

## 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.*

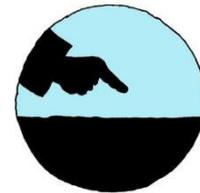
*These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with members of the family you can't see now except via the internet.*

*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:

Let's Get Right To The Point  
John 8 verses 2-22



*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.

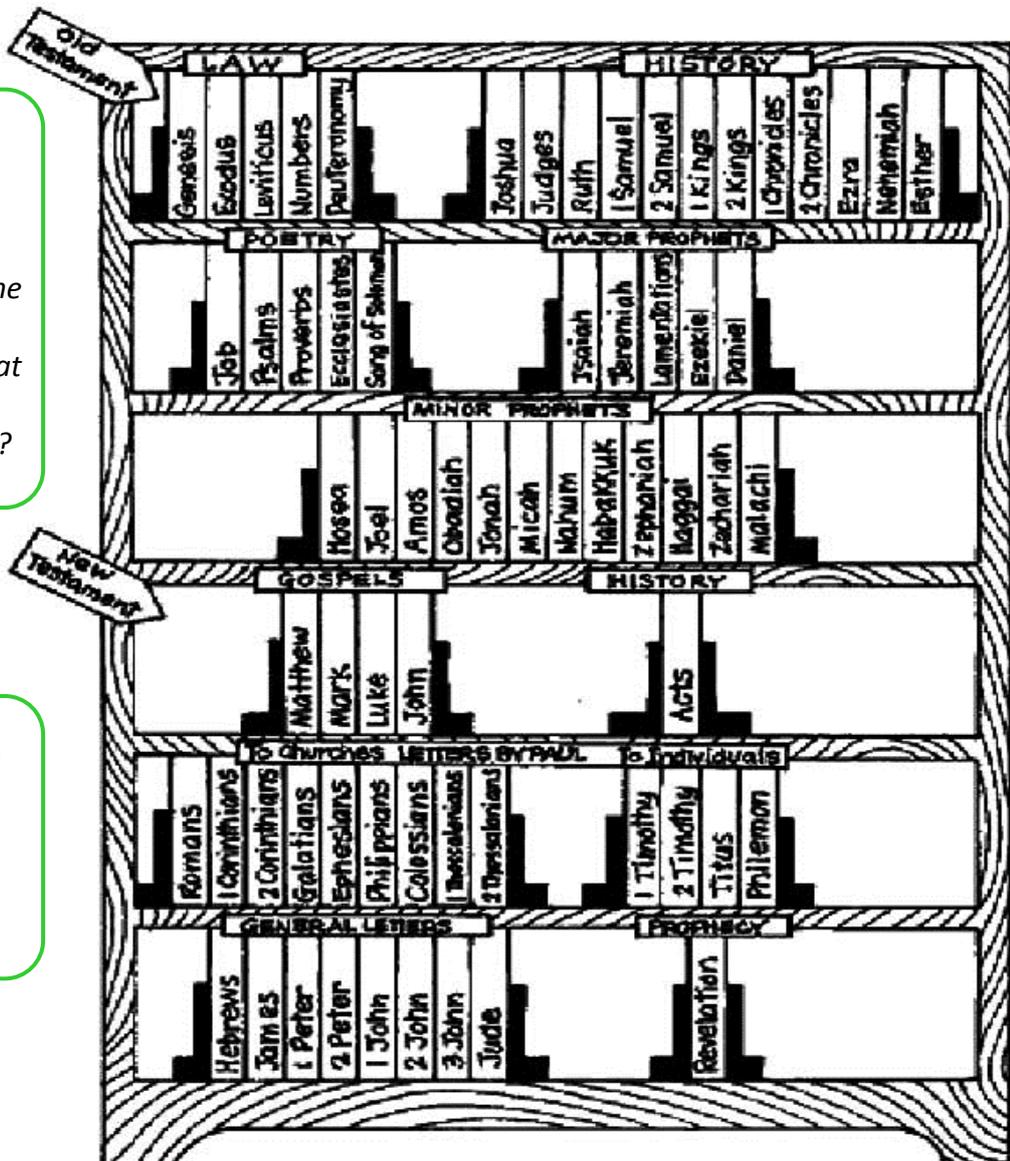
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

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 – Exodus**

The book of John was believed to be written by John, the disciple of Jesus, around 80 – 90 CE. John wants his readers to realise that Jesus was God's Son, part of the Trinity. John was a normal working-class fisherman when he met Jesus and became a disciple, John's writing relates well to everyday people and is often the first book in the Bible that new Christians will read.

