

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:

First Shall Be Last

Matthew 20 verses 1-16



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.

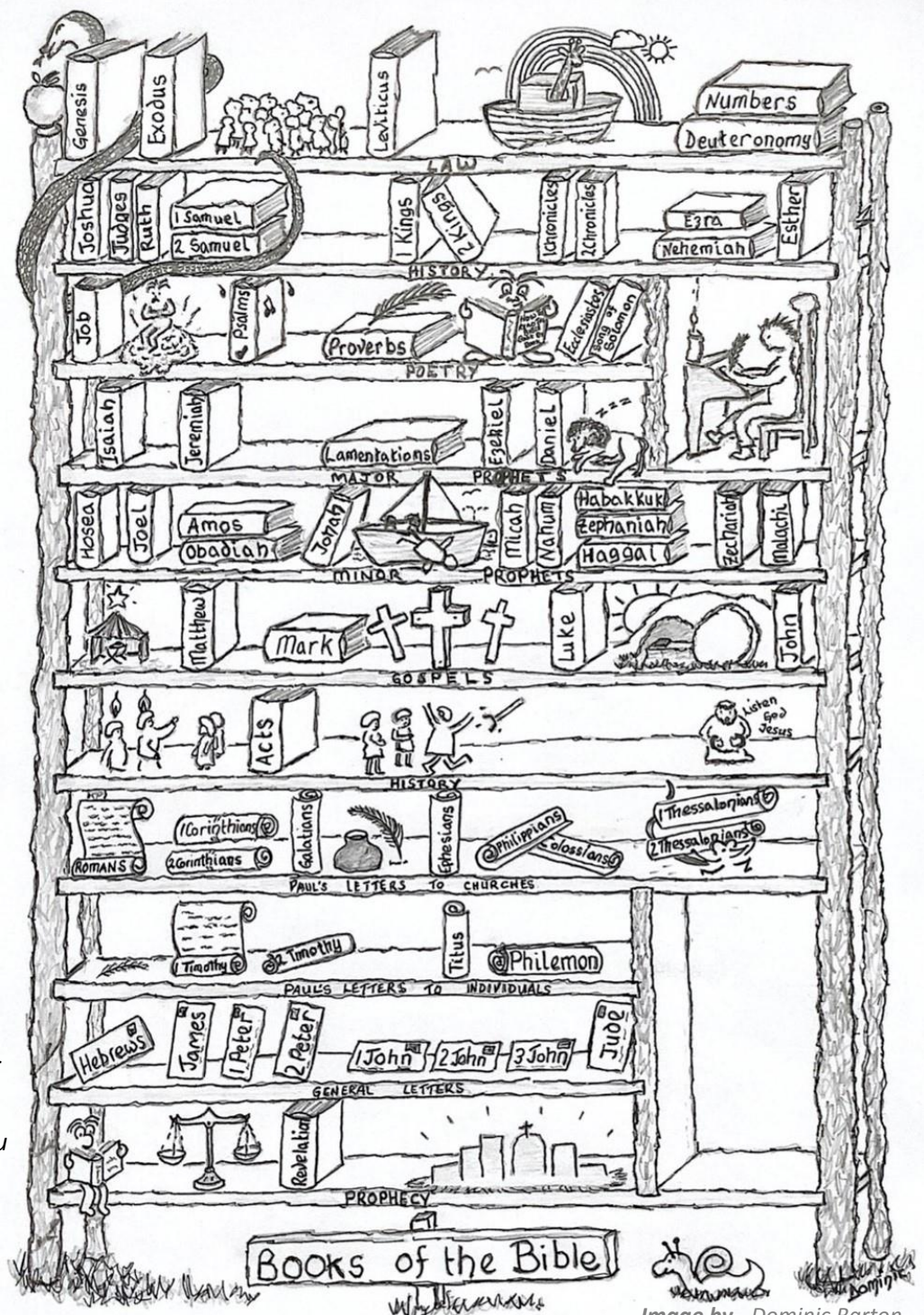
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Matthew

The book of Matthew is the first book in the New Testament; it was written around 60 AD by Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples. Matthew was a tax collector before following Jesus and in his book, he often shows the links between Jesus and the Old Testament prophecies.

In this story, Jesus tells a parable (a story about everyday things to make us think about God). In this parable we are challenged to think about what is fair and how we treat others.

