

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!**

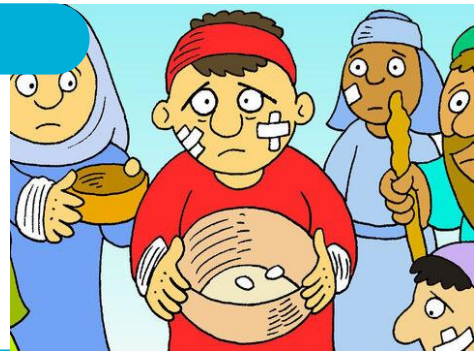


With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme.
Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

This week's Bible story is:

Attitude of Gratitude

Luke 17 verses 11-19



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.

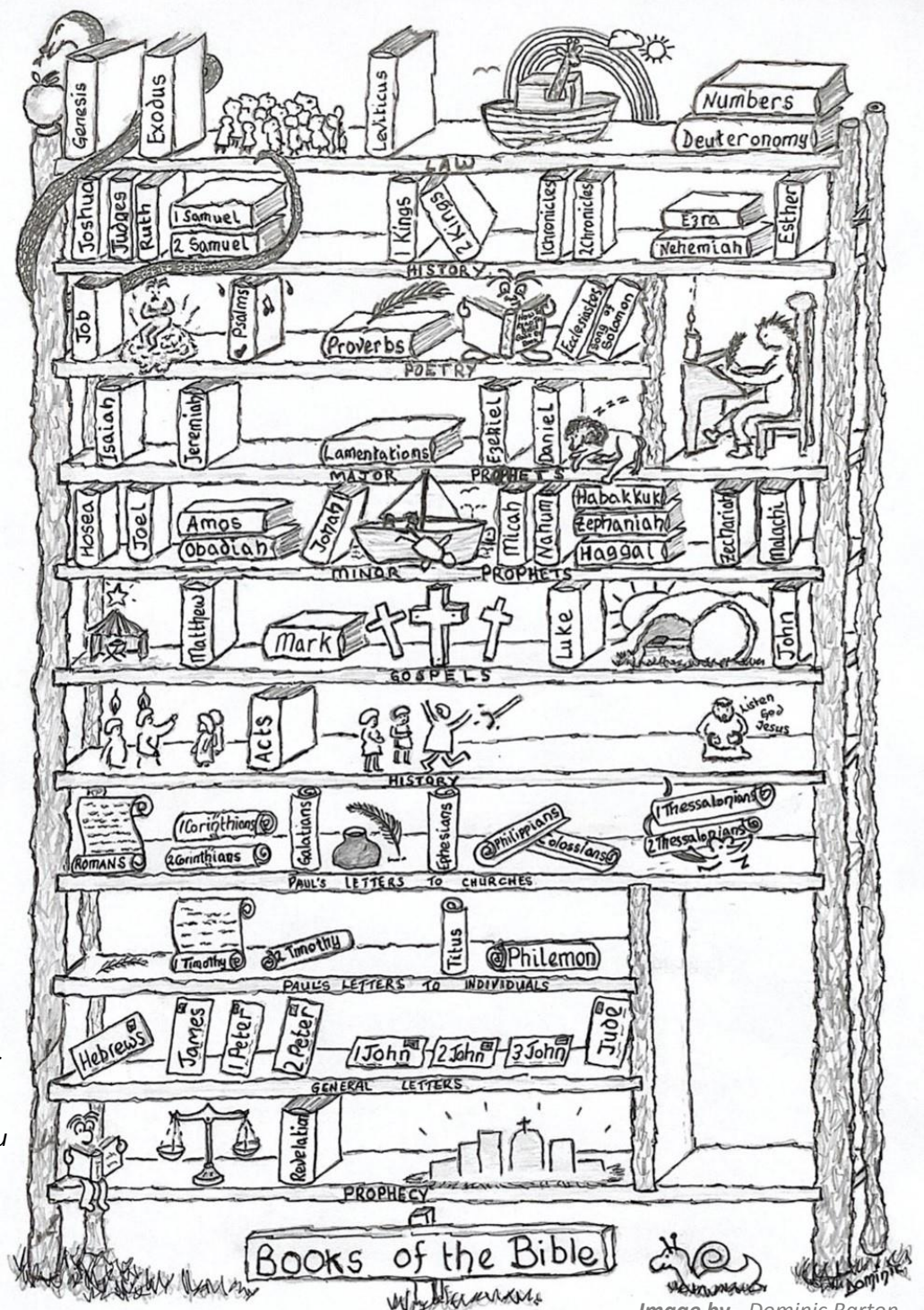
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Luke

The book of Luke was written by Luke the disciple around 60 AD. Luke was a Gentile and a doctor and he writes his book for all people. He wants to show that Jesus was God's son, who came to the world for everyone, Jew, Gentile, rich, poor, an extraordinary Saviour for the ordinary everyday people. This is why his books tell the stories of everyday people and their part in God's big story.

