

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:

Out of The Window

Acts 20 verses 7-12



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.

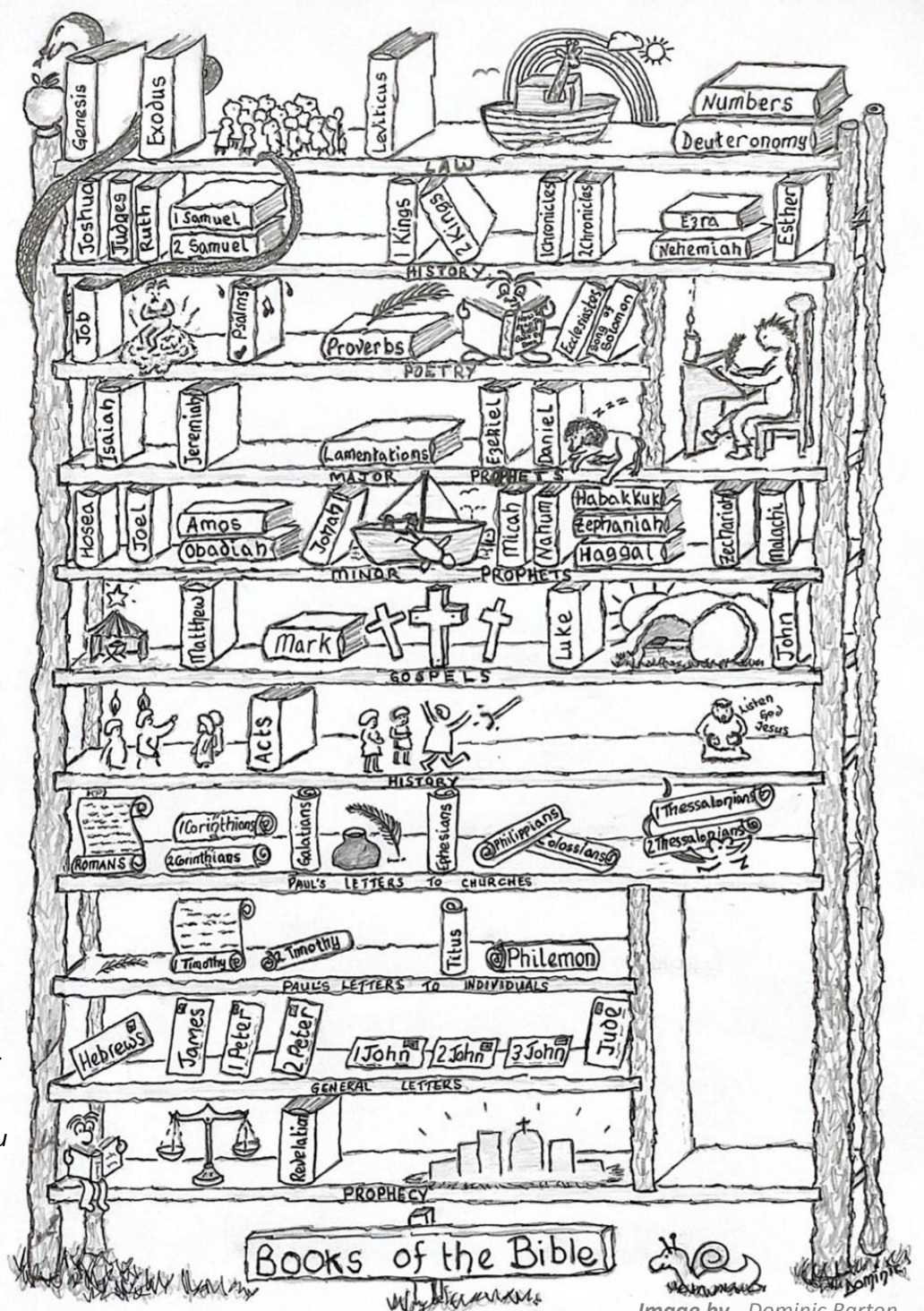
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Acts

The book of Acts was written by Luke around 62 AD. It tells the stories of the early Christian Church after Jesus' death and ascension. The first twelve chapters follow Peter's story and the rest of the book follows Paul's story.

