the jelly will take time to set. It also took time for Jonah to change so that his heart was stirred to do what God asked. Would he follow God's instructions with a merciful heart? Next week you will test the jelly and test Jonah's heart. Meanwhile stir the children to know how much Jesus loves them and that his mercy will never end. Encourage them to be a useful 'spoon' in his hands serving others in a kind way.





# Lamentations chapter 3 verse 22

**"The Lord's love  
never ends. His  
mercies never  
stop."**



**Lamentations chapter 3 verse 22**



### Wooden Spoon Puppet

#### Materials:

- Large wooden spoon
- Napkin
- Ribbon or material
- Felt tip pen
- Elastic band
- Wool
- Glue

#### Instructions:

- 1) Give each member of your group a large wooden spoon.
- 2) Draw a face on the reverse of the spoon using felt tip pens.
- 3) Fold a napkin into 4, snip a small hole on the folded corner, open out the napkin and the hole should be in the centre.
- 4) Put the stick of the spoon through the hole in the napkin and using an elastic band secure in place.
- 5) Over the top of the elastic band tie a ribbon and make a bow. Create the same effect using a length of fabric.
- 6) Cut out lengths of wool and glue onto the spoon's head for hair.
- 7) Write or print the memory verse onto coloured card and glue onto the napkin of the puppet.



# Robo's Design Sheet

## Wheelie Bin

### Materials:

- x2 broom stales
- 22mm solder ring
- Brown card
- Scissors & Sellotape
- Poster paper
- Paints

### Instructions:

- 1) Place the 2 broom stales through each respective chrome arm hole.
- 2) Join together inside the bin using your solder ring. (See R1W1)
- 3) Make x2 oar paddles out of card and stick to the end of each broom stale.
- 4) Make a large fish out of a large sheet of poster paper.
- 5) Draw shape, paint and leave to dry. Cut out and mount on the front of the robot using Sellotape. Create other small fishy friends such as crabs. Ours were downloaded off the internet. These items could be something your group prepare at home ready for the session?





# Week 3

## “Uncharted Waters”

### The Benchmark

The Merciful Robot finds itself in some uncharted waters. Buried with Jonah in the depths of the sea, human frailty is revealed. To have the ability to forgive from your heart and show mercy on any given occasion requires deep soul searching. Jonah had failed miserably but quickly came to his senses and cried out for mercy. He declared in the belly of the fish that “salvation comes from the Lord!” With one word of command the Lord ordered the fish to spew Jonah onto dry land where he proceeded to carry out his vow to preach to the people of Nineveh. He walked justly declaring a clear message of coming judgement, but could he show mercy from his heart? A rapid response was given by the people of Nineveh as they quickly put on sack cloth and ashes. This was an outward reflection of a change of heart. God’s response was instantaneous as he lavished upon them his mercy. Jonah now found himself in a place where his heart was tested again. His heart remained stubborn and unforgiving. He would have preferred judgement instead of mercy. Sulking in the shade the worm of bitterness showed up and began to chew away inside fed-up Jonah. He was not happy because he could not show mercy. Jonah had quickly forgotten his time in uncharted waters where God’s great mercy was shown to him.

### Nailing The Point

Encourage the children to develop a merciful attitude so that they will always be happy to forgive others from their heart.

#### Memory Verse

- Ephesians chapter 2 verse 4

#### Colour Your World

#### Bible Verses Used

- Jonah chapter 2 to chapter 4
- Hebrews chapter 12 verse 15
- Psalm 119 verse 11
- Matthew chapter 5 verse 7
- Psalm 139 verses 1 - 6
- Matthew chapter 6 verse 12
- John chapter 3 verse 17
- Romans chapter 6 verse 23
- Ephesians chapter 4 verse 2

#### Robo’s Visual Aids

- 1) Memory Verse Poster

#### Robo’s Teaching Guide

- 1) The Tool Box - “Sweet & Sour”
- 2) Power Tools - “Worm of Bitterness”
- 3) Oil Can - “Bitter Pill”
- 4) The Word Box - “Wriggly Worm”
- 5) Box of Bright Sparks - “Kind Catch”
- 6) Wheelie Wheelie Time?

#### Robo’s Craft Box

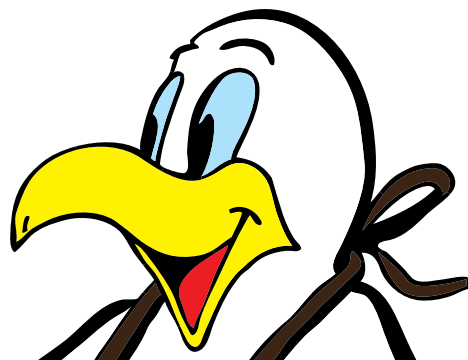
- 1) Hessian Sweet & Sour Box

#### Robo’s Design Sheet

## Memory Verse

“But God’s mercy is great, and  
he loved us very much.”