### **Online versions of the story**

#### **Watch and listen**

A cartoon about not judging for younger children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmXYz4usW5A>

Sand art reminding us that God loves us <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTlaB6yHMBs>

A young girl tells the story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnXd4aX6p6w>

A mime telling the story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3S0mkFXUxq>

#### **Dance and sing**

The Big family of God by Nick and Becky Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUM4AtVHIMA>

Silly song by Hillsong Kids God Looks at the heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Buyb8NZ518>

Brave by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUD8f2jwZDU>

Chris Tomlin Whom shall I fear <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOkImV2cJDq>



## **The Story – The woman caught breaking the law John 8 v 1 – 11**

*(Adapted from the New International Version)*

*Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*

*At sunrise he arrived again in the temple courtyard. All the people gathered around him there. He sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman. She had been caught breaking the law. They made her stand in front of the staring group. They pointed their fingers at her and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught breaking our laws. In the Law, Moses commanded us to punish such women by throwing stones at them. Now what do you say?” They were trying to trap Jesus with that question. They wanted to have a reason to accuse him too.*

*But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. They kept asking him questions. So he stood up and said to them, “Has any one of you never done anything wrong? If any of you are perfect, you can be the first to throw a stone at her.” He bent down again and wrote on the ground.*

*Those who heard what he had said began to go away. They left one at a time, the older ones first. Soon only Jesus was left. The woman was still standing there. Jesus stood up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Didn’t anyone stay to point the finger at you and find you guilty?”*

*“No one, sir,” she said.*

*“Then I don’t find you guilty either,” Jesus said. “Go now and live a good life”.*

## **Ideas to retell/explore the story**

### **Marble Run**

*Set up a very simple assault course e.g. a few chairs to walk around. Give each person a marble or two and a chopping board. The aim is to get to the far end of the assault course and back again without losing your marbles off the chopping board. It’s almost impossible. The marbles roll out of control and, with nothing to stop them, they roll off the board. Now try it again, but this time on a tray with a lip. It’s still tricky but much easier - the lip prevents the marble from rolling off.*

*Have a conversation about how things are often easier when we have some boundaries/rules in place. We still have freedom to roll, but we are also still safer with the boundaries in place. This conversation relates well to lockdown easing.*

### **Seesaw Decisions**

*Using Jenga blocks and a piece of wood or a ruler, make a simple seesaw. The aim is to have a conversation about a decision you need to make as a family e.g. whether we go to the beach or not. One side of the seesaw can be the positives/gains and the other is the risks/losses. It helps younger children to visualise the decisions you are trying to balance. This can be adapted to show one side of the seesaw benefiting you as a family and the other as what's good for others, to help show that when we make decisions over the coming weeks we have to think about what's right for us but also about what's right for the many.*

### **Sand art story**

*Watch the sand art clip mentioned in the 'Watch and Listen' section and have a go at drawing the story in sand/rice/flour.  
Retell the story as you draw.*

### **Dinner table Chat Activities**

#### **Finger pointing game**

*A table top game of Who Was It? - you can create lots of ideas for the game as a family. Each person writes on slips of paper things that they have done that were breaking the rules or slightly naughty, such as: Broke wind and blamed someone else, found some money and kept it, picked their nose in public. At the table you take it in turns to take out a slip and read it aloud. Everyone points at the person they think it might be. A simple game that's a bit of fun and gives opportunities to talk about the fact that all of us sometimes do things wrong and break the rules.*

#### **Exploring and creating rules**

*Are there rules in your house? What are they and what are the consequences if you break them (adults as well as children)? Are there rules for some and not others? Is this fair? You could create a new set of rules as a family. Or have some fun and take it in turns during the week to be the person who sets the rules that everyone else has to follow.*

## 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.

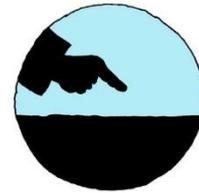


Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.

