

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, explore what it means to you and express that in words and action.

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:

You are not lost

Luke 15 v 1-7



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

From

and

Get to know your Bible

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

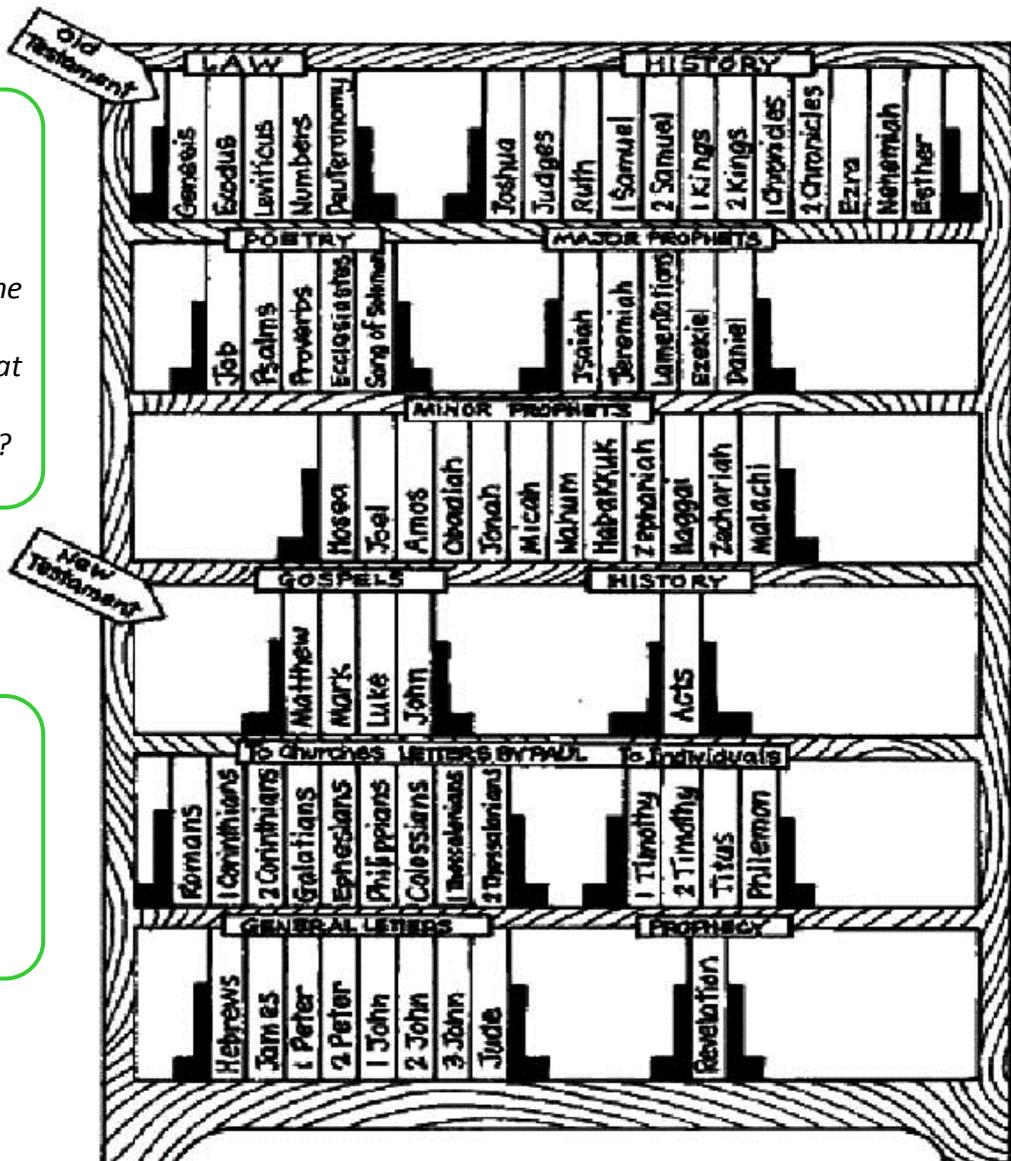
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

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

This book is named after the disciple who wrote it, around 60 AD. Luke was a doctor and an historian who became one of Jesus' Disciples. Jesus often told stories (Parables) to teach about God and Heaven.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep – Luke 15: 1 to 7

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent."

