

Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!

This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.

We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.

The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.

These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with members of the family you can't see now except via the internet.

The resources are based on our non-uniformed children's groups, Friends on Faith Adventures and Pilots, but have been modified to make them suitable for all families at home.

*These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!***

This week's Bible story is:

Chosen - Part 2

Mark 1 v 16-20 2 v 13-14 3 v 13-19



With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

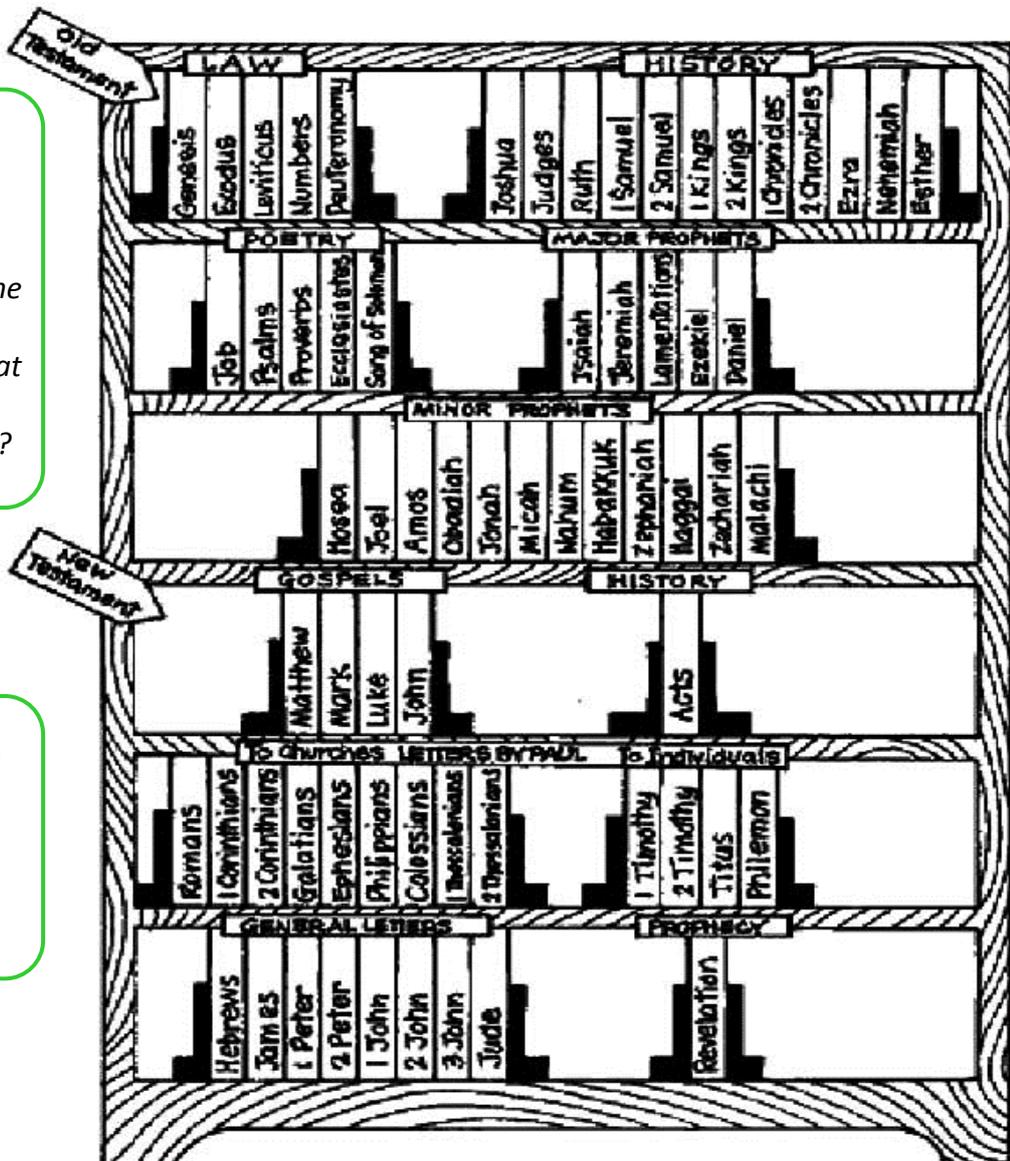
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.



You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.

Bible context – Mark

Written around 50-60 AD by Mark, a disciple of Jesus.

It tells the story of Jesus' life and ministry. Mark especially wants to show that Jesus was God, loving and powerful. There are many miracles in Mark's book.

