

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 family or friends via the internet.

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!**



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

This week's Bible story is:

Be Content

1 Timothy 6 verses 7 - 11



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.

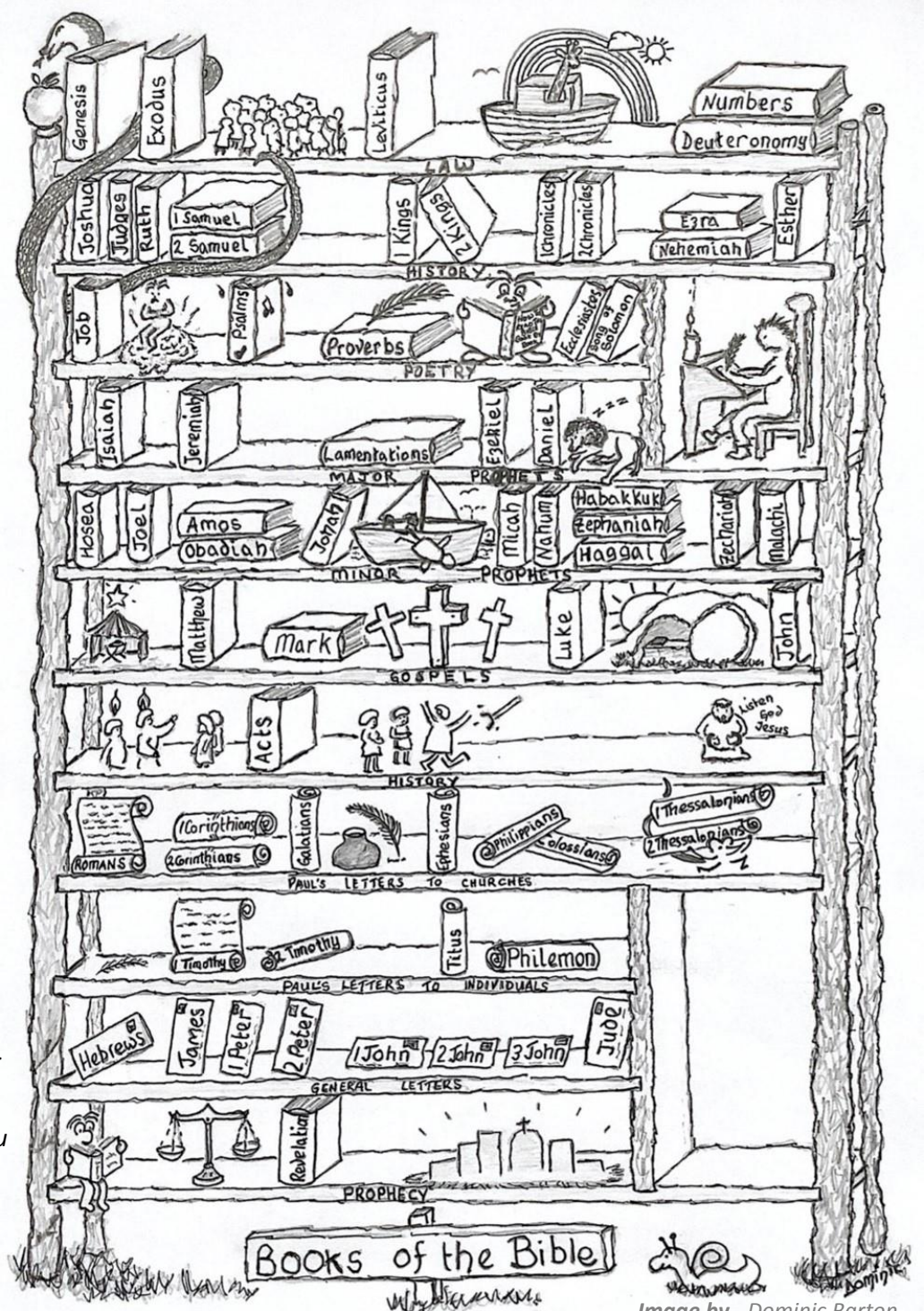
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Timothy

The book of 1 Timothy was written around 64 AD by Paul, it is a letter from Paul to his younger friend Timothy. In the letter we see Paul encouraging the church to consider what they have and how they use it. Reminding us that we are called to be good stewards and wise with all we have, no matter how much or how little. Reduce, reuse and recycle as ways of being thankful. I wonder what other ways you will think of whilst exploring this story?