*Scripture Quotation taken from the Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.*

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Animated version (without words) - <https://vimeo.com/3188992>

Suitable for older age groups - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUjpxwN4dfM>

Dance and sing

Reckless Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xx0d3R2LoU>

You will be found (Dear Evan Hanson) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFZmT-LRMBM>

Finding the hidden message in the parable

*Using this code, see if you can find the hidden message in the parable from Luke 15 v 1 – 7
14 27 43 57 85 117*

Ideas For Telling The Story

Before reading the story you might like to explore some of the feelings or themes in the parable. Cut out or draw 2 big circles of paper - one titled Lost, the other titled Found. Then explore together what other words or feelings come to mind. E.g. lost = alone, forgotten, sad, scared. Found – joy, happy, saved, safe. It is a useful way to begin to discuss feelings that the family might be having at the moment.

This story can be simply told or acted out around your house or even told at different points on your daily walk. We have included many ideas that you might find useful to do at different stages of the story as you go along.

*The shepherd and the sheep
(in the style of This is the House That Jack Built)*

*This is the shepherd, who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the flock, all fluffy and white
that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the sheep who's about to get lost
Who wandered away
From the flock,
that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the shock that the shepherd felt
When he spotted the sheep had wandered away
From the flock,
that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the journey the shepherd took
Leaving his flock and taking his crook*

*To find the sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the bush all spikey and sharp
that grabbed the clothes, and scratched the skin
of the shepherd on the journey he took
Leaving his flock and taking his crook
To find the sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the river cold and wide
That the shepherd swam to the other side
Near the bush, all spikey and sharp
that grabbed the clothes, and scratched the skin
of the shepherd on the journey he took
Leaving his flock and taking his crook
To find the sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*



The
United
Reformed
Church

families on faith adventures

at home

*This is field all squelching with mud
That the shepherd found on the other side
Of the river he had to swim
Near the bush, all spikey and sharp
that tore the clothes and scratched the skin
of the shepherd on the journey he took
Leaving his flock and taking his crook
To find the sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the snow so cold and fun
That the shepherd felt on his cheeks and tongue
After the field all squelching with mud
Past the river so cold and wide
That he had to swim to the other side
Near the bush, all spikey and sharp
that grabbed the clothes, and scratched the skin
of the shepherd on the journey he took
Leaving his flock and taking his crook
To find the sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, that follow the shepherd
who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the sheep the shepherd found
all alone; now homeward bound
these are the shoulders so big and strong
that carried the sheep the journey long
through the snow so cold and fun
That the shepherd felt on his cheeks and tongue
After the field all squelching with mud
Near the river so cold and wide he had to swim to
the other side
Near the bush, all spikey and sharp
that grabbed the clothes, and scratched the skin
of the shepherd on the journey he took
Leaving his flock and taking his crook
To find the sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, all fluffy and white
that follow the shepherd who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the party and this is the smile
On the shepherd's face after journeying miles
To find his sheep that had wandered away
From the flock, all fluffy and white
that follow the shepherd who loves his sheep
That Jesus told this story about.*

*This is the story and now it is done
Remember that God loves everyone
When we feel lost and scared and alone
Remember the good shepherd that carries us
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.

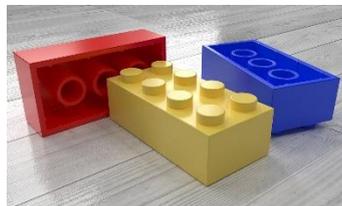
This week's Bible story is:

You are not lost

Luke 15 v 1-7



A Toy Sheep



Duplo or Lego bricks to make a pen for the sheep



Rough material such as sandpaper or scourer – not too rough!



Party hat (you could make this!)



A toy dressed as a shepherd



Something with rainbow colours

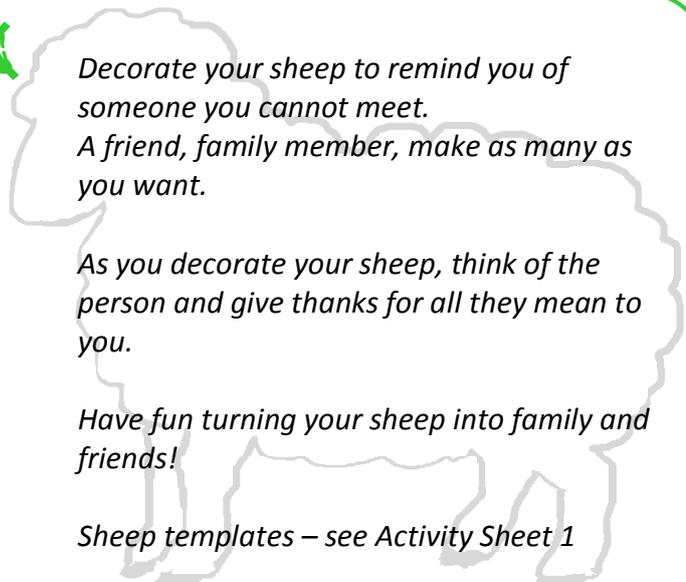


Soft fabric

Sensory bags or bottles (see 'to do together' pages)

