

## **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:**

Together Again  
Genesis 45 v 1-15



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.

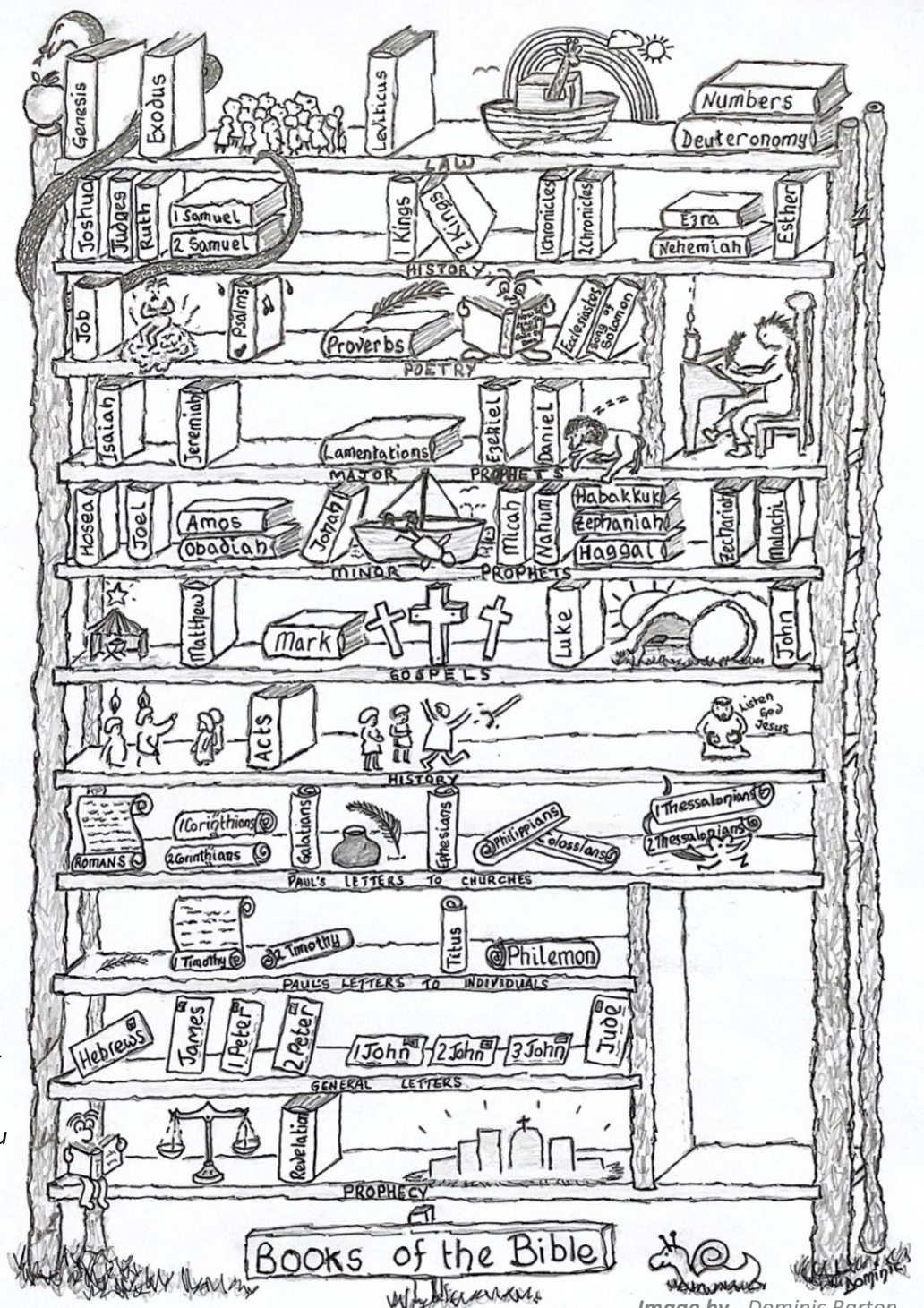
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 can happen when families love and forgive each other, and to wonder about how our forgiveness might be different to God's.