This is the first week of Lent which is an important time to stop and think about things from other people's points of view.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

Labourers in the vineyard by Kids Church Ideas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqnc9X3p_DU

Odd jobs – Parable of the workers in the vineyard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uq0cJaPQpPY>

CCGS Kids story time - The parable of the workers in the vineyard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deslHT-MRm0>

Hello Jesus – The parable of the workers in the vineyard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsYDMuoT-wE>

St John's Hedge End – The Parable of the workers in the vineyard with Lego

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl94SuiYFL4>

Dance and Sing

Build up by Fischy Music

[Schoolvision 2018 "Build Up" - Scotland - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDi6B9UTMyY)

Lord, I come before your throne of Grace by Mandate Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDi6B9UTMyY>

Amazing Grace by Pentatonix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obp-9BEZe1c>

Shine (From the inside out) by Powerpack and Peters Puppets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arSb29ZQ3I4>

Praise Ye the Lord by Listener Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbnw>

The Story: Matthew 20 verses 1 - 16 (The International Children's Bible)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who owned some land. One morning, he went out very early to hire some people to work in his vineyard. The man agreed to pay the workers one silver coin for working that day. Then he sent them to the vineyard to work. About nine o'clock the man went to the marketplace and saw some other people standing there, doing nothing. So he said to them, 'If you go and work in my vineyard, I will pay you what your work is worth'. So they went to work in the vineyard. The man went out again about twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock. Both times he hired people to work in his vineyard. About five o'clock the man went to the marketplace again. He saw others standing there. He asked them, 'Why did you stand here all day doing nothing?' They answered, 'No one gave us a job'. The man said to them, 'Then you can go and work in my vineyard'.

At the end of the day, the owner of the vineyard said to the foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them. Start by paying the last people I hired. Then pay all of them, ending with the workers I hired first'.

The workers who were hired at five o'clock came to get their pay. Each worker received one silver coin. Then the workers who were hired first came to get their pay. They thought they would be paid more than the others. But each one of them also received one silver coin, they complained to the man who owned the land. They said, 'Those people were hired last and worked only one hour. But you paid them the same as you paid us. And we worked hard all day in the hot sun'. But the man who owned the vineyard said to one of the workers, 'Friend, I am being fair to you. You agreed to work for one silver coin. So take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same pay that I gave you. I can do what I want with my own money. Are you jealous because I am good to those people?'

"So those who have the last place now will have the first place in the future. And those who have the first place now will have the last place in the future."

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 – ‘Not Fair!’

(This is a new story to explore the theme. It tells the same story from the point of view of a young person who waits all day in the marketplace to be chosen to work in a vineyard.)

I don't look old enough to work but I am and my family need me to.

Most days start the same. I get up very early, while the air is still cool and damp, think about having a wash but decide I haven't got time and pinch a spoon of slightly chewy porridge whilst it still bubbles in the pot before rushing out of the door.

Workers are already starting to gather in the marketplace. The confident and the hopeful, the old and the young, the strong and the weak. When the bosses arrive, they head straight for their favourites (people who've worked for them before) and agree a price. Some days they'll take a chance on someone new; other days they play it safe.

By mid-morning the usual suspects are left. By midday the heat of the sun tries to tempt me to have a little snooze but I fight the urge – I wouldn't want to look lazy. By mid-afternoon I'm trying not to think about how hungry I am and how I might try and get up early enough to eat a little bit more porridge tomorrow when.....

There he is again! Choosing more workers! No one's going to quibble about money at this point, the day's nearly over. Anything is better than nothing. I try to look lively and energetic but I'm not sure I pull it off. By late afternoon I'm ready to give up.

Another day wasted!

Another day of missed school!

Another day of not helping to fix our roof!

I'm ready to give up and head home with nothing but my bad news when.....

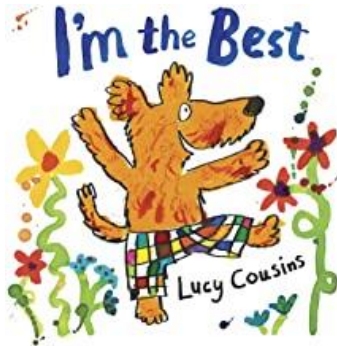
Again? He's back. He gathers us up – the leftovers – asking us why we're still hanging about. Telling us there's work if we want it. I'm so grateful, I forget how tired I am but at the end of the day there's trouble about the pay.

'Not fair!?' I have to bite my tongue so I don't say something I regret. I'll tell you what's not fair: hardworking men not being chosen because they're from a different town; having to work when you want to be playing with your friends or people staring at my foot and assuming it means I can't pick grapes.

Can't he do what he likes with his own money? Some people are never happy!

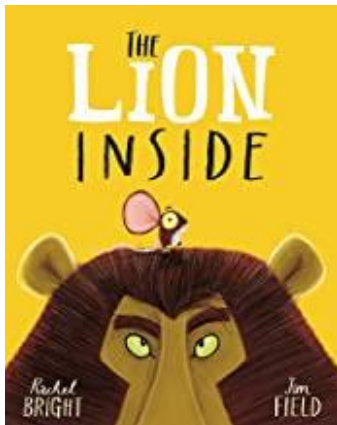
Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme

Here are some picture books to share together that explore the same themes:



'I'm The Best' by Lucy Cousins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_Gy40-eXVY



'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT4h79MnSS0>

Table Top Discussions

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

Talk about

- How does it feel to be chosen last?
- How does it feel when people tell you that you are too young or small to help?
- How do you think the last workers felt when they were paid the same as everyone else?
- Why do you think the first workers were angry?
- Where do we see unfairness around us? What can we do to challenge it?

Think about

- Next time you eat some grapes, think about the farmers who planted the vines and the workers who picked the grapes and pray for them.

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.