Pray Together

Remembering Prayers

 Decorate your sheep to remind you of someone you cannot meet. A friend, family member, make as many as you want.

As you decorate your sheep, think of the person and give thanks for all they mean to you.

Have fun turning your sheep into family and friends!

Sheep templates – see Activity Sheet 1



Overflowing with Thanks

'You honour me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life'. (Psalm 23: 5-6 CEV)



Cut some strips of paper and decorate them with words and pictures that represent things that you would like to thank God for. This might include places, people, natural objects - just let your imagination go.

Place the strips inside a cup so that they overflow over the edges. When everyone has placed their strips inside the cup, say thank you together, mentioning some of the things you have written or drawn.

End with a loud joyful Amen.

Pray Together

Finger Prayer Walk



Collect some items that will help create a finger prayer walk linking to the different parts of the story. Here are a few ideas: -

- sandpaper
- rough side of a scouring pad
- blue paper or material
- foil paper
- pocket mirror
- a squishy sponge
- bubble wrap
- corrugated card
- soft wool
- pom poms
- cotton wool or
- your favourite cuddly toy



Place the items in a circle on the table or floor and use your finger to walk around the different textures. Stop and think how each one makes you feel. With the hard and rough surface talk to God about things that are difficult and frightening. God knows our tears and sadness. With the shiny and water-like items, talk to God about what is making you sad.

With the squishy items like the sponge, sink your fingers into the sponge or move your fingers over the ups and downs of the cardboard. Sometimes things make us feel we are stuck and don't know what to do. Ask God to help you and be with you when you feel stuck.

With the bubble wrap, have some fun popping the bubbles and talk to God about things you are worried about. As the bubbles pop, know that God hears our prayers and knows us, just like he knew the sheep in the story.



At the end of the story of the sheep, the shepherd finds the sheep and carries the sheep all the way home. Feel the items that are soft and comforting and remember that God loves everyone. Quietly talk to God about the people that you want to know God's comfort and quietly say their names.

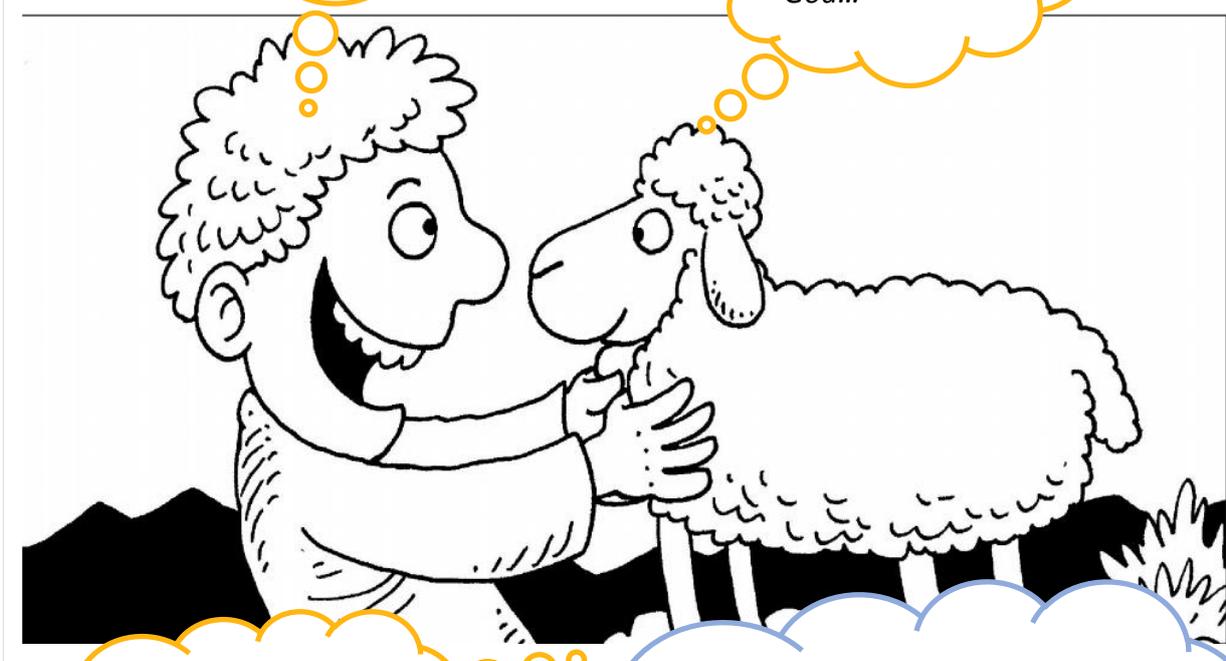
As you reach the centre you can be still and, when you are ready, say Amen.

