**Top of the Tower**

**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**

**Pot plant marbles**

**What you need:**

* Tray
* Marbles (in a bowl) ‘people’
* Large ceramic plant pot
* A large wooden spoon
* Stop watch

Lay the pot plant upside down on the tray, ensuring the hole at the bottom of the pot is exposed. Set a minute timer and time each person spooning as many ‘People’ into the pot as they can. Any marbles that roll off the pot onto the tray gets put back into the marble bowl. Once the minute is up count how many ‘people’ they managed to spoon in to the pot. Repeat this for each person until everyone has had a turn. The person with the highest number is the winner

**Cups!**

**What you will need**:

* 10 paper cups (one set to share or multiple sets if you are to play this in pairs or groups)
* Stopwatch

Stack the cups inside one another to start the game. When the timer starts, the person has to try to set up the cups like a tower, 4 on the bottom, 3 stacked on them, 2 above them and 1 on the top as quickly as they can. Time each person, the winner is the person who can stack the cups into a tower the quickest.

**Today’s theme teaches us not to be proud but to share God’s love with everyone.**

**The Big Story- Tower of Babel – Genesis ch11 v1-9**

**What you need:**

* Cardboard boxes of various sizes that can stacked on top of each other
* Play hammers/ tools

Reader 1: In the area of Shinar there lived many people, many people who all spoke the same language and could understand each other well.

PEOPLE: *[All turn to each other saying ‘hello’]*

Reader 1: The people decided to make a tower. First, they had to make the bricks.

PEOPLE: *[Pretend to mould brick shapes]*

Reader 1: Once the people had made many bricks, they decided to use them to make a high tower.

PEOPLE: *[start stacking the boxes to make a tower]*

Reader 1: The people said they wanted to make the tower to reach all the way to the heavens so that they could be closest to God and all around would see how great they were.

PEOPLE: *[Strut around and look proud]*

Reader 1: But God was not very happy that the people were trying to show off to those around them and thinking that they could get close to God just by building a tower. They were like a gang, thinking they were better than anyone else and wanting to keep God to themselves.

PEOPLE: *[Look down at feet ashamed]*

Reader 1: God was so unhappy with what the people had done he introduced different languages so they would be confused and wouldn’t be able to build the tower together any more. God scattered everyone in different areas of the land.

PEOPLE: *[People to scatter and separate from each other]*

Reader 1: The tower was called the tower of Babel, which is a word which means to confuse. It’s a bit like our word ‘babbling’. God wanted the people to spread out across the world and to put their efforts into being God’s people on earth rather than building a tower to take them up into the heavens.

**Creative Adventure**

**Edible tower**

**What you will need:**

* Ritz biscuits or digestives
* Icing/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
* Chocolate Rolos
* Spoons/ blunt knives
* Paper plates
* wipes

First ensure everyone wipes or has washed their hands. Layer the biscuits and icing/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread to create a tower, place a Rolo on the top.

Alternative option

**What you need:**

* cucumber
* kiwi
* banana
* apple
* strawberry
* cocktail stick
* blunt knives
* chopping board
* wipes

First ensure everyone wipes or has washed their hands. Slice the apple in half, lay it with the flat side face down, carefully push a cocktail stick a cm or two into the apple. Slice the banana, cucumber, kiwi or whatever fruit you have chosen to use and layer them on the cocktail stick like a type of kebab. Top with a whole strawberry.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what good things God has given you?

I wonder what if you ever brag or boast?

I wonder if the people who built the tower realised that it would upset God?

**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: As a family, take a day trip to a tower or high hill near where you live, take hot chocolate or a cool drink with you depending on the weather. When at the top of the tower/ hill, sit down to enjoy the drink and talk to God.

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today’s story was about how a town of people started to think too much of themselves, so much so they built a big tower to brag and boast to others that they were the closest to God. But we’re closer to God when we share God’s love with others.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer
Jesus, our friend,

We are your people.

We want to know you better.

We want to tell others about you.

Show us how

AMEN

**Active Prayer**

What you need:

* Lego or Duplo

Lay all the blocks out, separately. Allow everyone to build up the tower to create a prayer. You could choose different colours to represent different things to pray about – maybe green for the environment, red for places where there is no peace, yellow for people who need our prayer, blue for ourselves etc… Either have a set each or one set for everyone to share. Each in turn can add a brick to the tower and say something – if they’re unable to think of what to say, they could simply say “help us build each other up”.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you will need:**

* Lego/ Duplo
* cucumber
* kiwi
* banana
* apple
* strawberry
* cocktail stick
* blunt knives
* chopping board
* wipes
* Ritz biscuits or digestives
* Icing/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
* Chocolate Rolos
* Spoons/ blunt knives
* Paper plates
* Cardboard boxes of various sizes that can stacked on top of each other
* Play hammers/ tools

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **During session** | Risk of injury with knives in cooking activity | Supervise well and use blunt knives |   |  |
| **During session** | Risk of allergy with foods during cooking activity | Check allergies amongst the group.  |  |  |
| **During session** | Risk of chocking on the food | Consider letting the group take their food home to eat rather than eating it at group |  |  |