

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.

Everybody Celebrate and Praise

1 Chronicles 16



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.

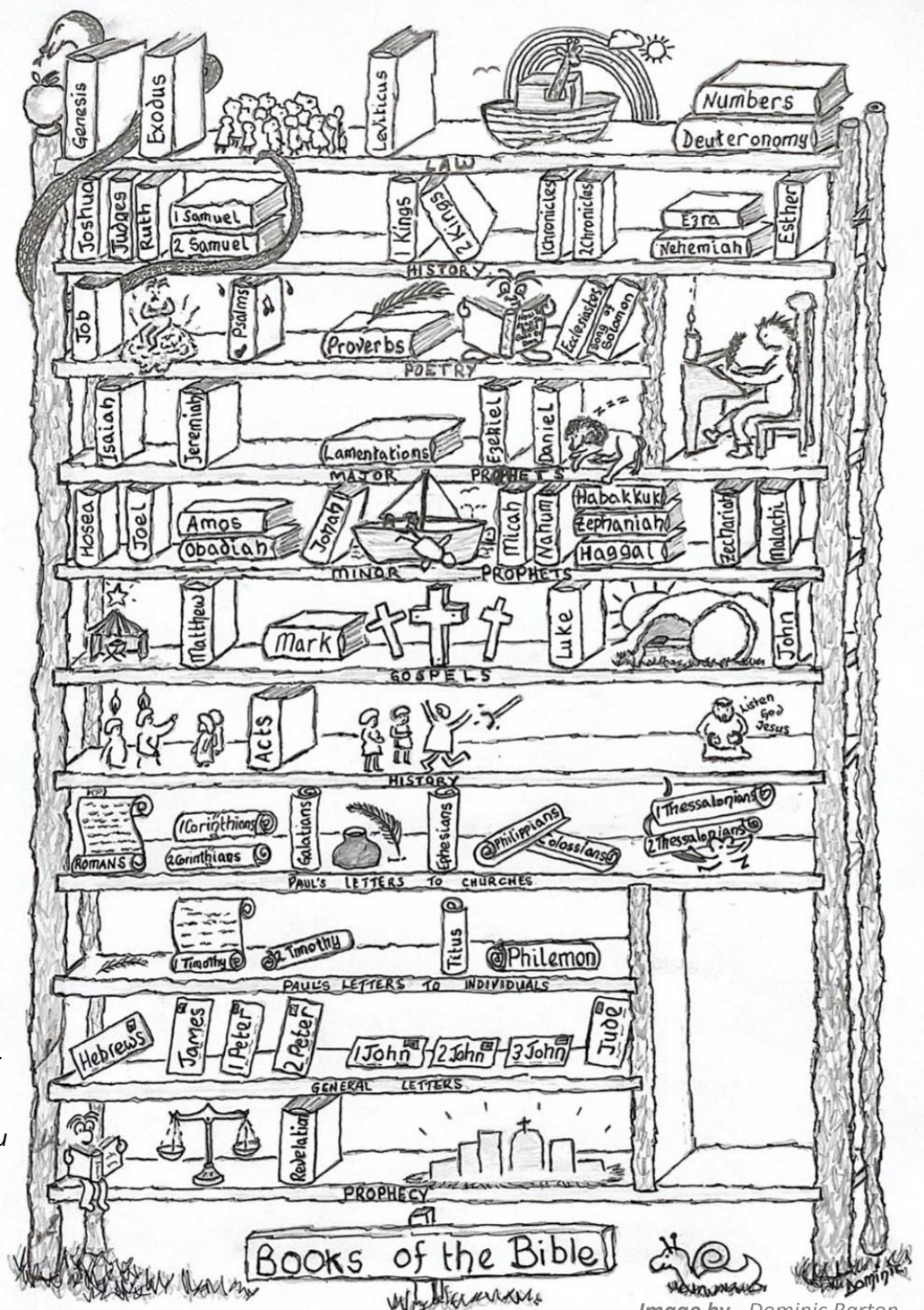
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 1 Chronicles was written around 450 BC. We can't be sure who wrote it, but it might have been Ezra. It covers a huge timespan, from 4000 to 975 BC, telling the first half of the history of Israel; from Adam through to the time of King David.

