

## **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:**

Be - Look - Listen - Do -  
Matthew 25 v 31-45



*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.

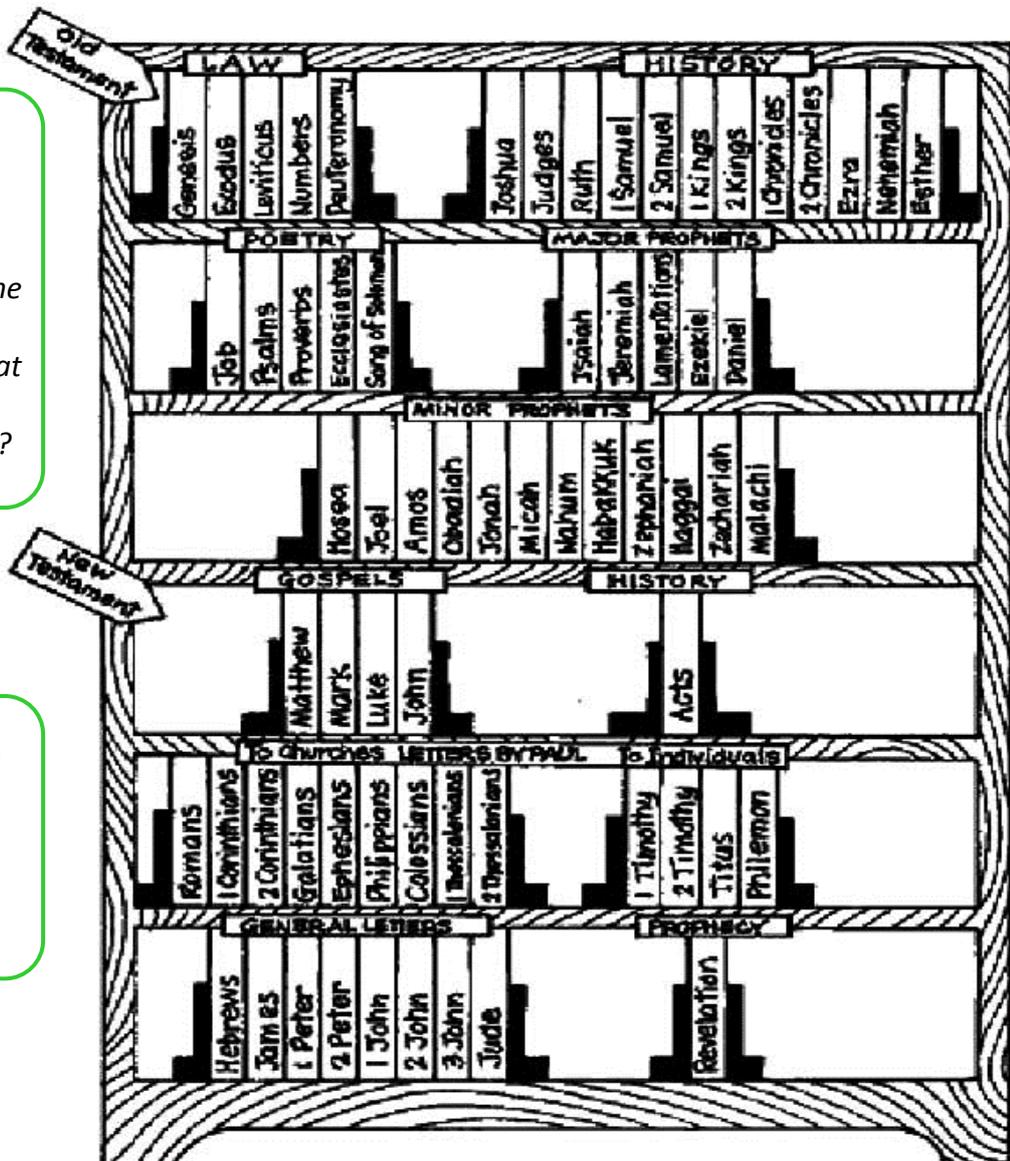
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

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 – Matthew**

*The book of Matthew was written by the disciple Matthew who was a tax collector before meeting Jesus. It is believed to be written with the Jewish people in mind, showing how many of the old testament prophecies are being fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus often taught in parables - stories about everyday things to help those listening to think about God and Heaven as well as how to live together in God's way. Parables are stories with many layers and can speak to us in many ways. I wonder what the parable of the sheep and goats will say to you today.*

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

#### **Watch and listen**

Story by LifeKids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY>

Children talking about Loving others [https://youtu.be/BcYIA58E\\_ss](https://youtu.be/BcYIA58E_ss)

Love in action cartoon by LifeKids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLYzxRxwiqw>

