

## **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:**

Family Fallout

Genesis 37



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.

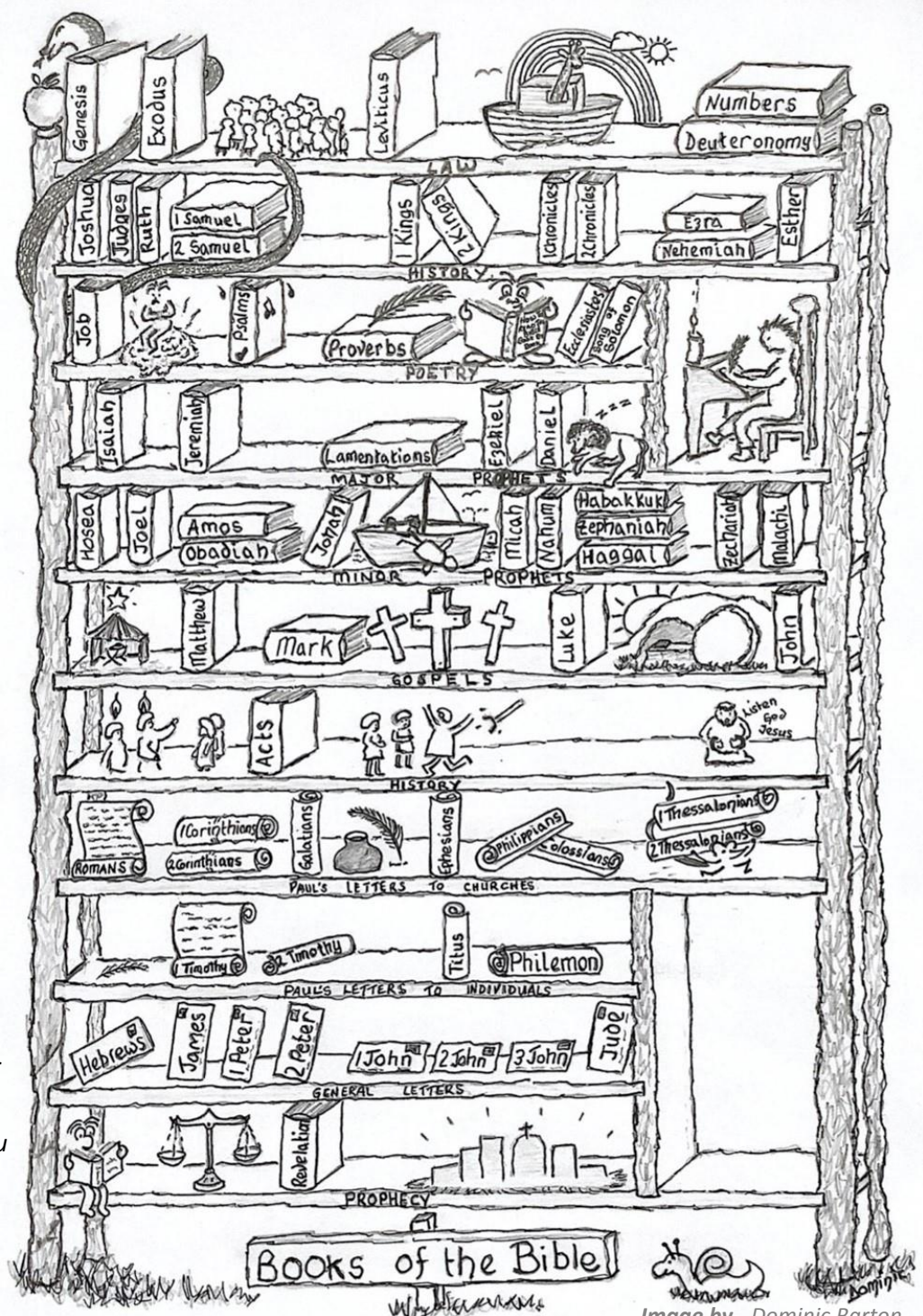
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Genesis**

The book of Genesis was written around 1430 BC; Moses is believed to be the author. It is the first book in the Bible and covers a span of 2,000 years. The book tells the stories of how the world was made and the stories of the first people. Genesis is a book of two halves. The first half (chapters 1 – 12) tells the stories of all that happened before Abraham, including creation, the flood, and the Tower of Babel. The second half (chapters 12 – 50) tells the stories of the people who would become the start of the nation of Israel, including Abraham, Jacob, and his son Joseph.