Paul used to be called Saul. He imprisoned and killed many believers. His life was changed on the Damascus Road when he met with God. Changing his name to Paul, he then became a missionary, travelling around, preaching the good news of Jesus, and encouraging new churches.

In this story we see Paul speaking to people gathered in a room, it has been a long day and Paul is speaking for an exceptionally long time, into the night. Eutychus is sat in the window, listening trying to stay awake and concentrate. How will this story end?

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

The story told in a rap by Georges River Life Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YSyxVPVWxY>

Eutychus by the Superbook Show <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MD60qPaYI1s>

Retold with pictures by Bacon for Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPjibZrXx-4>

Cartoon animation by Holy Bible Tales <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwK9cn9IGA0>

Dance and Sing

Creator God by Nick and Becky Drake <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM4IVZuljEI>

Super Wonderful God by Yancy and Kids Praise

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

Every Move I Make by Hillsong Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr5eUBTCIw>

New creation by Dave Bilborough https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Teva2_x2aXo

Let's get a little crazy by Lifetree Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnMo6OE1s5o>

The Story: Acts 20 verses 7 – 12 (from The International Children's Bible)

On the first day of the week, we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

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

Have you ever felt bored? Have you ever felt that you've had to wait so long you might fall asleep – or that something worse might happen? Here is a new story to share which explores two different responses to exactly the same boring situation.

Is it here yet? (Spot the difference!)

"Is that our bus?" asked Sam.

"No," replied Mum.

"What about that one?"

"That's the one that'll take you to Mars – stupid!" Sam's older sister had taken her headphones off long enough to be rude but was back to her music too quickly for Sam to think of a response.

"Don't call me stupid! Mum! She called me stupid!" Sam settled back to looking, being ready and not wanting to miss the bus.

"There it is, just coming round the corner."

"I can't see anything Sam," said Mum – who wasn't even looking.

"I thought I saw it, perhaps it's gone the wrong way."

"Buses don't often go the wrong way. I know this is boring but it'll be here soon. Why don't you try counting pigeons," suggested Mum.

"I don't want to!"

Bored! Bored! Boring!

"Here it is! Oh no, 'Out of Service'. This is taking forever, maybe it'll never come," Sam was beginning to see their whole life flash before their eyes and it was all spent at a bus stop.

After what seemed like an eternity, an empty bus pulled up to the stop and waited expectantly for passengers to pile in but it was going the wrong way, not even close to where they needed to be.

Why did we have to come out today? Why a bus? Why don't I have my own phone? Why me? They weren't questions that could be spoken out loud so there was mind-numbingly boring silence, until the bus decided to show up.

Is it here yet? (Take two)

"Is that our bus?" asked Max.

"No," replied Mum.

"What about that one?"

"That's the one that'll take you to Mars – stupid!" Max's older sister had taken her headphones off long enough to be rude but was back to her music too quickly for Max to think of a response.

"What snacks would I pack for a journey to Mars? Chocolate would probably melt! Nothing that needs too much washing up."

"There it is, coming round the corner."

"I can't see anything Max," said Mum – who wasn't even looking.

"I thought I saw it, perhaps it's gone the wrong way. Maybe it's disappeared into a parallel universe where buses only travel backwards and the sky is green."

"Wow!" said mum. "I hadn't thought of that. Would birds fly backwards too?"

"Only if they're wearing helmets with rear-view mirrors, otherwise it'd be dangerous," clarified Max.

"I suppose it would be too risky to put dragons in charge of flight paths," agreed Mum.

"Stars shine in the daytime but you have to buy special glasses to see them, or borrow a pair from the library," Max's sister couldn't resist joining in and even though she was pretending to listen to music again everyone knew she had half an ear to what would happen next. Anything was possible! They didn't even notice the 'Out of Service' bus pull up to the stop or drive sadly away when nobody chose to join it.

