**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**

**Game – “In the river / Out the river”**

Equipment - Enough flat space for the players to stand in lines (any number of lines is possible depending on your group size and space available). Chalk, tape or rope to mark the line on the floor (the riverbank).

Instructions – All stand sideways on the same side of the line on the floor (this way everyone is “in the river” to start.) When you say “Out the river”, each player must jump with both feet together to the opposite side of the line. If they get it wrong or are too slow (i.e. last to jump) they will need to sit out. You may need to give a few practice attempts to start and then you can get quicker and quicker in order to eliminate more players until one or two winners remain.

If possible, include two games, or even three.

**Game – “Stuck in the Bullrushes**”

This is the well-known game Stuck in the Mud but with a new name to fit with today’s Bible narrative.

Equipment – enough space for the group to run around freely.

Instructions – one or two players are chosen to be ‘it’ and the rest of the group spread out around the playing space. Then those who are ‘it’ try to tag the rest of the group. If someone is ‘tagged’ they must stand stationary with their arms out to signal that they are ‘stuck’. They can be set free by someone else in the group who is not stuck running round under each of the outstretched arms but doing this may risk being tagged themselves. The game continues until everyone is stuck or runs out of steam.

**Today’s theme is *that everyone is special and has a part to play.***

**The Big Story – *The Birth of Moses - Exodus 2: 1-10***

**Story Script (a story told by the leader as the children bring it to life using props)**

You will need:

* Baby doll
* Basket
* Blue fabric
* Crown
* Large paper leaves (enough for one each for the children)

Ask the group: What’s the most special thing you own?

Where do you keep it?

Today’s story is about a baby. (Show baby doll)

Where do you think is a safe place to keep a baby? (Take responses.)

How about a basket?

How about a basket on the water?

Well, that’s what happened to the baby in our story today.

This baby was called Moses. He was born to a Hebrew family. (Everyone mimics rocking a baby.)

The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt and Pharaoh was worried that they were becoming too many so had said that all baby boys must be killed.

Moses’ mum wanted to keep her son safe.

So she made a basket for him to lie in. (Bring out the basket.)

And with the help of his sister Miriam, she hid Moses in the reeds on the river Nile. (Pull out the blue cloth and place it as water, then ask the children to hide the basket on the water using the leaves.)

She left him there, hidden. (Everyone covers their eyes with their hands.)

But Miriam stayed close by to keep an eye on her brother. (Everyone peeps through their hands.)

Soon the Pharaoh’s daughter came to the river to swim and wash.

She went down into the Nile and found Moses, in his basket, hidden in the reeds. (Everyone removes leaves.)

The Bible tells us that she felt sorry for the baby and took him back to the palace where she adopted him as her own. (Take the baby out of the basket.)

Miriam saw it all happen and ran back to tell her mum.

Moses would grow up in the palace as a prince which is right where God wanted him. God would use him to rescue the Hebrew slaves and bring them out of Egypt, but that story is for another day. (Place the crown in the basket.)

**Creative adventure**

Edible scene! If you have a young group or do not have sufficient time, focus your time on making the edible part of the craft.

You will need:

* A5 piece of paper
* Green paper
* Scissors
* Blue felt tips or paint
* Brushes if using paint
* Coveralls if using paint
* Glue
* Cup cake cases
* 450g box of Cornflakes for 20 children
* 3x 200g bars of milk Chocolate
* Bowl for each person and a bowl to melt the chocolate in
* Spoon for each person and one to serve the chocolate out
* 190g bag of Jelly babies for 20 children
* 450g ready rolled white icing

What to do:

Using blue felt tips or paint, cover your blank piece of paper to look like water. Create some ‘reeds’ using scissors and green paper, stick the end of the green ‘reed’ onto the edge of the paper and fold them up so they look as though they are standing. Place this to one side to dry.

Pour some cornflakes into each participant’s bowl, taking time to crush them. Once crushed, pour enough melted chocolate into the bowl to ensure it mixes together thoroughly. Place a jelly baby on top. Place your basket on the water. See how the reeds hide your baby.

OPTIONAL - Roll out a small ball of rolled icing and shape into a blanket to cover the jelly baby with, leave the face showing.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder who is special to you?

I wonder why God chose Moses?

I wonder what part you might play in God’s plan?

**The Adventure Map**

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.

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:  **Design a card or draw a picture for someone in your life and write on it/ in it ‘You are special to God’. While you are making the card, thank God for that person and for the part they play in your life. Take a photo of your design.**

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today we have heard how the baby Moses was hidden by the river by his mother, protected by his sister and raised by a foster mother until he grew up to be used by God to help others. We have heard that everyone is special and that God has a plan for us all.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

**Spoken prayer**

*We thank you God for reminding us that we are all very special and loved by you.*

*Thank you for all the people in our lives who watch out for us, look after us and keep us safe.*

*Help us to look out for others who might need our help and who might need our care.*

*Help us to remember that everyone has a place in this world. AMEN*

**Active Prayer**

Equipment – Enough mirrors for everyone in the group. (Optional marker for each participant) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Healifty-Mirror-Mirrors-Stickers-Decoration/dp/B0832J8Z7W/ref=sr_1_25?crid=LAU6J1CBE11L&dchild=1&keywords=craft%2Bmirrors&qid=1599123932&sprefix=craft%2Bmirror%2Caps%2C147&sr=8-25&th=1>

Instructions – Ask everyone to find a space by themselves (if possible) and distribute the mirrors to everyone and ask them to look at the reflection of themselves and consider in silence what they see when the look at themselves (avoid verbal feedback to this). After a few moments of silence, say words to the effect that when God sees you, God knows you and loves you with a love that is actually beyond words. You are special to God, there is only one of you. As you look in the mirror, remember that you are loved and special.

You may opt to use a sharpie marker pen to write the verse or part of it onto the mirror or to write “I’m special” or “God loves you!” and to take home as a reminder of this.

**End Prayer Every Session: All together**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you need for this session**

Chalk, tape or rope

Mirrors (one for each person)

Sharpie marker pens

Baby doll

Basket

Blue fabric

Crown

Large paper leaves (enough for one each)

A4 piece of paper

Blue felt tips or paint

Brushes if using paint

Coveralls if using paint

Glue

Cup cake cases

450g box of Cornflakes should cater for 20 people

3x 200g bars of diary milk Chocolate

Bowl for each person and a bowl to melt the chocolate in

Spoon for each person and one to serve the chocolate out

190g bag of Jelly babies for 20 children

450g ready rolled white icing

Wipes (optional)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Use of food ingredients, possible allergies | Could use allergy safe food, i.e gluten free cornflakes |  |  |
| **During session** | Use of sharpies/ paint and possible damage to clothes | Consider offering protective clothing |  |  |
| **During session** | Burns from melted chocolate | Cool the chocolate down before letting children handle it. Adult supervision. |  |  |
| **During session** | Use of scissors, possible cut of hands | Ensure correct use of scissors, child safe scissors |  |  |
| **During session** | Germs from cooking | Wash hands before begin activity |  |  |