**Online versions of the story**

**Watch and Listen**

Animation by Kids on the move <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZDqDaN58s0>

Two brothers learn about forgiveness by Lifetree Kids

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-Y\\_Vk2u0Zw&list=RDLVzTJKFMppgQU&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-Y_Vk2u0Zw&list=RDLVzTJKFMppgQU&index=7)

Kintsugi bowls explained cartoon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHMnC-VkqZc&t=87s>

Joseph cartoon by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndETu4bzwAY>

**Dance and Sing**

Forgive one another by We are United [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZ\\_wCZ1qPN4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZ_wCZ1qPN4)

You forgive me by Lifetree Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO-2fm7IKcU>

We are family by Kidspring Childrens Ministry

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

Big Family of God by Nick and Becky Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs>

Josephs brothers return in the film with Donny Osmond

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfcqWIES8n8>

**The Story: Genesis 45 verses 1-15 (The International Children's Bible)**

Joseph could not control himself in front of his servants any longer. He cried out, "Have everyone leave me." When only the brothers were left with Joseph, he told them who he was. Joseph cried so loudly that the Egyptians heard him. And the people in the king's palace heard about it. He said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But the brothers could not answer him, because they were very afraid of him.

So Joseph said to them, "Come close to me." So the brothers came close to him. And he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph. You sold me as a slave to go to Egypt. Now don't be worried. Don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. No food has grown on the land for two years now. And there will be five more years without planting or harvest. So God sent me here ahead of you. This was to make sure you have some descendants left on earth. And it was to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt. I am in charge of his palace. I am the master of all the land of Egypt.

"So leave quickly and go to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all Egypt. Come down to me quickly. Live in the land of Goshen. You will be near me. Also your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, and herds and all that you have will be near me. I will care for you during the next five years of hunger. In this way, you and your family and all that you have will not starve.'

"Now you can see for yourselves. The one speaking to you is really Joseph. And my brother Benjamin can see this. So tell my father about how powerful I have become in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen. Now hurry and bring him back to me." Then Joseph hugged his brother Benjamin and cried. And Benjamin cried also. Then Joseph kissed all his brothers. He cried as he hugged them.

## Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

### **The story so far**

*We have met Joseph who lived with his large family, including 11 brothers.*

*Joseph is different from his brothers. He has dreams, he has a special coat. His brothers are jealous.*

*The brothers throw Joseph into a well, but then seize an opportunity and sell him to some Egyptian slave traders. They tell their father that Joseph has been killed.*

### **So what next?**

*The story from this point is full of exciting twists and turns. It is worth exploring the story fully together; there are many parts of the story that are often overlooked.*

*Here is a synopsis:*

*Joseph is taken to Egypt where he becomes a servant in Pharaoh's house. He gets into trouble and is thrown into prison.*

*He meets two other servants and interprets their dreams.*

*He is called to interpret Pharaoh's dream.*

*He is given the job of being Pharaoh's second in command and puts a plan in place to save Egypt from the drought and famine.*

*Joseph becomes a dad.*

*Meanwhile the brothers are starving and decide to go to Egypt to ask for help.*

*Joseph recognises them and accuses them of being spies, puts the brothers in prison for three days.*

*Joseph sends the brothers back to bring the youngest brother to Egypt while he keeps Simeon as a hostage in prison.*

*Joseph fills each of their bags with grain and silver. They return to their father who won't let them take their youngest brother.*

*Once the grain runs out, Jacob does send them back, with Benjamin and double the silver.*

*Joseph prepares a meal for them and eats with them and returns Simeon to the group.*

*Joseph hides his cup in Benjamin's sack and send them on their way home.*

*Joseph sends his servants after them and accuses Benjamin of stealing.*

*The brothers plead on their brother's behalf.*

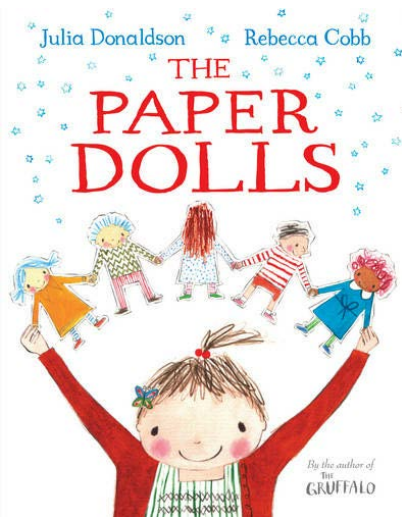
*Joseph revels himself and forgives his brothers.*