"Oh, here it is," said Mum. "That was quick!"

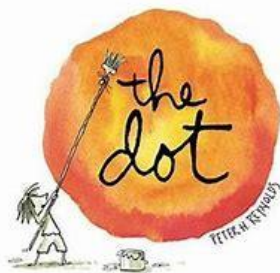
Random Stories

This is a fun creative storytelling game that can be played anywhere, anytime. It gets your creative juices flowing.

You will need a box, basket or pillowcase filled with random objects. Everyone could add a number of different items to the collection.

The game is simple: take it in turns to select a few items from the bag (feel free to use as many as you like). Then use the items to inspire a story that you tell together. Don't forget to give your story a title.

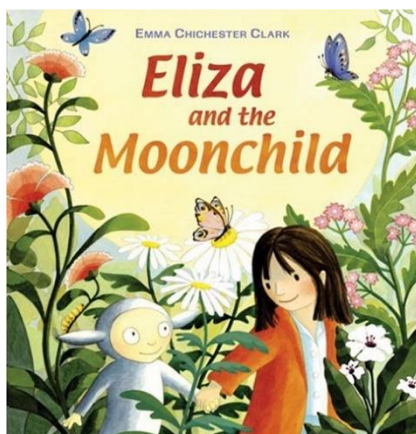
Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme



'The Dot' By Peter H Reynolds

Vashti is struggling in art class. It starts with a dot on the page, but where will that dot lead?

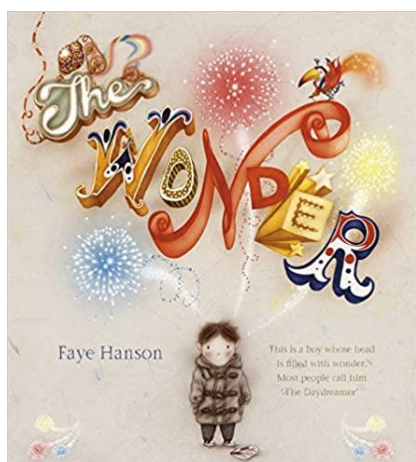
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpmNXbkLu6c>



'Eliza and the moon child' by Emma Chichester Clark

The moon child is looking for excitement and colour, and visits earth to find it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejlNrTo9Uu0>



'The Wonder' by Faye Hanson

One little boy whose head is full of wonder shows us how it can make an ordinary day extraordinary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mc-1JwoUKQ>

Table Top Discussions

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

- What do you find yourself daydreaming about? Where do you like to daydream?
- Can you remember a time when you have been really bored? What did you do to entertain yourself?
- What do you think is exciting about God in your life?
- Paul talks to one of his churches about “Some of them having fallen asleep in their walk with Jesus.” I wonder what this could mean?
- What can you do for others to bring a little creativity and excitement into their day?



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.



Unbreakable clock or timer



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



A 'window' made of bricks



A toy to represent Eutychus

A fidget toy of some sort



Pray Together

Waiting Prayer

Sometimes it is difficult to wait, especially if we keep being told to sit still. In this week's story, Eutychus had to sit still and listen for so long that he fell asleep. Here is a waiting prayer to help you use your waiting, and any fidgeting, to talk to God.