#### **Dance and sing**

Go Serve our World VBS 2013 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT\\_8U8oTUm0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT_8U8oTUm0)

When I needed a Neighbour – Youngpraise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7a7Ldgrh-k>

Love is all by Playing for change <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4T37EaW4eU>

***The Story – Mathew 25 v 31 – 45 (The Children’s International Bible)***

*Jesus will come again in his great glory. All his angels will come with him. He will be King and sit on his great throne. All the people of the world will be gathered before him. Then he will separate them into two groups as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The Son of Man will put the sheep, the good people, on his right and the goats, the others, on his left.*

*“Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come. My Father has given you his blessing. Come and receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’*

*“Then the good people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?’*

*“Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.’*

*“Then the King will say to those on his left, ‘Go away from me. I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you did not invite me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you did not care for me.’*

*“Then those people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you alone and away from home? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?’ “Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you refused to do for any of my people here, you refused to do for me.’*

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

#### ***A modern parable - Be, Look, Listen and Do***

*Once upon a time there were three people who lived side by side in three houses on the same street. They were called, Be, Look and Listen.*

*The street they lived on was a very busy one and each day they liked nothing more than to sit in their front gardens as the world went by.*

*Be liked to simply sit still, eyes closed, head leaning back on the garden chair, feet up on a small stool, blanket lying gently on their knee. Taking long deep breaths, peaceful, calm. Happy just simply to Be.*

*Peering over from the garden next door was Look. Look enjoyed sitting in the garden and watching. Look noticed everything; Look missed nothing. When No.13 got new curtains, Look noticed and knew. When No.16 had a new baby, Look saw and knew. When people dropped litter in the bushes, Look saw. When No.24 had their bin stolen, Look saw and knew exactly who had done it. Look saw everything.*

*Next door to Look was Listen. A small person with big ears. Listen could hear a pin drop at the end of the road. Listen could hear the words people said to each other in each house, the kind words and the unkind words. Listen could hear the elderly lady knitting in No. 4 but never talking to anyone as she sat alone. Listen could hear the new baby at No.16 crying and the sighs of the tired parents. Listen liked to listen.*

*One day, a new person arrived on the street. Be didn't really notice them arrive, Look saw them moving in, and Listen heard that they were called Do.*

*Do wanted to make friends with the new neighbours and so went to visit, taking some tasty treats as a gift. Be was too busy resting his eyes to notice the biscuits that had been left on the wall. Look saw Do coming and was quick to tell him of all the things you can see in the street, thanking Do for the welcome treats. Listen enjoyed having someone new to listen to; Listen told Do of all the things she had heard in the street that week.*

*Do, was confused. If Look had seen the bin being stolen, why hadn't he stopped to help? If Listen could hear the elderly lady all alone and the new parents with the crying baby; why hadn't she offered to visit or help. This didn't make sense to Do. Surely if we see or hear of someone needing help or something that needs to be done, we have to Do something? Surely it's not enough to simply Be in your garden; Someone needs to Do something.*

*And someone did. Someone picked up the litter that had been dropped, someone dropped by for a chat with the elderly neighbour and someone offered to help the new parents once in a while. Who was that someone?*

*I will let you decide.*

### ***Dinner table Chat Activities***

#### ***Seeing good in others – noticing the good***

*Give your family a challenge this week. All week in your home and around the community, keep your eyes open and try to notice people doing good. It might be someone picking up the litter or someone helping another person out. It could be someone at home picking up the clothes from the bathroom floor or tidying up. When you notice someone doing something for others try to find a way to thank them, tell them they have been noticed and it is appreciated. You could be creative in the way you do this e.g. stickers or hand stamps.*

#### ***Notice and serve – Who did it?***

*A reversal of the previous idea that gives a bit of fun for the week. Have a chat about the sorts of things that need doing in and around the house; for example, picking up litter, washing up, changing the toilet roll, picking up the post, making the beds and so on. You could write them all on a board. The challenge this week is to do things for others in the home without necessarily being noticed or thanked (removing them from the board when they are done). At the end of the week you could have a time of guessing who has been doing the jobs; you never know it might start a new pattern at home.*

## 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:

Be - Look - Listen - Do -  
Matthew 25 v 31-45



A toy doctor's set or a few plasters

A toy dressed as Jesus



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



Unbreakable cup and plate



Something that makes a noise to listen to

A hat or scarf



Toy glasses or sunglasses

## Pray Together

### Map Prayers

Print out maps or use an atlas or map. Using maps of the world, your local area, town or village, use a highlighter pen or some stickers to mark areas on the map. Pray for the different people in these places. People who help and people who need help. Highlight places in the world and your community where there is anger, worry, sadness, or loss. Ask Jesus to bring hope and light into these areas. Be ready to notice where your prayer leads you and talk to God about how you can help.