*The family is restored as Jacob comes to Egypt.*

### **Play with the Story.**

Have a go at recapping or capturing the story; perhaps you might do a photo challenge with freeze frames of the key parts of the story, or you could draw cartoon storyboards, or make it as Lego scenes. Once you have retold the main parts of the story for yourself, you could use the images to play sequencing games, mix them up and put them in the right order again. I wonder what the story would have looked like if things had happened in a different order? Where can you see God in the story?

### **Modern Parables – Familiar stories to explore the theme**

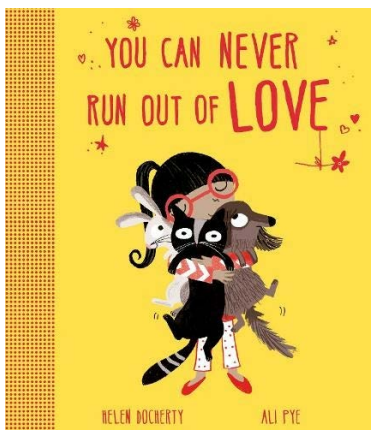


#### **Paper Dolls by Julia Donaldson**

Retold by Storyvision Studios

A story about a family of paper dolls who have lots of adventures, they all hold hands and they won't let go of each other

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbBQ4lqXT8I>



#### **You Can Never Run Out of Love by Helen Docherty**

A story for under 5's retold by Nicola Grieves

There are different kinds of love, and no matter how much you give it away, you never run out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71CKY6boK8c>



#### **The Invisible String by Patrice Karst**

A story about how an invisible string connects people who love each other, even when they are far from each other

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rZNTff35Aw>



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*Other FOFA episodes related to this theme*

*70 x 7 session about forgiveness <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1638/09/Families on Faith Adventures - Week 9 - 70 x 7 Forgiveness.pdf>*

### **Table Top Discussions**

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

- In this story we see how love and forgiveness were bringing people closer together again. What are the things that bring you close to others?*
- Which part of the story did you find surprising? Which part did you connect with the most and why?*
- When two things have been separated and are then re-joined, it is mended but it is never how it originally was, it is different. How do you think the relationship was with Joseph and his brothers and Dad after they were reunited? How might it have been different?*
- What enabled Joseph to forgive his brothers? Can someone truly totally forgive?*
- The Bible tells us that when God forgives, the slate is wiped clean. The issues are removed as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103 v 12) What difference does this make to how we live our lives and how we treat others?*

## 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



Toys representing a family



A crown

A cup or beaker (unbreakable)



Something to eat



A bag



A pillow for the dreams

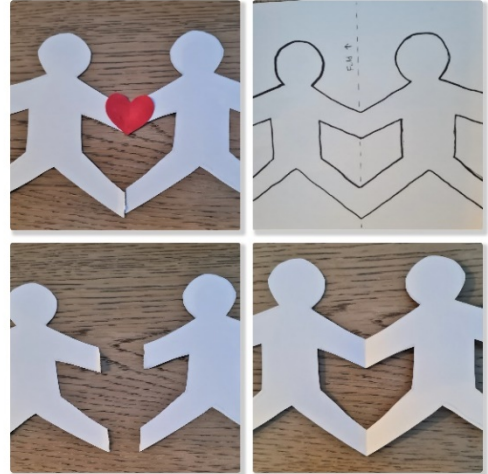


## Pray Together

### Love Heals



Cut out two concertina people by folding the paper in half and joining the figures by the arms and legs at the fold. Tear the two people apart. Think about the things that separate you from others such as sadness, fear, pain, anger, confusion, jealousy. Make a small heart and use it to stick the two people back together, remembering that God loves you just the way you are and helps us to put things right and to mend the broken.



