

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:

Sneak a Peak
Job 38 and 39



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.

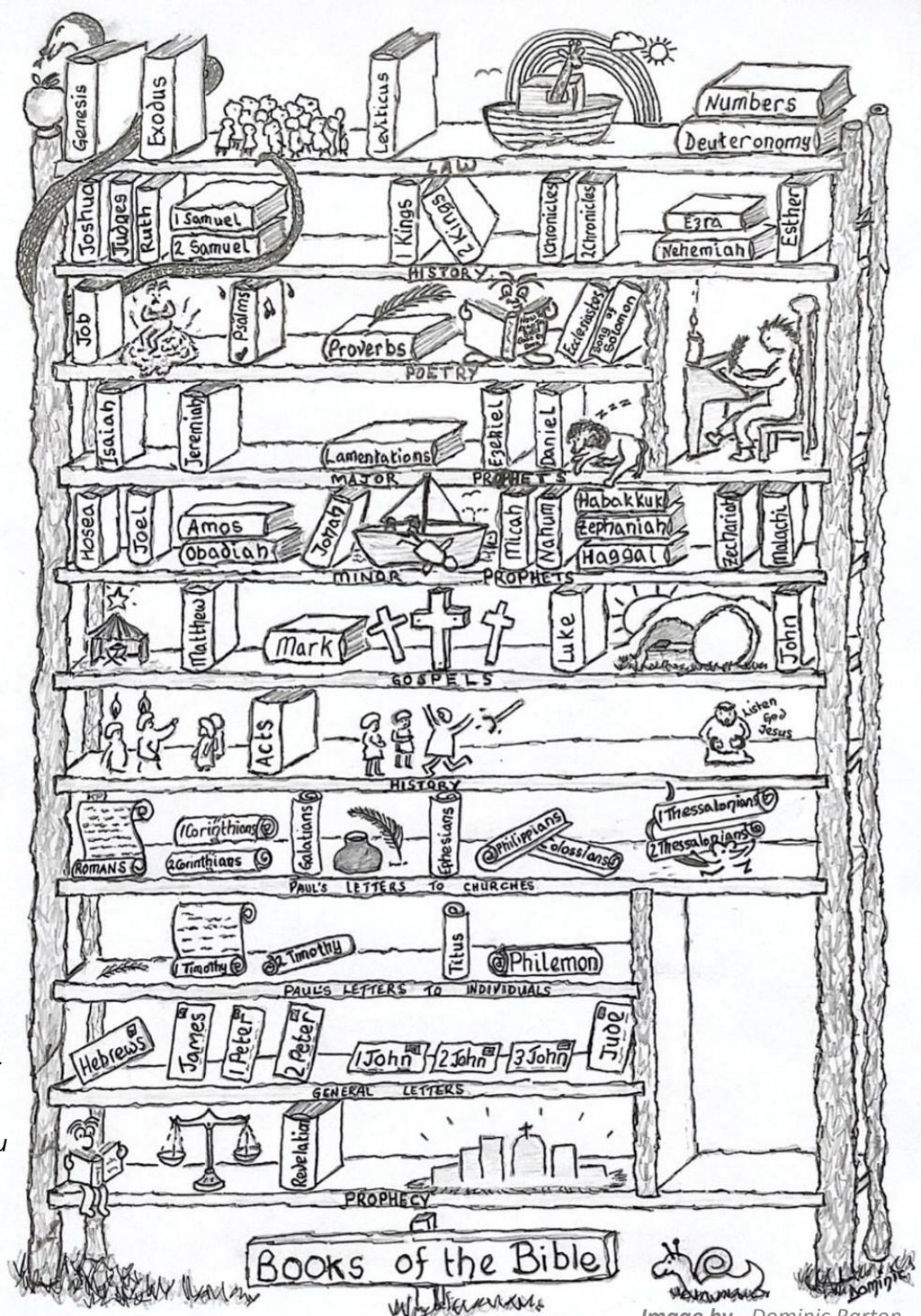
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Job

We don't know who wrote the book of Job but it is believed to have been written around the time of Abraham (1900 BC), it might even have been written before the book of Genesis.

The book tells the story of a man named Job who endured a testing time where he lost everything. The first chapter of Job shows us who he was and how successful he was. In chapter 2 we see God giving the Devil permission to test him, taking everything except for his life; to see if he would still be faithful to God. Chapters 3 – 37 are about the testing time and three friends who try to offer him advice and comfort. Job refuses to say a bad word about God.