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

An introduction to Timothy by Crossroads Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4GSFluzBSA>

A tale of 2 treasures Animation by Quiz Worx exploring what you treasure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0tNBM7GZfq>

The treasure Chest a guided meditation for Kids by New Horizons meditation and sleep stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv08oxaUr70>

Children show and tell their favourite toys by HiHo Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mIEOISTII8>

Dance and Sing

Priceless treasure by VBS Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCrBzsJIEWM>

Thankful by Shawna Edwards (Stunning song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTHDKxOL9cq>

You Arrrrrr the treasure (Pirate song) for Pre-schoolers by Kidspring Childrens ministry

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROAS_IK_IyE

I found a treasure by Austin Stone Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbARUaX4frc>

Treasure by Seed Family Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U42xWHMIHE>

The Story: 1 Timothy 6 verses 7 – 11 (from The International Children's Bible)

When we came into the world, we brought nothing. And when we die, we can take nothing out. So, if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that. Those who want to become rich bring temptation to themselves. They are caught in a trap. They begin to want many foolish things that will hurt them, things that ruin and destroy people. The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the true faith because they want to get more and more money. But they have caused themselves much sorrow. But you are a man of God. So you should stay away from all those things. Try to live in the right way, serve God, have faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

Scripture quotations are taken from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

A New Story to share together – The Treasure Table

If you were asked to bring something into school to put on the class Treasure Table, what would bring?

This was the problem that was keeping Sunoj awake at night.

Their teacher had said it needs to be something that is important to them, something precious that they treasure.

The table had been slowly filling up since the beginning of the week and there were only two more sleeps before everyone should have added something.

Sunoj didn't know what to take in.

He looked at the table over lunchtime, hoping to find some inspiration in what others had brought.

There was a teddy bear who was obviously well loved and someone's special hug toy. There was a picture of a lady smiling holding some flowers. There was a medal and an X box game. There was a certificate for swimming 100 metres and a picture of a horse.

Sunoj enjoyed exploring the items on the table and wondering who each one belonged to; but it hadn't helped him to decide what to bring in.

That night Sunoj thought really hard, something that is precious to me? Something important for the treasure table?

The following morning Sunoj had made up his mind, he was very nervous as he walked into school. He could feel his chosen item in his pocket, weighing it down a little. It knocked his leg with every step.

Sunoj kept it in his pocket all day, unsure of whether his classmates might laugh at him for the item, or if his teacher might tell him off for not taking the treasure table seriously. He was beginning to wish he had brought a few items in to give him a choice.

The end of the day was near, and the teacher asked all those who had still not placed their items, to bring their treasures to the table.

Sunoj nervously stepped forward, putting his hand deep into his pocket he pulled out his item and placed it quickly on the table, before turning to run back to his seat.

*One of his friends had spotted it and shouted out "look everyone! Sunoj has brought a stone"
"That's not a treasure"*

Sunoj felt his face burning with embarrassment. He thought he might cry.

The teacher settled the room and asked Sunoj if he wanted to talk about his treasure, the classmates sniggered and pulled faces, rolling their eyes.

"I have lots of expensive things at home" explained Sunoj, "but we were asked to bring in something that we treasure, that is important to us. This is my stone. It sits on my bedside table and it's the first thing I see in the morning and the last thing I see at night".

The room had grown quiet as Sunoj continued.

I found it the day I went walking with my grandad, we had kicked it down the street, it's nothing special, its tiny, it's got no special colours in it. But when I look at it, I think of my Grandad. We found this stone on our last walk together and it is my greatest treasure".

Sunoj walked slowly back to his seat. He was feeling a little sad but proud that he had talked about his Grandad to his friends and shared his precious stone with them.

The teacher smiled "treasures indeed" she said as she looked at the table.

The letter today - Top tips from others

If you were to write a letter to others to encourage them to be wise with what they have, what you suggest? We asked some of our readers for their ideas and here they are.....

Recycle or Repurpose things, Reduce/Reuse

Turn old net curtains into produce bags for shopping.

Old towels make great batting for making pot stands or oven gloves.

Use a small amount of dark coloured paint to tint a whole pot of white paint. Egg cartons are good for planting seeds and for putting in the bottom of plant pots.

Plastic bottles make self watering plant pots and they look great as hanging pots.

Use water from the tumble dryer to water plants.

Use a teabag at least twice.

All plain card can go into your craft stash.

Wrapping paper and pretty gift tags reused or upcycled.

Cut down old jeans to make shorts of varying lengths.

Lateral flow backs for plant markers in the garden or windowsills.

Rotten torn bedding recycled into handkerchiefs.