The Story – Jesus Chooses His Disciples (International Children's Bible)

Mark 1 v 16 – 20, Mark 2 v 13-14, Mark 3 v 13-19

When Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and Simon's brother, Andrew. They were fishermen and were throwing a net into the lake to catch fish. Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishermen for men." So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.

Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat, preparing their nets to catch fish. Their father Zebedee and the men who worked for him were in the boat with the brothers. When Jesus saw the brothers, he called them to come with him. They left their father and followed Jesus.

Jesus went to the lake again. A crowd followed him there, and he taught them. While he was walking beside the lake, he saw a tax collector named Levi son of Alphaeus. Levi was sitting in the tax office. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And Levi stood up and followed Jesus.

Then Jesus went up on a hill and called some men to come to him. These were the men Jesus wanted, and they went up to him. Jesus chose 12 men and called them apostles. He wanted these 12 to be with him, and he wanted to send them to other places to preach. These are the 12 men he chose: Simon (Jesus gave him the name Peter); James and John (the sons of Zebedee), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one who gave Jesus to his enemies. All were chosen to follow Jesus.

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Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

The story told by children https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKBX_mCCzZE

Suitable for older children https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MylsK-hGq_U&list=PL339nCOIK1SXifPN-dh_8OY1tm4oY9Yy5&index=3

Dance and sing

Littlebuds perform the Hip hop 12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrXFbayYfHs>

Puppets sing the disciples song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUk2zC9eJkc>

Song by Leeland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq2b4kKDM8k>

Song by Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ohvhmGSfxI>

Hillsong kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0Jl3-F8Jmo>

Ideas to retell/explore the story

Footsteps to follow

On your walk or around your house/area, use chalks to create a path for others to follow and encourage people to think about who they are following.



Poem – God chooses you for his bubble

*It's not a good thing to be all alone, we all need a friend by our side,
But in the last months we needed to part and the gap between friends became wide.
The phone and the internet have become a lifeline, as we keep in touch using screens,
and we can meet in small groups with a 2-metre gap which is useful for those who are keen.
We miss the smile that is hidden behind safety masks of fabric and scarves.
We miss sleepovers, BBQs, trips to the beach and hanging out, just having laughs.
And now we are told we might choose one household to create a bubble for meets,
but who do you choose, and how do you choose, it really is no mean feat!
In this unusual time when decisions are made and some people might be feeling left out,
let's be careful and kind and keep in mind what friendship is really about.
Let's also remember that things will get better, we'll soon be together once more.
We will touch and embrace and see each other's face, and our hearts won't be feeling so sore.
It might seem far off and it might feel quite tough as we wade through these times of trouble,
but on your low day when you can't find the way, remember we're all in God's bubble.*

Dinner table Chat Activities

What makes a good friend? Characteristics of Jesus.

*Use these questions to have a conversation over a meal.
You could put them in a cup and each choose one at a time.*

What do you look for in a friend?

What makes someone a good friend?

If you had to choose three friends who you could see every day whilst in lockdown, who would they be and why did you choose them?

Who is your best friend? Why did you choose them?

If you were going to design the perfect friend what would they be like?

(You could have a go at doing this on paper or even as a junk model)

What was Jesus Like? Do you think Jesus was a good friend?

Bubble mind map

On a large piece of paper, draw a circle in the middle and write each of the family's name in it – You are a bubble. Now each person draws a line coming out from the centre bubble (Like a mind map) and writes in another circle their own friends' names. This can continue to show who we are all connected to. Can also be played with the structure challenge in this document.

What's in the box?



What treasures can you find to put in the box for your little ones to explore?

Perhaps older children could help find the things.



Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.

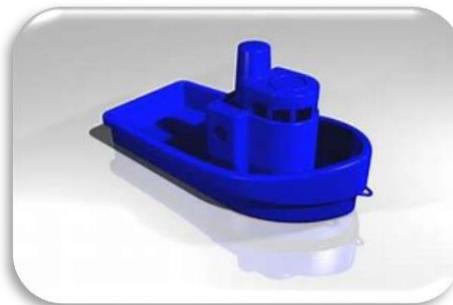
This week's Bible story is:

Chosen - Part 2

Mark 1 v 16-20 2 v 13-14 3 v 13-19



A child's mirror



A toy boat



Something with
rainbow colours



A fishing net, fishing game
or toy fish



A sealed bag of coins
(sealed to prevent risk
of coins in mouths)

Pray Together

FOFA Fish Prayer:

Jesus called a group of people to be his friends. They were called the disciples and he chose twelve. Some of the people he chose were fishermen.

