

## **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.*

*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:**

Everyone's Valued

2 Samuel 9



## 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.

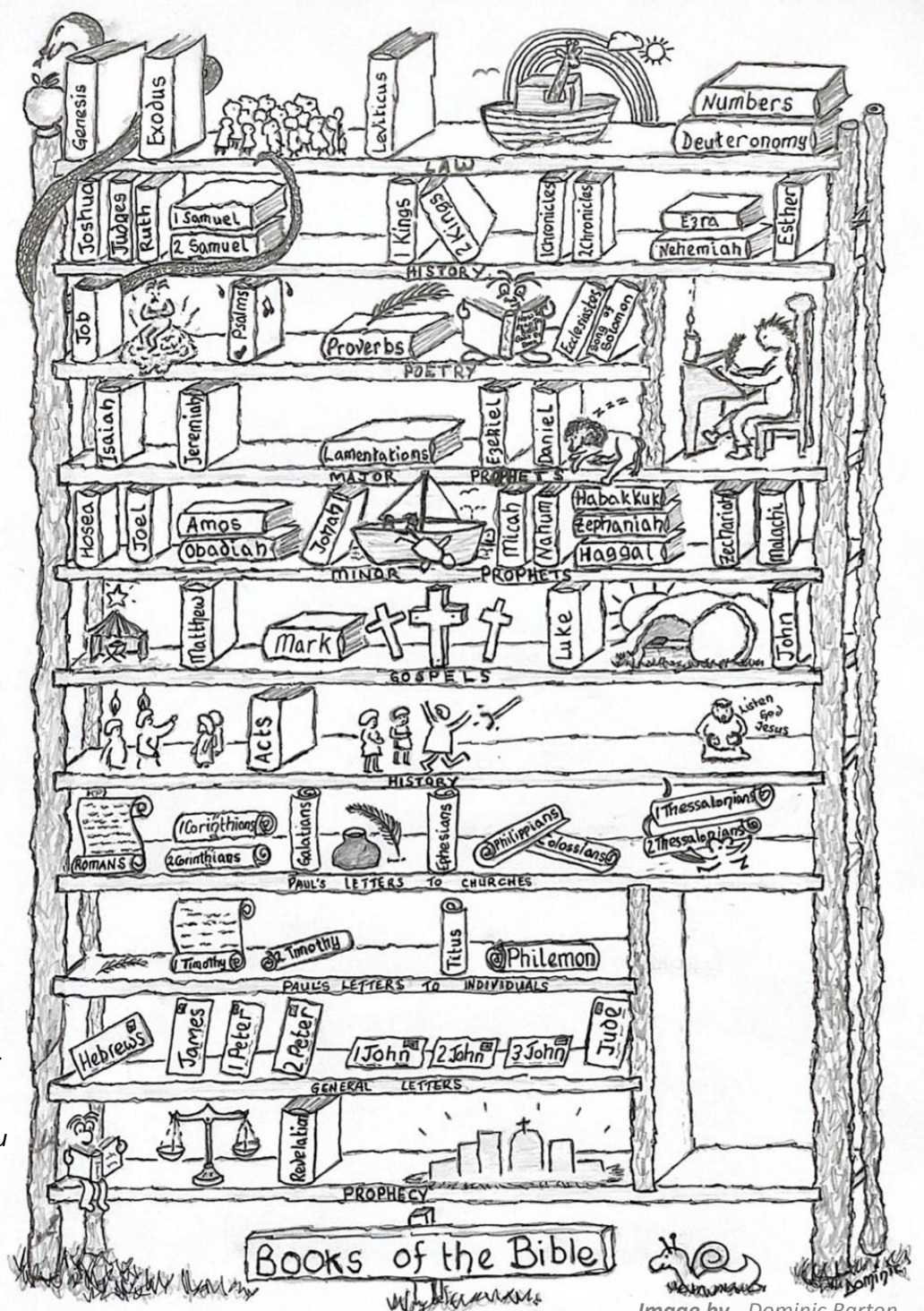
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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: Samuel**

The Books of Samuel were originally one book but later it was split in two because it is unusually long. We don't know who wrote it but it is thought to have been written about 3000 years ago. Samuel was a priest, prophet and a judge in Israel and his story is told in 1 Samuel, along with the story of King Saul, who was not a good king and did not listen to God. His son Jonathan was David's best friend. The second book of Samuel tells the story of King David and in this story we see how he seeks to bring Jonathon's son into his family.