families on faith adventures

at home

*I wonder what things
you would never stop
looking for if they were
lost....*

*I wonder why we are
so important to
God...*



*I wonder what things
lead us away from
God...*

*I wonder what different emotions
you're experiencing right now and
how God can help you to make
sense of them?
I wonder why we find it so difficult
sometimes to trust God to find
us...*

*I wonder if there are more
up to date ways to express
the same meaning as Jesus
was sharing in this story...*

*I wonder what the 99 sheep
in the story might represent
if we apply the story to our
current situation – what
stops people feeling lost?*



The
United
Reformed
Church

families
on faith adventures

at home



TO DO TOGETHER...

GAMES

Lost and Found

You'll need: a blindfold, or a scarf.

This is a game of trust and listening to instructions, or allowing ourselves to be led.

Plan a route around a room, negotiating different furniture, or perhaps in the garden. Make sure there is a clear route to guide a person with distinct left and right turns.

Take it in turns to be either blindfolded or the guide.

Using voice only, guide the blindfolded person through the route from beginning to end.

Variations:

To make it more challenging, you could create a mini obstacle course but take care to maintain a safe activity.

Rather than using directional instructions (left, right, straight on for three steps etc), the guide can move around the blindfolded person calling 'lost' to indicate the direction to go... The blindfolded person, following the direction of the voice can respond with 'found'. The guide will need to move quickly to the next place to call from.

If you do not have a lot of space, you could draw a maze on a large sheet of paper or use books or other solid items and create a maze on a tabletop. The blindfolded person uses their finger to follow the route being called. This will be trickier, but still a good challenge.

The Tray Game

*You'll need: a tray, a collection of items,
and something to cover them (e.g.: a tea-towel).*

This is a memory game, looking out for the missing item.

Arrange all the items you have gathered on a tray. You could use some of the items gathered for the 'What's in the Box' activity which help with the theme. The more items you have the higher the difficulty level will be, so have sufficient items for your family's ability. Maybe ask them how many they think they could cope with remembering, letting them set their challenge.

Allow the group to see all the items on the tray for a moment. Then cover the items and remove the tray. Away from the group remove one item from the tray. Return the tray to the group and uncover the items. Take it in turns to see who can correctly see which item is missing.

Variations

Usually when playing this game you would not rearrange the items each time you remove an item, leaving a gap where the missing item was. However, with older children it can increase the difficulty level if you rearrange the items each time so there is not an obvious gap where the missing was. This requires the player to actually remember the items rather than the image of the items on the tray.



TO DO TOGETHER...

Sensory Bags

What you need: 4 Ziplock bags
tape (I would recommend duct tape!)
sensory materials

What you do:

Jagged bush - pick up some broken twigs from the garden or on your daily walk (alternatively you could use broken up Weetabix). (Hide some shiny leaves to find if you have them, or cut some out of kitchen foil)

For the deep, cold river - colour some water blue with food colouring. (You can put in some special jewels to find, if you have some)

For mud - mix flour, cocoa powder and water. Or you can get some mud from the garden and add water to it. (If you have a farm animal figure like a pig, you could add it to the mud) (You may want to double bag the mud and water)

For the snowstorm - put some cotton wool or scrunched up paper tissues. (You can add some glitter and some sequins which look like snowflakes if you have them)

Seal all the bags with strong tape like duct tape. You can hang these bags on the window by taping them with masking tape or Sellotape.

So, are you ready to go on a sheep hunt?!



Alternatives:

Another way to explore the story using these bags is by setting them out on the table with some toy people. Create a sheep or print off an image of a sheep (using Activity Sheet 1).

