

## THINKING DAY SERVICE

### **Brilliantly Made!**

Do you like to make things? What do you like to make? *The answers to that question from Brownies were: chocolate cakes, cards with all kinds of designs, a parachute from a plastic bag.*

Let me tell you the story of a boy called Tom who decided to make himself a boat and he wanted a boat that would be able to sail! He found a book that gave him all the instructions that he needed to follow and it told him what he needed: he needed some wood for the boat itself, for the hull and the masts; he needed some cloth for the sails and some thread or string for the rigging that would hold the sails up; he needed some strong glue and small nails to put it all together; he needed some paint to finish it off.

Tom set to work to make his boat: he cut the wood into the right size and shape and put it together to make the hull and the deck; he put in the masts and then he cut the cloth to make the sails that would fit the masts perfectly. Then he cut the string to make the rigging and tied it on to the masts and attached the sails so that they would hang in the right way and catch the wind so that the boat would sail. All the joints were very carefully glued so that the boat would float and not sink. Then he painted it just the right colour that he wanted and gave his boat a name. What name should he give it? *The suggestion was Johnnie!*

When he had finished, he was very pleased with his boat; it was just perfect; it was just the way he wanted it to be. It was something that he had made, that he had created for himself and he was delighted with it. He gave his boat a big hug and said "you're all mine because I've made you! You are brilliantly made!"

The Bible tells us that we are brilliantly made by God; He has made us just the way He wants us to be:

- Each one of us is different; we are all unique; we all look different from each other; even twins are slightly different. Wearing uniforms, you all sort of look the same, but we all have different colour of hair, of eyes; we are different shapes and sizes; we are all unique.
- We can all do different things: we can make and create things for ourselves to enjoy and for other people to enjoy too; some of us can make things with our hands, such as chocolate cakes; others can paint, sew, or make something with a hammer and nails; some can sing and make music.
- We are made by God to love Him and love other people and look after the world and learn to be like Him and He is pleased that He has made us brilliantly.
- We are all made to go about life in His way, doing good and serving Him.

God has made us and we are brilliantly made!

Tom took his boat down to the river to sail it; that's what it was made for; he made it so that he could sail it and enjoy watching it sail along in small the river at the bottom of his garden and see it blown by the wind. He put it into the river and he watched it as it floated; it didn't sink and he was delighted! Then it began to sail as the river flowed gently and it was fine; and the wind blew gently and it was fine; but then a big gust of wind came up and blew his boat and he remembered that he'd forgotten something – a piece of string! I'll tell you the rest of the story later!

### **Mine – Twice over!**

We left our story with Tom's boat sailing in the river and the big gust of wind came and Tom had forgotten a piece of string. He couldn't hold it and pull it back. Now, his boat was sailing away too fast and the river was flowing too fast and while it was only a small river, it was still too big for him to jump in to save his boat and all he could do was watch it sail away down the river; he was helpless. He'd lost his boat!

Two days later he was walking through the town with his mum and looked in the toy shop as he always did and something caught his eye! His boat! In the shop window, as big as you like, there was his boat; he knew it was his boat because he had made it himself, and he knew every centimetre of it, every small nail, every piece of rigging. He was so excited. He went into the shop and the shopkeeper was a nice, friendly man, but he said that he had paid £20 for boat yesterday; someone had brought it in to the shop and had offered it to the shopkeeper for £20 and he paid it. He wanted to help, so he said that he would keep the boat for Tom and Tom went off to raise the money. He cleaned his dad's car; he washed the dishes for a week, all for extra pocket money; he did extra jobs around the house and he helped in the garden; till the day came, two or three weeks later, with £20 in his pocket, off he went to the toy shop. He paid the shopkeeper the £20 and the man handed over the boat. As he left shop, Tom hugged his boat and the shopkeeper heard him say to it "now, you're mine twice over; I made you and I bought you back!"

God has made us; we are brilliantly made. But we get things wrong; we make mistakes; we're not always the people that we should be and we wander away from God. But the stories that Jesus told help us to see that He came to bring us back to God. Jesus came to love the world and care for us, to forgive all our faults and mistakes and to bring us back to God and in the end, to do that, Jesus died on a cross to bring us to God. Jesus told the story of the shepherd who had a hundred sheep and one was lost and off the shepherd went to find it and was so delighted to find it that he held a party to celebrate. He told another story about a woman who had ten coins and lost one and swept the house till she found it and when she found it she was so happy that she held a party to celebrate.

We belong to God twice over: we belong to Him once because He has made us and we are brilliantly made to love Him and for Him to love us; this is simply part of the way in which the Bible understands our being human. We belong to Him twice because He loves us and sent Jesus to buy us back; Jesus came to love the world and die for us on the cross; Jesus has come to sort out the ways in which we have messed up life and the world and He did that when He died on the cross; He died that we might be forgiven, and He is raised from the dead to live forever so that we might have hope, peace, grace in our lives. He says to us "You're mine, twice over! I made you and I bought you back!"