In this story we see what happens when family relationships struggle.

**Online versions of the story**

**Watch and Listen**

Animation by Kids on the move

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q64jRGLqIw>

Animation by Crossroads Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7wLTBnF84>

Retold by children at Crossroads Kids [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqI\\_uffmwSc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqI_uffmwSc)

A cartoon about Jealousy, not suitable for very young children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvJvyD4yaWc>

A short cartoon about jealousy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQGYqZUJNJI>

**Dance and Sing**

Give a little kindness by Elavatekids [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3\\_yTrybx7Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3_yTrybx7Q)

Love God, Love your neighbour by Dale Sechrest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzaYC6eyKqI>

Love one another by Yancy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkhiN2OcqBw>

Big Family of God by Nick and Becky Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rawq3usrzsE>

Joseph and his brothers from the 1990 film version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtpzoGj-1V8>

**The Story: Genesis 37 verses 2-28 (The International Children's Bible)**

Joseph was a young man, 17 years old. He and his brothers cared for the flocks. His brothers were the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph gave his father bad reports about his brothers. Joseph was born when his father Israel, also called Jacob, was old. So Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons. He made Joseph a special robe with long sleeves. Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them. So they hated their brother and could not speak to him politely.

One time Joseph had a dream. When he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. Joseph said, "Listen to the dream I had. We were in the field tying bundles of wheat together. My bundle stood up, and your bundles of wheat gathered around mine. Your bundles bowed down to mine."

His brothers said, "Do you really think you will be king over us? Do you truly think you will rule over us?" His brothers hated him even more now. They hated him because of his dreams and what he had said.

Then Joseph had another dream. He told his brothers about it also. He said, "Listen, I had another dream. I saw the sun, moon and 11 stars bowing down to me."

Joseph also told his father about this dream. But his father scolded him, saying, "What kind of dream is this? Do you really believe that your mother, your brothers and I will bow down to you?" Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. But his father thought about what all these things could mean.

One day Joseph's brothers went to Shechem to herd their father's sheep. Jacob said to Joseph, "Go to Shechem. Your brothers are there herding the sheep."

Joseph answered, "I will go." His father said, "Go and see if your brothers and the sheep are all right. Then come back and tell me." So Joseph's father sent him from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph came to Shechem, a man found him wandering in the field. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" Joseph answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are herding the sheep?"

The man said, "They have already gone. I heard them say they were going to Dothan." So Joseph went to find them.

Joseph's brothers saw him coming from far away. Before he reached them, they made a plan to kill him. They said to each other, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw his body into one of the wells. We can tell our father that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what will become of his dreams."

But Reuben heard their plan and saved Joseph. He said, "Let's not kill him. Don't spill any blood. Throw him into this well here in the desert. But don't hurt him!" Reuben planned to save Joseph later and send him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they pulled off his robe with long sleeves. Then they threw him into the well. It was empty. There was no water in it.

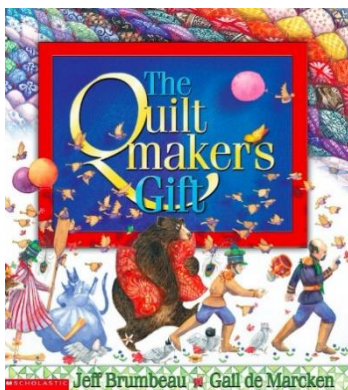
While Joseph was in the well, the brothers sat down to eat. When they looked up, they saw a group of Ishmaelites. They were traveling from Gilead to Egypt. Their camels were carrying spices, balm, and myrrh.

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and hide his death? Let's sell him to these Ishmaelites. Then we will not be guilty of killing our own brother. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." And the other brothers agreed. So when the Midianite traders came by, the brothers took Joseph out of the well. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for eight ounces of silver. And the Ishmaelites took him to Egypt.

Scriptures quoted from the International Children's Bible®,  
copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson, Used by permission.

## Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

### Modern Parables - Familiar stories to explore the theme



#### **The Quiltmakers Gift by Jeff Brumbeau**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34\\_IDq9P0Y4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34_IDq9P0Y4)

The quiltmaker spends all of her time making quilts, only to give them away. The King meets the quiltmaker in a search for the one thing that will finally make him happy. When the generous quiltmaker finally agrees to make a quilt for a greedy king, but only under certain conditions, she causes him to undergo a change of heart.

