**Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Opening Prayer)**

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let’s hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam’s adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

**The Opening Prayer**

We are friends together *(shake hands with both palms facing towards body)*

On a faith adventure (*point to forehead with thumb. Hold other hand with palm facing up and bring the side of your first hand down so that it goes across the palm of the second hand just below the fingers)*

With the Bible as our mapbook (*draw cross with thumbnail on back of hand then put hands together and open like a book)*

And Jesus as our guide *(use index fingers to point into palm of each hand in turn).*

God, be with us in all that we do *(point up, then make index finger into a hook shape and move down as though pulling down towards you)*

And go with us wherever we go *(point outwards).*

Amen *(two thumbs up with hands apart, bring hands together)*

**Alternative Opening Prayer**

Lord help us to be:

**P**repared for adventure

**I**n all we do.

**L**oving and caring,

**O**pen to others

**T**ogether as one community

**S**haring the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

**Fun Together**

What you will need:

* Paper
* Pens
* Charade cards with the words (king/ street/ wedding/ servant/ cake/ dancing/ gifts)

**Charades**

Split into 2 teams, team A and team B. Set a 1-minute timer. One person from team A takes a charade card and acts out what is on the card to their team. Team members shout out answers, they have 1 minute to guess the answer. Once the timer has run out, it’s team B’s turn. One point is allocated to any winning answer. Count the amount of correct answers at the end, the team with the most correct answers wins.

**Party Tag**

What’s needed:

* Stopwatch

Before beginning this game, explain that people are to be gentle and considerate when playing, mindful of not pulling people over – if this happens, they are to be disqualified.

The aim of the game is to collect as many ‘guests’ as you can throughout the game. Have two taggers or ‘servants’ each standing at opposite sides of the room, this is their wedding base. The rest of the players – the ‘guests’ – stand in the middle of the room. The two ‘servants’ must then collect someone from the middle of the room and take them back to their wedding base. The game ends once all ‘guests’ have been collected. The winner is the one with the most guests. Keep playing, choosing different people to be the ‘servants’.

Alternative: If this game is too easy or you always end up with an equal amount on each side you could set a timer and allow ‘servants’ to ‘steal’ guests from the opposing wedding base until the timer runs out. The winner is the one with the most ‘guests’.

**Today’s theme is** hearing how we are all invited to know Jesus and his love for us.

**The Big Story: Luke 14 vs 15-23 – Party invite**

**What you will need:**

* Party blowers for each child
* Five puppets (these could be sock puppets or pictures of characters stuck onto lollypop sticks)
* Optional - puppet screen (somewhere for the person operating the puppet to hide behind)

Explain that each time the word ‘party’ is said, the party blower should be blown.

Reader 1: One day, when Jesus was having dinner with some of the most important religious leaders, Jesus looked around at all the important people who had been invited. He turned to the host of the **party** and said to him “next time you hold a **party,** don’t just invite your family and rich neighbours you want to impress, invite everyone including those people who you would normally never invite.”

Puppet 1: What? Even people like the old homeless guy that sits on the high street or old Mrs Busybody who nobody likes because she’s always gossiping?

Reader 1: Well, Jesus told a parable, a story about how a rich man once threw a **party** for all his rich friends. He sent out the invitations, made the most delicious food and hired the most popular music band!

Puppet 1: Cool, where is my invite? I want to go to that **party**!

Reader 1: Well, when the day came, the man was all prepared and sent out his servants to tell his guests that he was ready for them.

Puppet 1: Yeah **par-ty**!

Reader 1: Well, yes, it should have been a **party** atmosphere but when the servants got to the guests’ houses, they all made their excuses about why they couldn’t attend.

Puppet 2: I can’t come, I have just bought a new house, I have to go look at it!

Puppet 3: I can’t come, I have just bought some cows and need to look after them!

Puppet 4: I can’t come, I have just got married.

Puppet 1: Woah, he was unlucky! All that **party** food, drink, entertainment gone to waste!

Reader 1: Well, you would think so, but the rich man sent his servants out again and said to them find every homeless person, every person on the street who could do with a meal, and invite them to come to his **party**.

Puppet 1: That was really a nice thing to do.

Reader 1: When the servants came back, there was still room for more people so he sent them out again to the far towns and into the hills to find anyone who was hungry and invite them to his **party**. When they returned with more people, the rich man was pleased.

Puppet 1: Wow, now that is a **party** atmosphere!!

Reader 1: Jesus wanted the religious leaders and everybody else to know that we are all invited. Everyone has a chance to get to know him and to be with him and share all the good things he offers. And that includes us!

Puppet 1: Wow – how exciting to be invited to that **party**! I wonder what it feels like to **party** with Jesus?

**Creative Adventure**

**Time for a feast!**

What you need:

* A4 sheet of paper or card, or dinner mat template
* Felt tips
* Laminator and laminator sheets

Activity

Use the felt tips to colour in and decorate a table mat. Laminate the finished picture and use as a placemat at the dinner table.

ADDITIONAL CRAFT IDEA:

What you need:

* Paper cups
* Sharpies
* Gem stickers or similar

Use the Sharpie pens to decorate the cup to make it into a goblet which might be used at a wedding. To decorate it further, stick gem stickers or similar onto the cup.

Find instructions to fold a paper napkin. The group could be encouraged to fold a napkin and place it in the cup to make their table look ultra inviting. You will want to select a method suitable for the dexterity of the children in your group.

 Wondering Questions to use during creative time:

I wonder who we would invite to a party?

I wonder what it is like to be invited to be friends with Jesus?
I wonder who Jesus would invite to a party today?

**The Adventure Map**

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written shortly after Jesus’ time. They tell us about what Jesus said and did and how his friends lived their lives, sharing with others how to be good followers of Jesus.

Take the group to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the map today’s story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year, you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

**Walking the Way**

**This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.**

For the younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that’s why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session, FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA’s scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn’t mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn’t mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA’s memory isn’t very good as FOFA’s brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: **To create an invite for a friend to come to FOFA as your guest. The card can be elaborate or simple. When it is done, place it in the envelope and post/ take it to your friend. Take a photo of your invite, remembering that we are all invited to be friends with Jesus.**

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we have heard how *everyone* is welcome to Jesus’ party - not just the chosen ones and the popular ones – in fact, sometimes the needy are those most deserving. We are all invited to be Jesus’ friend - we just have to say yes.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

Jesus, help me to look for those who feel left out.

Help me to invite them to know you and your love for us.

Thank you that we are all welcome to your party.

Amen

**Active Prayer**

What you need for this activity:

* Table
* Fruit/ biscuits or sweets
* Paper
* Pens

Get a table in the centre of the room and place some sweets, biscuits or fruit on it. On the pieces of paper, invite everyone to write or draw a prayer to God accepting his invitation to the party. Invite everyone to come up and place their party acceptance on the table and then share the feast together.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

**We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.**

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you will need:**

* Paper
* Pens
* Charade cards
* Party blowers
* Five puppets
* Food for prayers
* Dinner mat template
* Laminator and laminator plastic wallets
* Puppet screen
* Plastic cups
* Sharpies
* Gem stickers or similar
* Coveralls

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| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Possible clashes or injury during running game | Supervise closely, administer first aid to any injuries. Discourage any rough pulling or running. |  |  |
| **During session** | Use of food possible allergic reaction | Check for allergies among children. |  |  |
| **During session**  | Laminator can be hot, possible risk of burns | Only adults to use the laminator/ allow placemats to cool before handing them out. |  |  |
| **During session** | Use of sharpies and possible damage to clothes | Consider offering protective clothing |  |  |