In chapters 38 and 39 God answers Job, asking who he is to question God. In the final chapters we see God restore everything to Job and bless him more than before.

As we enter the second week of Lent, let's take some time to refocus and wonder at the complex world God has made.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

God confronts Job Animation by Superbook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrMVf2msBkk>

God confronts Job narration by Lake Cities Community Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUtK8ww4cNw>

The full story told by children by the Gospel Project

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

God speaks to Job by Might in the light

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abLpWjSU3ZI>

Dance and Sing

My hope is in the Lord by VBS Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJePCzTaQo4&t=50s>

Wonderfully made by Scripture Lullabies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adl3aAf2Wl0>

Mystery (Hidden Things) by Vous Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ukLBYiDBTs>

God of science by Rend Collective Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1p7TrNeo-Q>

God knows everything by donut man

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7mcRixGdm8>

The Story: Job 38 and 39 (selected verses from The International Children's Bible)

Then the Lord answered Job from the storm. He said:

*"Who is this that makes my purpose unclear by saying things that are not true?
Be strong like a man. I will ask you questions, and you must answer me.
Where were you when I made the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.
Who marked off how big it should be? Surely you know!
What were the earth's foundations set on? Or who put its cornerstone in place?
Who did all this while the morning stars sang together?
Who did this while the angels shouted with joy?*

*"Who shut the doors to keep the sea in, when it broke through and was born?
This was when I made the clouds like a coat for the sea. And I wrapped the sea in dark
clouds.
It was when I put limits on the sea. And I put its doors and bars in place.
It was when I said to the sea, 'You may come this far, but no farther. This is where your
proud waves must stop.'*

*"Have you ever given orders for morning to begin? Or have you shown the dawn where its
place was?*

*"Have you ever gone to where the sea begins? Or have you walked in the valleys under the
sea?*

Do you understand the great width of the earth? Tell me if you know all these things.

"What is the path to light's home? And where does darkness live?

Can you take them to their places? Do you know the way to their homes?

*"Have you ever gone into the storehouse where snow is kept? Or have you seen the
storehouses for hail?*

*Who waters the land where no one lives? Who waters the desert that has no one in it? Who
sends rain to satisfy the empty land so the grass begins to grow? Does the rain have a
father? Who is father to the drops of dew? Who is the mother of the ice? Who gives birth to
the frost from the sky?*

*"Can you tie up the stars of the Pleiades? Can you loosen the ropes of the stars in Orion? Can
you bring out the stars at the right times? Or can you lead out the stars of the Bear with its
cubs? Do you know the laws of the sky? Can you understand their rule over the earth?*

*"Do you hunt food for the female lion to satisfy the hunger of the young lions?
Who gives food to the birds when their young cry out to God? And who gives them food
when they wander about without any?*

*Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch when the deer gives birth
to her fawn?*

“Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied his ropes? I am the one who gave the donkey the desert as his home. I gave him the desert lands as a place to live.

“Job, are you the one who gives the horse his strength? Or do you put a flowing mane on his neck?

“Is it through your wisdom that the hawk flies? Is this why he spreads his wings toward the south? Are you the one that commands the eagle to fly and build his nest so high?

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

There is so much stunning imagery in these 2 chapters, we would encourage you as a family to read the whole piece. I wonder what your favourite image will be. Perhaps you could create something as a response to the reading.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

The big Quest – A new story to share together

Toby was a very curious boy. He loved exploring and finding out about the world he lived in. And now, Toby had a new quest. He had heard that there is a place where God stores all the hailstones and snow. This excited Toby very much, just imagine what that place must be like? It would have to be huge, perhaps it was a great big barn the size of a football field. I wonder if it would need to be in a cold place like the north pole. Or whether God just keeps it cold like a giant freezer. What temperature do you need to store hail stones in and is it the same temperature for snow? Can they be stored in the same barn? Is there a big machine making the snow and hail or is it an army of minions or angels busily creating it all? Do they have use by dates on them or can you keep them forever? Toby had many, many questions and there was only one way to find the answers. He was going to have to go to the place and see it for himself.

Toby packed a small bag with essential items including food, sweets, a toy, a magnifying glass, a specimen tub, notebook, pencil, and a flask of hot chocolate. Off he went in search of the hail stone storehouse.

The big Quest continued...

