READY TO USE PARABLE

# Freddie and the fake news

“She’s done it again!” said Freddie, looking at his phone

“What? Who are you taking about?” asked Imran.

“Kelly. She’s commented on that photo I just posted. That one of us at the end of Parkrun.”

“What’s she said?” Imran leaned over and peered at Freddie’s phone. On the screen was a picture of them with their hands in the air. Freddie had written ‘best time eva’ underneath.

“She said: ‘never happened’. Man, look at how many times she’s posted.”

Imran grabbed the phone and scrolled down. “What’s she doing? She’s put the same thing like 50 times. There’s summat wrong with her.”

“She does it every time I post something like that. It’s like she doesn’t believe anything I do,” said Freddie. He took his phone back and slumped glumly on the sofa.

Imran thought for a moment and then said: “What we need to do is get some kind of proof, something like a medal or a plaque…”

“Or a statue!” shouted Freddie. “A statue of me with ‘Fastest time at Manchesterford Parkrun: 15 minutes 13 seconds’ chiselled underneath.”

“Oh yeah, I can just imagine the mayor unveiling a three-metre statue of you!” Imran laughed.

“OK, maybe not a statue…” Freddie stopped and thought for a moment. “Maybe…” he said.

“What?”

“If I can get in touch with Mike, he might be able to do something…”

Next Saturday, Freddie and Imran were at Freddie’s. They had come one-two at this week’s Parkrun; Freddie had just missed his best time, but they were both buzzing.

“Have you posted it all?” asked Imran.

“Yeah, look!” Freddie handed Imran the phone. Imran scrolled through the pictures. There was a film of Mike, the Parkrun race director, talking about Freddie’s time and how amazing it was. There was a screenshot of the phone that had recorded Freddie’s time (and the caption read ‘Mike had captured my record-breaking moment!’). There was also a message from the founder of Parkrun, Paul Sinton-Hewitt.

“Ha! Let’s see Kelly say that it never happened now!” said Imran.

## Discussion questions

* Why do you think Kelly didn’t believe Freddie?
* Has anyone ever said this about anything you’ve done? What did you do?
* What do you think Kelly is going to post when she sees the pictures and videos?
* How do you commemorate the good stuff that you have done?

This story is based on Joshua 3-4. Read this passage to the group and compare the story to this one. You may want to chat about the story using these questions:

* Why do you think the people of God needed a memorial to remember what God had done for them?
* Imagine it’s 60 years after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River. What questions would you ask about the stones?
* Do you have any memorials in your life, of things that God has done for you? Do they help you remember? Why?
* Why do we need these reminders?

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