This story shows Jesus healing ten men who had been cast out by their society due to their illness. I wonder how thankful they will all be.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

Animation by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzZUDRrKqI8>

A read along version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTIViRaTwDY>

Fabulous retelling by children using Lego by PowersurgeKids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVBZH8oRp0>

Animation by Lifeway Bible Project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk5jYCBjNTg>

Animation by Care Bear Bible Stories for kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM99M-OlkaM>

Dance and Sing

Thankful by the Juicebox Jukebox <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeSdQmO51Ps>

Thank you by Toddler Praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGRjvfjinJQ>

Thankful by DCCDiscipleland https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Erok8_xBw

Thankyou by The Katinas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvP6WX5VpjY>

God is Good by Nick and Becky Drake <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HLcNep22EU>

The Story: Luke 17 verses 11-19 (The International Children's Bible)

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. Traveling from Galilee to Samaria, he came into a small town. Ten men met him there. These men did not come close to Jesus, because they all had a harmful skin disease. But they called to him, "Jesus! Master! Please help us!"

When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

While the ten men were going, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (This man was a Samaritan.) Jesus asked, "Ten men were healed, where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."

Scripture quotations are taken from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

A new story to share together – 'The Big Thank You'

William was a very kind person; no superpowers or magic skills, just an ordinary person and very, very kind. People knew that if they needed anything, William would always help if he could.

Stacey had forgotten her pencil case at school and William let her borrow his spare pens. He even said she could keep the one that she really liked.

William's next-door neighbour was struggling to pull the wheelie bin out to the front of the house. William saw this from his bedroom window and ran down the stairs and helped her by shifting the bin.

William is always very helpful at home too. He has a younger sister who loves him very much and William always makes time for her, especially at bedtime when he reads her a bedtime story, sometimes three.

When he was visiting his friend's house, he offered to help their parent who was busy up a ladder cleaning the top cupboards. William held the ladder still and even carried the heavy items down.

William has a few friends at school who sometimes find things difficult and William is always there ready with a hug or encouraging word or a late night phone conversation about the issues of the next day. His teachers know that he is always willing to help out with cake sales and after school clubs and he is very good at showing new parents and visitors round the school.

William also likes to make his friends' birthdays special. He often takes time to make them a gift that has special meaning to them, hand-writing a collection of little positive messages for each person.

William is very, very kind. He doesn't do any of these things for the thanks or praise; there are many things William does that no one knows about. BUT, just recently, William has been feeling a little low. He has been continuing to be his usual cheery, helpful self, but he is also struggling a little himself too. He has some big exams at school, some big decisions to make. He is moving away soon to a new house in a new town and he has had some difficult things to cope with. He is feeling a little tired, a little unappreciated and a little like he needs someone to be kind to him for a change.

William was walking home from school a little slower than usual, he was feeling a little sad today.

So, imagine his confusion when he came round the corner to his house to see a commotion outside. There seemed to be many people all crowding round and pushing and shoving each other. William wondered what was wrong. His heart raced as he ran to take a closer look, wondering whether someone might need some help.

To William's surprise he knew every single person in the large group. And when they saw him coming, they suddenly all turned round and cheered. There was a big banner that read THANKS! and there were balloons and even someone holding a cake. "What's all this about?" William asked, feeling his face cheeks turning a little red. William's mum explained that all his friends had noticed that William was having a tricky time and that, even though he had his own worries, he was still being as helpful as ever. They had realised that they don't always remember to say thank you to William and decided now would be a good time to do just that. This was William's BIG THANK YOU.

One by one, William's friends and family stepped forward and told what they were thankful about for William. They gave him little gifts (all his favourites like chocolates and homemade biscuits), they shouted thank you and some gave him a hug too.

William couldn't help but smile. He felt very loved and appreciated, and the group enjoyed sharing the cake together, just as William insisted.

Soon they went home, one by one, after saying a last thank you to William. William was left outside his house, surrounded by left over cake and gift wrapping. William's mum began the tidying up, helped by William, of course.

