

## 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.*

*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!***



*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:

God's Got It  
Acts 27 verses 27 - 44



## 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.

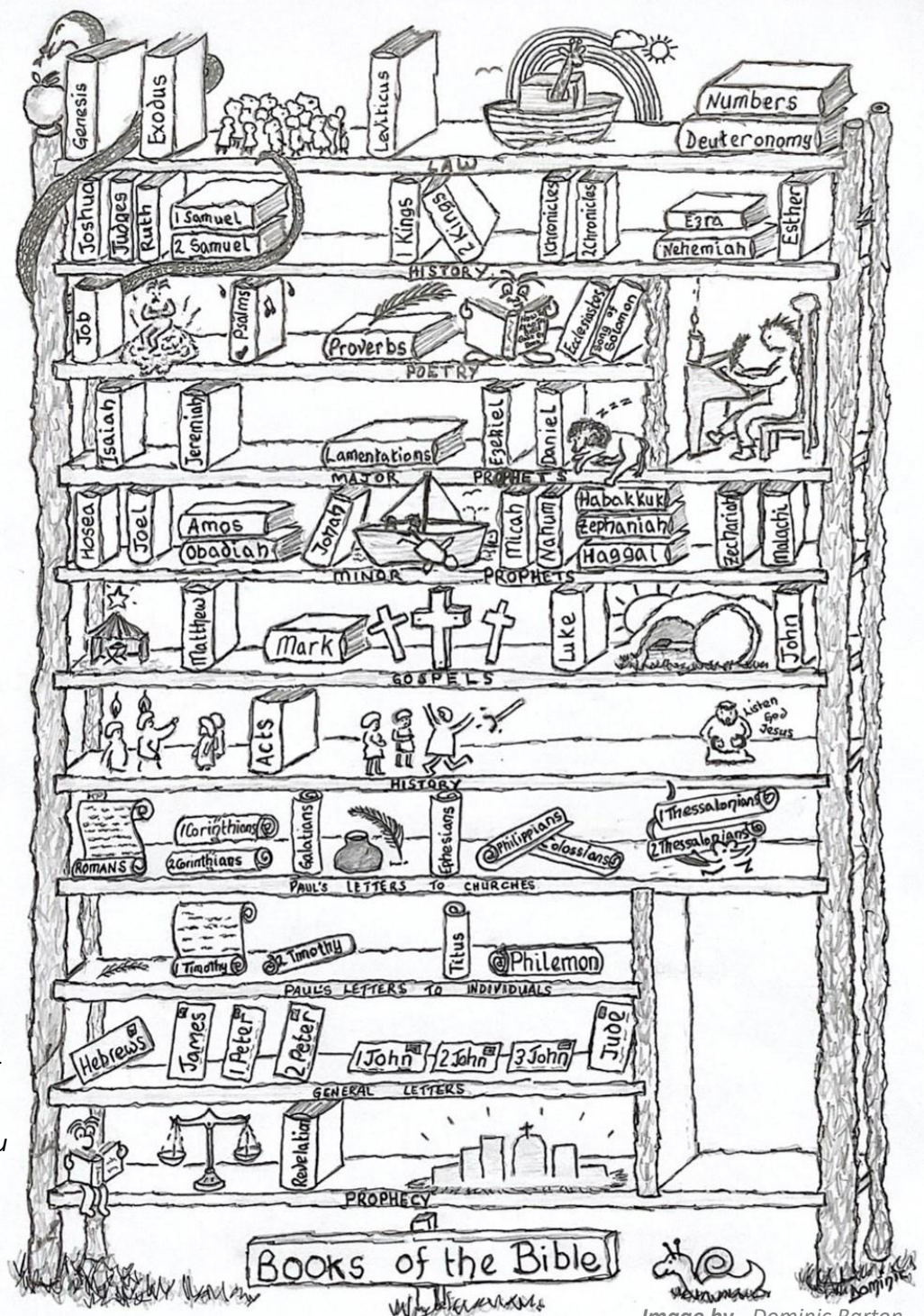
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 12 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.

Paul was imprisoned for doing so and now finds himself on board a ship as a prisoner being taken to Rome. God tells Paul that the ship will be wrecked but everyone will survive, Paul tells the others on the ship and it happens as God had said.

