**God’s Chosen One**

**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:**

* 7 small old cardboard boxes (cereal packets etc. named as follows Edom, Gaza, Damascus, Ammon, Moab, Judah, Tyre) for each team
* One bigger box (named Israel) for each team
* 16 general knowledge questions

Games
The aim of the game is to crush the cities first**.** Gather two teams and give them each a set of cities. Each team are to select a member to come up and answer a question, head-to-head style. To answer the question the child must shout out their name and wait to be selected before answering the question. If the child gets the question right, they get to demolish one of the other team’s cities. If they get it wrong, the other team get to demolish one of their cities. The winner is the first team to demolish the other team’s cities finishing with Israel.

**Today’s theme is about how we can choose to create a fairer world or we can choose to be selfish and ignore God’s way.**

**The Big Story- The book of Amos**

**What you will need:**

Wellies

Garden trowel

Crown

Robe

Jewels

Scrolled paper that unravels

Reader 1: So, today we are going speak about a prophet

I mean a prophet spelt P.R.O.P.H.E.T. a prophet is someone sent by God to tell people what he wants them to hear.

Reader 2: Oh, a bit like a messenger?

Reader 1: Yes! And today we are going to hear about Amos.

Reader 2: Who was he? I guess if he was one of Gods messengers, he must have been important or people just wouldn’t have listened to him?

Reader 1: Well, as usual, this is not the case. He was just a shepherd and an olive tree farmer. (*Choose a volunteer to be Amos and dress them in wellies and a garden trowel*)

Reader 2: God wasn’t one for going for the big name, was he?

Reader 1: That is very true. God sent Amos to the land that God gave to the people who escaped Egypt with Moses. At that time the land was ruled by a king called Jeroboam who was a very successful and powerful leader. He had won a lot of battles, had gained more and more land and lots of money through his victories (*Choose a volunteer to be Jeroboam and put a crown on their head*)

Reader 2: I guess he was a popular king, then!

Reader 1: Well, he was with some of the people. Unfortunately, being so wealthy and powerful had made him lazy and he took his eye off the ball, forgetting what God had done for the people. He had started worshiping other gods and neglecting the poor.

Reader 2: Ooops!

Reader 1: Amos had one of the hardest tasks of all the prophets. He had to go to a nation where the rich people were doing really, really well. They had nice clothes, nice houses, good food, they made sacrifices to many gods and everything was good. (*Dress a volunteer with some fancy clothes and jewellery*) But Amos had to tell them that God wasn’t happy with them, in fact God wanted them to stop what they were doing and change. You can imagine how that went down.

Reader 2: It does seem a little harsh. Everything was going so well for them.

Reader 1: It might have been going well for them, but it wasn’t going so well for the poor. As the rich got richer, the poor got poorer and to make things worse the rich also started making up their own gods and worshiping them, forgetting all that God had done for them.

Reader 2: God is not going to be happy about that!

Reader 1: So, God sent Amos to tell them they had to do better! Well as you can imagine they were not very interested in listening. Amos tries to warn them that God might not take kindly to that, just as he hadn’t taken kindly to other places where the people refused to listen too.

Reader 2: Really?

Reader 1: He warned them that the city of Damascus and their fortress could be destroyed, the king would be defeated, and their people would be sent away if they didn’t change their ways.

Reader 2: Wow

Reader 1: And there’s more: He warned them that the fortress in Gaza might suffer the same fate.

Reader 2: Oh no, but at least Israel was still safe.

Reader 1: There is more - Edom, Ammon, Judah …

Reader 2: Wow God didn’t pull any punches, did he?

Reader 1: No, and it was Amos’ job to convince Israel that they would be next if they didn’t change their ways. Can you imagine that? An unknown farmer and shepherd coming and telling one of the most powerful and important kings that he had to change.

Reader 2: What did God want them to do, then?

Reader 1: God was pretty clear that he wanted the people of Israel to turn away from their bad habits and follow him again. He had a few demands (*go to the bag and get a folded piece of paper that looks small until you unravel it and it falls to the floor*)

1. Do not store the good things that you stole from others for yourself
2. Get rid of your big flash houses and mansions
3. Don’t be mean to the poor and needy
4. Don’t brag about the things you claim to give to me
5. Don’t be unfaithful to your wives
6. Don’t tax the poor
7. Stop taking bribes
8. Stop taking away justice for the poor people
9. Don’t worship fake gods
10. Share your wealth
11. Stop your fake music towards me
12. Don’t worry about your wrinkles
13. …

Reader 2: Yeah, yeah I think I get the message. But did they?