### Story exploration tool



#### A way to reflect on the story

You will need to draw a picture of a coat or piece of clothing - or you could use an actual old shirt etc. Then you could use crayons or felt tips, bits of coloured paper or fabric, and different textures e.g. pipe cleaners, material, ribbon wool, sweet wrappers, cut up recycled greetings cards or card packaging. If using an item of clothing, any material or fabric to decorate would be ideal and you could use safety pins to fasten them on.

Read the Bible passages below (look in your Bible or try the website [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) where you will need to put in the search bar Genesis 37: 2-3 for example, and select the International Children's Bible as the Bible version). You could look up one each day for six days or do them all at once.

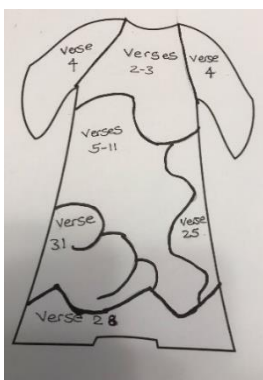
When you read the verses, decide what feelings are being experienced by the characters. What colour would you use to express those feelings? Add the colour you think of to one aspect of your coat or clothing. An example may be jealous = green, anger = red, sadness = purple, but this is your own piece of work, so you choose how you wish to reflect your feelings in colour.

#### Bible passages Genesis Chapter 37

- Verses 2-3 Joseph and his father's relationship
- Verse 4 The brothers think life is unfair
- Verses 5-11 Joseph's dreams
- Verse 25 Joseph is sold
- Verse 28 Off to a new country Joseph
- Verse 31 Jacob is told a version of events



I drew a template and chose to zone certain parts for each reading. Then I added my colour interpretation and finally I added the fun parts. I added some hidden detail and craft items- I hope you have fun too!





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

families  
on faith adventures

at home

**A new poem to share and ask "Can you guess what it is"**

*There's a monster in our world, I wonder if you have seen it?*

*You can find it in the playground you can see it on the street  
You can even sometimes see it with the people that we meet  
You can see it out with others or standing on its own  
You can find it in a work place you can see it in your home*

*Its hiding in the shadows and standing in plain view  
It fills your mind with doubts and steals your sadness too  
It wears a mask to hide its face and has eyes of emerald green  
It's telling lies and shouting words that are cruel and mean*

*It sees your biggest fears and brings them all about  
It snips the ties between us and fills your mind with doubt  
Its veins are filled with poison and it fires it straight at you  
It hurts the people around it and will maybe hurt you too*

*It curls its tentacles around the things that others own  
It takes away your friends and leaves you all alone  
No one ever really sees it but you know when it is there  
Its soaking up your happiness and telling you no one cares*

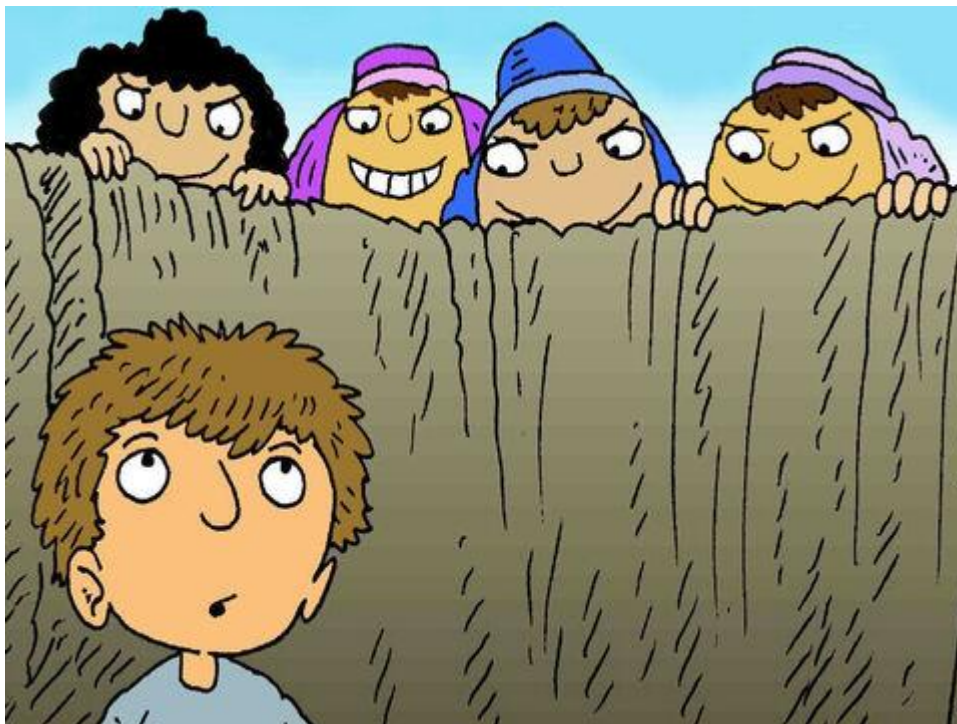
*There's a monster in our world, I wonder if you have seen it?*