*Thank you, God, that you love us.*

*Thank you for understanding when we get things wrong.*

***Thank you, Jesus, we love you.***

*Thank you for teaching us to say sorry, and for helping us to put things right.*

***Thank you, Jesus, we love you.***

*Thank you for forgiving us, whatever mistakes we make.*

***Thank you, Jesus, we love you.***

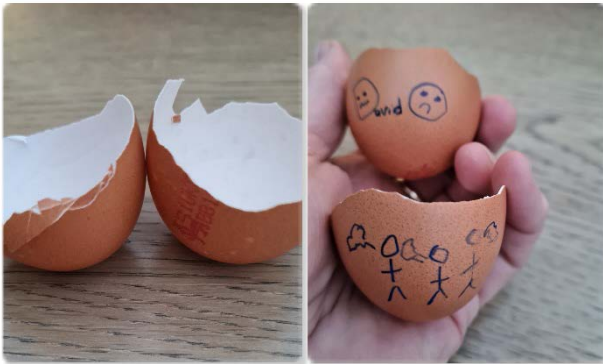
*Thank you for loving us just the way we are.*

*Amen*

*(Adapted from Roots)*

## Pray Together

### Broken Pieces



You will need an eggshell that has been cracked and then washed.

Sometimes families seem to be just hard work, like Joseph and his brothers. Big families, small families – they all have their difficult moments, harsh words said, strong actions taken. Sometimes families get broken into pieces, and that can be really difficult because people feel broken too.

Relationships can be very fragile, just like an egg. Before an egg is broken it is strong but when it is cracked the shell is very easily broken into small pieces.



Take the two halves of the egg and think about things that feel fragile in your life. Perhaps you have fallen out with a friend or you are struggling to get along with members of your family. Think about relationships where there is hurt. Carefully write the names of the people and things you are thinking about on the egg shell. Hold the pieces of shell in your hand and then hand them over to God in prayer.

A prayer to say together

Forgiving God!

You teach us to forgive and forgive  
and forgive some more!

Please help us to be ready to say sorry,  
to be ready to forgive.

Please help us all when we are broken into pieces.

Heal us and free us from the things that hurt us

And the things that hurt others

And the things that hurt our world.

Amen

## Pray Together

### Open Hands

*Joseph's brothers had been really mean to him.*

*They threw him in a well and sold him into slavery. Years later, Joseph was able to put things right. He might have found it hard to forgive but he still had love for his brothers.*

**You will need:** paper or card  
scissors  
felt tip pens or crayons  
background music (optional)



Draw around one of your hands and then cut out each outline. Find somewhere comfortable to sit and think about the times you have been forgiven. Play some music quietly in the background. Draw an emoticon on some of the fingers showing how you felt at the time.

Then think about the people who you find it hard to forgive and draw emoticons on some of the fingers showing how that makes you feel.

Draw a heart in the palm of the hand and then talk to God about your feelings.



Think about these questions

*It's hard to forgive when...*

*When I do not forgive I feel ...*

*Now sit quietly and ask God to help you forgive and to know what it is to be forgiven. Gods love for us helps us to forgive and start over again just as he did for Joseph and his brothers.*

# families on faith adventures

at home

*I wonder which is  
your favourite part  
of this story?*

*I wonder if you can  
remember a time  
when you made up  
with someone you'd  
fallen out with?*

*I wonder why Joseph  
chose to trick his  
brothers before he  
forgave them?*



*I wonder if you have a gift  
or talent that you could use  
to serve God and help  
others, like Joseph used his  
understanding of dreams?*

*I wonder if there's any  
difference between the  
way we forgive and the  
way God forgives?*



## To Do Together...



### Kintsugi Bowl

**You will need:** A piece of old crockery  
A hammer and a bag  
Strong glue  
Pen, paint or a gold pen



#### What you do:

Find a bit of crockery you don't mind being broken or buy one cheaply from the charity shop.

Break it by placing it in a paper bag (an old gift bag would be fine) and tapping it with a hammer. Ideally you want it to break in as few places as possible (*an adult will need to help with this bit*)

Carefully put it back together a bit like a jigsaw and stick the pieces in place using strong glue, like contact adhesive (*an adult will need to help with this bit*)

Once it is dry, decorate the area you mended using a felt tip or maybe paint, or if you're lucky enough to have a gold pen, colour it gold, decorating along the mend.