This passage is a reminder of how we should praise God all the time and celebrate all that God is.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

How can we praise God by CQ Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwUpEo9Qow4>

Praise God everyday by Pursue God Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2U3Ld-ZYpM>

What is worship by Crossroads Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJZ6iHMMF6M>

Dance and Sing

Sing Praise to Him by Seeds Family Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6LvyF8Ci9k>

Let the heavens be Glad for Toddlers by NCMC CM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-JPiDqdllc>

Praise Him by VBS Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd3pZ1aF6is>

Praise Ye the Lord by Listener Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgnw>

Every Praise by Northland church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yhgrdkrmB0>

The Story – 1 Chronicles 16, selected verses (The International Children's Bible)

They brought the Ark of the Covenant of God and put it inside the tent. This was the tent David had set up for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to God. David finished giving the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he used the Lord's name to bless the people. He gave a loaf of bread, some dates and raisins to every Israelite man and woman. Then David appointed some of the Levites to serve before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. They had the job of leading the worship. They gave thanks and praise to the Lord, the God of Israel.

Give thanks to the Lord and pray to him. Tell the nations what he has done.

Sing to him. Sing praises to him. Tell about all the wonderful things he has done.

Depend on the Lord and his strength. Always go to him for help.

Let the sea and everything in it shout. Let the fields and everything in them show their joy.

Then the trees of the forest will sing. They will sing with joy before the Lord. They will sing because the Lord is coming to judge the world.

Thank the Lord because he is good. His love continues forever.

Scriptures quoted from the International Children's Bible®,
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Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

Songs of Praise Challenge

*Why not have some fun writing your own praise songs to familiar tunes?
It could be a competition to find a new song. Don't forget to add actions.*

Here are some of our creations:

One man came to Praise (to the tune of one man went to mow)

One man came to praise, came to praise the maker

One man with his tambourine (make tambourine sound) came to praise the maker

Two men came to praise, Came to praise the maker

Two men, one man and his tambourine (make tambourine sound) came to praise the maker

And so on, adding one each time and getting faster a faster



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Let's Praise (to the tune of Them Bones, Them Bones)

We praise God for the food we eat x 3

We praise the Lord our God

Chorus

Let's praise, let's praise, let's praise the Lord x 3

Let's give to God our praise

We praise God for the sun that shines x 3

We praise the Lord our God

Chorus

Let's praise, let's praise, let's praise the Lord x 3

Let's give to God our praise

We praise God for our families x 3

Let's give to God our praise

I wonder what you would add to this song.

Table Top Discussions

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

- How do you like to praise God? How can we praise God each day?*
- Why is it important to praise God? Does God need our praise?*
- The Bible says that our whole life is worship. What do you think this means?*
- How can we encourage others to praise God?*
- The bible tells us to praise God in all circumstances. How easy is this to do?*

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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



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise

Musical instruments



Something to wave; a
flag, bunting, streamers
or a cheerleader's
pom-pom



Pray Together

Musical Prayer

Lots of the verses in our Bible reading this week refer to making music to sing God's praises. We can make music quite simply with some glasses and water, and maybe a metal spoon.



Collect together several different sizes and shapes of glasses or fill glasses with different amounts of water. Each will make a different sound when you tap the edge of the glass gently with a metal spoon. You can also wet the tip of your finger and slide it round and round the rim of a wine glass and, if you get it just right, you will make the glass vibrate and create a sound.



Now you are ready. Make different sounds with your musical glasses. When the notes are high, think about the good things in your life and praise God for them. You could say "God, I want to praise you for.....". When the notes are a bit deeper, think about how, even when times are hard, God is with you and loves you every minute of the day. You could say, "God, I praise you for being with me when....."

Pray Together



Thankfulness Tree

To make your thankfulness tree you will need-

Some twigs, small branch (look for storm damaged to recycle) or you could use a branch that is attached to a non-sharp plant in the garden. Or why not make your own tree out of recycled card?