If you make your own clothes, use the left over scraps for clothes for your dolls.

Old tights with holes in are great for stuffing for toys.

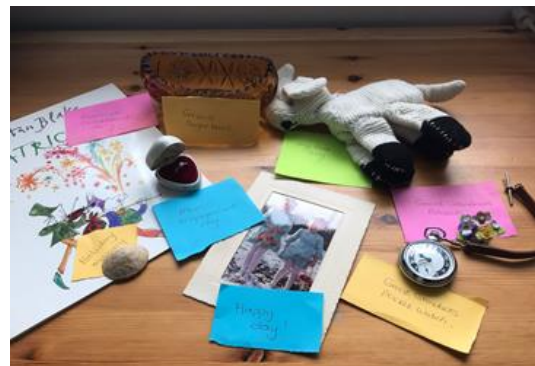
Old socks make great sock puppets.

Scraps of material to make quilts.

Circulate old toys and clothes to younger cousins and friends.

When washing up gloves get a hole in them, cut across them to make rubber bands.

Make dress up day costumes from old bedsheets.



Look how rich we are!

Create a treasure table in your home.

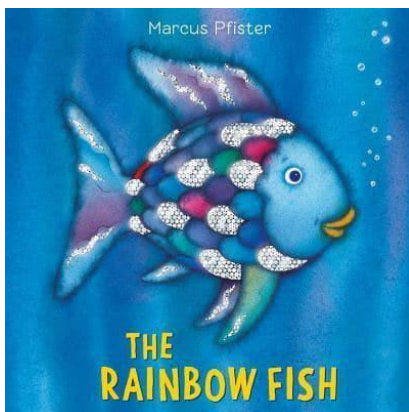
Create a space where you can bring things in the spirit of thankfulness, which are precious to you.

Display them and share the reasons why they are important and special to you.

Each time a person adds something to table or whenever you walk by, take a moment to think "Look how rich we are".

I wonder what surprises there will be on your table?

Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme

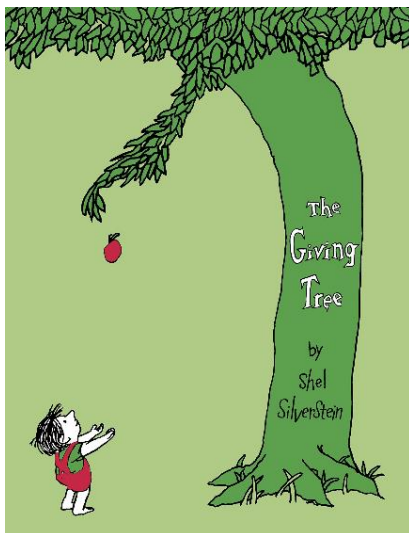


The Rainbow Fish

by **Mark Pfister** read by a child

A story of sharing, friendship and humility. A fish finds out how to be happy by giving to others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFORvXhub28>



The Giving Tree

by **Shel Silverstein**

A tree gives all she has to the boy she loves very much, and this makes her happy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFQZfeHq9wo>



**families
on faith adventures**

at home

Table Top Discussions

Each day over a mealtime, have a quick conversation. Here are a few questions to get you going:

- *What spoke to you from this letter from Paul? What is it saying to us today?*
- *What are the things that you treasure most and why?*
- *Can you think of a time when you have been given something that was precious to the other person?*
- *What does it mean to be wise with the things God has given us?*
- *What more could we do or what could we do differently after exploring this together?*

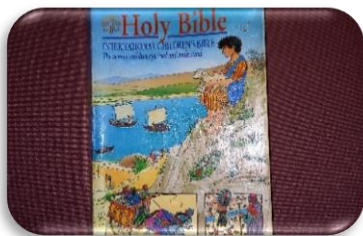
What's in the box?

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.



A Bible or special book

Junk modelling items



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



A happy face and a
sad face, maybe on
opposite sides of a
paper plate or spoon



Bandages and plasters to
help people feel better

Pray Together

Quick Switch Prayers!

In the letter, Paul is encouraging the church to consider what they have and how they use it. Reminding us that we are called to be good stewards and wise with all we have, no matter how much or how little.

Using the light switch idea from the messy section, write a prayer to go around a light switch. Remembering that we are helping the environment by using less electricity and also being wise with what we have. You could say this prayer each time you turn on the light and when you turn it off. Short simple prayers we say during the day are a way to keep connecting with God. We often think of prayers as setting time aside quietly and talk with God about 'big' things, but a short quick arrow prayer brings talking to God into our everyday things.

