



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

RME Assembly Material for Primary Schools

Although we can't physically be in schools at this time, that doesn't mean that local Christians can't be involved with their local school. Many schools are asking for pre-recorded assembly material to show in classrooms while they are unable to have guests. Could you make a video or two for your local school to use in classes?

What's Included in this Resource?

This material comprises scripts and videos that cover key Bible stories, with a health and wellbeing "angle" that primary schools should find attractive.

We have provided videos as examples of how the material can be done, which you are welcome to use in any way. However, our aim is not necessarily for you to distribute these videos, but rather to make your own!

It will be so much more effective for local primary children to see YOU, their minister, SU Group Leader or local volunteer on the screen, rather than a stranger. This will keep ties with your school warm, and even help build relationship during this period of social distancing.

How do I start?

Making the videos will require a camera (a phone camera is fine) and some basic video editing tasks, such as shooting two scenes and fitting them together to make one complete video. There is a list of top tips for filming a fun and engaging video on the next page to help you get started.

Never edited video clips together before? It's not as difficult as it sounds: there is free video editing software that you could download and try out today. Or if you or a friend have a Mac laptop, they come with iMovie editing software, which is easy to use. Many iPhones also come with basic editing apps as well. Or, if you're quite unsure, why not do the filming yourself, but ask a friend or someone you know to edit the material together? I know many young people who would easily do this for the price of a coffee!

Using the Script

These scripts are meant to be used as a guide and are not prescriptive. That means you are welcome to re-word, chop and change lines as much as you like. To get the best final product, it's important that the lines feel natural and that you are confident, so don't force yourself to follow the script exactly if it doesn't feel natural for you.

Each script is split into four scenes, some with additional suggested "cut scenes" in blue. If you prefer not to include some of the suggested scenes, just cross them out so that you don't find them distracting. Or if you think of something creative to add into the video, go ahead! Use the material in any way that suits you.

Top tips for making a fun and engaging video for any audience



Keep it short: The average Youtube clip is about 11 minutes in length, and this is the average length of the assembly material as written. Although in person we may be used to giving a longer form talk, when filming, the material needs to be much shorter in length and faster moving.

Fast Moving: Even if your video is short, its still important to keep it fast moving! That means changing backgrounds, changing content, adding jokes or visuals at least every two minutes. We have suggestions in our scripts of where and when to do this. Do whatever you can to “add interest” to your shots.

Film in landscape: Filming with a smart phone is just fine and you will get decent quality video and audio. But do not film in portrait, this automatically makes a video look amateur. Always film “long ways” in landscape.

Don’t “Selfie” a whole video: Filming with a smart phone or camera in hand is okay for a scene or two, but don’t do an entire video in “selfie-mode” (i.e. filming from your own hand). Again, it automatically makes your video look amateurish. Even if filming on a phone, find ways to mount your phone (such as on a music stand, on your laptop or with a book).

Framing your shot: Make sure you are the centre focus of your shot. Whether you are stationary or walking, make sure that you take up the majority of the picture and that not too much “background” is in focus, as this is distracting. Also, filming directly on, or at a slightly downward angle will look much better and more professional than filming from below (upward angle). No one wants to see up your nose! Are you unsure how your shot looks? Ask someone to have a look!

Background - Even if you are filming in a small garden or a messy room, remember that your audience will only see what’s in shot, so you can frame it to look nice no matter where you are. Our assembly scripts are split into four scenes – why not try a slightly different background for each scene? If you sit on the same sofa for the whole video, that subconsciously registers as “boring” and you will automatically lose your audience’s interest.

Clear audio – Speak loudly, slowly and clearly in all shots. If your camera or phone is too far away to get good, clear sound, re-frame your shot so you are closer. If you are outdoors, be sure that background noise is at a minimum.

Good lighting – Don’t film in a half-lit setting. Your face must be clear – filming at a window or outdoors often ensures decent light, but don’t hesitate to put a table or desk lamp near you to light your face.

Bonus Tip: Co-Hosts – Having more than one person in a video is always more fun. Why not invite someone to co-host with you? You could film outdoors together, or each film half of the scenes and edit them together.

Bonus Tip Two: Get Help – Ask for help. If you’re finding it difficult to frame shots, remember lines or edit a video, ask a friend or family member for help (or get in touch with your local SU Regional Worker). There’s a reason films and tv shows have crews of hundreds – filming can be tricky and time consuming. So ask for help!



Got Questions?

Get in Touch!

If you have any questions about how to do this, or need help, don’t hesitate to get in touch with your local SU Regional Worker, We are here to support you!