Coloured paper to make your hearts and some wool/string. Pens



Place your twigs or branch into a pot of soil to keep it upright.

Using coloured paper, make hearts or any shape you wish.

Draw or write what you are thankful for onto your hearts and hang them on your tree. You could add more hearts during the week as you share with God all the things that you are thankful for.



Pray Together

His Love Endures Forever

One verse in our reading says “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever”. One of the psalms, Psalm 136, uses the same words and follows a pattern. Here are some verses of Psalm 136.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders,

His love endures forever.

⁵ who by his understanding made the heavens,

His love endures forever.

⁶ who spread out the earth upon the waters,

His love endures forever.

⁷ who made the great lights—

His love endures forever.

⁸ the sun to govern the day,

His love endures forever.

⁹ the moon and stars to govern the night;

His love endures forever.

Use this pattern to make your own psalm of praise, taking it in turns to think of something God has done for you or something God has created, and then everyone saying “His love endures forever” together. You could say, for example:

Give thanks to God who is always with us

His love endures for ever

Who created my new baby cousin

His love endures for ever

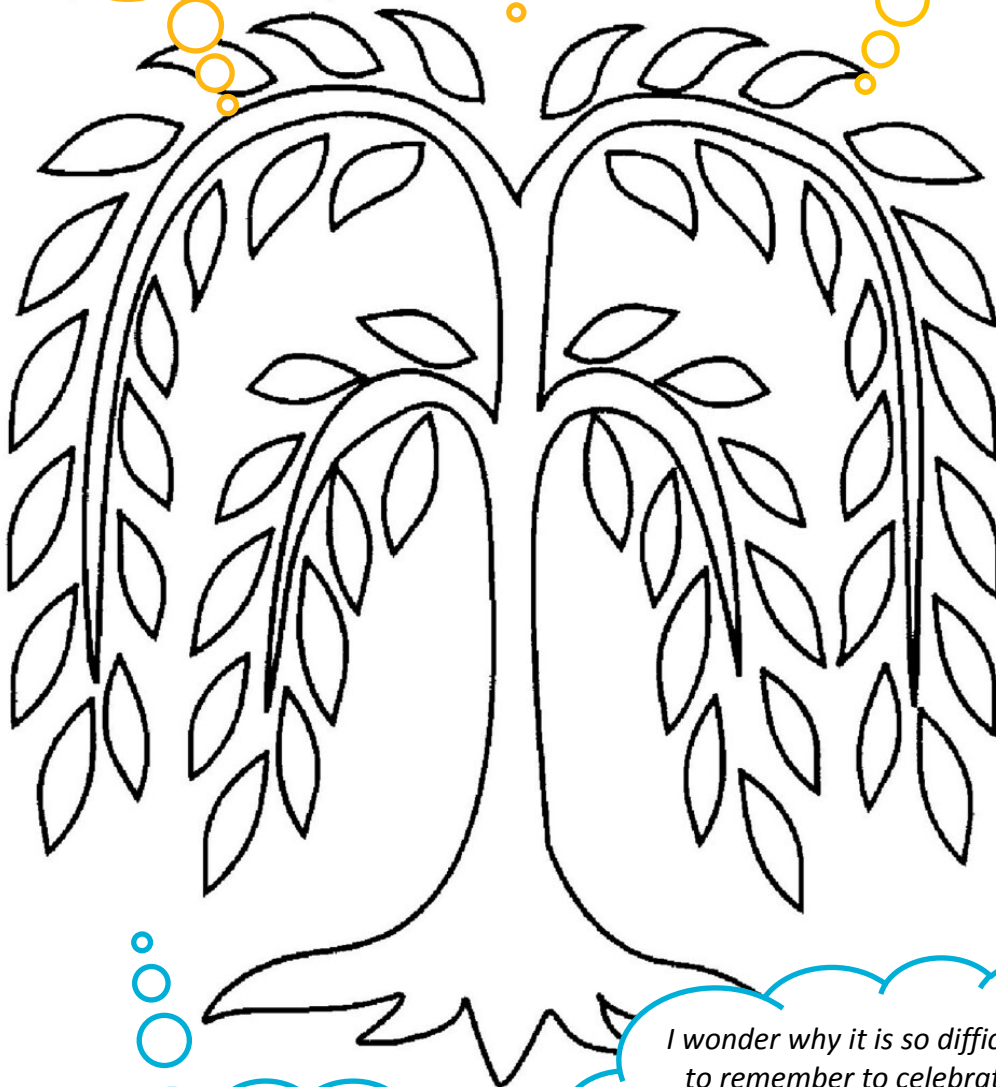
Who made spiders and caterpillars and moths and beetles