### **Online versions of the story**

#### **Watch and Listen**

Animation by NCMC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efCIWDb-t1k>

Narrated animation by Gracelink [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_m1-3tSCyw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_m1-3tSCyw)

Told by children with Lego <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubuUxUUuKuw>

Full cartoon by Superbook <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3xqGe3fVuM>

Drawing animation by Cartoonworks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-tcqlE2N28>

#### **Dance and Sing**

Be bold, be strong by VBS Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRvCUz6KFB4>

He's got the whole world by Lifetree Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T1CLIMjiTw>

My Anchor by Christy Nockels [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NG\\_D19wru0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NG_D19wru0)

Anchor by Skillet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TzB4FaPODc>

God has a plan by make some noise kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-XEtFzaYa4>

**The Story – Acts 27 v 27 to 44 (The International Children’s Bible)**

*On the fourteenth night we were floating around in the Adriatic Sea. The sailors thought we were close to land. They threw a rope into the water with a weight on the end of it. They found that the water was 120 feet deep. They went a little farther and threw the rope in again. It was 90 feet deep. The sailors were afraid that we would hit the rocks, so they threw four anchors into the water. Then they prayed for daylight to come. Some of the sailors wanted to leave the ship, and they lowered the lifeboat. These sailors wanted the other men to think that they were throwing more anchors from the front of the ship. But Paul told the officer and the other soldiers, “If these men do not stay in the ship, your lives cannot be saved!” So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the water.*

*Just before dawn Paul began persuading all the people to eat something. He said, “For the past 14 days you have been waiting and watching. You have not eaten. Now I beg you to eat something. You need it to stay alive. None of you will lose even one hair off your heads.” After he said this, Paul took some bread and thanked God for it before all of them. He broke off a piece and began eating. All the men felt better. They all started eating too. (There were 276 people on the ship.) We ate all we wanted. Then we began making the ship lighter by throwing the grain into the sea.*

**The Ship Is Destroyed**

*When daylight came, the sailors saw land. They did not know what land it was, but they saw a bay with a beach. They wanted to sail the ship to the beach if they could. So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they untied the ropes that were holding the rudders. Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces.*

*The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape. But Julius, the officer, wanted to let Paul live. He did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. Instead he ordered everyone who could swim to jump into the water and swim to land. The rest used wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people made it safely to land.*

### Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

#### **Hold on – a new story to share**

*Danny was a shy person who worried a lot. Life had been very difficult for Danny who had not left their room for many months now. They simply felt safer in their small familiar room. But Danny had a good friend called Jess, who was missing Danny very much. Jess wanted to help and had a great idea.*

*On a chilly Tuesday evening Jess crept into Danny's room. She had with her a small bag, inside was a large roll of red wool, some clips, and a pair of scissors. Jess worked all night as quietly as possible, and soon the mission was complete as Jess placed the end of the thread into Danny's hand.*

*When Danny woke, they found they were holding a red thread. Looking around the room they could see that the thread also was attached to the walls, creating a path to follow. Jess was standing in the doorway waiting. 'Good morning,' she said, 'let's take this one step at a time.' Jess's idea was simple, Danny simply had to keep holding the thread and follow it.*

*Danny took a deep breath and, encouraged by Jess, took a first step, holding onto the thread. They walked around the room. All the while, holding on. Soon they found themselves at the door. The thread went out of the doorway and down the hall. Danny could feel their heart beating faster and worries were filling their mind. Over the next few weeks, Jess and Danny followed the thread, each week going a little further, till one day, Danny took a step outside their room. Eyes wide and steps wobbly, Danny followed the thread down the hallway and found themselves stood in a room of the house they hadn't been in for many many months.*

*This thread adventure continued for some time, Jess faithfully supporting her friend, Danny bravely following the thread, all round the building, in and out of every room. This was a new freedom for Danny, all the while holding onto the thread.*

*Now Jess would take the final step in her plan to help Danny. As Danny was walking around the building, Jess simply snipped the thread, either side of Danny's hand. Danny was left, holding their thread but no longer attached to the walls. What would happen next?*

*Jess hardly breathed whilst waiting to see what would happen. To her surprise and delight, Danny kept walking, only now they could come away from the wall and walk around the whole space, still holding their piece of thread.*

