

## 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:

The Child in the Midst  
Mark 9 verses 33-37



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.

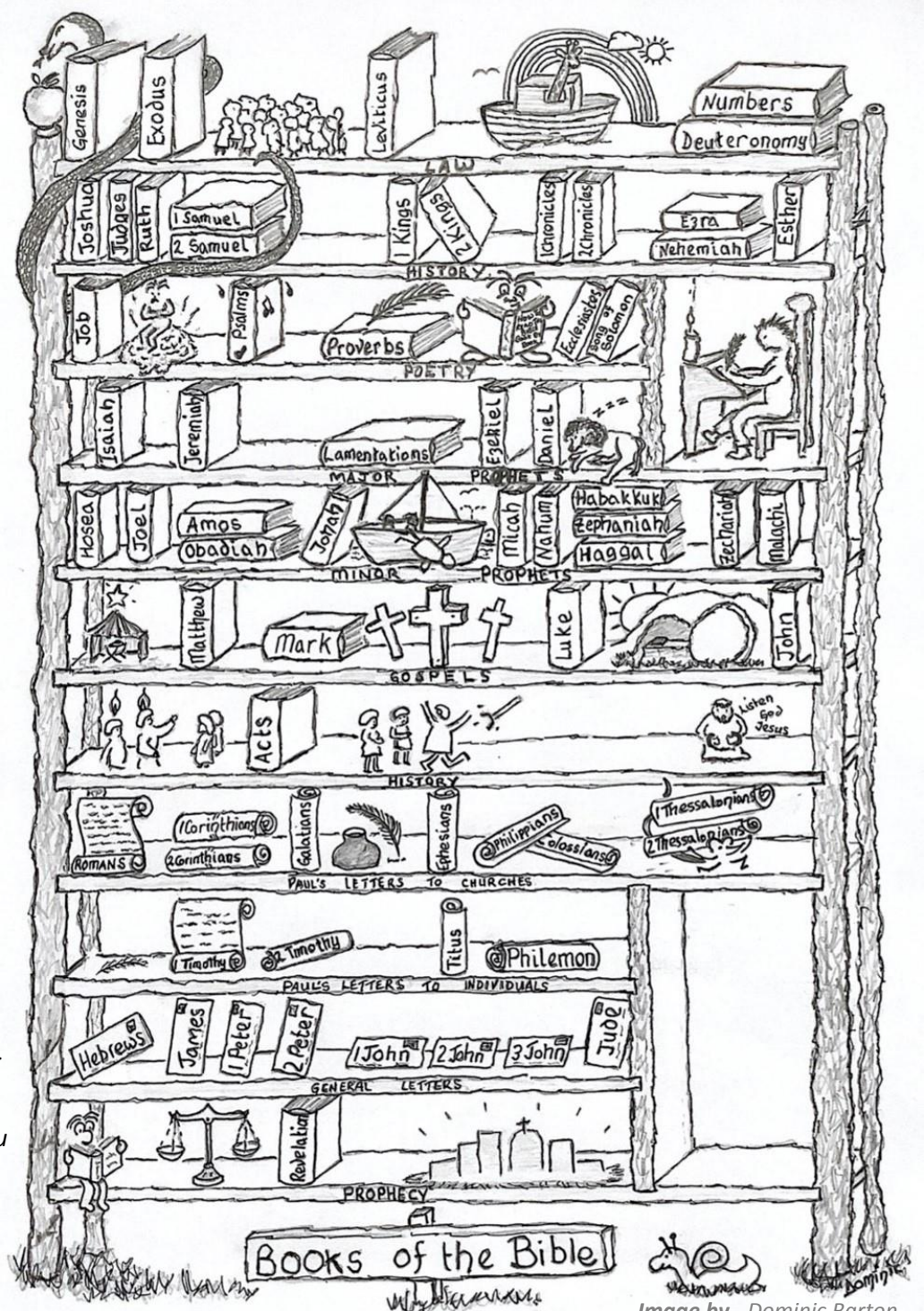
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Mark**

Mark's gospel is the second book of the New Testament and is the shortest of the four gospels. It was written by Mark in about 70AD and focusses on Jesus as a man of action, who gets to know and supports ordinary people. It doesn't tell us about Jesus being born but begins when Jesus is an adult – ready to start his ministry.