*Faithful God,
Who always keeps their promises,
I'm waiting and it feels like forever.
Let every tap of my foot be a 'Thank you':*

*For your beautiful creation;
For friends and family:
For food to eat and stories to share.*

*Loving God,
Who always stays with us when it feels scary,
I'm waiting and I don't know what will happen next.
Let every shuffle be a call for help:*

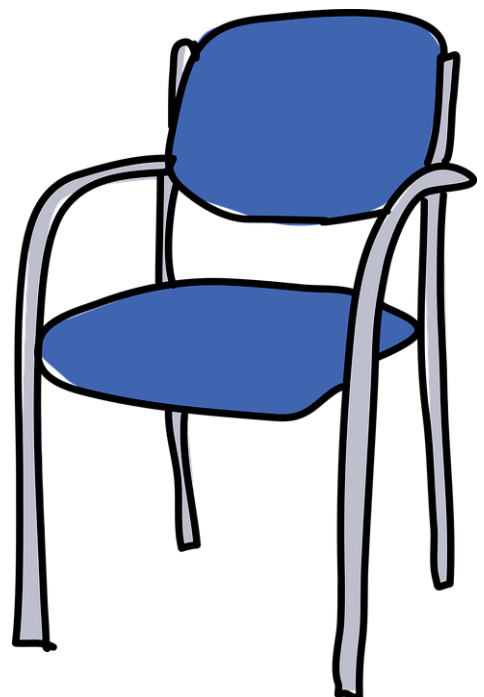
*For those who are lonely;
For those who are scared;
For those who are leaving and those who need to stay.*

*Patient God,
Who always listens and always cares,
I'm waiting and it's making me feel tired and floppy.
Let every breath out tell you how I feel:*

*Sad?
Worried?
Confused?*

Let every breath in remind me that I am loved:

*Beautiful!
Creative!
Your child! Amen*



Pray Together

Stop. Think. Pray.

If you are waiting for something, on a long journey or feeling bored, you can try this prayer activity:

Stop

Stop what you are doing or thinking.

Think

Choose three things:

Three blue things

Three places in the world

Three people that you know

Three famous people

Three types of animals

Pray

Talk to God about them, thank God for them or ask for God's help.



Pray Together

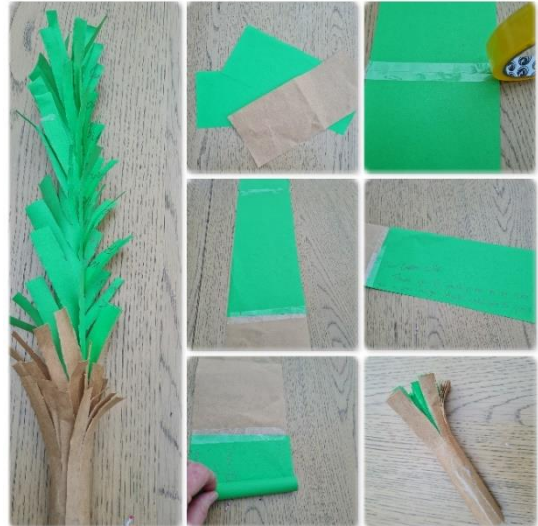
Creative Prayer Tree

God made us in his image.

God has made each of us unique and given us the ability to create something beautiful through what we think, say and do, even when we don't think we can!

Think about how you would like to be creative and ask God to help you.

You will need: Green and brown paper
Tape
Scissors



Cut two lengths of green paper and one brown. Stick the paper together lengthwise with tape. Write your prayers on the green section of paper. Roll up the paper starting at the green end. Tape the roll together. Cut down about halfway in thin strips around the roll. Take one of the centre green strips and pull up gently and watch your prayer grow.

Prayer

*Creator God,
thank you that you made me in your image.
Grow in me the joy of creativity,
shape my thinking, and use my hands,
help me to grow and flourish.
Amen*

families on faith adventures

at home

I wonder what's your favourite way to learn about God?

I wonder how the other people in the story felt?

I wonder what might have helped Eutychus stay awake?



I wonder what creative ways you can find to share God's story?

I wonder how Paul could have made his teaching more interesting?



To Do Together...



