

## Supplementary Stories

### **1: 14<sup>th</sup> December : David (1) (taken from 1 Samuel 16: 1-13)**

God wanted Samuel to choose a new King. Samuel went to a family that had eight sons and looked at each one. He thought that the boys who were big and strong should be King.

But God told him to look for the youngest son, David. David looked after sheep and had to be called from the fields to see Samuel. David was the boy that God wanted to be King!

### **2: 19<sup>th</sup> December: Nehemiah (taken from Nehemiah 1-2 and 7)**

Nehemiah worked for the King in Susa. His brother came to visit him and told him that the Jewish people in Jerusalem were in trouble, and that Jerusalem had been destroyed.

Nehemiah was very upset and asked the King if he could go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city that was so important to him, and to God's people. The King agreed to let Nehemiah go and build the city, and because God was in charge, he also gave him letters asking other rulers to help him.

Once the city had been rebuilt, Nehemiah gathered the Jewish people together and lead them back to the city.

### **3: 20<sup>th</sup> December: Esther (taken from Esther)**

Esther was a young Jewish girl who had been made Queen. She was very beautiful and a favourite of the King, although he did not know that she was a Jew.

One of the King's servants planned to have all the Jewish people killed. Esther's cousin, Mordecai heard of the plan and warned Esther about it. He thought that she could help save the Jewish people.

Esther was very brave. She wasn't allowed to speak to the King unless he called for her, but she dressed in her royal robes and went to see him. The King was pleased to see her and agreed to have some special meals with Esther. Before one of the meals, he read that Mordecai had once helped save his life. So when Esther asked the King to make sure that the Jewish people were not killed, he was happy to help her. He made sure that the Jewish people could protect themselves against anyone who wanted to hurt them.

## Christmas Countdown Challenge – and beyond!

Esther and Mordecai had saved the Jewish people.

### **4: 22<sup>nd</sup> December: Isaiah (taken from Isaiah 9: 2-7)**

Isaiah had a message from God. God was going to stop his people from feeling bad. A baby would be born who would be in charge. He would be called Wonderful Helper, Mighty God, Daddy who lasts forever. He would make sure there was no fighting.

This baby would be in charge forever.

### **5: 23<sup>rd</sup> December: John the Baptist (taken from Mark 1: 1-8)**

Isaiah was a prophet who had said that a messenger would come and tell people about someone special.

The messenger's name was John and he taught people about God. He told them to love God and to ask him to forgive them. He was a bit different from the people he was speaking to – he didn't live in the town, but in the desert. He wore camel's hair clothes and a leather belt. Instead of all the fancy food that people in the towns ate, his dinner was normally honey from the desert, and locusts!

But the people listened to him and believed what he said. They were baptised in the river. John's message was that someone special would come soon – and that John wasn't even important enough tie up that person's shoes.

### **6: 28<sup>th</sup> December: Peter (taken from Acts 12: 1-18)**

Peter was so excited that Jesus was alive, that he wanted to tell everyone he met. This made some people cross, so they put Peter in prison. An angel came and rescued him. His friends were very surprised to see him!

### **7: 30<sup>th</sup> December: John (taken from Revelation 21: 1-4)**

John had a dream about a time when God will make a new earth and a new heaven. God will live with his friends instead of in heaven. No one will be sad, or sick, or sore, and no one will die. This new place will be perfect!

### **8: 31<sup>st</sup> December: Us**

God's story doesn't finish with the people the bible. We are part of the story too! We can learn things from one another about what God is doing.

Thank God that we are part of his family, and ask him to help us do what he wants in 2012.