



PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Broken Penguin

Theme: Re-building hope

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- » Model of a penguin
- » PowerPoint picture?
- » Story

Introduction: (5 minutes)

Show a picture of a broken pot or have one with you?

Question. When things go wrong, what do we do? Give up? Start again? Who encourages us when things go wrong?

Main Content: 5 minutes

Story

Brockwood school had been fortunate in having a visitor come to help the children in Year 2 make models. The children had had a great time looking at pictures of animals, a video and even some models that Mr Wilson had made himself - they were brilliant. Then the children had the opportunity to think about the animal they wanted to make. Daniel thought long and hard - he really liked the idea of making a spider that would frighten everybody, or a dog - because his Grandma had a dog that he loved taking for walks when he visited her, but finally he settled on making a penguin.

What should he make it out of? He decided after looking at the soft materials and the box of bits and pieces, that the best thing to do would be to make it out of clay.

It had taken him a long time to get it looking just right, but eventually he was really pleased with it. Daniel put the penguin on the shelf in the art cupboard where it stayed until Mr Wilson came the following Thursday.

Daniel found it difficult to wait a whole week for Mr Wilson to come into school again. Eventually the day came and when Mr Wilson looked at Daniel's penguin he said it was just right to paint.

Daniel thought that was the best bit!

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He mixed the black paint and the white, until it was just thick enough and then made sure his brushes were clean. Carefully he painted the penguin - first the white stomach and eyes, then the black body - the last thing to do was the orange beak. He was really proud of it - and when Mr Wilson saw it he said it was BRILLIANT. (You may wish to show children a model penguin if you have time to make one!)

Daniel carefully put his penguin .. in the front of course .. of the table that Mr Wilson has told them to put them. And at the end of the day it was Daniel's penguin that had been chosen by his teacher to show in the class assembly the next morning. Daniel was really looking forward to showing it to the school .. and then taking it home to show his mum and dad on Friday afternoon.

In the evening the cleaners came into the school. There was quite a bit of mess in Year 2 classroom with bits of wool, cut up paper, and even some glue spreaders scattered across the floor where the children had run out of time to tidy up. Mrs Davies the cleaner didn't mind though, the classroom was usually kept really tidy, she knew the children must have been having fun - and she could see some of the models they had been making displayed carefully on the table. Daniel's penguin was right in front where Mr Wilson had put it after he had shown the class.

As Mrs Davies was hoovering the carpet - something dreadful happened... the Hoover knocked the table leg and Daniel's penguin fell. The model smashed to the ground and lay there with one of the feet broken. Mrs Davies was really sorry that the accident had happened and she left a note on the board for the class to read in the morning.

DEAR CLASS 2 I AM REALLY SORRY THAT ONE OF YOUR MODELS HAS GOT BROKEN. IT WAS MY MISTAKE WHEN I WAS HOOVERING YOUR CARPET. MRS DAVIES.

She went home that night, and told her husband all about it.

But when Daniel came into school really excited, he ran into the classroom and there .. was HIS penguin. In bits.

Reflection

What do you think Daniel felt in the morning when he came in - ready to show his penguin to the school - to see it had been broken?

Dealing with disappointments is hard. Sometimes we feel that people have really let us down. As we begin to think about the Easter story, some of Jesus' closest friends let Jesus down at a time when he needed them the most. I wonder what Jesus thought of his friends when this happened?

Anyway - back to the story.

Daniel's penguin was in bits. Daniel felt as though he were in bits.

His teacher put her arm around him and told him to go and get some PVA glue. Carefully she helped Daniel mend it. She helped him stick the arms/wing bits back on, and the beak. And of course, the head.

In the assembly, in front of the school - everyone clapped when Daniel held up his penguin. I think Mr Wilson clapped the most.

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Daniel saw every being really happy for him, even his mum .. but he knew .. because he could still see the tiny cracks and bit of glue round the head and the wing .. that it was not what he wanted. But he had learned not just how to make a model penguin .. but how .. sometimes .. when things don't work out quite the way you wanted .. it can still be ok.

Original story by Gwen Kearley © Spinnaker Trust 2002

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Reflection: 2 minutes

There may be someone who had really disappointed you – they may have broken something, they may have let you down in the quietness think about that person, and think about how you are going to be next time you see them.

There may be someone who you have disappointed and upset. Maybe on purpose .. maybe by mistake. Either way .. maybe you can think about that person too and begin to think if you could do anything about it. Not saying you have to.. just a wonder.

And if you are not used to prayer .. perhaps prayer is like wondering. But instead of talking to yourself in your head .. it is like a message to God.