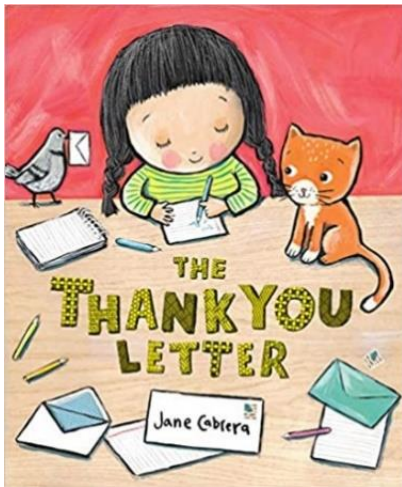
That night, William lay in his bed and remembered the things that had been said to him. It made him happy to have been thanked and made him appreciate all those who had taken the time to give him a BIG THANK YOU.

He closed his eyes and drifted off to sleep... whilst planning what he would write in his thank you letters in the morning.

A week of BIG THANK YOUs

This week, see if you can really make a big thing of saying thank you. Use every opportunity you can to thank people around you. I wonder who you will thank? I wonder the impact it will have on them and you? It doesn't have to be a huge thank you, you can just say thank you, but you might enjoy seeing how big you can make your thanks.

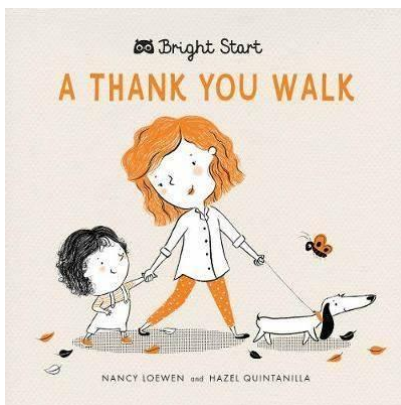
Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme



The Thank You Letter by Jane Cabrera, read aloud by a child

It is Grace's birthday and she writes her thank you letters for the presents. Grace decides to keep writing letters of thanks to everyone and everything. She sees that her thanks mean a lot and she gets a lovely surprise in return.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mu_jX7Yp6bo



A Thank You Walk by Nancy Loewen and Hazel Quintanilla, read by a child

A girl goes on walk with her mum. They explore all of creation saying thank you, including the dog who says thank you by wagging his tail.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMcqt11CJEU>



**families
on faith adventures**

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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:

- *The one man was thankful and so returned to tell Jesus. It's no use feeling thankful and keeping it to yourself. Is there anyone who you should have thanked, but haven't yet? It's not too late. How could you thank them this week?*
- *Verse 14 in the story tells us that the lepers were healed as they walked to see the priests. They were healed as they went. Share your stories together of times you have seen God move in your situations and discuss them together.*
- *Why do you think the other nine didn't return to say thank you? What can we learn from this?*
- *Jesus asked where the other nine were. Was it important to him that they said thank you? Or perhaps he wondered whether the others had been healed or not? What do you think?*
- *Do you find it easy being thanked? Some people are uncomfortable saying thank you or being the one who is being thanked. How does it make you feel? Do you prefer thanking or being thanked?*

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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.



Some bandages or
plasters or a toy
doctor's kit



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



A happy face and a sad
face, maybe on
opposite sides of a
paper plate or spoon

Several small toys – you could
wrap these in bandages or tissue
paper to represent the people
with leprosy

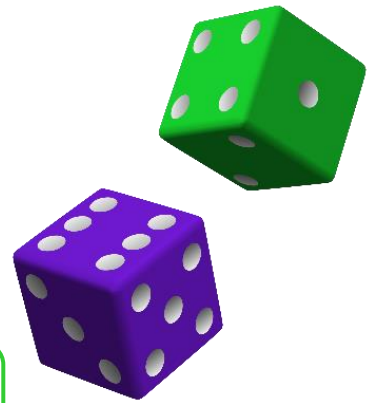


Pray Together

Dice Prayer

Create a list of six different things that you want to say thank you to God for. Here is a list to get you started but you could make a list of anything that you want to thank God for.

- 1 – Family
- 2 - People who help us and keep us safe
- 3 - Food
- 4 - Creation
- 5 - Senses (things we can taste, hear, see, smell and touch)
- 6 - That we can talk to you and you love us



Take it in turns to throw the dice – look at the number that comes up and then look at your list. Say your prayer of thanks for whatever that number represents. If you run out of things you'd like to say, one person could throw the dice and then spend time with God quietly thinking.



Alternative

Cover the dice with a different colour on each face. Take it in turns to throw the dice and say 'Thank you, God, for...' something in whichever colour comes up. For example: red apples, blue sky, green grass, yellow sunshine etc.

An Action Prayer Song

To the tune of 'if you're happy and you know it'

If you're thankful and you know it say a prayer (hands together in prayer) x2
If you're thankful and you know it then you really ought to show it,
If you're thankful and you know it say a prayer.

Here is a second verse, you could add further verses of your own.