Reader 1: What do you think? Even though Amos clearly told them to “let Justice flow like a river and fairness like a never ending stream,” the people were far more interested in wanting to keep living the way that they had with all their nice stuff.

Reader 2: So, what happened?

Reader 1: Well, God gave the people of Israel some time to try to get to know him so that they might live, but the people didn’t change and eventually the good times dried up. Eventually the Assyrian armies came in and conquered Israel.

Reader 2: So much for a happy ending, then. I feel a bit depressed now.

Reader 1: It wasn’t quite the ending. Amos also saw that eventually God would rebuild his kingdom and that would include all people. The people of Israel would come home and be part of God’s family. But if God is to build his kingdom, we all have to learn to live our lives the way God wants us to.

Reader 2: Wow. I wonder if we can do that?

**Creative Adventure**

**Creating destruction and going with the flow**

Today we are going to create some artwork for the wall of your meeting place. It is a bit of a messy one so make sure you get everything well covered.

**What you’ll need:**

* A large piece of white card
* An A4 piece of card for each person
* A baking tray slightly bigger that A4 (if you have one for each person great but you can clean them in between creations)
* Small circular makeup sponges (if you want to make more sense of this part write the names of the behaviours that God wanted to squash e.g. greed, selfishness, injustice, cruelty, boasting)
* Poster paints
* Rubber mallet
* A large plastic sheet to cover the floor
* Covers for clothes

Make sure all delicate surfaces are covered as this craft is messy. Also make sure that everyone participating wears coveralls.

PART 1

1. Dip the underside of the sponges in the poster paint, making the sponge saturated in paint. Carefully place them on the big piece of card. Once all are on the card, give the rubber mallet to one of the children and invite them to hit the top of one of the sponges making the paint splatter.
2. Remove the sponges and you will have a piece of art that depicts how God hates to see injustice, greed etc in God’s world.

PART 2

1. Place a piece of A4 card into one of the baking trays
2. Squeeze out some blue and white (possibly green as well) in large blobs at one end of the tray.
3. Tilt the tray and let the paint flow down the sheet of card creating a waterfall effect, or use paper straws to blow the paint across the paper.
4. Leave to dry and then place the sheets of each of the children’s waterfall images together in one large vertical line making a justice river. Create a title and display it in your church.

**Wondering questions to use during creative time:**

I wonder whether the people of Israel thought that God was not serious about his warning?

I wonder how Amos felt knowing he had to tell others God was upset?

I wonder what we can do to make our community a fairer place?

**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 group to find where on the Map today’s story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the group 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 make a poster highlighting a cause you are passionate about, a cause that promotes helping others. Pray God will help in that situation.

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we heard about how a man named Amos followed God’s word and set out to help others to change their ways.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer
Jesus, help us to seek justice.

Help us to make sure that we do what we know is right and make good choices.

Let us help love and care for all people,

Showing that we are living as one of God’s chosen people.

Amen.

Active Prayer

What you need

* A Torch for each participant.

Print out the lines of the prayer above on separate pieces of paper and stick them on the wall of a room that you can make dark.

Get the children to come into the darkened room and use their torches to find the lines of the prayer and read them out together when they find them.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you will need:**

**Game:**

* 7 small old cardboard boxes (cereal packets etc. named as follows Edom, Gaza, Damascus, Ammon, Moab, Judah, Tyre)
* One bigger box (named Israel)
* 16 general knowledge questions
* A cover for the tray

**Story:**

* Wellies
* Garden trowel
* Crown
* Robe
* Jewels
* Scrolled paper that unravels

**Craft:**

* A large piece of white card
* An A4 piece of card for each person
* A baking tray slightly bigger that A4 (if you have one for each person great but you can clean them in between creations)
* Small circular makeup sponges
* Rubber mallet
* A large plastic sheet to cover the floor
* Covers for clothes

**Prayer:**

* Torch for each person

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| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Use of paint and damage to clothing  | Extra supervision use of protective clothing  |  |  |
| **During session** | Scissors cutting of hands and clothes  | Only used children’s scissors or closely supervise with other scissors  |  |  |