

The Princess and the Gemstones Study Notes

These notes could be used as a basis for discussion and reflection. The book could be read to the class in sections weekly over the school term. The final session would be about what happens next.

Students could produce their own creative response to the story. For example. A dance... a song...

There is also a curriculum document available for teachers as the story can be used on various levels as a catalyst for further exploration into areas like abstract art, creative writing and literary devices and genres.

In the Beginning

What was her life like?

Why does she leave the garden?

What are boundaries? Are they good or bad?

Do we always know the consequences of our decisions before we make them?

What do the “gemstones” represent to you?

What might her future have been if she had not ventured out of the garden?

What do you think her father might have felt and said when he found out she was gone?

Prayer

Heavenly Father. Thank you for loving me and creating so much for me to enjoy. Thank you for giving me boundaries. Help me to obey you and to remember that whatever you tell me to do is always because you love me and only want the best for me. Forgive me for the times when I have gone astray.

Scripture: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14

Tricked

Things can suddenly change when we choose to disobey God. Has this happened to you?

Did she think that she could just turn around and go back into the garden whenever she wanted? Why couldn't she?

Have you ever been tricked and ended up in a bad place? What does “tricked” mean?

Even though she now wasn't in the best place, the old couple were kind to her and did their best to look after her. Who are the people like that in your life?

What does “distorted” mean?

Are you believing everything you hear? Does everyone have your best interests at heart? What might be the reason people lie? Do they believe their lies?

Who is the father of lies?

Prayer

Thank you Heavenly Father for the people in my life who have done their best to care for me. Help me to forgive the people who have lied to me and pulled me down.

Scripture: The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. John 10:10

Leaving

What do you know about deer? What might the deer represent to you?

Getting out of a dark place isn't easy. Why did she stay so long?

Why did she leave?

Has anyone come along in your life to help you? Are you willing to accept their help even if it is hard to follow their advice at times?

Did she know where she was going? Why did she keep following?

Prayer

Thank you Holy Spirit that you come to help me when things are difficult in my life and you will show me the way out and it won't be too hard. Thank you that I will get stronger and I can trust you to lead me safely to a good place.

Scripture: You make my feet like hind's feet. Habakkuk 3:17-19

Truth

Do you think she remembered anything from her childhood when she looked into the lake?

A lot can be happening inside us when we are presented with a new idea. How do you react to new ideas?

How can we know something is true?

Is there a difference between facts and the truth?

Prayer

Heavenly Father. Please help me to recognise and accept the truth. Thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made and you have a bright future planned for me.

Scripture: You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. John 8:32

Choices

Have you ever felt like the Princess? What does hope feel like to you?

What does it mean to take a leap of faith? Have you ever done that? How did it turn out for you?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father. Thank you for sending Jesus who is the way the truth and the life. I accept your gift of faith and I choose to trust and follow Him.

Scripture: Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

A new life

Why do you think she kept some gemstones? Why did her father keep some?

What was the response of her parents when they realised who she was? What might they be thinking and feeling?

Have you ever discovered relatives you had lost touch with? Was it a good experience?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father. Thank you that you are so good and so kind. Thank you that you never forget about me and you always welcome me home when I come back to you.

Scripture: I will not forget you. I have carved you on the palm of my hand. Isaiah 49:15-16

Found

How do you think she felt to be rejoiced over?

What kind of gems do you think the city was made of?

What do you think true riches might be? What are the things that mean the most to you?

Do you think she let go of her gems?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father. Help me to understand what true riches are and to let go of things that are not really valuable. Open my eyes to see what you have for me. Thank you for the wonderful plan you have for my life.

Scripture:

"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for good and not for evil, plans to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

What happens next?

What might her new husband think about her past when he finds out?

Might he take offence? Might she? Might they want justice? Would it be a good idea for them to try get vengeance?

What might her Father, the king be thinking? What might he do next?

Prayer

Heavenly Father. Sometimes I want to keep talking about the past and go back and make people pay for things that have happened to me. But just like you forgive me for mistakes I have made, I choose to forgive others who have hurt me. Please heal me from everything that has hurt me. Thank you for helping me to focus on you and my future with you instead of my past.

Scripture: For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14-15

Further thoughts

How could this story have been different?

What if she had chosen not to leave the garden? Do you think the evil king would have tried another way to hurt her father.

Is the story about the Princess or is it really about the two kings?

What about the old couple who cared for her? Would it help them to know the truth and she is OK ? How might she get a message to them?

If there was a sequel to this story what might the plot be?