You will need: *paper*
 pens
 scissors
 a newspaper, magazine or a straw

Method:

You can use the attached template, or it might be more fun to draw your own picture of a fish and of a person onto separate sheets of paper. Make them as bright as you want. Cut out your fish and your person – remember to ask for help if you need it.



You can play this game on the floor or on a table – First you need to make your fish move by flapping a newspaper/magazine behind your fish (or if you are playing on a table you could use a drinking straw and blow the fish).

Think about how the fisherman's job was to catch fish and bring them home to feed the people.

Now you need to flap your person across the floor/ table in the other direction.

Jesus calls us, like the disciples, to follow him and he will make us fishers of people – we will share the good news and tell everyone all about him, and help people choose Jesus as their friend too.

Prayer

*Loving God thank you for friends,
to work with,
to talk with,
to laugh with.
Thank you for friends:*

*friends that can help,
friends who share,
friends to be quiet with.
Help us to follow Jesus' example
by being a friend to all. Amen*

Pray Together

Colour transfer prayers

A prayer activity to help us pray for others and to think about how our behaviour as disciples can rub off on others.

Fold a piece of paper or card in half and draw a cross on the front. Cut out the cross shape, making sure the fold remains intact.



Open the cross up.

Colour one side of the paper/card very thickly with crayons or pastels. Make it very colourful, thinking about the forgiveness and the new life that Jesus brings. This is what the colour represents. Think about how, when we have good news, we want to share it with others so that they can be a part of it too. Who do we know who we'd like to share in the forgiveness and new life that Jesus brings?

How could we behave so that some of what we know rubs off on them?

Fold over the paper again so that the coloured section is inside. Write on top of the cross the names of people you would like to find out about Jesus. Press hard!

Pray that they will share in the colour and joy of the good news.

Now open the cross card up and you will see that the colour has rubbed off on the plain side, leaving the names printed there. Keep the cross and add names over time as you pray for more people!

Pray Together

Balloon Bubble Prayers

In a time when we are asked to stay 2m apart, some of us are able to be together in a bubble at school or a social bubble. Take time to talk to God about the people you are close to, the people you feel separated from and the people who are alone.



You will need:

Balloons
Strips of paper
Paper heart shapes
Pencil or pen

Write their names on the strips of paper and put them in a balloon with a paper heart. Inflate the balloon.

Throw the balloon in the air and keep it bouncing as you pray for all the names you have put in the balloons. When you have finished you can pop the balloons as a loud Amen.

*'Let's be careful and kind and keep in mind
what friendship is really about
Let's also remember that things will get
better, we'll soon be together once more...
But on your low day when you can't find the
way, remember we're all in God's bubble'*



Follow me



Jesus called the disciples to follow him and he wanted them to share his love with others.

Cut out some fish shapes and make a hole in the top. Write the name of people you would like to pray for, it might be somebody you are missing during the lockdown, someone who is feeling sad or perhaps someone who you find difficult to show love and kindness to.

Put some thread, wool or string through the hole and suspend the fish from half a paper plate. Hang the mobile where you will see it every day and, as you pass it, stop and pray for all the names you have written on the fish.

A prayer

Jesus, help us to follow you.
Help us to tell other people about you.

Help us to be more like you,
and share your love with others. Amen.

*I wonder how you
choose who to be
friends with?*

*I wonder whether the
disciples were good friends
to Jesus and each other?*



*I wonder what Jesus
hoped the disciples
would do?*

*I wonder what the
disciples saw in Jesus
that made them choose
to leave everything and
follow him?*

*I wonder what we
might have to leave
behind if we choose to
follow Jesus?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Games

Construction Challenge

We are always connected to God by following Jesus, and others can connect to Jesus through us if we share the Good News with them.

Our churches are groups of Christians all connected through the Holy Spirit, a little bit like bubbles of followers, and all our churches are connected globally as one Church in Christ.

*You will need: Cocktail sticks
Small edible things*
(such as marshmallows, sweets, grapes, chopped fruit etc.)*

**you can stick to one type of edible thing, or you can mix things up and use a selection of different things.*

Either in groups or as individuals, create a structure using the edible things as 'hubs' for the cocktail sticks to stick into and connect to other 'hubs'. Some structure shapes are stronger than others. Try to think 3D with your structure.