*(The answer is Jealousy)*

### **Table Top Discussions**

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

- *I wonder why Joseph was Jacob's favourite? Do you think all families have favourites? What is it like for all those involved? Is it always a negative thing?*
- *Joseph was different from his brothers. Perhaps he was meant to be, perhaps he was never meant to fit in. What are your thoughts I wonder?*
- *Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, but Reuben spoke up. I wonder why he did this. Can you think of times when you have stood up for someone who nobody else wanted around?*
- *In this story we see the impact of jealousy on relationships. What else damages a relationship?*
- *The story tells us that Jacob gave his son a special robe. We are told it had long sleeves but no mention of multi-colours, unlike in the musical version. What do you think was special about his robe? What outfit has made you feel special?*
- *Can a broken relationship be mended? How?*





## 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 sad face, maybe on opposite sides of a plate or spoon



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



Something fancy or special to wear

Toys representing a family



A mixture of different textures and colours to explore – fabric, paper, card, foil, sandpaper etc

## Pray Together

### Letting Go – Paint Splat Prayers

Life can be messy, and it certainly was for Joseph and his family. Joseph was full of pride for his splendid coat and the dream he had and he showed off to his brothers. The brothers were jealous and angry. Rather than letting go of the hurt, they allowed it to build up and they hurt each other in what they did and spoke. Sometimes we need to be able to let go of things that are hurting us and hurting others. This prayer activity helps us to think about letting go of things and keeping our hearts focussed on God.

**You will need:** A large sheet of paper  
Something to cover the floor or table (this can be messy!)  
Paint in different colours  
Paintbrush



Making sure that you have the floor or table well covered, place the sheet of paper in the centre. Then take it in turns to dip your paint brush in the paint and, thinking of the things you need or want to let go of, flick the paint on to the paper. Using different colours, you can create your own bright coloured prayer picture.



### A prayer

Dear God 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 the need for power,

let go of greed,

let go of anger,

let go of jealousy,

let go of lying,

let go of hatred,

let go of selfishness,

let go of pride,

let go of gossip.

Dear God, as we let go of those things that keep us away, help us to bring our hearts closer to you,

Amen

## Pray Together

### Looking with Different Eyes

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. We sometimes call jealousy the green-eyed monster. They got angry with Joseph when he told them about his dream. We sometimes say 'seeing red' with anger. Different colours can help us think about our different moods and how we see things.

**You will need:** A kitchen roll or toilet roll tube  
Some coloured cellophane sweet wrappers or a plastic bag coloured with permanent marker cut into circles.  
An elastic band



Think about how different colours make you feel and make some coloured circles on an old plastic bag or use sweet wrappers. Take each of the different colours in turn and, using the elastic band, fasten them to the end of the card tube. Look through the tube and use the different colours to help you think about your different feelings. For example, the green on the end of the tube might help you to think about things that make you jealous. When you have had time to think with the different colours, put a colour on the tube that makes you feel happy and look through the tube again. Ask God to help you see things differently and to change your jealous and angry thoughts to happy ones.

Dear God  
Please help me to see things through your eyes.  
Amen



## Pray Together

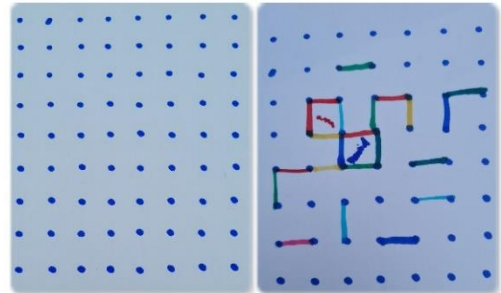
### Box Prayers

**You will need:** A piece of paper, pens or pencils (each person has a different colour)



Draw some dots in lines and columns on the paper.