Alternatively, if you haven't got a piece of crockery to smash, you could cut up a paper plate, or repair something which you have which needs mending. Glue it together and decorate the mend.

Joseph and his family had a difficult time. When things challenge relationships and then are mended, they may never be quite the same again, but we can grow through them and make something beautiful from them.





To Do Together...



### Two-Sided Finger Puppet

**You will need:** Some felt or fabric  
Fabric glue  
A felt pen  
A needle and thread or wool

#### What you do:

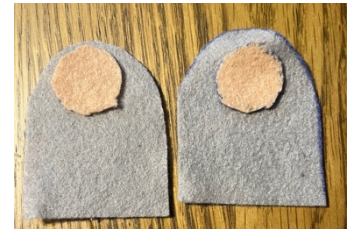
Use a piece of fabric and cut out two U shaped pieces.

Cut out two circles of felt or material to create a face on each U-shaped piece.

Make one side Joseph and the other side Jacob by creating some clothes, neutral colours for Jacob and a colourful clothing for Joseph.

Alternatively make one side happy and one side sad.

Sew the two pieces together.



Your two-sided puppet can remind you of Joseph and his family who were separated in the story and then came together again into a new relationship. Use your puppet to tell the story of their reunion, expressing their feelings as you retell it.

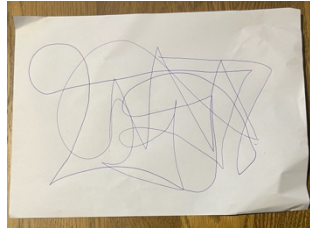




## To Do Together...

### Scribbles Game

**You will need:** A piece of paper  
A pen  
Some colouring pencils



**What you do:**

One person draws a simple scribble and then passes it to someone else in your family. They then look carefully and turn it into a picture. It can be amazing what pictures you will create. I wonder what pictures you can make?

God can make even the messiest mess into something good if we give God the chance. You could carry on doing this game all week – leave scribbles around the house for other people to pick up and complete.

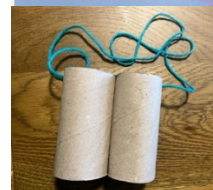
### Binoculars

**You will need:** Your telescope from last week  
or a kitchen towel tube  
Some string  
Something to decorate it with



**What you do:**

Using your telescope from last week if you made it, cut it into two pieces and stick them together with tape. If you don't have the telescope, use the tube from a kitchen towel centre and do the same. Make it into binoculars. You can add a string to hang them around your neck. Decorate them any way you want.



When we use binoculars, we see slightly different things through each eye and our brain works them out as 3D. Binoculars are used to help things appear closer to us. When you look through your binoculars, think about how seeing things from another angle can give us a better perspective on things and draw people closer together. I wonder how God sees?

# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**Everyday Faith:**

*This is the week for a family project. Find something or some things which are broken or run down around your home, something you've said "I'll look at that later" and then not got around to. Maybe you have a shabby old chair Grandma gave you which really needs a lick of paint, or maybe all your jewellery has got tangled in the box and is looking a bit jaded, or maybe you have a basket full of clothes that have buttons missing. Sit together and tackle some mending or renewing, and while you do, talk about how God makes all things new, forgives and gives a fresh start. And celebrate the love that holds you together as a family.*

**Scrapbooking:**

*Find a square of paper or card, preferably something with a bit of colour. Cut it into shapes – triangles and squares and parallelograms – and on the various pieces write the words of how you feel when things aren't going right in a relationship. Now turn the pieces over and use them to make a picture or pattern – what could those pieces re-form to make? You might each do your own or you could mingle them together. Glue the finished article onto a piece of paper for your scrapbook. The words of hurt are still there, but they've been turned around and made into something new and beautiful.*

**Take it Further:**

*Find out more about kintsugi. Then think about your own relationships and where things aren't going too well. What can you do to make a difference? Do you need to forgive or ask forgiveness? Or maybe you need to take the first step towards putting things right. Maybe you need to ask God to help you change how you act towards or think about other people a bit to help make this happen.*





The  
United  
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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.*



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