Bag of Coins



Some grapes

(if these are real grapes, remember to slice them in half lengthwise to reduce risk of choking)



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise

Some gardening tools,
especially children's
tools if you have them



A tray of soil
to dig in

Several toy people to
represent the workers



Pray Together

Swiss Roll Prayers

You will need a Swiss roll or any cake that can be cut.



Take it in turns to cut a slice of the Swiss roll. Try to make sure each slice is the same size at the next. Remember in the story that all the workers, even those chosen last, all got an equal share.

God wants everyone to be loved and valued no matter what. As you look at the even slices of cake, take some time to just sit quietly and think about the things that you think are unfair in the world. Perhaps you know someone who feels left out. Ask God to help in all the situations you have been thinking about.

When you have finished your prayer, you can eat the cake!



Here is a prayer you to say together:

Dear God,
help me with the hard things:
with sharing and caring
about people I don't really know.

Dear God,
help me with the hard things:
when I feel hurt about what has happened
and about things I've done;
when I'm angry and want to lash out.

Dear God,
help me with the hard things:
to stand up for what's right,
to take the side of people
who are picked on or get left out.

Dear God,
thank you for the good things:
my family and friends,
for fun and good times to share but
dear God, help me with the hard things.
Amen.

Pray Together

Valued and Loved by God

You will need some sticky notes or small slips of paper.

We are now in the season of Lent. Sometimes people give up something during Lent and others take on something to do each day. Here is a prayer activity that you can do throughout Lent to help others know they are valued and loved by God.



Write on the sticky notes 'Valued and Loved' or you could draw a heart or smiley face. Spend some time quietly thinking who you want to tell they are valued and loved by God. You could say this prayer as you prepare your notes.



Thank you, Jesus,
for the joy of knowing that you love us,
for the joy of friendship,
and the joy of knowing we are valued.
May we spread that joy and share the message of your love with others.

Amen

Place your notes in places that will surprise others - here are a few ideas:

- Inside the fridge or cupboard
- On a pillow
- In a lunch box or school bag
- In a pocket
- On a mirror

Each day surprise someone with your message of God's love.



Pray Together



Prayer Pebbles

Part of our story today has shown us how to think of others who may not be as fortunate as we are.



Collect a range of stones or pebbles, different sizes, some may be smooth others rough.

Write on your pebbles people who may find it difficult to belong or fit into groups.

Place these pebbles into a circle, hold each one and think of that person you have named. When you return your pebble to the circle, remember that just as we are they too are loved by God.

I wonder if you can remember a time when you thought you were not treated fairly?

I wonder where God is in this story?

I wonder why the workers felt hard done by?



I wonder why Jesus chose to tell this story?

I wonder how our idea of fairness differs from God's and what that might mean for us?



To Do Together...

Flipping Cards

You will need: Cards/or an old pack of playing cards
Pens/stickers

What you do:

Think about people or things which may be important or seem important to you. Pair them up into similar subjects which are both important but are very different in their context. Like a king/baby; money/love; school/play.

Put an image to represent each one on the either side of the card.

Place them on the edge of the table and flip them. Where does it land? Have a conversation around the table about why it is important.

In our story this week, we are thinking about fairness and how Jesus flipped everything upside-down.





To Do Together...

Fill Up Jar

You will need: A jar
Some large objects
Some smaller objects
And some very small objects



What you do:

Fill the jar up with large objects.

Think about how full it is and then fill it up with some smaller objects.

Think about it again and fill it up with some even smaller objects.

I wonder how much more you can get into your jar?

Jesus asks us all to give something, we can all help to fill up our jar. Sometimes the smallest things make the biggest difference.





To Do Together...



Fairtrade Poster

You will need: A big piece of paper
Some images of Fairtrade things
or some packaging if you have it

What you do:

Create a poster which tells people about Fairtrade.

Find out all about Fairtrade goods and the huge variety of things which are made fairly.

Think about why it is important to buy fairly traded goods, and how it helps people.

Display your poster somewhere that people can see it and they can learn more about how important it is to buy fairly traded goods.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

Everyday Faith:

Fair does not always mean the same or equal. Sometimes fairness is quite different. This week, ask God to help you be more than fair in the way you treat other people. It might mean letting them have the bigger slice of cake or the last sweet from the jar. It might mean letting them have a longer play with a shared toy or offering to help them if they have too much to do.

Scrapbooking:

Find the Fairtrade logo off something in your food cupboard and stick it onto a page in your scrapbook. If you don't have a logo, then have a go at drawing it yourself. Around the logo, write all the words you can think of about fairness and unfairness and what this looks like in God's eyes. You could use all different colours or writing styles to do it and everyone could contribute.

Take it Further:

You will have heard of fair trade before, and we often mention it in this resource. But why not find out a bit more about what it means by looking at this website
<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/fair-trade#:~:text=Top%2010%20facts&text=Products%20with%20the%20Fairtrade%20Mark,Black's%20Maya%20Gold%20chocolate%20bar>
which can tell you more and also has some fun things to do together. When you're shopping, remember to look out for items which are fairly traded.



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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