In this story, Jesus' followers are arguing about who is the most important. Jesus challenges them to be more welcoming and child-like.

**Online versions of the story**

**Watch and Listen**

*I'm Awesome.....Right? By Jeff Sears*

[\(6\) Mark 9:30-37 - I'm Awesome! ... Right? - YouTube](#)

*Sing Through the Bible*

[\(6\) Mark 9:35-37 \(NLT\) - Scripture Song | Anyone Who Welcomes a Little Child - YouTube](#)

*Mark's gospel in British Sign Language*

[\(6\) Mark 9:33-37 - YouTube](#)

*East Dean and Friston*

[\(6\) Mark 9 v 30 37 - YouTube](#)

*Welcome the Children*

[\(6\) Welcome the children \(children are not an inconvenience\) Mark 9:37 - YouTube](#)

**Dance and Sing**

*This week's songs have been chosen by Ben, Joseph, Emissah and Skye. Some of these songs are ones to enjoy singing in church but sometimes our favourite songs from films and television can also remind us to be confident in the person that God has made us to be.*

*Be Thou My Vision*

[\(6\) Be Thou My Vision For Kids Lyric Video | Kids Worship Songs | Little Worship Company - YouTube](#)

*Build Up One Another*

[\(6\) Schoolvision 2018 "Build Up" - Scotland - YouTube](#)

*How Great is Our God*

[\(6\) How Great is Our God | Kid's Praise! Company \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

*Let it Go – Frozen*

[\(6\) FROZEN | Let It Go Sing-along | Official Disney UK - YouTube](#)

*I Owe the Lord a Morning Song – Jim Arkus*

[\(6\) Jim Arkus - I Owe The Lord A Morning Song - YouTube](#)

**The Story: Mark 9 verses 33 - 37 (from The International Children's Bible)**

Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum and went into a home there. Then Jesus said "What were you arguing about on the road?" But the followers did not answer, because their argument on the road was about which one of them was the greatest.

Jesus sat down and called the 12 apostles to him. He said, "If anyone wants to be the most important, then he must be last of all and servant of all."

Then Jesus took a small child and had him stand among them. He took the child in his arms and said, "If anyone accepts children like these in my name, then he is also accepting me. And if he accepts me, then he is also accepting the One who sent me."

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

**Become like a child**

Jesus said we should become like a child  
But what did he really mean?

Did he mean sleeping all day and using a potty?  
And sucking our thumbs or a dummy?  
Surely he didn't mean crawling around,  
that would look really funny.

I guess he meant for us to look at a child  
and notice all that they bring.  
To celebrate the laughter,  
the hope and simplicity.  
The freedom to live, dance and sing.

A child is someone dependant on others,  
who is never alone in life's fight.  
A child has a deep belief in their hearts,  
a strong sense of what's wrong  
and what's right.

A child is excited by things that they love,  
with a built in ability to play.  
A child has a sense of curiosity and wonder,  
open to learning new things every day.

A child is sensitive and full of compassion.  
They are quick to both give and show love.  
A child is wide eyed with a mind  
full of questions,  
exploring what's around and above.

A child is open and honest.  
Often saying what others are thinking.  
A child is adventurous, daring, determined.  
Taking risks, without even blinking.

A child can be someone who leads and follows,  
a student on life's winding way.  
A child is optimistic and positive,  
full of wishes and new hope every day.

There is much to be found  
when we look at a child.

Much that perhaps we don't see.  
Perhaps what Jesus was trying to show us  
is, be the best person you can be.

*Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story*

***Funny Faces - Who is the greatest? By Ben***



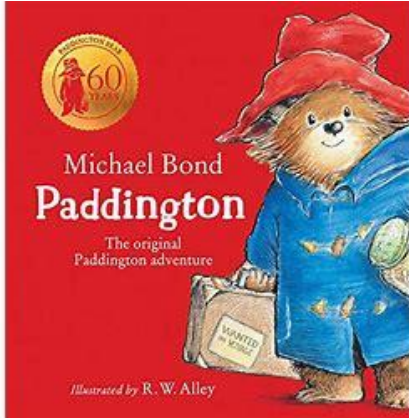
*How do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus told them to be like a servant?*

*Were they surprised? Shocked? Scared? Happy? Worried?*

*Can you draw a picture of a face and see if people in your family can guess what emotion you've drawn?*

*Can you take it in turns to pull a funny face and make people guess the feeling you are trying to show?*

**Modern Parables** – books that explore the same theme



**'Paddington'** by Michael Bond

[\(6\) Paddington by Michael Bond - YouTube](#)



**'For Every Child'** by Caroline Castle

[\(6\) For Every Child text adapted by Caroline Castle - YouTube](#)

**Table Top Discussions**

Here are some questions to help you keep thinking and talking about this story through the week.

- What does it mean to be child-like?
- When as a family have you been most child-like?
- How do you think the adults felt in this story?
- How do you think the child felt?
- What 'boring' jobs help to make your day nicer?
- Can you think of a time where it would be good to let someone else go first?

# families on faith adventures

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.

*Slightly different this week as the contents of the box will depend entirely on what you can find around the house and garden. Small children have a capacity for making a toy out of anything and everything so stimulate their imaginations and creativity by gathering things that are not 'toys' but have colour and variety and texture. Try to include natural materials where possible.*

*A box of things to explore and play creatively with.*

*Eg, different fabrics, feathers, bubbles, pine cones, shells, keys, etc*



*Something with rainbow colours for God's promise*

## *Pray Together*



### **Affirming Prayers**

*Here are some ideas for praying for and encouraging others this week.*

- *Stick a sticky note on everyone's back. Take it in turns to write something that you like about the person. Thank God for making that person so special.*
- *Choose one person each day (from home, school, church or a club) and thank God for them.*
- *Remind someone about a time they helped you, or shared something with you, and thank them.*



## Pray Together

### Children's Own Creative Prayers

Think about all the fun things that you like to play with which might also help you to pray. Gather items that you think you can use as you talk with God.

Here are a few ideas:

- Bubbles
- Lego
- Scrabble letters
- Pipe cleaners
- Soft toys
- Shells
- Play Doh



Add your items to a bag or box or, if you have one, a set of mini drawers where you can use one for each item.

When you pray as a family or group, take it in turns to select an item or a drawer and then decide how you are going to use that item to help you pray. You might build a tower, blow bubbles or make things with play doh or pipe cleaners.

Think of people, places and situations that you want to pray for. You might have sad prayers, thank you prayers or blessing prayers. Most important of all they are your prayers and your way of talking to God. Encourage each other to be creative with the ideas, especially letting the children take the lead, but if you need some inspiration, there are many ideas in the FOFA@Home materials to get you thinking.

On the next page are a couple of ideas to get you started.

## Pray Together

### Children's Own Creative Prayers (Cont..)

#### Blowing Bubbles

*This is a fun way to pray while blowing bubbles in the air.*

*Bubble prayers are 'breath' prayers you say as you blow gently.*

*With each breath that you blow to form the bubbles, think about the people who are special to you and the people you want to say thank you for.*

*As each bubble floats away and pops, it is giving your prayer to God.*



*I wonder how many ways can you pray with bubbles?*



#### Floating Prayers

*Adults are always amazed by these so perhaps you could teach the adults a new way of praying. Think about the things you would like to bring to God and write and draw them on paper stars.*

*Fold in the points on the star. Place the folded star gently on the surface of the water.*