His love....

I wonder what it looks like when different parts of creation praise God?

I wonder what your favourite part of this week's reading is?

I wonder what other stories you know about King David?



I wonder what one thing you most want to celebrate and praise God for?

I wonder why it is so difficult to remember to celebrate and praise and thank God, whether things are going well or times are tough?



To Do Together...

Raisin Cakes



You will need:

- 150g margarine or butter
- 150g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 150g self-raising flour
- 75g raisins (or to taste)

(Makes 10 to 15 cakes)

What you do:

Preheat oven to 190 C / Gas 5.

Grease a muffin tin (or use silicone cases).

Cream the butter and the sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, then stir in the flour and raisins. (This might be easier to mix if you use an electric whisk.)

Divide mixture between the prepared tins.

Bake in the oven for 15 to 30 minutes, depending on your oven. Bake till browned.

David gave these yummy cakes to the Israelites. Maybe you can give them to someone else.





To Do Together...

Singing ringing tree

You will need: A branch of a tree
Some string
Some old keys

Optional: You can create some musical notes to hang on the branches too

What you do:

Tie string or thread to the keys and musical notes and tie them onto the branches of a tree, either in your garden or on a tree in a park or forest.

Alternatively: If you find a branch blown down, you could use that by sticking it in a pot of soil or a vase. You will want to hang the keys so that they are close enough to hit one another as the breeze moves them.



! don't use the house keys



As the wind blows, hear the ringing and singing of the chimes.

Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the Lord.





To Do Together...



Searchlight Play

You will need:

A dark space

A torch

Pictures or objects things which represent strength

(You could draw them if you can't find pictures)

What you do:

Place some images or objects which are strong or represent strength around a space which can be made very dark (like a room with black out blinds). Turn the lights out and, using a torch, search for the things which give us strength.



Or

Draw a stick figure image or similar on a paper bag, shine the torch on it to reveal it through the paper.



Or

When you see something that represents strength or that is strong, shine your torch onto it.



In Chronicles, we are reminded to search for the Lord and for his strength.

Torch light Play

Torch light play involves using a torch to create light and shadows in a dark space. Torch light play encourages children to use their imaginations and explore their senses. Using a torch and playing safely in dark or dimly light areas might help some children become less afraid of the dark. It also allows children to explore science concepts like reflection and cause and effect.

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

Everyday Faith:

Sometimes we get so tied up in thinking about our problems and things we need to do that we forget about praise. The passage we read this week is all about everyone praising God because God is amazing and always with us. Find a time every day this week to sing one of the praise songs or do a crazy dance of praise to show God just how happy it makes you to know you are loved.

Scrapbooking:

Here is a chance to create a page of celebration and praise. Write some praise words that say how you feel about all that God has done for you. Decorate with photographs or collage pictures from magazines etc – maybe pictures of celebrations, maybe pictures of parts of creation, maybe a mixture of the two. Perhaps you could even write out a song or psalm you have written and include that (see the section on ways to explore the story).

Take it Further:

Creation can't celebrate and praise unless we keep it safe. The Woodlands Trust is one of the biggest conservation charities in the UK. Why not read more about how to help protect and grow trees on their website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk ? They have some great ideas of ways to enjoy being around trees as a family too <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visitin-g-woods/things-to-do/children-and-families/> Looking after God's creation is called stewardship. How can you be a good steward of creation for God?



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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
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 what activities your local church starts up 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.



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