**Online versions of the story**

**Watch and Listen**

David's Promise | Bible Stories Read Aloud <https://youtu.be/VveSv4EjWOI>

David and Mephibosheth - Bible Club TV <https://youtu.be/74hBiwMGhCY>

David Blesses Mephibosheth - The Greatest Story <https://youtu.be/I91jEsUnS4Q>

LEGO 2nd Samuel Chapter 9 - Mephibosheth <https://youtu.be/o6dVufMoA8k>

**Dance and Sing**

Big family of God – Nick and Becky Drake <https://youtu.be/F5pr6qEkBU>

This is amazing grace - This Is Amazing Grace - Bethel Music Kids | Come Alive  
<https://youtu.be/ZxVadCcRfol>

Welcome to the Family <https://youtu.be/nABos6Dh-F8>

ElevateKIDS | "Give a Little Kindness" Worship Song <https://youtu.be/qchyD2INXzk>



**The Story: 2 Samuel 9 (from The International Children's Bible)**

David asked, "Is there anyone still left in Saul's family? I want to show kindness to this person for Jonathan's sake!"

Now there was a servant named Ziba from Saul's family. So David's servants called Ziba to him. King David said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

He answered, "Yes, I am Ziba, your servant."

The king asked, "Is there anyone left in Saul's family? I want to show God's kindness to this person."

Ziba answered the king, "Jonathan has a son still living. He is crippled in both feet."

The king asked Ziba, "Where is this son?"

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

Then King David had servants bring Jonathan's son from the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar. Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, came before David and bowed face down on the floor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

Mephibosheth said, "I am your servant."

David said to him, "Don't be afraid. I will be kind to you for your father Jonathan's sake. I will give you back all the land of your grandfather Saul. And you will always be able to eat at my table."

Mephibosheth bowed to David again. Mephibosheth said, "You are being very kind to me, your servant! And I am no better than a dead dog!"

Then King David called Saul's servant Ziba. David said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You, your sons and your servants will farm the land for Mephibosheth. You will harvest the crops. Then your master's grandson will have food to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will always be able to eat at my table."

(Now Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.) Ziba said to King David, "I am your servant. I will do everything my master, the king, commands me."

So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as if he were one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. Everyone in Ziba's family became Mephibosheth's servants. Mephibosheth was crippled in both feet. He lived in Jerusalem and always ate at the king's table.

### *Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story*

*Rudyard Kipling, who originally wrote the Jungle Book, was an author and poet who lived in the late 19th/early 20th century. He wrote a very famous poem called "If". Following the same pattern, this poem helps us think about some of the ideas in today's Bible story and how we can live as good disciples. Maybe you could think of some verses of your own.*

*If you can value people  
And not judge on what you see.  
If you can welcome others  
And show generosity.  
If you can give without conditions  
Whether they deserve or not.  
If you can keep your promises,  
Share all the love you've got.  
If you remember friendships  
And stand true to what you say.  
If you stand up for others,  
Never mind what people say.  
Try to follow your friend Jesus  
In the things you say and do.  
And say sorry for the times when  
You don't get it quite right, too.  
God's welcome is for everyone,  
Can't be earned and you don't pay.  
You are a child of God and you  
Live the Jesus way.*

*Written by Rudyard Kipling.*



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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:*

- *David welcomed Mephibosheth into his family because he was the son of David's friend Jonathon. Would it change how you treat other people if you thought of them as children of God? Is it ever difficult to do that?*
- *What does family mean to you?*
- *Mephibosheth didn't have to do anything to earn David's generosity. How can we follow David's example?*
- *God isn't mentioned in this story, but does anything in this story make you think of God?*
- *What sort of promises might you make to your best friend?*

