**Finders Keepers**

**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)*

**The Alternative 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 1: FIND YOUR WAY –**

What you need:

6 to 10 chairs

Wool or string

Stopwatch

Picture of Jesus in the temple

The aim of the game is for each player to make their way through the web of wool and get to the other side in the quickest time.

The leader will need to prepare this game before the session begins: Place the chairs so they are in two rows with the chairs adjacent to each other.

X X X X X

X X X X X

Take the end of the wool and tie it round the leg of one of the first chairs, then weave the wool through the legs and round the backs of the chairs so that you create a web of strings. Blue tac or Sellotape the picture of Jesus in the temple to the chair at the end of your course.

Once you are ready to begin the game, tell the player that they are to find Jesus as quickly as possible while navigating the course. They are able to go under the wool and over the wool but they are not allowed to go round the chairs. Click start on the timer as soon as the player has set off and click stop once they get to the picture. Make sure you make a note of the time each player takes to complete the course. You could set up two parallel courses and make this a relay race if you choose.

**GAME 2 -FINDERS KEEPERS:**

What you need:

An object (suggestions: a small toy/ book/ tennis ball/a laminated picture of Jesus)

Stopwatch (optional)

The aim of this game is for the leader to hide an object and for the children to find it. You could either play this with all the children searching at the same time or you could let individual or small groups of children search instead. You could set a timer and time the children as they search for the object.

**Today’s theme is that there are times in life when we feel lost but Jesus is not far away.**

**The Big Story – *Lost and found – Luke 2 v 41-49***

Nothing needed for this story.

One leader reading the story and all the children to participate.

Explain to the children that each time they hear the word ‘lost’, they are to cover their eyes and shout lost and when they hear the word found, they are to cup their face with their hands and shout ‘Found!’.

Jesus, who was 12 years old, was on his way to the festival of Passover with his mum and dad. There were many people going too, there were so many of them, they all stayed together to make sure no one got **lost** on the way.

After several days enjoying the festival, everyone started to make their way home.

About three days later, when everyone was nearly home, Jesus’ mum and dad started to look for Jesus, they searched and searched but couldn’t find him….he was **lost**. They spoke to someone whohad **found** a boy, but it wasn’t Jesus. It was another boy.

‘Oh dear what are we going to do?’ thought Jesus’ mum, Mary. She turned to Joseph and said, “If Jesus is **lost,** what are we going to do?” but Jesus’ dad, Joseph, said to Mary “Do not worry, I am sure he has been **found** and is safe. Let’s walk back to the festival and see if we can find him”.

Mary asked everyone they met whether they had seen their **lost** boy, Jesus. But nobody had.

Joseph asked everyone they saw if they had **found** a boy called Jesus. But nobody had.

By the time Mary and Joseph had walked all the way back to the festival, they were sick with worry. Jesus was nowhere to be **found.** Joseph approached the Temple priest and explained they had **lost** their son Jesus. The priest smiled and said, “Don’t worry. I think you have **found** him. A young boy is in the temple and has been teaching us all about the scriptures. He is quite talkative – we have learned a lot. I don’t think he knows you’re looking for him.”

Mary, hearing this, exclaimed, ”You have **found** my boy. Oh thank you!” Joseph and Mary ran over to Jesus and said “We couldn’t find you, we thought you were going to be **lost** for ever! Thank goodness we have **found** you!”

Jesus turned to his worried parents and said, “But Mum, Dad, I was never **lost**. I was in God’s house, the Temple. When I am with God, I am never **lost.”**

Mary just looked at Joseph. “When I am with God, **I am** **never lost**!”

I wonder what that means?”

**Creative adventure**

You will need:

* Straws
* A cardboard tray for each child (this could be a cereal box cut in half lengthways and with the ends taped to create a tray)
* Sticky tape or glue
* A marble
* Felt tips
* Picture of Jesus

Use the straws to create a route/maze by sticking them onto the cardboard tray with tape or glue. Mark the starting point of the maze and stick a picture of Jesus at the end point. The base of the tray could be decorated with felt tips, maybe drawing pictures of different things that might distract us or places we might get lost. When the maze is finished, place a marble at the start point and tilt the tray with both hands to try and manoeuvre the marble all the way to Jesus.

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

I wonder if you have ever felt lost?

I wonder what being found by Jesus feels like?

I wonder how you could help others find Jesus?

**The Adventure Map**

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written shortly after Jesus’s 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: **Find a short guided walk that you can do as a family, one where you have to follow some instructions telling you which way to go. As you follow the instructions, chat about how it feels to be lost and how it feels when someone shows you the way. Photograph yourself as you follow the route.**

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today we have heard howthere are times when we feel lost in life and we are not sure what to do. But when we are with God, we are never lost. If we search for Jesus, if we talk to him, he will bring us close to him and help show us the way.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Spoken prayer:

Dear God,

When we feel lost at school – you are there – hooray!

When we feel lost in the playground – you are there – hooray!

When we feel lost at home – you are there – hooray!

When we feel lost in life – you are there – hooray!

Thank you that when we are with you, we are never really lost.

Amen

**Active Prayer**

Before you begin, tape out a labyrinth using masking tape or lay out small squares of paper to use as stepping stones. Use this as a template to lay out your own labyrinth.

Start at the beginning of the labyrinth and walk slowly through it until you reach the middle, all the while thinking how, when we are feeling lost, we can talk to Jesus and he will be with us.

Alternatively, you could print small labyrinths out to use as a finger labyrinth. Instead of walking the course, use a finger to trace the lines of the labyrinth to the middle.

**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**

Stopwatch

Wool

6 to 10 chairs

Picture of Jesus in the temple

Object to hide

Straws

A cardboard tray each

Sticky tape or glue

A marble each

Felt tips

Picture of Jesus in the template each

Picture of Jesus each

Masking tape or pieces of paper

Labyrinth template

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | When playing the wool game, possible trip hazard | Discourage taking risks, encourage slow and careful navigation of the game |  |  |
| **During session** |  |  |  |  |
| **During session** |  |  |  |  |
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