He hadn't got very far when he heard the sound of chirping coming from the bushes around him, what could it be? He quietly crept towards the sound and lay flat on his belly watching and waiting silently. He was rewarded when he saw a bright green cricket jump out from behind a leaf. A quick search in his nature book told Toby more. Did you know the male cricket makes the sound by rubbing the edges of their wings together to call for female friends? They actually have three different songs that they sing. Amazing! He wondered where they got their first song from? Who composed it?

Toby went on, searching for the hailstone storehouse. He hadn't gone very far when he noticed something shining high up in a tree, it looked like a sparkly jewel in the sunlight. Up Toby climbed to investigate this treasure. He was fascinated by what he found. It was a bird's nest, and inside the nest were a collection of shiny items such as tinfoil, sequins and even a gold earring. Why would a bird have these things? What bird likes to keep these in their nest? He didn't wonder for long before a bright blue bird landed on the nest with a shiny piece of tin in its beak. A quick check in his nature book showed Toby that it was a Blue Jay. Did you know that they are fascinated by shiny things, often because they think they are food? They take them back to their nests so that they can explore the item in private. Amazing!

Toby noticed that the daylight was beginning to fade, he realised that he had been distracted by many things on his way to find the storehouses. He had sat and watched the blue Jay flying to and fro with shiny goodies. He had laid on the floor and watched a row of ants carrying leaves much bigger than themselves, he had spent a glorious hour studying a giant leaf he had found, wondering what type of tree it was from and what the smell reminded him of, he loved tracing his finger over the veins on the leaf and counting how many speckles were on the leaf. He had explored many things that day.

Now it was getting late, he knew there were many fascinating things to see and hear at night and was tempted to stay longer; but he also knew he was due home soon for his supper.

But what about the hailstone storehouses? Toby turned around and headed home, a little disappointed that he had run out of time but full of pictures in his mind of the things he had seen.

That night as he lay in his bed, he began to make plans for the next opportunity he would be given to go and find the storehouses where God stores the hailstones and snow. He had so many questions about it, the main one was WHERE IS IT??? He may not have found the answers to his questions today but look at all the things he did see and the new facts he had learned. I wonder what he will find tomorrow.



**families
on faith adventures**

at home

Did you know? - Family Challenge

This story reminds us that we only ever see a glimpse of our amazing world, there is a lot we never see. Choose one part of creation and take a deep dive into it. Find out all you can about that subject and share with each other the fascinating facts. Enjoy the awe and wonder of Gods complex creation.

Table Top Discussions

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

- I wonder what was going through Jobs mind as God responded to him. How was he feeling?*
- Which parts of Gods narration were your favourites and why?*
- What do you think of or feel when listening to Gods words in this story?*
- Have you ever challenged God? Share your stories with each other.*
- What fascinating facts do you know about parts of God's creation? Next time you look at nature, take time to look even closer, I wonder what more you might see.*

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.



Toy representing
Job – could be
bandaged



A fan to make
a windy
sensation



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



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

Something to
model with,
e.g. edible
playdough



Different toy
animals for the
goat, donkey,
ox, ostrich,
horse, and hawk



Stars, sun and
moon. Either soft
toys or you could
create a reverse
sun/moon on a
paper plate.



An umbrella, for
sheltering from the
rain, the snow, and the
hail in the passage.

Pray Together

Stop, Look, Listen, Pray!

'Stop and consider the wondrous works of God' Job 37:14

Go outside into your garden or the park. Stand and look all around you. What can you see? Look down at the ground and notice the insects and small flowers hidden in the grass. Look at the trees and notice the birds. Look at the sky and notice the clouds. Look around at the animals and people.

God is all around in everything that we can see, hear, smell and touch.

Say Thank you for all the things that you notice big and small.



Dear God

***You put the moon into the sky,
you made the birds, so they could fly.
You made the stars twinkle and shine,
you made animals in the field,
and the crops that give good yield.
You put the fish into the sea,
you made us humans, woman and man,
and for us you made a glorious plan.
You made us so we can dance and sing,
compared to you, Lord, we are so small,
help us to care for your world.***

Help us to notice the big and the small

Thank you, God, for everything all around us

Amen.

Pray Together

Umbrella Prayers



An umbrella offers protections from rain and storms, and it can remind us of Gods protection for us. Job felt that he was in a storm and God spoke to him through the storm.

Stand underneath the umbrella and pray for the things you want to ask God to care for and protect.