Here are some ideas:



Dear God ...

- *thank you for the light that helps me to read*
- *I pray for the people in the world who live without lights and heat*
- *help me to help others*
- *help me to use wisely what we have*

Pray Together

Counting Blessings

You will need: Strong cardboard cut into short strips
Masking tape or washi tape
Pens

There is an old hymn called 'Count your blessings'

The words are:-
Count your blessings, name them one by one.
Count your blessings see what God has done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Think about all the blessings that you have and count them up. There are so many things that we might take for granted that we have been blessed with. Our blessing might be family, friends, places we have visited, food we have eaten, clothes, books, music, birds and trees and flowers, sunshine, and rain... so many things.

God blessed us in Jesus who shows us a way of life that calls us to live fully, to love one another and to be all that each of us can be.



Stick the strips of card together with the tape making sure to leave a small gap so that the card can fold. On each of the strips of card write one of your blessings and then when it is complete fold into a concertina. You have now made a blessing stick. You could keep this in your pocket or pencil case or beside your bed. Use it to help you to say thank you to God for all your blessings.

For all our blessings,
given to us from God above,
we thank you, God.
Amen.

Pray Together

Treasures

Find an item that is precious to you, that might have special memories, helps you think of a particular person or place, helps you to feel safe or makes you happy.

If you have created a treasure table, you could use an item from the table.

Find somewhere quiet to sit and take some time to talk to God. Hold the item that you treasure. Say thank you to God for what that item means to you. Talk about how you feel and what you are thinking about.



Gratitude with Attitude prayer

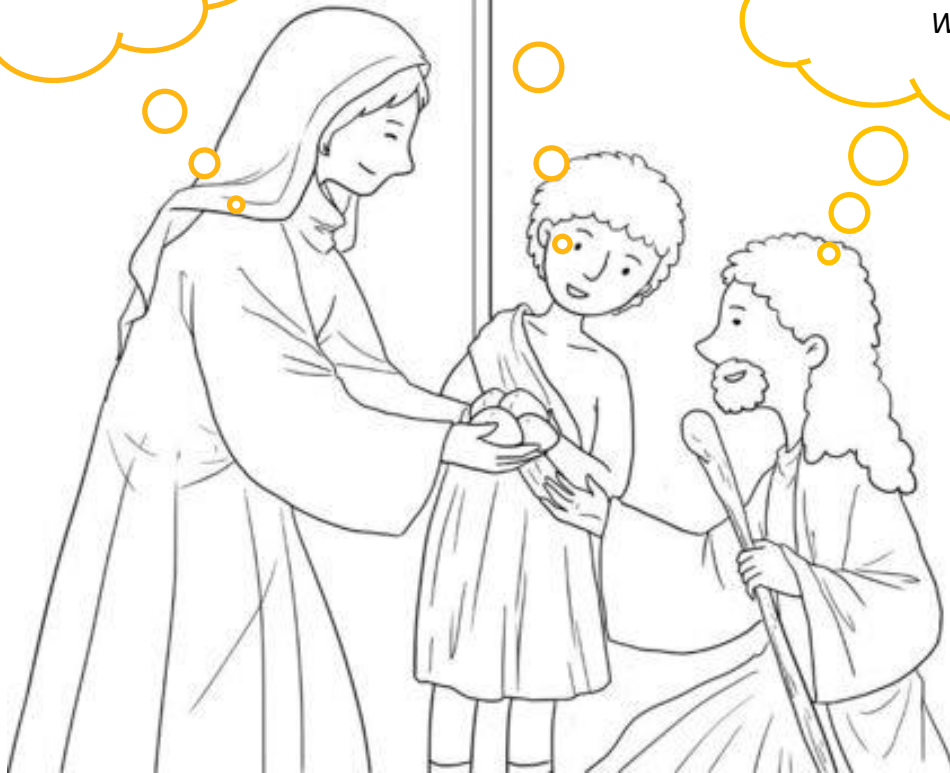
Gratitude with attitude!
is what we pray today.
Gratitude with attitude!
will help us all the way.
Gratitude with attitude!
is the way God wants us to live.
Gratitude with attitude!
receive and then give! Amen.