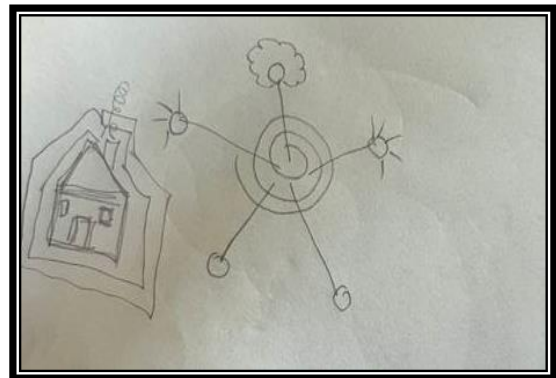
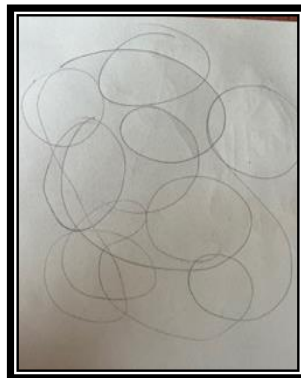
Scribble Art

You will need: Paper
Pen
Colouring pencils

What you do:

On a plain piece of paper, create a doodle scribble and then look at it and see what pictures you can make from it. Remember to sign your artwork. We did some art based on the story *The Dot* By Peter H Reynolds.

Sometimes when we are bored, we doodle on a piece of paper and we think that what we're doing is nothing important. But our creativity comes from God. God is in the boring times and in the exciting times and all the times in between. If we let God help us, we can make something good out of every situation, even the boring ones!





To Do Together...



Bored Jar

You will need: Jar
Card or lollipop sticks



What you do:

Sometimes we need to think about how we can use the times we are bored to be more creative. God's Holy Spirit can help us to use those times to break out of our boredom and see the world in a different way.

Decorate your jar and then cut some strips of card from a cereal box or use lollipop sticks if you have them.

On the card or sticks, write some suggestions of things you can do when you may be bored.

Place them in your jar and then, next time you are bored, pull out a stick and do what it says on it.

Here are some ideas:

- Movie night
- Hold a Lego building contest
- Make handmade pizzas
- Toast paint- make some brightly coloured edible paint by mixing a small amount of gel food colouring with some milk. Grab a paintbrush, make a rainbow, and then toast as normal!
- Paint rocks
- Marble race – roll marbles down a slope and see which one crosses the finish line first
- Teddy bear's picnic
- Camping out in the garden or indoors
- Chalk drawings
- Create a pavement obstacle course
- Have a disco
- Feed the birds
- Learn to skip!
- Make a den
- Water fight
- Penny waterfall - fill a jar or glass almost to the top, take turns to drop a penny in until the water spills over the top! The one who causes the waterfall is the LOSER!
- Make perfume out of flower petals



To Do Together...

Symmetrical Pictures

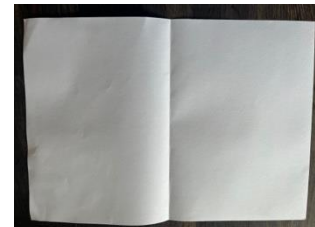
You will need: Paper
Paint

What you do:

*Fold your paper in half and on one half create a picture.
Fold the paper over and press it down and see what is
created when you open it up again.*

Alternatively use a mirror to create symmetrical pictures.

Think about how we can reflect God's creativity too.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

Everyday Faith:

Think about some of the active ways you can learn about or talk to God. We don't just have to read and listen, although these can be good too, we can make things or sing, or dance, or watch. Try to set aside a little time each day to do something active or creative with God. God's spirit can help us relax too – try listening to some soothing Christian songs or a podcast of a Bible story at bedtime. Just don't sit in an open window while you're listening!

Scrapbooking:

As we reflect God's creativity, create a pattern with lots of colours that you can stick into your scrapbook. Maybe you could include some things that God has created or patterns that you see in the world around you.

Take it Further:

*There are lots of different spiritual styles – the way of worshipping God which works best for you. Read this article from ROOTS for Churches about the different styles.
https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/19319/roots_spiritual_styles_meet_the_styles.pdf
Which sounds most like you? Which help you to experience, explore and express your relationship with God?*



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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

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