

# 9 Being brave

Based on Episode 9: Doing our part

## Learning objectives:

- To learn about how God looked after his people
- To think about times when we may need to be brave
- To experience generosity

## RE Links:

- England: 1b) *Ways of life and . . . how these stem from, and are closely connected with, beliefs and teachings.*  
2b) *Respond to the challenges of commitment both in their own lives and within religious traditions.*
- Scotland: *Celebrations, festivals, ceremonies and customs.*  
*Sacred writings, stories and key figures.*  
*Relationships and moral values.*
- Wales: *Different forms of authority expressed through religious stories, sacred texts, and religious leaders*  
*Religious rules and customs.*  
*The importance that religion places on personal relationships and concern for others.*
- Northern Ireland: *God and the Bible*  
*The Christian Church: Beginning and growth*  
*Morality: Respect for each other*

## Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD episode 9: *Doing our part*

## Bible references for the main stories:

Acts 4:32-37

Esther *selections from Chapters 2-8*

## Other resources required:

*1 enlarged copy of Worksheet 9a – an emotions graph*

*Copies of Worksheet 9a – an emotions graph*

*Copies of Worksheet 9b – A Purim biscuit recipe, ingredients for the biscuits*

## Introduction:

*Explain that Jews still celebrate Purim every year – this year's celebrations were on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007.*

Why do you think Jewish people remember the story of Esther?

*Draw out the idea that Jews tell the story to remind themselves that God is with them in every situation.*

## Activities:

- 1) How do you think Esther felt at these different points in the story?
  - a) Being chosen to be King Xerxes' queen
  - b) Hearing about Haman's plot to kill the Jews
  - c) Risking her life by going to see the King
  - d) Telling the King the truth about being a Jew and the plot against her people
  - e) Knowing that her people would be safe from harm

*Using an enlarged copy of Worksheet 9a, show children how to draw an emotions graph – emotions on the y axis and time on the x axis.*

- 2) What did Esther do when she was afraid?

*She talked to someone she trusted (Mordecai)  
She had support from other people (the Jews fasted)  
She put her trust in God*

- 3) What can we do when we are afraid or have to be brave in a situation?

*Ask pupils to work in pairs to discuss possible tactics to help themselves when they are in a difficult situation.*

*Using Worksheet 9a, ask the pupils to draw their own emotions graph to show a time when they have had to be brave about something. Be aware of any Child Protection issues that may arise as a result of this activity.*

*Pupils can use the recipe on Worksheet 9b to make some Purim biscuits and give them to other pupils and adults in school, as Diana and Miriam gave them out in Alexandria.*

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## Reflection / Personal search / Response:

- 1) What did Esther and Diana have in common?

*They had to do difficult things (Esther had to risk her life to talk to the King; Diana was trying to help the refugees in Alexandria).*

- 2) Why are both these stories about having faith?

*Draw out the idea that both Esther and Diana would have been afraid about what they had to do. They both had to ask God to help them to be brave in their different situation.*

*Allow the pupils some time to think about any situations that they might be in or any situations that they know about where they or someone else will need to be brave. Ask them to spend some time thinking about who they can ask to help them to be brave (friends, family, God).*

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## Assessment / reporting:

*Can the pupils describe what Esther did when she was afraid?  
Can they think of ideas to help themselves when they are afraid or need to be brave about something?*

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## Links to other subjects:

- 1) Literacy – character studies, stories with dilemmas, mapping out texts
- 2) DT – biscuit making

Name:

Date:



Being brave 9a

# An Emotions Graph

Ecstatic

Excited

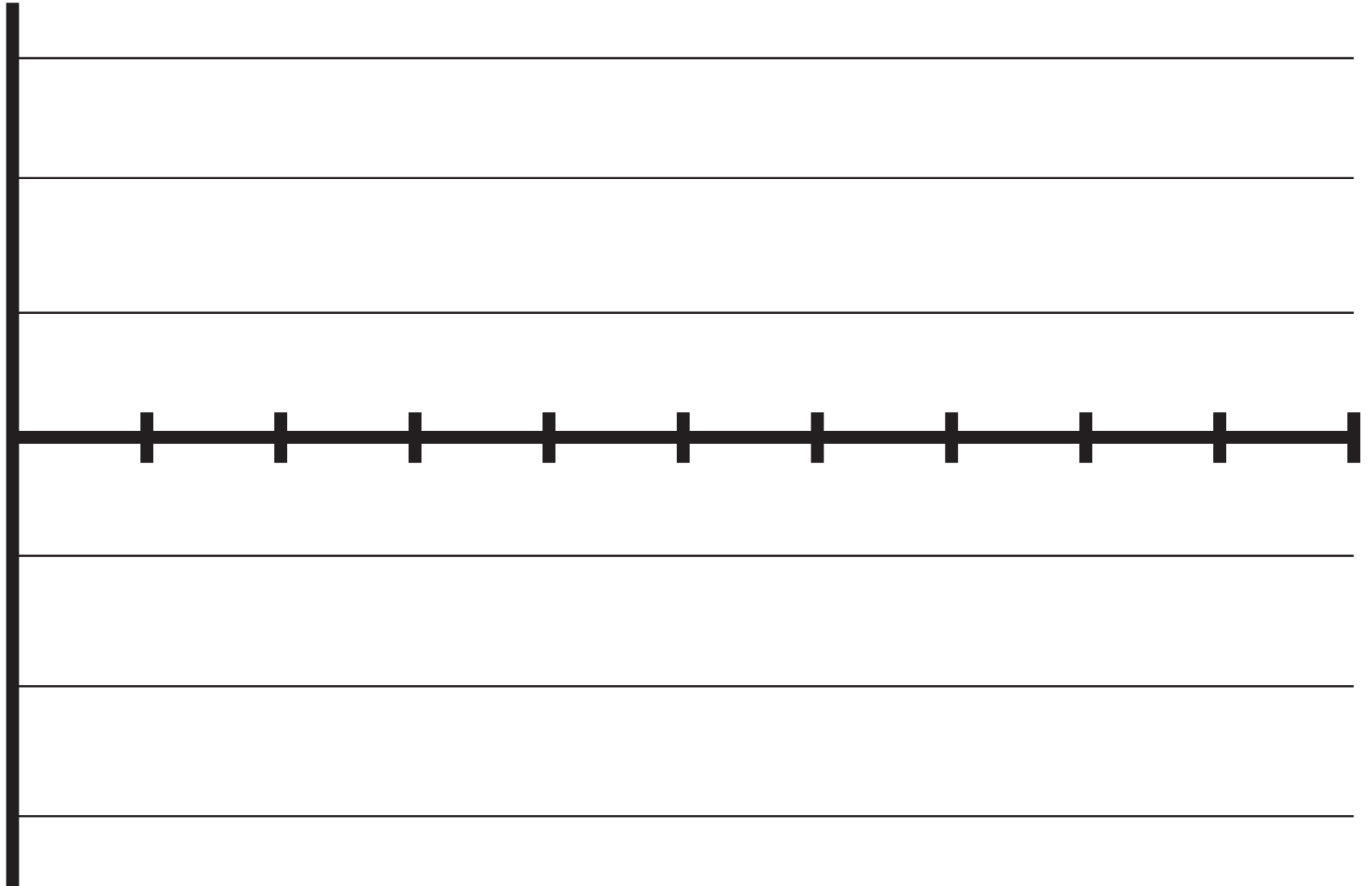
Happy

Neutral

Worried

Nervous

Terrified



Name:

Date:

## Being brave 9b

# Purim Biscuit Recipe



- 125 grams butter
- 125 grams sugar
- drops vanilla essence (to taste)
- 3 egg yolks plus beaten egg for brushing
- 250 grams flour
- pinch of salt
- jam or pie filling

In a bowl, cream butter and sugar, then beat in the vanilla essence to taste and the egg yolks. Sift the flour and salt into bowl, blend with a spoon, then work by hand to form a dough. Knead lightly until smooth. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill before filling.

Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Grease 2 baking sheets. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to 0.3 cm thick. Cut out 7.5 cm rounds. Put a teaspoon of filling on each round. Brush edges with beaten egg, then bring edges to centre to cover filling and form a three-cornered shape. Place on baking sheets. Glaze with egg. Bake for 20-35 minutes, cool on wire racks.