## This week's Bible story is:

Let's Get Right To The Point

John 8 verses 2-22



Something heart shaped or several hearts of different materials

Some  
screwed  
up paper



Something with  
rainbow colours  
for God's promise

A toy  
dressed  
as Jesus



A tray or sealed  
bag with sand or  
flour in

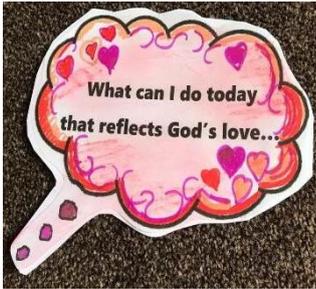


A wipe clean surface  
– whiteboard,  
blackboard, slate



A child's mirror

## Pray Together



### FOFA – prayer/craft

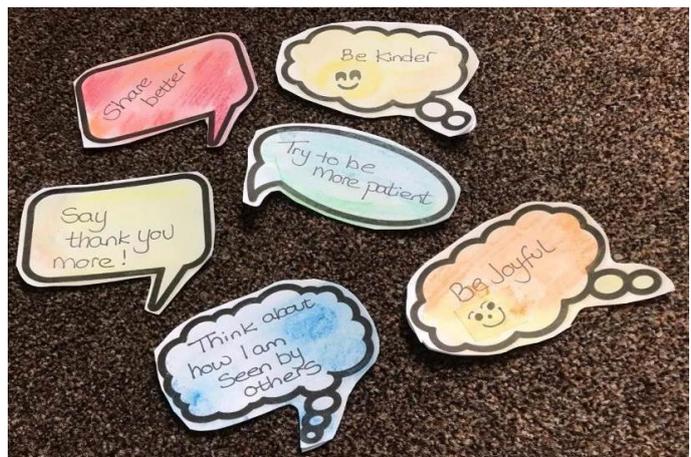
#### What can I do today that reflects God's love?

Reflecting God's love can happen in many ways and we may do loads of things already but recently we may have had more time to think a little more deeply. Here is a way you can focus your thoughts, either privately or in shared family space.

**You will need:**  
paper/card  
a pen  
blu-tack  
a mirror



Using the paper/card, write clearly the heading above. Then using speech bubbles, shapes etc, design what your response would be. It may be many things and you may not feel all these emotions or thoughts at once. It takes time, no need to rush. But can you think of your own ways to reflect God's love today?



*Doodle around your responses if you wish.*

*Place them around a mirror - this may be in your room, your private space, or you might want to make this a family activity you can all share in your house.*

*Make sure to leave plenty of your thought/ speech bubbles etc blank this allows you to add your thoughts and feelings over time. You may find some need to change so you can remove and add as you wish. As you look in the mirror, remember that God loves you just as you are and wants you to reflect that love to others.*



## Writing In The Sand



*Jesus stood in front of the crowd and he wrote a message in the sand.*



*Using a sand pit or some sand in a tray. Write some words that you would like to say to God. Perhaps you want to say sorry or ask God to help you. You could make a line for all the ups and downs that you are feeling. As you draw, talk to God about your feelings and then sit quietly and look at your writing in the sand.*

## Pray Together

### Spinning Hearts

**You will need:** Old CD or a blank CD      Marker pens      Bottle top  
Blu tack      Marble or glass bead



Draw a selection of hearts onto the shiny side of the CD. You will need a permanent marker so it does not rub off. Roll some Blu tack into a ball, you will need a piece the size of a large grape. Push the ball of Blu tack through the hole in the centre of the CD. On the back (undecorated side) push the marble firmly into the centre. On the decorated side spread the Blu tack out flat and press in the bottle top to make the spinner handle.



**The crowd had got very angry with the woman and with Jesus.  
Jesus very calmly wrote in the sand.**

It is always good to speak to someone when you are wound up. We can talk to God and ask him to help us when we are angry or upset. Spin the spinner using the bottle top and watch how the hearts all get mixed up together. Sit quietly and talk to God about the things that get you wound up as the spinner spins and as it slowly comes to a stop and you can see the heart again say Amen.

### An Invisible Prayer

**You have looked deep into my heart, LORD, and you know all about me. Psalm 139 (CEV)**



Dip a cotton bud or paint brush into a small amount of milk. Draw a heart or message onto a white piece of paper. Dry the message for about 30 minutes or until completely dry and then expose the message with gentle heat eg hairdryer (you may need an adult to help with this).

We may not be able to see God, but God is with us always in everything we do and God knows our hearts.