*Over the next few months, Danny took more and more steps and became more adventurous, all the while holding the thread.*

*The next step was for Danny to leave the house, this would be the biggest step so far, but Danny knew that they were safe and supported, holding their thread, and following their friend, Jess.*



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### **Table Top Discussions**

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

- This is a story that can remind us that God is in control. Where can you see God in this story? Where have you seen God this week?
- Can you think of stormy times in your life when you knew God was with you?
- Before the shipwreck, Paul shared bread with the crew and thanked God. He knew it was important for them to look after themselves. How do we look after ourselves during stormy times in life?
- Do you think there are any stormy times ahead for you as a family, church, or community? What can we do to remind ourselves that God has got it all in hand?
- Who do you relate to most in this story and why?

## 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 happy face and a scared face, maybe on opposite sides of a paper plate or spoon



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



A boat



Blue fabric and green fabric (sea and land)

Some string or rope



**Please supervise small children! Watch out for string or rope getting caught around fingers, wrists or neck etc.**

## **Pray Together**

### **Bread Intercessions**



*Before the shipwreck, Paul shared bread with the crew and thanked God. Here is an idea to help you pray, as a family or group together, for others.*

*You will need a slice of bread or a bread roll.*

*Pass the bread roll or slice of bread around and each person tears off a small piece. Hold it in your hand and pray for those people who are ill and ask for healing. Pray for those with broken relationships and pray for countries torn apart by war. Eat the piece of bread.*

*Pass the bread around a second time and tear off another piece. Hold the bread in your hand and pray for people who are lonely, sad or worried. Eat the piece of bread.*

*Pass the bread around a third time and tear off another piece. Say thank you to God for the food we have. Pray for people who are hungry. Pray for those who help to run food banks and feed the homeless. Pray that we will all be people who help those in need.*

*Eat the bread and say Amen together.*

### **Stormy Prayers**

*Sometimes we feel weighed down by things that worry us and challenge us. Just as in the storm, we feel that we are sinking. But God is always with us. Here are some words from Isaiah:*

***“Don’t be afraid, because I have saved you.  
I have called you by name, and you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.  
When you cross rivers, you will not drown.  
When you walk through fire, you will not be burned.  
The flames will not hurt you.  
This is because I, the Lord, am your God.***



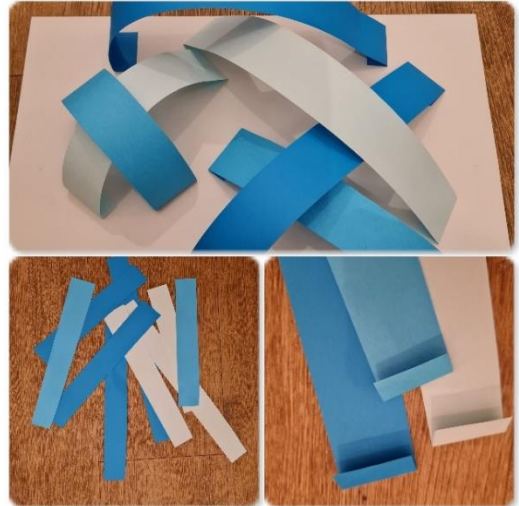
## Pray Together

### Title?



Cut some strips of blue paper in a variety of lengths. As an alternative, use white paper and colour it blue.

On each of the strips write your concerns, challenges and things that are worrying you. Turn under about 1cm at the end of each strip and stick these ends randomly on a piece of paper to create waves. Remind yourself of the words from Isaiah and ask God to be with you in the waves you have created. Hold up your picture and say a prayer



God, here are the things that are worrying me.  
Here are the things that challenge me and make me feel scared and sad.  
Help me to know that you are with us all the time, so I do not need to be afraid.

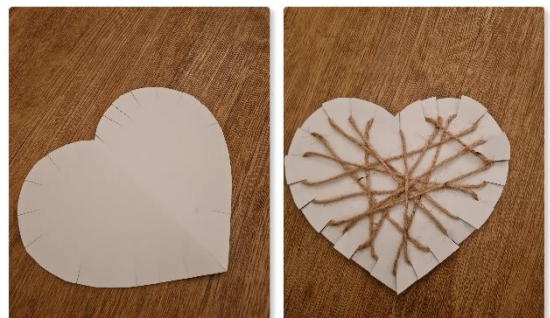
### Woven Hearts



Cut a heart from stiff card. All around the edge of the card cut some slits about 1.5 cm apart. Cut a long length of wool or string and, using the slits to hold it in place, weave the string or wool across the heart. Think about how sometimes we can feel that things are all messed up. As you weave, remember that God is always with you, no matter how mixed-up things feel.

