

Teacher notes

Books: piece of advice to a friend.

Reflection Area activity idea:



Fruits from the Roots



THE PERSEVERANCE TRACK



Make a display of a racetrack. Children write or draw a picture on a small piece of paper of themselves practising a skill that needs **perseverance**. (This could be an educational or personal target.)




(A3 poster rather than display that children can add to over the term).

Monday 24th January




Sit down calmly,
ready for our
class worship
session...

This half term's Christian value is:



PERSEVERANCE



**'I can do all things
through Him who
strengthens me.'**

Philippians 4.13

The graphic features a teal background with a white circular icon of a turtle at the top. Below it, the word 'PERSEVERANCE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. In the center, a photograph shows two young children from behind, walking along a dirt path in a sun-dappled forest. Both children are wearing backpacks; the child on the right has a blue backpack with a colorful cartoon design. At the bottom, a white speech bubble contains the quote 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' in a teal, sans-serif font. Below the speech bubble, the text 'Philippians 4.13' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Monday 24th January

Greeting

Light your class worship candle.



We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship together,
and think about our value

Perseverance

Engage

STORY JEREMIAH PERSEVERES

Jeremiah was a prophet. His job was to pass God's messages on to God's people. But because Jeremiah lived at a time when God's people weren't really listening to God or doing what he said, the job was really hard. In fact, you could say it was PANTS.

Jeremiah sent a message to the king, written on a scroll. *Take out the scroll.* 'If you do not change your ways' the message said, 'God will punish you and let the Babylonians take over our land.'

What did the king think of that message? He thought it was PANTS. And as he read it, he cut it up into pieces and burned them in the fire. Then he sent his soldiers to arrest Jeremiah.

God helped Jeremiah. He found him a place to hide. Did Jeremiah give up? Did he stop passing on God's message? NO! So when a new king ascended to the throne, Jeremiah passed God's message on to him as well. 'It's too late, now' the message said. 'The Babylonians will take over our land. And they will burn Jerusalem down.' What did the king think of that message? He thought it was PANTS. And he had Jeremiah beaten and thrown into prison.

But the king was worried - worried about the Babylonians, and worried that Jeremiah might actually be telling the truth. So he set him free. Did Jeremiah give up? Did he stop passing on God's message? NO! He went up and down the streets, telling everyone that they should save their lives and leave the city because of what God had said - that the Babylonians were definitely going to capture Jerusalem. Some of the king's officials heard what Jeremiah said. And they thought it was PANTS.

So they went to the king and complained. And the king told them they could do anything they wanted to punish Jeremiah. So that's what they did. They arrested Jeremiah and lowered him into a well. There was no water in the well, fortunately, but there was plenty of mud. And as the mud rose past his ankles and his knees and his PANTS, Jeremiah prayed for help. And God sent an answer.

Another official, called Ebed-Melech, heard what had happened and went to tell the king. Again, the king was worried. Worried about the Babylonians and worried that Jeremiah might starve to death down there. So he changed his mind and told Ebed-Melech to pull Jeremiah out of the well. Quick as he could, Ebed-Melech went to rescue Jeremiah; he found several helpers, but he could find no ropes. There was, however, a pile of rags and some old clothes. So he tied them all together:

Stripy robes and spotted cloaks. A dress in which to dance. Fancy scarves. Turbans, too. And several pairs of PANTS.

He lowered the string of clothes down to Jeremiah, and Jeremiah said, 'What's this?' So Ebed-Melech told him:

Stripy robes and spotted cloaks. A dress in which to dance. Fancy scarves. Turbans, too. And several pairs of PANTS.

Now tie them under your arms and my friends and I will use them like a rope to pull you out of the well. That's what they did. Up out of the mud rose Jeremiah, then up out of the well to the king. Did Jeremiah give up? Did he stop passing on God's message? NO! He most definitely stuck to his job. He did the right thing. He was faithful to his God. And there was an answer about that!

Respond

In what ways did Jeremiah show perseverance?

Sending

Take a moment to say thanks to the people in your lives who help you when you are faced with a challenge and need to persevere.

Tuesday 25th January



Sit down calmly,
ready for our
class worship
session...

Children will need
spiritual journals

Engage

Recap: how did Jeremiah show perseverance?

STORY JEREMIAH PERSEVERES

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Jeremiah sent a message to the king, written on a scroll. *Take out the scroll.* 'If you do not change your ways' the message said, 'God will punish you and let the Babylonians take over our land.'

What did the king think of that message? He thought it was PANTS. And as he read it, he cut it up into pieces and burned them in the fire. Then he sent his soldiers to arrest Jeremiah.

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But the king was worried - worried about the Babylonians, and worried that Jeremiah might actually be telling the truth. So he set him free. Did Jeremiah give up? Did he stop passing on God's message? NO! He went up and down the streets, telling everyone that they should save their lives and leave the city because of what God had said - that the Babylonians were definitely going to capture Jerusalem. Some of the king's officials heard what Jeremiah said. And they thought it was PANTS.

So they went to the king and complained. And the king told them they could do anything they wanted to punish Jeremiah. So that's what they did. They arrested Jeremiah and lowered him into a well. There was no water in the well, fortunately, but there was plenty of mud. And as the mud rose past his ankles and his knees and his PANTS, Jeremiah prayed for help. And God sent an answer.

Another official, called Ebed-Melech, heard what had happened and went to tell the king. Again, the king was worried. Worried about the Babylonians and worried that Jeremiah might starve to death down there. So he changed his mind and told Ebed-Melech to pull Jeremiah out of the well. Quick as he could, Ebed-Melech went to rescue Jeremiah; he found several helpers, but he could find no ropes. There was, however, a pile of rags and some old clothes. So he tied them all together:

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Now tie them under your arms and my friends and I will use them like a rope to pull you out of the well. That's what they did. Up out of the mud rose Jeremiah, then up out of the well and into the king's presence. Did Jeremiah give up? Did he stop passing on God's message? NO! He most definitely did not. He stuck to his job. He did the right thing. He was faithful to his God. And there was nothing about that!

Respond

What can we learn from this story about **perseverance** and determination in our own lives?

Write a piece of advice for a friend who is faced with a challenge and needs perseverance in their lives.

Who can they ask for help?

How can they show perseverance and determination?

Sending

Take a moment for quiet reflection:

A MEDITATION

As we listen to a quiet piece of music, think about these questions.

What are you going to do next time you find it hard to speak up for what is right?

What are you going to do next time someone tries to stop you doing the right thing?