**Ephesians chapter 2 verse 4**



### 1) The Tool Box - “Sweet & Sour”

The final week working with the Merciful Robot will test your ability to show mercy and forgive others from your heart. Bitter sweet waters swirled around Jonah’s heart. He justly fulfilled his promise to God but could not swallow the bitter pill that those he disliked were forgiven and found mercy. Bitterness is like a chewing worm that eats away your joy. To be happy you must show mercy whether the outcome is sweet or sour.



As a fun starter use a bag of sweet & sour Skittles. Ask everyone to grab a handful. You don’t have to specify how many to make it funny! Assign a different meaning to each colour: blue=family, green=school, yellow=friends etc... However many they have in their hand that is how many facts they have to tell. They may also eat them either after the game or directly after they say their fact, e.g. “Blue...I have 2 sisters,” then eats the Skittle. (Check for E number allergies)



Watch and observe the strange faces the children pull as they taste the sweet and sour taste. Discuss their reactions and relate it to their ability to truly forgive others from their heart. It’s easy to say that you forgive someone who has hurt you, but if this does not come from a merciful heart, there will also be a sour reaction when this is tested. Ask them to say ‘I forgive you’ whilst chewing a sour Skittle.



Wheel on the Merciful Robot with Jonah and last week’s jelly hidden inside. Ask the children who remembered to read through Jonah’s prayer in chapter 2 last week? Talk about what they learned from the prayer. Find out who thought Jonah had a change of heart given the deep water he was in? God heard his prayer and this is what happened next..... (you may need to cover the floor with plastic as this is going to be messy, which I’m sure the children will love!). The fish was sick of Jonah.



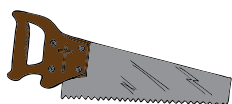
Jonah is to throw spoonfuls of jelly out of the robot near to the watching audience. Once the mayhem has died down Jonah is to appear and call out the words found in Jonah chapter 3 verse 4. “After 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed!” Wheel him around whilst he continues to repeat this. Discuss the response of the people of Nineveh by handing out sackcloth ready to decorate the torso of the robot. See Robo’s Design Sheet for instructions of how to do this. Explain that this outward expression of denial reflected the change of heart that was happening to the people of Nineveh.



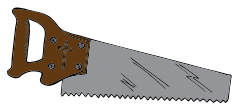
Divide the group into small teams and give each one enough sweet & sour Skittles to create the words of today’s memory verse. Hand them to the children inside a small hessian sack cloth bag. Younger children could lay the sweets on the words of the Memory Verse poster - Visual Aid 1. Talk about how God loves people and his nature is to be merciful when people repent of their sin and have a change of heart. What was happening inside Jonah’s heart? Was it bitter or was it sweet? Was his work for God soured by his unforgiving heart?



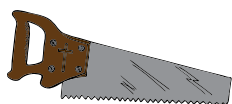
## 2) Power Tools - "Worm of Bitterness"



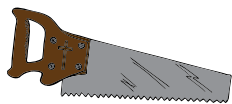
Before you conclude the bitter sweet tale of Jonah give each child their own craft match box. This is to be decorated with the memory verse and sack cloth. See Robo's Craft Box for instructions. The match box is to represent your heart. The Holy Spirit works to search and test your heart so that you can have a heart like Jesus.



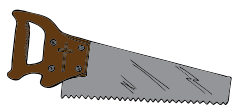
Jonah went into uncharted waters for some deep soul searching. What was revealed was an unforgiving heart. At this point put a small sample of sweet & sour Skittles into each of their match boxes which they must not eat but hold on to whilst the story continues. This should also test their hearts as to whether they do justly and do the right thing by obeying your instruction!



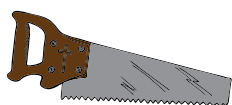
The audience must hold onto their match box whilst the narration is given from Jonah chapter 4. Jonah is to be stationed inside the robot moaning and hiding as he acts out the story. Another actor could be a large worm inside a sleeping bag which wriggles across the floor. Inside the bin Jonah is to have a supply of sweet worms ready to throw to each member of the audience when the worm comes and eats the plant in the story. Every child is to catch a worm and put it inside their match box as a reminder of today's lesson. Collect their craft match box ready to take home later.