## 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.



A tea set



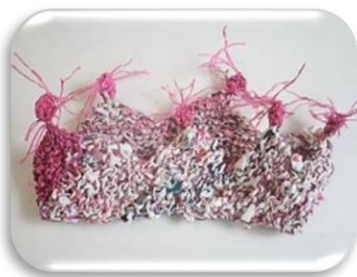
A pretend cash till



Something with  
rainbow colours  
for God's promise



Doll or figures to  
represent people in  
the story



A crown



Some nice silky/shiny  
fabric for a cloak

## **Pray Together**

### **Spoonful Prayers**

**You will need:** Dessert spoons

Ensure everyone has their own spoon. First look into the back of the spoon, see how your reflection is the right way round. Take a moment to study your face and think about all the things you value about yourself (you could name them out loud). For instance: smiley/ being friendly/ helpful/ good listener. Try to think about all the kind things you do for others or that they do for you.

Now turn the spoon round and look into it. Experiment with moving the spoon nearer to you, further away from you, turn it on its side. What do you notice about your reflection? It is distorted isn't it, it doesn't really look like you. I wonder how others see you? I wonder how you see others? Do you sometimes forget to value yourself and others?

Take a moment to say this prayer together:

***Creator God, you made us just as we should be, just right.***

***Help us to see the value in ourselves – thank you God,***

***Help us to see the value in others – thank you God,***

***Remind us that we are all valued in your eyes – thank you God,***

***Amen.***





## *Pray Together*

### **Balloon Prayers**

**You will need:** A blown-up balloon each  
(You could use the balloons you make in the messy activity)



*Use your hand to start batting your balloon up in the air. See how many bats you can do to keep the balloon in the air. After a moment or two, using just one balloon, start batting the balloon to someone else, each time shouting out something you value in them. Try to make sure everyone has a turn, and something is said about each person. When you are finished, ask everyone to pick up their balloon again so everyone has one and start batting them up and down, this time shouting out thank you God for me, thank you God for.....each time the balloon hits your hand. After a moment or two all shout out – Amen.*

## Pray Together



### Pocket Cross

*Our story reminds us to be kind and encourage others. Sometimes it helps to have something to remind you that you are not alone. By making a pocket cross for someone to keep in their pocket, you are also saying a prayer to bless and encourage them.*

**You will need:** Card (recycle packaging or cereal boxes etc)  
Wool

#### **What to do:**

*Cut out a cross from your card, remembering it needs to be small enough to fit in a pocket. Tie or tape one end of the wool to your card cross then wrap around the card until all is covered. Leave a space at the ends or put a dab of glue on the card at the edges to stop the wool slipping off. When finished, fasten the wool off.*



*Who could you give this to? This might help with tests, exams and visiting new classes or a new school or if adult friends or family face a challenge at work. It's a perfect gift for a person awaiting hospital tests or for those who feel ignored, unloved or are lonely.*

*I wonder if anything surprised you about this story?*

*I wonder who you think you are most like in this story?*

*I wonder which is your favourite part of this story?*



*I wonder how Mephibosheth felt about the steward's message?*

*I wonder if we are able to recognise everyone as a child of God or if it is difficult sometimes?*





**To Do Together...**



**Mascot**

**You will need:** *Pair of old socks  
Small elastic bands  
Stuffing or cotton wool balls  
A small piece of ribbon*



**What you do:**

*If you are using trainer socks, you may need to use both socks for this; if using an ankle sock you can get away with using just one.*

*Flatten the sock out and put a small piece of stuffing or half a cotton wool ball in the corner of the toe seam to form an ear and tie it off with an elastic band. Do the same with the other side.*