### Reflective Foil Prayers

You need a piece of aluminium foil for each person, about 6x6cm square.

Hold the piece of foil and look at the shiny side. Say thank you to God for good things in your life and for things that you like doing. (Pause) Next, screw the foil into a loose ball (not too tight as you will need to straighten it out later!) Think about people who find life difficult: people who are ill, tired, lonely, sad and afraid. Ask God to help them and be with them. (Pause) Smooth the ball out so that the foil is back into a square. Thank God for people who help. Pray that God will bless these people and pray that you can also be people who help others and show them love. (Pause) Finally form the foil into your initial. Ask God to guide you and use your gifts and talents to do God's work of helping and loving.



## Pray Together

### Being, Looking, Listening, Doing!

Go outside and look around you - perhaps go for a walk and look and listen. What sounds can you hear and what can you see? Look up at the sky - see how the sunlight changes things and reflects on buildings and through trees. Look down at the ground - what do you see? Listen to the sounds around you - what can you hear? Birds singing, dogs barking, the trees rustling in the wind or mechanical sounds? Stop and listen and look for small things that you may not have noticed before. Find a place to sit or lie down and just be. As you sit or lie quietly talk to God about what you have noticed. Ask God to help you notice things that you might be able to do to help others.



**Be still and Know that I Am God**  
**Be still and know that I Am**  
**Be still and know**  
**Be Still**  
**Be**

## 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

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 downloaded it from URCLB (<https://moodle.urc.org.uk/course/view.php?id=208&action=1>)

I downloaded 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 where the opportunities are for you to love others?*

*I wonder what it means to be a sheep with Jesus as our shepherd?*

*I wonder what stops us from helping others?*



*I wonder who you identify with in the story of Be, Look, Listen and Do?*

*I wonder who you tend to measure yourself up against?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Game

**Measuring Up Pavement Game**

**You will need:** Paper strips or a long piece of ribbon  
Paper to write on  
Or Chalk

**What you do:**

Think of a subject which you may or may not have done, or which you feel strongly about, and play this game with family members or write it on the street in chalk and invite passers-by to play it.

Read out the subject and if you have done all three, you can move to the next subject. If you haven't, you need to stick where you are. See how you measure up with the rest of your family.

**Here are some suggested questions.**

*Have I noticed litter today?  
Have I picked it up?  
Have I recycled it?*

*Have I spoken to my neighbour today?  
Have I asked my neighbour if they were ok?  
Have I asked my neighbour if they needed anything?*

*Have I seen something that has made me sad and angry on the news?  
Have I told someone about the news item which made me sad and angry?  
Have I protested about the news item which made me sad and angry?*

*Have I seen the homeless in my town?  
Have spoken to the homeless in my town?  
Have I done something to help the homeless in my town?*

*Have I got toys I don't play with anymore?  
Have I thought about the children near me who do not have many toys like mine to play with?  
Have I cleaned my toys, packed them up nicely and given them to children who haven't got toys like mine?*





**TO DO TOGETHER...**

**God Goggles**

**You will need:** Card from a cereal box, or coloured card  
Template if required

**What you do:**

Draw or use the template with the word God on the card, remember it needs to be able to be read when someone is looking at you, and cut it out of card.

Attach two strips of card to create a band which fits around your head. Decorate them if you want to bling them up.

Looking around with our God goggles help us to see what God sees and do what we can to help others.



**Piggy Banks**



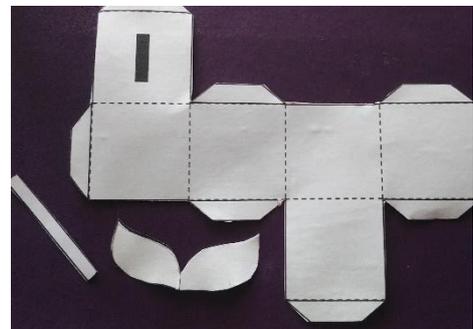
**You will need:** Pink card  
An old takeaway tub

**What you do :**

If you can, print or draw the template onto pink card, cut it out and fold it to make a cube. Glue or Sellotape the tabs. Add the ears and tail and draw a piggy nose, eyes and mouth on the box.

If you are using a takeaway tub, cut a hole in the lid. Cut the ears, a nose and a tail from card and colour it in pink (you can use an old cereal box for the card).

Assembly the piggy bank and think about what charity you could save up for. This may be a local cause or something global.