If you're thankful and you know it shout we are (punch the air and shout we are) x2
If you're thankful and you know it then you really ought to show it,
If you're thankful and you know it shout we are.

Pray Together



Initial Prayers

You will need:

A baking tray or garden tray

A sieve

Spoons

Flour

Paper and scissors



Cut out of the paper the initial of people you would like to pray for. Perhaps someone you know is poorly or sad or worried. Just as the lepers went to see Jesus to ask for help, we can talk to God and ask for help for the people we are thinking about.

Place the initial onto the tray and then sprinkle the flour very carefully over the letter so it is surrounded by flour. When all the letters are covered, sit quietly and think about the person you are praying for, asking God to bless them and help them. Carefully remove the paper to reveal the initial underneath. The clear space reminds us that the lepers were healed by Jesus and their spots had gone. When all the initials have been revealed, say Amen together.

'I Spy' Thank You Prayers

Sometimes it is easy to forget to say thank you for our environment, the everyday things around you. This is a prayer activity that you can do inside or outside on a prayer walk and it a great way of saying thank you to God for everyday things or people that are around you.

Look around the room or out on your walk, stop and look around. One person says I spy something beginning with the initial letter or the object or person or for very young children they could say the colour of the object. When the item has been guessed, talk about why you are thankful for that object or person. Then say together 'Thank you God for ..., amen,'

You could use a tube to look through as a prayer 'I spy' telescope.



I wonder whether the other nine people healed from leprosy felt thankful too?

I wonder why Luke chose to tell this story about Jesus?

I wonder what ways you can think of to say or show your thanks to other people?



I wonder how we can remember to say thank you to God?

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said "your faith has made you well"?



To Do Together...



Thank You

You will need:

Ways of saying thank you

English – Thank you

Spanish – Gracias

French – Merci

Italian – Grazie

German – Danke

Welsh – Diolch (DEE-ol'ch)

Chinese – Xiexie (shye-shye)

Do you know any more?

What you do

Explore different ways of saying thank you in your family/group and put together as a family/group thank you song or rap or poem.

If you have an 'Alexa', why not try telling Alexa you love her, and she will sing her thank you song.

Remind each other of your thank you song throughout the week as you say thank to each other. Sometimes we may even need to go back and say thank you when we forget, just like the person in the story this week.

What about having a specific way of saying thank you like "Thannnnk Youuuuu!" or why not sign 'thank you' to each other like this:



Flat hand starts with fingertips on chin.



Hand moves down and away from signer in a short movement.



To Do Together...



Thank You Party

You will need: Party food, or pretend food for a party
Decorations
Cards

What you do:

Have a party at home to say thank you to each other for all the good things you do for each other.

Make all of the family's favourite food, everyone remembering to say thank you for it.

Create a thank you banner and decorations.

Why not send thank you invitations to your family to come to the party. It feels great to say thank you and to be thanked, so celebrate together and enjoy being thankful.





To Do Together...

A Ring of Thanks

You will need: Coloured card
An old key ring



What you do:

Cut up the card into small rectangles.

Think about some subjects you may want to say thank you for.

Maybe leave some cards blank.

Draw, write or use stickers to symbolise what you are thankful for. Decorate then as much as you want using stickers or patterns.

Using a hole punch, make a hole in the top, left-hand corner of each card and then attach them onto an old key ring.

When you are out and about, use your cards to say thank you for the things you see and what you are doing.

In our story, we are reminded of the person who was healed and then went and said 'Thank you' to Jesus. I wonder what else he said thank you for as he went along the road?

As an alternative, you might like to make a ring of thanks for someone you know. To do this, think of things you are thankful for about that person. For example, you may be thankful that they make you laugh, or that they helped you learn to ride your bike, or simply thankful that they're your friend. Draw or write the things you're thankful for about that person onto the cards and join them with the old keyring. This would make a lovely thank-you gift for someone and would let them know just how much you appreciate them.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

Everyday Faith:

Keep a thankfulness journal. Each day, can you list ten things to thank God for? By the end of the week, you'll have as many as seventy things you want to thank God for. It can be easy to think about the things we don't have and the things that make us feel fed up. See how your mood changes when you start focusing on the good things God has given you!

Scrapbooking:

Choose one day this week for each person to focus on. Draw a self portrait or take a selfie, then surround that picture with words or pictures of all the things you're grateful for.

Take it Further:

Leprosy used to be a disease that people feared catching and people with leprosy would be avoided and ignored and thrown out of their homes and community. These days, it is a curable disease and people understand how to keep themselves safe from it without turning their backs on the people who have it. Learn some more about The Leprosy Mission on <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/get-involved/children-and-young-people/> and see some of their resources for children and young people.



The
United
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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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