Take it in turns to draw a line between two of the dots. As you join up the boxes, whoever draws the line that closes the box can write or draw their prayer inside the box.



Here are some ideas

- someone you feel angry with...
- something you want to change...
- someone who has hurt you...
- someone you want God to bless...
- something you would like to ask God for...
- something to say sorry for...

*I wonder what made Joseph different from the rest of the family?*

*I wonder whether all the brothers felt the same way about Joseph?*

*I wonder whether all families fall out sometimes?*



*I wonder what will happen next for each member of the family?*

*I wonder whether you think Joseph was to blame at all for how his brothers felt?*



## To Do Together...

### **Voice Changer**

**You will need:** Cardboard tube  
Backing parchment  
Elastic band



**What you do:**

*Cut out a circle of baking parchment which is bigger than the diameter of the tube and secure it to the tube using an elastic band. Decorate it if you wish.*

*Put the tube to your mouth without creating a tight seal. Speak into it, making different noises and loud and quiet sounds.*



*The wax paper vibrates and distorts the sounds you make.*

*Joseph's brothers were jealous and jealousy can distort the way you view other people, their actions and the things they say.*





To Do Together...

### Bejazzling and Camouflaging

**You will need:** An object or item of clothing  
Some double-sided Sellotape or fabric glue  
Some sequins or fabric in colours in a variety of colours

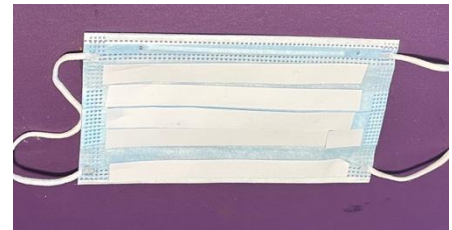
**What you do:**

Choose what you are going to bejazzle or camouflage and select the colours you need.

For bejazzling, decorate it with lots of sparkly sequins, or sew on buttons so that you stand out from the crowd.

For a camouflage effect, put bits of fabric or tissue paper on which match what you are wearing or your skin tone, or colour it like the background so that it does not stand out from the crowd.

Joseph stood out from his brothers which made them jealous. Some people like to stand out in a crowd. Others prefer to remain camouflaged and unnoticed. Everyone is different. I wonder which type of person you are - or maybe the answer depends on the situation and who you are with. Should you need to hide away who you really are, just so that you fit in?





## To Do Together...

### Creating and making

**You will need:** Some felt shapes and a large rectangle of felt  
You could use fuzzy felts if you have some



**What you do:**

Create something out of the ordinary. Take some shapes and place them on the felt; it could be some clothing shapes or something else you want the change to make different.

Using the smaller shapes, decorate it and maybe change it around. Once you are finished you can change it again.

Joseph stood out because of the clothing he wore, which was given to him by his father. It was a special, very snazzy cloak that wouldn't have been suitable for working in the fields or with the animals so it made him look different. Have fun playing with the felt shapes and see just how snazzy you can make it.



If you don't have any felt, you could always do something similar with shapes of coloured paper cut out of a magazine, but you might need to glue those in place if you want them to stay on.





# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

## **Everyday Faith:**

*We experience all sorts of feelings in our relationships with others – although hopefully you don't go as far as dropping someone in a well or selling them off to Egypt! Sometimes we need God to help us to deal with difficult situations in our family or friendships. This week, talk to God each day and ask for help to find the best way to make relationships stronger. It may mean saying sorry or forgiving someone for something, it may mean trying to be content with what you have instead of being jealous of someone else, it may mean seeking someone out and deliberately doing something fun together to get to know each other better.*

## **Scrapbooking:**

*If you did the Bible reflection with the coloured coat, that would be a good thing to put in your scrapbook. Maybe you could make something similar to reflect your week too – how are YOU feeling each day? Thank God for the reasons you feel good and ask God to help you with the cause of the more negative feelings as you decorate your "fabulous coat".*

## **Take it Further:**

*Joseph was different, he stood out from his brothers not only because his dad treated him differently, but also because he was a different character from the rest. But he was exactly who he was meant to be – and it proved it as you read on in his story. Think about the people you know who are different to most people. (It might even be you!) How can you make it easier for them to be themselves in a group instead of expecting them to change? How can you get to know them better? What skills, talents, characteristics has God given them that you can learn from?*



**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), 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.*