You can enjoy the challenge and take your time or you can do this challenge as a race against time – depending on the ages involved and how competitive you are. This is a good game to play with someone over the internet as you each race to build your construction.

Talk about what your edible things might represent, and what it is that connects them. You might do this in conjunction with the bubble mind map.

Don't forget to eat the sweets and fruits after the game...



Which Friend Am I...?

Just like 'Who Am I?' but with a friend twist. Each person writes the name of one of the other person's friends on a piece of paper/post it. Then they put it on the other person's forehead. The person with the post-it on their forehead must ask questions for a yes and no answer to try to guess which of their friends is on the card.



TO DO TOGETHER...

Sensory ways to explore

Bubble Friends



You will need:



A balloon

Some coloured paper

Sticky labels, or circles of white paper

Sellotape

What you do:

Blow up the balloon.

Draw a set of feet, hands and two strips for the arms on the coloured paper and cut them out.

Fold the strips of paper over to make a concertina effect. Stick the hands to the end of them.

Attach the arms to the balloon with some Sellotape.

Create a small hole in the feet shape and pull the end of the balloon through.

Cut 2 circles out of the white labels and then put a dot in the middle to make eyes, and attach them to your balloon.

Using a pen or felt tip, carefully draw a mouth and maybe some ears and hair.

You will need to be careful with your bubble friend - they may want to follow you and you don't want them to burst. Have fun!





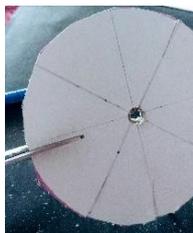
TO DO TOGETHER... *Sensory ways to explore*

Friendship Bracelets.



You will need

- Coloured embroidery threads or wool.*
- A circle of card*
- Scissors*



What you do:

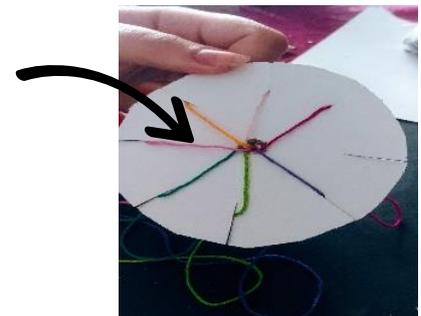
*Draw 4 lines across the circle and create a hole in the centre.
Cut 8 short slits on the lines around the edge of the circle.
Cut 7 lengths of different coloured thread or wool. They need to be long enough to go around your friend's wrist with a bit to spare.
Tie them together with a knot a short way from the end. You will use this extra bit to join the two ends together when you have finished.*

Thread the threads up through the middle of the circle until the knot is against the cardboard.

Place one strand of each colour in a slot around the edge, leaving one slot empty. You need to start from the empty slot and count 3 spaces, take that strand of thread and put it across into the empty slot. Keep repeating the same action and watch the bracelet grow underneath the cardboard. Continue like this to weave the bracelet together.

When you come to the end of the strands, tie the two ends together around your friend's wrist.

As you weave think about the friend you are making this for.





TO DO TOGETHER...

More sensory ways to explore

Junk Model Friends

You will need: Egg boxes
Cardboard boxes
Anything which can be recycled

What you do:
Create a friend from the junk you have around in the house.
Think about what makes a good friend and why.

Think about what is good about the friends you have and what makes them special for you?



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

**Our Walking the Way Challenge
this time is...**

At Home:

*Jesus' friends did lots of things together.
Why not do something together with someone else? Try to pick someone a bit different from the usual people you contact – someone you might like to get to know a bit better.
Can you find a way to play a game together over the internet? Or share a meal? Or play some music?*

Outside:

Do you know someone who is a bit isolated and would love to spend some time with another person? This is a good time to meet up with someone for a picnic in the park or in your garden, or to go for a walk together – remembering social distancing, of course. Why not invite someone who would benefit from being invited?

For Others:

Who can you think of who might need to hear how much God loves them and wants them in God's bubble? Can you find a way to share that good news with them?



The
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**families
on faith adventures**

at home

Adventurers Go!

You've shared together, now share with us!

Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges - or dress up to make a tableau of the Big Story and take a photo to send in.

Email your photos to: lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.

Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Remember you can find more resources on our website:
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.

Created for you by Nicola Grieves (Eastern Synod), Judy Harris (National Synod of Wales), Hannah Middleton (Northern Synod), Philip Ray (Wessex Synod, North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW), and Ruth White (Wessex Synod, South) on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team and Pilots.



The
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Fish Template