Talk about how worms love to eat decomposing rubbish. An unforgiving heart is a 'fleshy' attitude and does not come from the Holy Spirit. Jonah was being eaten away by bitterness to the extent that he would prefer to die rather than see the people of Nineveh forgiven. When you do not forgive you become bitter. Read together Hebrews chapter 12 verse 15 and talk about the root of bitterness that can chew away inside when you do not truly forgive others from your heart.



Encourage the children to have a heart like God's. It is very difficult truly forgiving others from the heart but we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us change. Discuss how to do this from Psalm 119 verse 11. Ask the children, when they take their match box home, to eat up all of the sweets inside the box during their quiet time with Jesus. As they do this they are to ask the Holy Spirit to remove any wrong attitudes that are hidden in their heart. Remember your attitudes flow out of your heart and shape your behaviour. (N.B. Inform parents so that they are aware of this sweet exercise).



When the box is empty and only the verse remains encourage them to pray for a merciful attitude. The hessian fabric is to remind them that they have been forgiven. This will make them happy on the inside. Review the importance of Matthew chapter 5 verse 7.

## 3) Oil Can - "Bitter Pill"

To engage the children in your prayer time divide them into x2 teams. Allocate each team a bowl of sweet & sour Skittles. Nominate x2 players at a time. On the leader's command they must retrieve a said amount of a particular coloured Skittle sweet. The winning team may keep and share out the Skittles they win with their team members. Repeat nominating different players. Ask who preferred the sweet taste to the sour taste? Forgiveness makes friendship sweet - being unforgiving makes it sour.



Ask who enjoyed this searching exercise. Read together Psalm 139 verses 1 to 6. When you receive Jesus as your Saviour the Holy Spirit lives inside you. In the NKJV it describes the Holy Spirit searching out all of your thoughts and attitudes. He even knows what you will say before you speak. If you are unforgiving your words leave a sour taste in the mouth of other people. It is like a bitter pill.



Referring to the starter game in section 1 and all of the things the children shared when they had a handful of Skittles - talk about how Jesus already knew everything about them. This is why he asks you to be truthful from your heart. He wants all of those sour and bitter pills of bad attitudes and unforgiving ways to be removed.



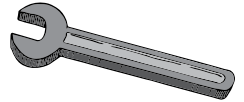


Read Matthew chapter 6 verse 12. You must forgive others to be forgiven yourself. Pray together and ask for the grace and strength to forgive other people from your heart. It is not God's heart to see people accused. Jesus came to save people not condemn them. (Ref. John chapter 3 verse 17). If you truly love Jesus you will have the same heart towards others.

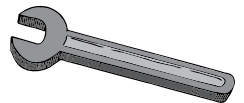


#### 4) The Word Box - "Wriggly Worms"

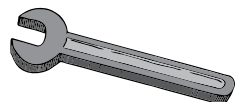
On separate packs of Skittles stick labels with the individual words of today's memory verse. Prepare x2 sets to run as a race. Place a set of labelled Skittle packets into a separate hessian sack/bag for each team and place at the far end of the room - finish line. Make a start line at the opposite end of the room. Divide the group into x2 teams. Lay a sleeping bag on the start line for each team.



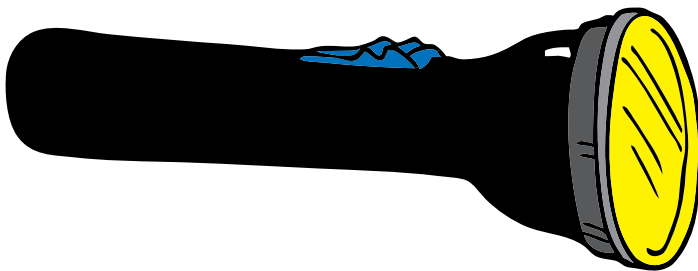
On the leader's command a nominated player from each team must get into the sleeping bag and wriggle like a worm across the floor to their team's bag of Skittles. They must then take out the first word packet of Skittles and wriggle back to the start line holding the end of the packet with their teeth. When they reach the start line they must drop the packet of Skittles and give the sleeping bag to the next member of their team who repeats the process finding the next word packet. Continue until the whole verse has been collected and laid out in order. Congratulate the winning team.



Review the memory verse together. Depending on time, remove a packet of Skittles to reduce the amount of prompts they have to recite the verse. See if they can say it without any prompts at all. Discuss how the wage for sin is death but God's gift is eternal life when we receive the forgiveness for sin found in Jesus. (Ref. Romans chapter 6 verse 23). The wriggly worm may eat up your dead flesh one day but for those who find mercy, and are loved very much, they will enter into eternal life.