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**At Home:**

**Outside:**

**For Others:**

***This week's Walking the Way challenge  
is a bit different.***

*It's a challenge to **look, listen** and to **do**.*

*At home, out and about in your  
community, thinking of the people you  
know and the people you don't know,  
imagine you are seeing life through GOD  
glasses.*

- *Where can you see a need that you  
can do something about?*
- *Where can you see a cause that would  
benefit from your support?*
- *Where can you see injustice,  
marginalisation (people being treated  
as less valued or important), need?*

*You can't do everything, but everyone can  
do something.*

*Ask God to help you see and hear what  
you can do to make a difference.*

*Challenge yourselves to do one random  
act of kindness a day for a week. But  
we're not going to make suggestions.  
Listen to God, wear your GOD glasses,  
and you will know what you can do. And  
remember, you're doing it for Jesus too!*



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/>

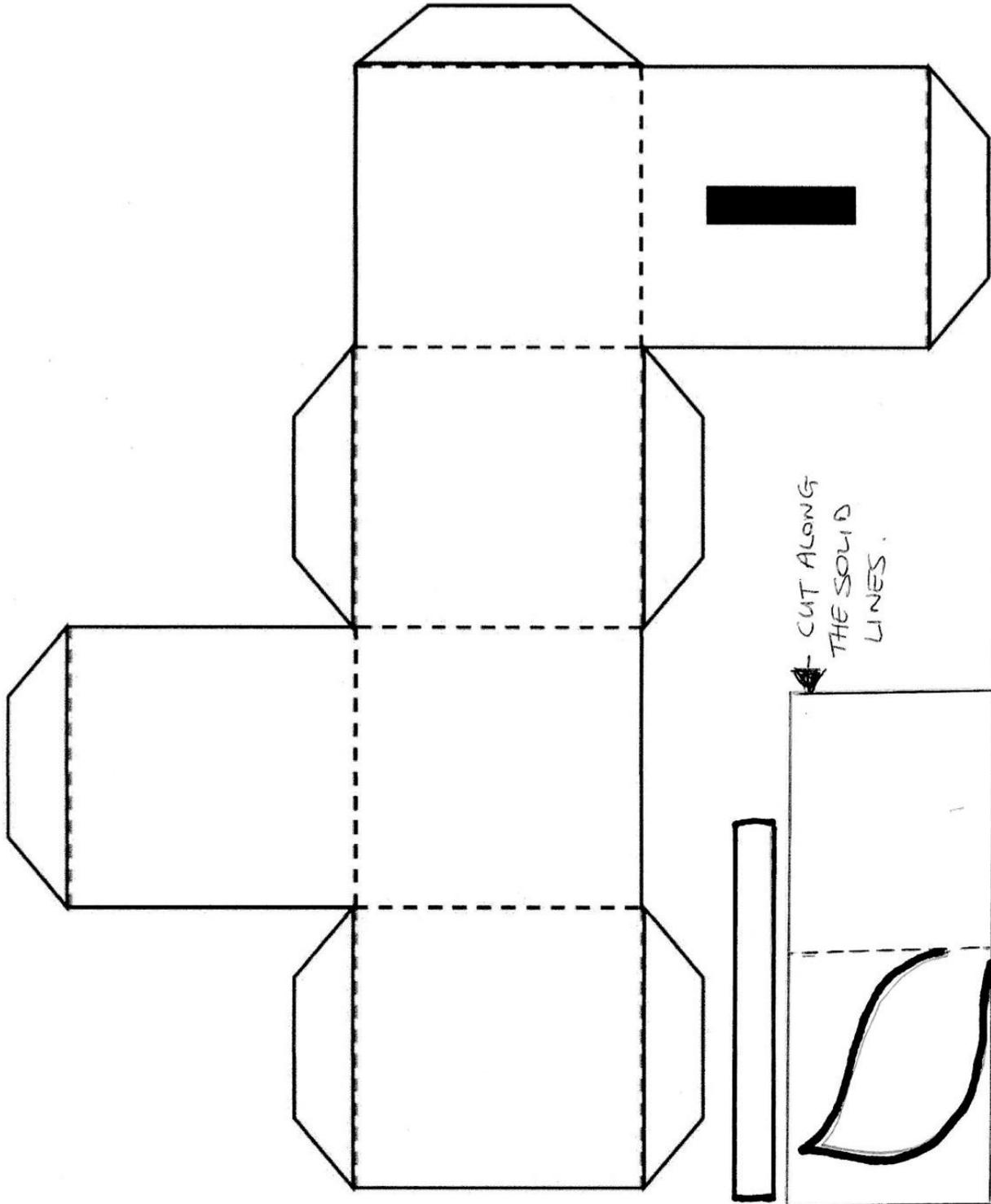
Remember you can find more resources on our website:  
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

*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.*



Templates



CUT ALONG THE SOLID LINES.

FOLD ALONG THE DOTTED LINES.

**Templates**

