

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:

70 x 7 = Forgiveness
Matthew 18 v 21 to 35



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.

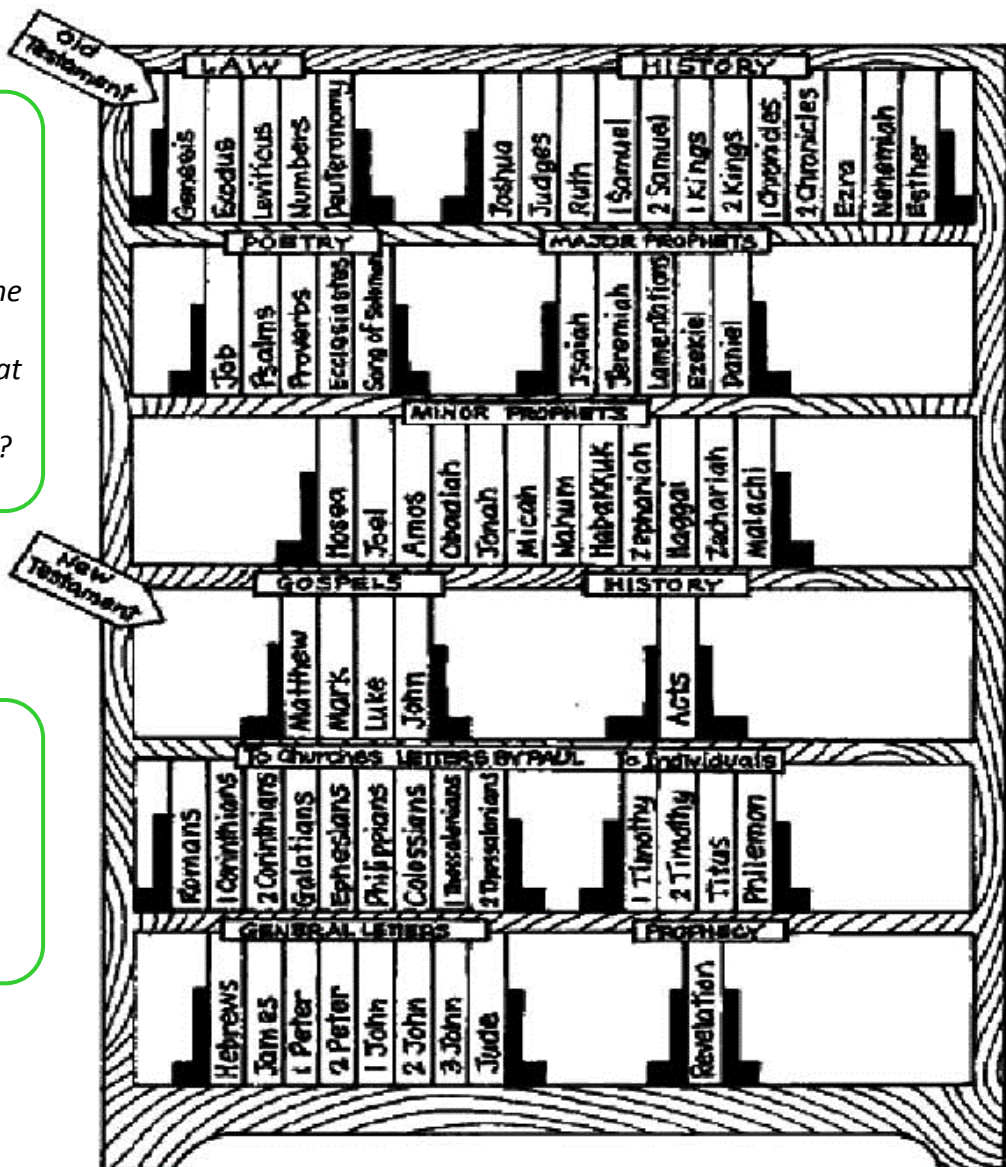
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

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

Written around 50-60 BC by Matthew, the tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus. It is believed that he wrote his gospel aimed at Jews, highlighting where old testament prophecies are being fulfilled.

Jesus often used parables to teach people about God and Heaven. In this parable he teaches about God's mercy towards us.