A prayer for God's peace in stormy times

*When our lives feel battered by rain,
Lord Jesus, **hold your peace in our hearts.***

*When our lives are tossed in a rough sea
and we feel unsure,
Lord Jesus, **hold your peace in our hearts.***

*When our lives are blown off course
and we lose sight of you,
Lord Jesus, **hold your peace in our hearts.***

*When our lives feel like a swirling storm and we are hurt and afraid,
Lord Jesus, **hold your peace in our hearts.***

*When our lives are battered by the wind and deafened by thunder
and we are blinded by tears,
Lord Jesus, **hold your peace in our hearts.***

We pray for your protection and peace.

*Lord Jesus, **hold your peace in our hearts.***

Amen.

Pray Together

Hidden Prayers

In Job 38-41 we read of lots of things that God spoke to Job about reminding Job that God was in everything, though perhaps not always noticed or understood by Job. It is like that for us too. We do not always understand the greatness of God but we only have to look around us to be reminded.



Read the bible story and create some small pictures of all the things that are mentioned for example animals, birds, rain, snow, day and night, sun and stars, trees and mountains, seas and rivers. Draw small pictures of all the things that you have read about and cut them out. Hide them in shredded paper or in a sand tray. Take it in turns to find the hidden things and give thanks to God for the item you have found.



You could listen to a piece of music while you do this. Choose a song that reminds you of the greatness of God, for example 'Our God is a Great Big God'.

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I wonder what helps you remember God's strength and power?

I wonder what it sounds like when God speaks?

I wonder if you've ever had a time when things all seemed to go wrong?



Job was a wealthy man who was blessed with many things by God! - **Job 1**

I wonder which is your favourite bit in this story?

I wonder how we can best help someone who's going through a tough time?

To Do Together...



Weather Chart

You will need:

- A circle of card
- Weather symbols
- Smaller pieces of cards
- A split pin



What you do:

Create some weather symbols.

On a circle, divide it into segments and put weather symbols in each segment and cut out an arrow from small card. Join the arrow to the circle using a split pin.

Or create 'The weather today chart'.

Create the weather symbols and put them in around the edge of the poster, create a frame in the centre to put the weather for the day in.

Each day, look outside and decide what the weather is, placing the symbol which matches on the poster.

Maybe spend time thinking about weather and how the weather changes each day?
What is the weather forecast today?





To Do Together...



Curiosity Box

You will need:

A box

Lots of curious objects

(shells, stars, sea creatures, different animals,
globes, sand, feathers)

What you do:

Put all the objects in a box.

As you explore them, ask big wondering questions about them, explore more about them, like these; *I wonder why Bamboo is hollow? I wonder how birds fly? I wonder how trees wake up after winter? I wonder how a key works? See how much information you can find.*

Why not tell your family/group all about the objects and what you have found out about it? I wonder if there is more to know.... I think only God knows...





To Do Together...



Pounding Art

You will need:

Some leaves, petals or small flowers
Paper, a white t-shirt, white pillowcase,
or handkerchief
A hammer

What you do:

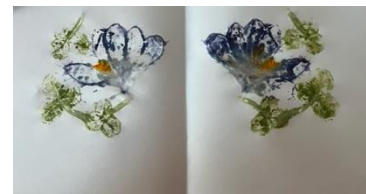
Place the leaves or petals on one half of the paper or cloth.

Fold the paper or cloth over.

Tap the paper and cloth with a hammer focusing on the area where the flowers and leaves are, keep tapping it until the images of the leaves come through the paper/fabric and you are happy that you have tapped enough.

Carefully open up the paper/fabric and gently remove the remnants of the leaves and flowers.

In our story we are reminded that God knows much more than we can ever know, what we know is just a shadow and an imprint of the reality.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

Everyday Faith:

In the story of Job, he has friends who sit alongside him when he's down. This is often the best thing we can do for our friends, to sit beside them and let them know we care. We can't always fix things but we can always be there for people and give them our time. We can listen if they want to talk. We can be a good friend. Maybe you know someone who needs you to be there for them this week.

Scrapbooking:

*God speaks to Job from the whirlwind and reminds him just how strong and powerful our creator God is. Can you find a picture that shows the earth from space? Or can you make one? (See "God's name – woven into everything" from 21 February 2022 for ideas on how to make one)
Stick this into your scrapbook as a reminder that God is bigger than all our worries, our troubles, our problems, and is in control. Write the words "All will be well" on your picture of the world.*

Take it Further:

*A slightly different challenge this time – can you learn the words and actions to this song?
<https://youtu.be/Ra6ZRSfsHPq> "With God's power working in us"*



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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