God is the one who saves me.  
I trust him. I am not afraid.  
The Lord, gives me strength and makes me sing.

Isaiah 12:2



*I wonder if you can share about a time when you've felt really quite scared or anxious?*

*I wonder why the captain of the boat trusted Paul?*

*I wonder where Paul was going and what would happen to him after the shipwreck?*



*I wonder how easy you find it to trust other people? I wonder how easy you find it to trust God?*

*I wonder whether any parts of this story surprise you?*

**To Do Together...**

**Bread Plait**

**You will need:** A small packet of bread mix  
Water

**What you do:**

Follow the instructions to mix the bread, and then leave it to rise and knead it after it has risen.

Divide the mix into three and roll each ball of dough into long sausage shapes with your hands.

Join the three sausage shapes together at the top and carefully plait them together, joining them again at the end.

Transfer it onto a baking tray lined with baking parchment.

Leave it to rise again for 30-40 mins

Cook in an oven at 230° (210° in a fan oven) or Gas mark 8 for around 30 mins or until it is golden brown and sounds hollow when you tap the base.

Leave it to cool on a wire rack. Then enjoy! I wonder what you will put on your piece of bread – butter? jam? chocolate spread? peanut butter?

As you create your bread plait, remember the story. Think about the strong ropes on the ship that held the sails and the anchor and think too about the fact that Paul blessed food and shared it with the others on the ship to give them strength for the challenges they were going to face. We can hold onto the promise that can give us confidence – the promise that 'God has got it'.





## To Do Together...

### Junk Boats

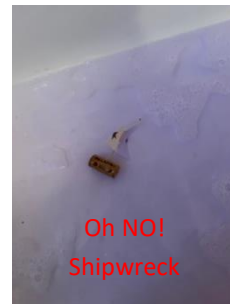


**You will need:** An assortment of junk such as old plastic or foil containers, straws, card, polystyrene blocks, pipe cleaners, paper, corks, cocktail sticks – whatever you can find.

**What you do:**

Create a boat from some things you may find in your house. Place it in the bath at bath time, in the kitchen sink or even in a paddling pool if the weather is nice. Create a storm by blowing your boats around and maybe splashing. Does it float or sink? How fast does it sail?

As you play with your boat, remember the storm Paul and the people on the boat were in and how God made sure they were safe from the shipwreck.





To Do Together...

**Thread Book Marks**

**You will need:** Wool, string, or an old shoelace  
Felt, foam, or card  
A button (optional)



**What you do:**

Make a bookmark by plaiting some threads together

or



creating a boat on the sea, and threading a button on the bottom of a piece of string to represent an anchor

or



creating a boat from foam or card and attach it to an old shoelace.

These thread bookmarks will help you to know where you are when reading a book. In our story we hear of the little boy who was reassured by a thread which helped him know where he was and that he was safe. God keeps us safe during stormy times, "God has got it".



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**Everyday Faith:**

*Paul noticed that the people on the ship had not eaten because they were scared but he knew that they would need food to keep their strength up. He gave them food, but he also prayed over it. Watch out for when people around you are in need – maybe offer some practical help like helping to look for something they've lost or making them a cup of tea when you think they might need it, maybe something more like cheering people up or keeping them company when they're lonely or sad. Remember to ask God to bless them as you do it.*

**Scrapbooking:**

*In your scrapbook, record in pictures or words a time when you felt unsure or anxious but God was in control, or maybe write a prayer or some words from the Bible that help you remember that God's got it! You could plait some wool of different colours to stick in your scrapbook.*

**Take it Further:**

*Why not find out about the Mission to Seafarers? If you can knit, you might even take time to knit a hat or some gloves which can be sent to someone who is away at sea for long periods of time.*  
<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/at-church/knitting>.



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### **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), 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.*