From Roots

*I wonder what your
treasure is?*

*I wonder what God
has given you to
look after?*

*I wonder if you find it
hard or easy to be happy
with what you have?
Why?*



*I wonder what it
means to live in the
right way?*

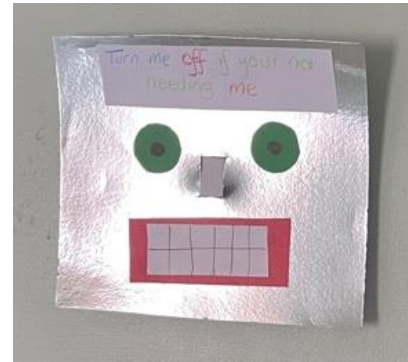
*I wonder what God is
calling you to give
away?*



To Do Together...

Switch Messages

You will need: Card
Scissors
Glue



What you do:

Measure the light surround you are using, cut a piece of card to that size.

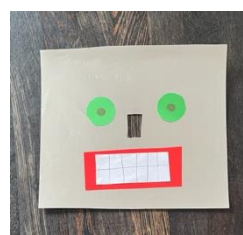
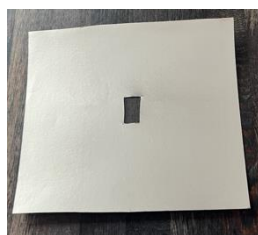
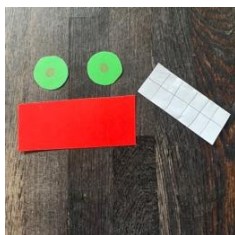
Place the piece of card over the light surround and mark the middle to enable you to make a hole for the switch.

Decide on your design and create it using whatever you have to hand.

Stick the card shape to the square of the light surround. We made it into a robot face.

Write out a message to remind people to turn off the light of switch when it is not in use.
Attach it to the switch.

This should help remind us to be wise with the all the things God has given to us.





To Do Together...

Make Do and Mend

You will need: An item of clothing which has a mark or tear or no longer fits
Scissors
Needle and thread
Fabric glue
Felt or material
Optional: Bleach

What you do:

Decide how you want to cover up the mark or rip in your clothing.

We covered it up with a flower made from material.

Cut out the shape that is going to cover the hole and either sew it on using the needle and thread or use the fabric glue to cover the hole.



Why not try to bleach tie dye your garment, (be careful using bleach - always have an adult supervising it). https://youtu.be/a_hvbhR1kak

Or

Make it into something else like a t shirt bag

<https://youtu.be/zqpaM3u2znq>



If you are good at sewing why not make a patchwork blanket from pieces of old clothing, cut them up and sew them back together. This can be a treasured memory blanket with all the memories of the clothes which are sewn into it.

Instead of throwing away things which can be reused, think about how you can make something brand new from it, you are turning something old into something new.

It will become Treasure Indeed just as in our story.



To Do Together...



Store Cupboard Recipes

You will need: Tins and Things from your store cupboard

What you do:

We made some lovely things from the store cupboard, tomato pasta bake.



Using a tin of chopped tomatoes, some pasta, a tin of carrots, sweetcorn and peas and mushrooms. Cook some pasta for 10 minutes, drain the water and then add all other ingredients, mix well, empty it into an oven proof dish and place in the oven for another 10 minutes, you could even top with cheese if you like.

Tomato soup can be made using two tins of tomatoes, a tin of carrots, and tin of beans, a vegetable stock cube and three pickled onions and 250ml water, and then blended. Once it is smooth, heat it slowly and enjoy!



There are lots of recipes which can be made from tinned goods which are not expensive and taste great. What recipe could you make from your store cupboard?

Food waste is a big issue at the moment, and we can make some lovely meals from tinned foods, which are less expensive. We should be wise with how we use what we have and not waste it. It would be great to let us know what recipes you came up with.

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

Everyday Faith:

The Bible passage asks us to 'Try to live in the right way, **serve** God, have **faith, love, patience, and gentleness**'. Each day focus on one of the words in bold and try to do that in all you think, say and do. Quite a challenge! Share what you did with your family and how easy or hard you found it.

(Faith is trusting in something or someone. Faith in God is believing that God can and will do all they promised)

Scrapbooking:

Consider making a list of your top 10 ideas for looking after what God has given you, the world, people and your possessions. Write or draw the list in your scrapbook. Alternatively, you could cut out the top tips listed under things to do together in this session and stick that into the scrapbook. Perhaps also illustrate it.

Take it Further:

As a family you could organise a swap table in your church/ school/ neighbourhood. Each person brings something for the table and in return they can take something from the table. Alternatively, you and your family could go through your things at home and see what you could put on freecycle.com



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), Sharon Lloyd (Programme Assistant for CYW), Hannah Middleton (Northern Synod), Philip Ray (Wessex Synod, North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW), Ruth White (Wessex Synod, South) and Jo West, on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team.



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