*Watch and wait as the folded paper gently opens, offering up your prayer to God.*

*I wonder what other shapes you can make to help you pray?*

# families on faith adventures

at home

*I wonder what you think are the best things about being a child?*

*I wonder what age you would most like to be and why?*

*I wonder if there are times when you have wanted to be the favourite or most important?*



*I wonder in what ways God is like a child?*

*I wonder why we change so much as we get older and why some grownups are afraid or embarrassed at being thought of as childlike?*

Illustration from

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/1679504>



**To Do Together...**

**What are your favourite games? Let's play them**

Sometimes grown-ups lose the playfulness they had as a child and need children to help them re-find the child in the midst. When we play together, we can all be childlike. I wonder what your family like to play with best? What is the favourite family game? This week we have given you a few ideas but it's up to you to find some good ways of playing together.

**Games**



**Water play**



**Role play**



**Messy play**



**Sensory play**



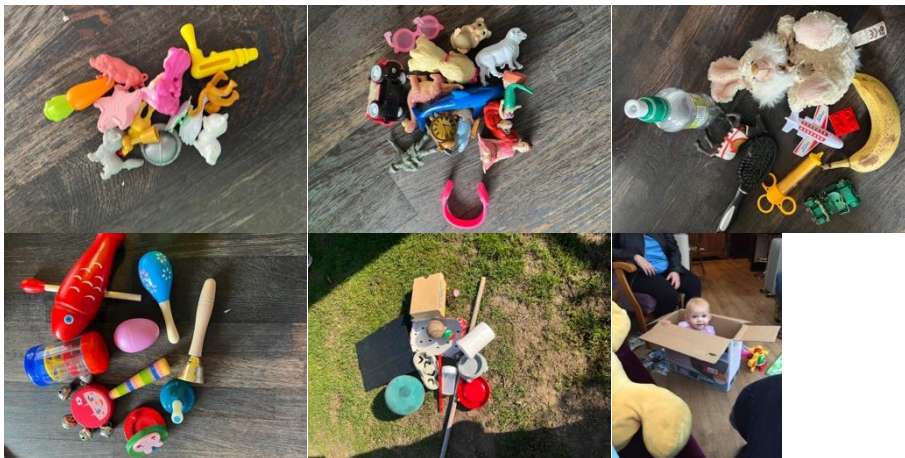


## To Do Together...

### **Loose Parts Play – Wow what can I play?**

*Why not just have fun with things you find? Not just toys but all sorts of bits and pieces. I wonder what you can do with them and how can you play with them? Maybe you could use them to tell a story, to create a picture, to use them in different ways.*

*God's Holy Spirit helps us to be imaginative and stay creative all our lives, just as God is a creator.*



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

*Everyday Faith:*

*Think of your favourite Bible story. Can you use things you find around the house to retell the story? You could do it with small play toys like Lego or Playmobil. Or maybe you could be more inventive. What about using things you find in the garden – twigs and leaves etc? Or modelling with playdough? Or use an animation app on your tablet? Or even use things out of the kitchen cupboard! Tell your story to someone else or film it and send it to a friend or family member.*

*Scrapbooking:*

*Take a photo of your family or your group all playing some games together and put this in your scrapbook to remind you of the joy of being a child of God and part of God's big family.*

*Take it Further:*

***The launch of URC Children takes place this week. All children up to the age of 12 who are associated with the United Reformed Church in any way are part of URC Children and if you're using Families on Faith Adventures @ Home and you're 12 or under, that includes you!*** URC Children aims to help children play their part in the mission of God and to help the church to keep the child in the midst. Why not ask at your local church whether you can be involved in planning things, in decision making, maybe in writing a prayer for the church newsletter or talking about your faith? Or tell the leaders what you like about church or what would help you? Or contact your synod children's work lead <https://urc.org.uk/contact-us/synod-childrens-youth-work-contacts/> and simply say hello. They'd love to hear from you!



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), 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.*



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church