Loving God,  
calm my heart and still my mind.  
Fill me with your peace.

Let me be slow to take offence  
and quick to forgive.  
May your love flow through all I do

## Can you help us?

Families on Faith Adventures @ Home

Let us know how many families our resources reach. This is an anonymous survey. If you wish to identify yourself, please email [lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk) instead.

Do you use Families on Faith Adventures @ Home

Checkboxes

Yes, every week

No, I use other resources or make my own

Yes, I occasionally use it

I don't use it myself but send it on to others

I use it and pass it on to a friend or family member

Other...

Add option

How do you usually get your copy

I download it from URCL (https://moodle.urc.org.uk/course/view.php?id=208#section-1)

I download it from the website (https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth)

Someone emails it to me

Someone prints it and sends it to me

Other...

Do you have any other comments you would like to share with the writing group?

Long answer text

**We would love to know how many families use this resource.**

*We know everything these days seems to come with a survey or evaluation attached, but we would love you to share with us and let us know if you use Families on Faith Adventures @ Home.*

*Perhaps you would follow this link and just tell us you're using the resource. The survey will only take seconds to complete and is completely anonymous.*

<https://forms.gle/K35JMyQL1LbPJADT8>

or



or you could email us at [lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk)

*I wonder what Jesus  
wrote in the sand?*

*I wonder whether  
there are people  
that we need to  
stand up for?*

*I wonder whether the  
people who were  
going to stone the  
woman changed  
after they met Jesus?*



*I wonder who you  
identify with in this  
story and why?*

*I wonder if there is  
anything that God  
would not forgive?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

**Marble Run**

**You will need:**

- Cereal box or cardboard box
- Kitchen or toilet roll core
- Sellotape
- Marble or small balls

**Alternatively:**

- Paper plate and paper strips



**What you do:**

Cut a hole in the box.  
Create a hole in the top to put your marble through.  
Use Sellotape to stick ramps inside, using toilet paper cores cut in half or other pieces or card to create the run. You may need to stick two halves together to give you more length on the ramp.



**Alternative:** You can create a small one, using a paper plate and sticking paper hoops on it for the marble to run around and through.

You may need to try it out and adjust it if the marbles don't run easily.



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



**Big Finger**

**You will need:** Paper template  
Card or a large sheet of paper  
Sellotape

**What you do:**

*Using the template provided, stick it onto the card and cut it out, or draw it yourself if you can.*

*Cut the two pieces out and stick together using Sellotape.*

*If you leave the bottom open, you can slip your own hand inside and use it as a big pointy finger. Or you could fasten it on the end of a stick.*

*When we point at something, we should always remember that there are three fingers pointing back at us. Perhaps we should consider what we need to change before asking someone else to change.*



**Lines Seen and Unseen**



**You will need:** Paper  
Wax candle or white wax crayon  
Paint

**What you do:**

*Draw on your paper a path or picture which you can't see easily.*

*Using watery paint, paint over your paper and the wax lines show up to create a picture.*

*Sometimes in life we can't see where the lines are or they get a bit blurry, so it is hard to see where we should go. Sometimes there is a different picture to the one we thought we were drawing. Life is hard and full of blurry lines and unseen pictures; Jesus will help us follow the right lines.*

# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**At Home:**

*Find time as a family to have a drink together. Did you use a teaspoon to stir a hot drink? The short way of writing teaspoon is **tsp** and this can help us when we pray. The three things we might say to God are: **Thank you, Sorry, Please**. Can you make up a tsp prayer together?*

**Outside:**

*It can be very easy to judge other people and we can forget how nice it can be to say nice things and compliment others. On your walk, see whether you can compliment someone you pass in the street, either with words or by leaving a note to say "I like how pretty your roses are" or "Thank you for putting a picture in your window and cheering everyone up" or "Your hat looks really good!"*

**For Others:**

*Some people are in prison for their beliefs or persecuted for their beliefs, especially in other countries. There are organisations that send them cards to cheer them up and help them to stay strong and keep to their faith despite what others do to them. Look at the website for Open Doors <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/letter/> and write a letter or design a card to send. The website gives suggestions as to what to write or include and what not to write. You must not mention Open Doors, your surname or your location.*



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**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](mailto: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  
United  
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Church



**families  
on faith adventures**



**Activity Sheets / Templates**





**families  
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*at home*

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