Sensory Bottles



River – water with food colouring, baby oil (or simple vegetable oil) and blue glitter glittery jewels.

Mud – or (cocoa, flour water mixture)

Bush – twigs or Weetabix broken up. Shiny leaf sequins if you have them

Snowstorm – cotton wool and silver snowflake sequins



families on faith adventures

@ home

TO DO TOGETHER... More sensory ways to explore

Sensory Boards



A tray of twigs from your daily walk or broken up Weetabix. As an extra challenge, draw 2 squiggly lines on a piece of paper under the twigs – one would lead to the next station and the other leads back to where they started.



A basin full of blue coloured WATER. See what will sink or float in the water using wine cork, a coin a feather and a pencil, you can try lots of things for this station.



A baking tin filled with MUD, or cocoa powder, flour and water mixture. Draw some pictures in the mud, or even write your name.



A tray with polystyrene packaging or cotton wool balls. The challenge would be creating things with the polystyrene noodle, (if you dip them in water and stick them together) or sticking the cotton wool onto a sheep template



Sheep Mask

You will need:

Paper plate

Glue

Cotton wool or Tissue paper or paper tissues.

What you do: Cut the centre out of a paper plate, and form 2 ears using the centre piece. Stick cotton wool or scrunched up tissues to create a sheep's fleece. Sellotape the ears in position.





families on faith adventures

at home

TO DO TOGETHER... More sensory ways to explore

Homemade Party Poppers



You will need: A paper cup
Balloon
Metallic confetti or sequins

What you do: Cut the end off the cup. Tie the bottom of the balloon and cut the other end of the balloon off. Stretch it over the bottom of the cup and Sellotape in place. Place confetti into the cup and pull the balloon and release. You now have a party popper to celebrate the return of the sheep that got lost.

Sheep Cupcakes

You will need: Vanilla cupcake mix
Small marshmallows
Icing sugar
Chocolate eggs (cut in half)
or Chocolate buttons
Writing Icing

What you do:

Make the cupcakes as directed on the mix packaging.

Once the cakes are cool, if the cake has a point, slice the top off to make it flatter so that it is easier to position the marshmallows.

Mix up some icing sugar and water (quite thickly), to make icing to spread on your cup cake.

Place marshmallows around the top of the cakes, with half an egg or a chocolate button placed roughly in the centre.

Using 2 dots of icing for eye, and then using the writing icing to create the ears and eye detail.





The
United
Reformed
Church

families
on faith adventures

at home

TO DO TOGETHER...

More sensory ways to explore

Microwave Meringue Sheep

You will need: 300g icing sugar
 1 lightly beaten egg white



What you do:

A grown up may need to do this. Separate the egg into the yolk and white

A child can do this. Lightly beat the egg white until frothy.

Sift 300g of icing sugar over the lightly beaten egg white. Stir until the mixture is a thick, pliable icing and roll into small balls.

Place on a piece of kitchen paper.

Put 3 balls at a time on the plate and microwave them on high for 1½ mins – and watch, in amazement, as the balls balloon and puff into meringues. – Be aware that the smaller the balls the less time they will need. Check to see if they are done every 30 seconds. When they are cool, use writing icing to create sheepy faces on them.



Please be aware that if meringues are cooked for too long in the microwave they can burn and possible cause a fire.



The
United
Reformed
Church

families on faith adventures

at home

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

Take some time this week to do something encouraging for someone in your family. Could you make breakfast in bed? Do a chore without being asked? Mend something for them? Buy or make them a treat? Practice ways of letting them know you are there for them without needing to say it.

Outside:

On your walk or in your garden, look for signs of spring appearing. Maybe you can spot a flower you did not see before. Maybe you can listen out for birds singing. Maybe you can see more sunshine, or see the grass growing with the rain. Even the cracks in the pavement may be filling with tiny plants and flowers. And you may be lucky enough to live in the countryside and see lambs and calves in the fields. After the dark and dismal months of winter, we see spring as a message of hope from God.

For Others:

Think of someone you know who might be feeling isolated or lost at the moment. If you don't know anyone, perhaps think of the people in your local care home. Write a letter and draw a cheery picture to send to them, then say a prayer for them as you post the letter.



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
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), Phil Ray (Wessex North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW) and Ruth White (Wessex South) on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team and Pilots.



The
United
Reformed
Church

Activity Sheet 1