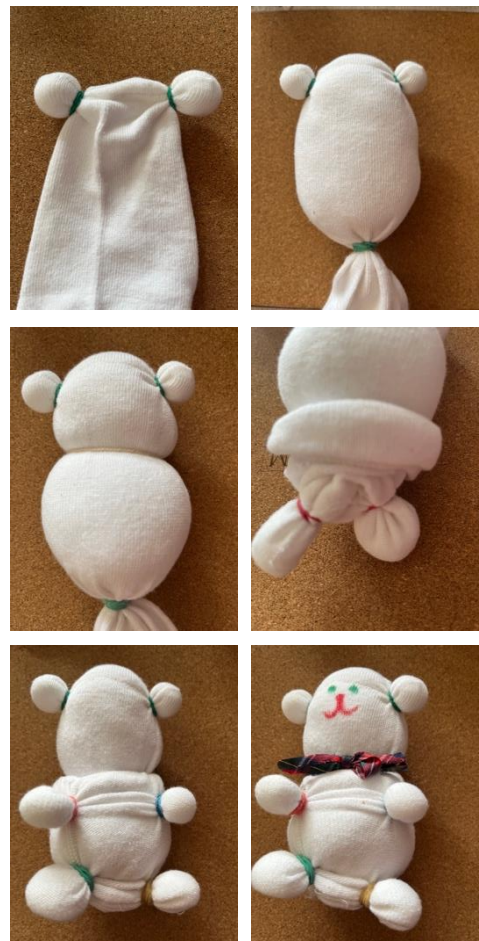
*Stuff the sock with a few handfuls of cotton wool balls or stuffing and tie it off with an elastic band.*

*Tie some string/thread or another elastic band halfway down the body shape to form a head (don't tie to too tight as you will want to tuck the rest of the sock into it).*

*Turn the tail of the sock inside out and pull the remainder of the sock up over the rest of the body of the bear.*

*Put a small piece of stuffing to form the legs and the arms and tie them with elastic bands. Tuck the end of the sock into the string around the neck. Tie a ribbon around the neck to finish it off and then draw on the face of your teddy.*

*A mascot can help to remind us that we are valued and help us to do our very best in difficult situations. Perhaps you could give one to a friend to help them remember they have a friend in you when times are challenging.*



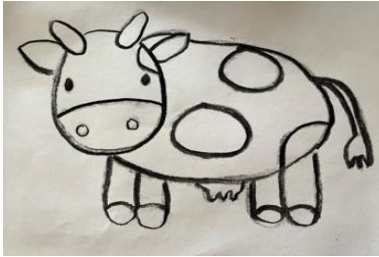




## To Do Together...

### Value Picture

**You will need:** Charcoal or black pencil or crayon  
Large sheet of paper  
A piece of coloured paper or fabric, or a bright coloured pen



#### What you do:

Value art is when you define how light or dark a colour is by adding highlights, or bold colour can be added to highlight the image.

Draw a simple image or word on a large sheet of paper and colour it in using only black, shading it to create different shades of the same colour.



Once you have finished, add a bright colour, either by drawing it in or sticking something on to the picture. This highlights the picture and enables us to truly see it. Suddenly the very plain picture becomes something special.

Sometimes we just need something to be highlighted for people to really see our true value. Look around you and see what you might highlight in others so that people recognise how special they are.



 To Do Together...

### Balloon Drawing

**You will need:** A balloon  
Pens

#### **What you do:**

On the uninflated balloon, draw an image.  
Inflate the balloon and see the image change.

*Sometimes things get distorted and changed. What other people see is not always the real person underneath. Mephibosheth was judged by others because he was lame and couldn't walk properly, but David saw him for who he was and welcomed him into the family. Instead of seeing people how society sees them and judges them, we need to remember how God sees them and value them as God's children.*



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**Everyday Faith:**

*This story is about valuing people for who they are, not for what they look like. This week, your challenge is to remember that everyone we meet is special because of who they are – including each other! You may not be able to share your wealth, but you can share a smile. You may not be able to take them into your family, but you can give them a bit of your time. You may not have much in common with them, but you can remember that we're all God's children and can give them some encouragement or pray for them. Especially remember to encourage people who are doing exams or tests at this time of year.*

**Scrapbooking:**

*Make a very simple family tree by putting God as the trunk of the tree with branches sticking out. Then draw or make leaves, putting your name on one leaf first and then thinking of people you know to put on other leaves. Then fill in the background with lots of leaves to represent people you don't know who are still children of God. What could you write as a title for this picture?*

**Take it Further:**

*Find out about Thy Kingdom Come Global <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> which is a movement focusing on prayer which takes place around now. There are resources for churches and schools, for families and for children and young people. Why not have a go at the Escape Room together?  
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/youth>*



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### **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](mailto: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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