#### 5) Box of Bright Sparks - "Kind Catch"



As an extra game option play 'Kind Catch' with a packet of Skittles. The leader stands in the middle of the circle of children and throws the packet of Skittles to each of them, calling their name. They throw it back to the leader. If the child drops the packet they go down on one knee. Another miss and they are down on two knees. A third drop and they are restricted to one hand. If they drop the packet a fourth time they are out. However, for each catch they can undo a restriction.

Discuss how holding onto unforgiving attitudes will restrict your walk as a Christian. If you continue to hold on to it then God will not forgive you for your sins. Sin leads to death. Forgiveness leads to life.

What should you do if, or when, you fail in being able to forgive others from your heart? The kneeling process in the game demonstrates the need to walk humbly with God. Kneeling shows submission. This is how you should come to Jesus and pray asking for forgiveness. You should then get back up on your feet forgiven, living ready to forgive others too.

Try the game again, this time with the leader throwing the packet of Skittles in a harsh way. Discuss the leader's approach towards the children. Is it enough just to say "I forgive you," but not mean it? If you say you forgive but do not forgive from your heart it cannot be received. This will again cause 'restriction' in your life and in your friendships, both with Jesus and people. Read together Ephesians chapter 4 verse 2.

## 6) Wheelie Wheelie Time?

The Merciful Robot will today leave the uncharted bitter waters with a heart that is merciful and forgiving. Review the things that the children have learned in this series and encourage them to be truthful from their heart. Only those with this kingdom attitude are permitted into heaven. It is important to take seriously the fact that if you cannot forgive others then God cannot forgive you.

For a final thought give each child a Skittle one at a time. Pop it into their mouth without them seeing which flavour they have been given. Ask them to say "I forgive you" whilst they chew and see who can guess whether they had a sweet or sour Skittle. Their facial expressions should make guessing easy.

To forgive and forget is one of the hardest challenges you can face. It is more than mere words. Your words will be exonerated by your actions. Just like the sour Skittle caused the words to be expressed in a wrong way, so it is when you do not forgive from your heart that your actions will reveal whether your words are true. Pray together for the strength to change' to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with God'.

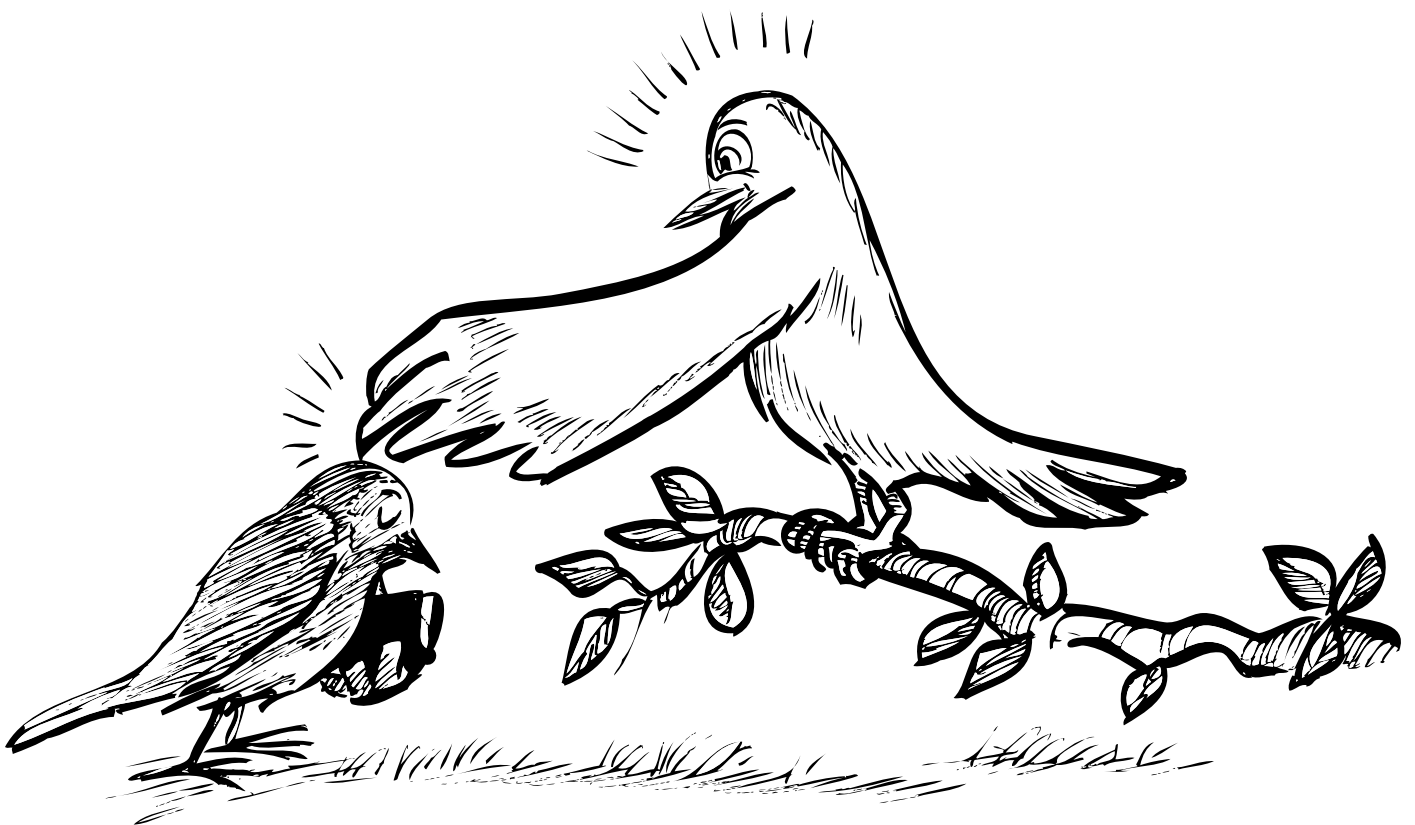
**For Robo 9,  
each child will  
need to col-  
lect a small clear  
plastic bottle for  
the craft.**