The Story – The unmerciful servant Matthew 18 v 21 – 35 (The Message Bible)

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!' The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Told by Saddleback Kids in cartoon form <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED3fzkS-bhA>

Dance and sing

Fabulous song by Bethel Music Kids 'This is Amazing Grace'

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

Action song from Discipleland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCKpNihWCI>

From Ktunez Praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDYn8L-c0w>

Ideas to retell the story

Chat and Create

Forgiveness is a personal thing. God has forgiven us and so we are expected to forgive others. Consider what forgiveness means to you? It's not a one time thing, it's something we have to do over and over again; this is why Jesus told us to do it 70 times 7. There are different layers to forgiveness.

Have a go at creating a piece of art as you explore forgiveness. You could use your own words or pictures or those of others.

Explore what forgiveness means to you?

Here is an example of a reflective piece made using pastels and another with watercolour. We added quotes from famous people about forgiveness and discussed our views as we created.

Don't forget to post your images on our Facebook/Pinterest pages



Here is a video we put together of people's views on forgiveness to create discussion at home <https://youtu.be/XWWIzCg0bhA>

Make and use puppets to tell the story

This story is fabulous for retelling with puppets or drama. You could act the parts, dressing up as characters, you could make simple puppets from junk, or see further in the pack for finger puppet ideas.

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:

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Matthew 18 v 21 to 35



A sealed bag with coins in. (sealed – prevents coins going in mouths)



Something with rainbow colours

A happy and angry face, maybe on a paper plate, or wooden spoons, or a piece of card



A Crown



A storybook Bible, if you have one

Pray Together

In the Bible we hear how the disciples asked Jesus how to pray and he taught them this special prayer that is said all over the world every day.

Lord's Prayer - A reflective story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L70unT8rpX4>

'Forgive us our sins as we forgive others'

*'When I do something wrong,
Forgive me God.*

*I want to feel like I've been washed in clean water.
I want to be like brand new snow.
I feel happy when you forgive me!*

Paraphrase of Psalm 51 From Psalms for Young Children by Marie- Helene Delval

Loving one another

This activity will help to pray for those we find it hard to love.

Jesus taught us 'Love one another as I have loved you', even those we find it hard to love.

You will need: some strips of kitchen paper

water soluble pens

a small glass with about an inch of water in it



On the strips of paper, about two inches from the bottom, draw a heart and above the heart write the initials or draw the face of someone you want to know God's love and whom you find hard to love.

Put the end of the strip in the water and pray that God will help you to show that person that you love them and God loves them.

Watch as the water slowly climbs up the paper and the ink in the heart spreads out to cover and absorb the initials. This is a symbol of how you want your love and God's love to reach out to that person.



(Adapted from an Idea from the Flame creative kids Blog)

Pray Together

Saying Sorry



Water Painting is great fun especially if the sun is shining. As you paint with water your picture is transformed and then disappears as the water dries. God wants us to talk to him and we can say sorry to God for things that we have done.



Write, draw or make hand prints and, as you watch the image disappear, say sorry to God. Know that God hears you and forgives you because he loves you and takes away those things that you are sorry for.

Letting Go

Sometimes we need to be able to let go of the things that stop us forgiving one another.

Write on a piece of A4 paper the things you need to let go of and the people you need to say sorry to. From the A4 sheet of paper make a paper aeroplane

Holding your paper aeroplane say together

Help us to let go of the things that keep us from focusing our hearts more fully on you.

Help us to...

let go of fear,

let go of anger

let go of jealousy

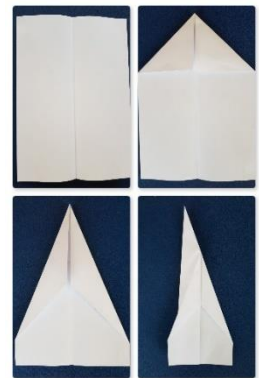
let go of lying

let go of hatred

let go of selfishness

Help us to let go and say sorry

Amen



Draw a heart on your plane and then, as you get ready to let go of your plane, ask God to be close to you. Watch your plane fly as an AMEN!

families on faith adventures

at home

I wonder if you can think of a time when someone forgave you for doing something wrong?

I wonder how easy it would be to forgive someone more than seventy times?



I wonder what you would find hardest to forgive?

I wonder what it feels like to forgive someone?