Ephesians chapter 2 verse 4

**"But God's  
mercy is great,  
and he loved us  
very much."**



**Ephesians chapter 2 verse 4**

## Robo's Craft Box

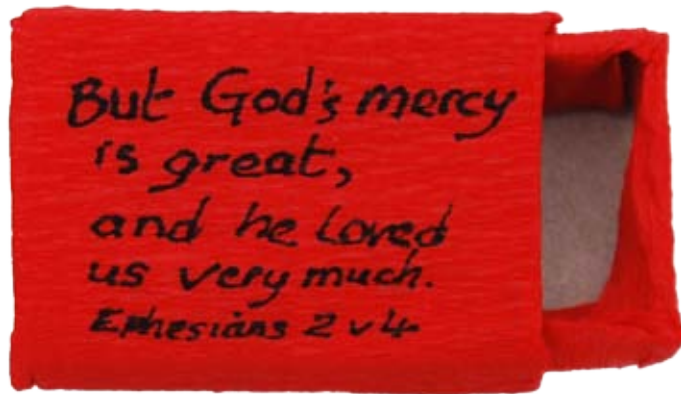
### Hessian Sweet & Sour Box

#### Materials:

- Empty match box
- Glue & scissors
- Crepe paper
- Felt tip pen

#### Instructions:

- 1) Separate the sleeve of the match box from the draw of the match box.
- 2) Using the sleeve of the match box, place onto the crepe paper and cut around a large enough piece to be glued onto it.
- 3) Do the same with the inside draw of the match box.
- 4) Glue the respective piece of crepe paper to the sleeve of the box and the draw of the box. Ensure that the edges are tidy so that the box can fit back together.
- 5) When dry and firm slide the decorated draw of the match box back into the match box sleeve.
- 6) Using a felt tip pen decorate the top of the box with the words to today's memory verse.



## Robo's Design Sheet

### Wheelie Bin

#### Materials:

- x4 lengths of scrim/hessian fabric
- String & strong tape.

#### Instructions:

- 1) You will need lengths of 'rough' hessian type fabric to create a sackcloth coat for the robot.
- 2) We used x4 large squares of new window cleaning scrim to create a cloak for the robot.
- 3) This was secured using string and strong tape that was attached onto the edge of the scrim inside the robot. Bringing the lid down also made the coat fully secure.





**WRITTEN BY: KAREN DAVIES**

**ILLUSTRATED BY: DAVID COLBOURNE**

© Crossed Over 2010. Blazing Glory is a part of Crossed Over, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Company No: 6496580  
Registered Charity No: 1123585

Crossed  
Over  
OAGL

Tel: 0121 706 1058  
Web: [www.crossed-over.org](http://www.crossed-over.org)  
Email: [info@crossed-over.org](mailto:info@crossed-over.org)  
Registered Office:  
8, St Bernard's Road,  
Olton, Solihull, B92 7BB

**DESIGNED BY: BITINGBACK**