I wonder if there is anything that God doesn't forgive and what that means for us?



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TO DO TOGETHER...

Games

Pollock Painting

Take a plain piece of paper and place it inside a tray/box lid.

Choose your paint colour (one colour per person) and put a marble in the paint (you can use anything that rolls such as playdough, grapes or sprouts).

Using a spoon, lift the marble out of the paint and place it on your paper.

Now start to roll your marble around the page making lines as you roll.

When you are ready, pass your tray to the next person.

They will add their lines in their colour, using their marble (or use the same marble, but wash in between each colour).

Continue until everyone has drawn on the paper with their colour.



Sit back and look at your creations, Notice how the lines cross over and mix.

Can you follow the line of your paint?

What do you notice?

Whose line did you cross?

Did it go messy anywhere?

Notice when the lines cross and the paint mixes, it might even make a new colour.

How did you feel about other people's paint crossing your picture?

Consider how this relates to forgiveness and have a chat.



Variations:

This can also be played on a messier scale using squirty bottles and paint if you carefully squirt your paint in lines over a larger sheet of paper, outdoors.

If paint or rolling things are not available, then you can use coloured pens. Drawing your pictures using lines or a series of dots.

For an increase in fun or challenge, try the colouring pen approach with blind folds on. You might need to tape the paper to the trays to make passing easier/simpler.

A Heart of Forgiveness

You will need:



A large piece of cardboard from a box.
String or wool
Rags and ribbon.

What you do:

Draw a heart shape with a 5 cm border on a large piece of cardboard and cut it out.

If you don't have a large piece, use a flattened out cereal box and support the joins with other pieces of card.

Tie your wool or string around the heart and then create a net by weaving it across the heart.

Wrap some rags around the heart. This supports it and makes it Beautiful. If you don't have rags, then simply colour it in.

Gather some ribbon (you can use parcel ribbon) or rags together and tie them onto the net you have made.

As you tie them as a family, each think about the things we need to be forgiven for and the people we may need to forgive. Over time you can add to your heart. This can be a reflective activity, which also makes something beautiful for your home.





TO DO TOGETHER...

More sensory ways to explore

Wipe the slate clean

You will need:

Cling film or sticky back plastic
Paint (make sure it is not too runny) or flour paste (flour, water and food colouring made into the consistency of thick paint. You can add glitter into this if you have it)

What you do:

Cut a length of cling film or sticky back plastic.
Put dots of paint in the middle of the clingfilm
Place another piece of cling film or sticky backed plastic over it, to sandwich the paint. Gently pat it down.
Put it onto a window and seal the edges with Sellotape.
Write on it gently with your finger. (The cling film is fragile and will split after a while).
Wipe out what you have written.
As you wipe out what is written, remember our story about forgiveness



See the wipe-clean slate in action on <https://youtu.be/udsTuUwDRgE>

Finger Puppets

You will need:

Ribbon or wool
Small pieces of fabric or paper
A small piece of foil.

What you do:

You may need help with this activity.
Cut a small rectangle of material, fold it in half and cut a small hole to make a tunic for your finger. For the king use bright rich looking colours, for the servant use dull colours.
Cut a small length of ribbon or wool.
Cut a rectangle of foil and fold it over to make a strong strip. Place it round your finger to get the right size to form a crown for your finger and then Sellotape it in place.
Cut triangles out of the foil to create a crown.
Draw a happy face and a sad face on the index finger of each hand. Dress your puppets, with the tunic tied in the middle. Place the crown on the king.
Now you are ready to tell the story.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

Try to spend a whole day or even a whole week being more patient with other people – this can be a real challenge, especially in families and especially during lockdown when you're spending a lot of time together, but it can really make a difference.

Outside:

When you're feeling angry or irritated with someone, go outside and dig a hole. It might be in sand or soil, or if you've nowhere like that, just get some compost and press it down into a plantpot and push your fingers deep into it. Talk to God about what's on your mind and ask for help to be patient and forgive. Fill the hole in, knowing that the loosened soil will help good things grow. You could even plant something!

For Others:

Sometimes it can be fun to pay someone's debts, even before they owe them. Maybe you could put a tin of food in a collecting box for the foodbank. Maybe you could do a chore for someone else. The fun part is to do it without anyone seeing.



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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 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.



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