**I Hear You Knocking**

**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

**Knocking game**

Ask everyone to sit on the floor in a circle. Once seated, everyone should place their hands flat on the floor, crossing arms with the person next to them on each side. The game starts with one person knocking on the floor. The person to the right of them needs to knock with their right hand and then the onwards from there. A single knock sends it in the same direction but a double knock reverses the direction. The aim of the game is to see how long the group can keep it going without going wrong. You could also make it so that anyone that does it wrong has to take their hand out.

**Perseverance**

**What is needed:**

* Several packs of playing cards
* Stopwatch

Share out 12 cards per person. Set a five-minute timer and challenge everyone to build a card tower, explain that they should keep going and not give up until the timer is finished. Several rounds of the game could be played. Who can build the biggest tower?

**Today’s theme is about** not giving up on building a friendship with Jesus

**The Big Story: Luke 11 vs 5-13 – What time do you call this?**

**What you will need:**

*Before the story begins, split the group into two groups, group 1 who makes a knocking sound during the story and group 2 who say “go away”*

Reader 1: Jesus told a story, a story about never giving up, and it goes something like this:

Reader 2: (*over-acting)* Oh no, oh no, I don’t have enough bread, what am I to do? How am I to feed my guests? They have had a long journey and must be hungry. I think I am going to have to pop round to my friend’s house and borrow some food.

[*Mime knocking on a door – group 1 makes a knocking sound* ]

Reader 1: Who is that at the door? It’s late, go away.

*[Group 2 shouts “go away”]*

Reader 2: Please open the door to me, I have a guest and I need some bread.

[*Reader 2 mimes knocking on the door again – group 1 makes a knocking sound* ]

Reader 1: My children are asleep and I must go back to bed.Go away! *[Group 2 shouts “go away”]*

Reader 2: Please I beg of you [*Reader 2 mimes knocking on the door again – group 1 makes a knocking sound* ]

Reader 1: I said leave us alone, I am not getting up for you. Go away! *[Group 2 shouts “go away”]*

Reader 2: I cannot leave until I have some food for my guests, please help me [*Reader 2 mimes knocking on the door again – group 1 makes a knocking sound* ]

Reader 1: Oh ok, I can see I’m not going to get any peace. Here *[throws Reader 12 a loaf of bread]*  have it. Now go so I can get some rest. *[Group 2 shouts “go away”]*

Reader 2: Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Reader 1: Jesus told this story to help us understand that we must never give up talking to him, we must persist like the neighbour did with the bread. Jesus said “So I tell you, continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you.”

Reader 2: I wonder what you would talk to Jesus about?

**Creative Adventure**

**Inviting fun**

What you need:

* Blank foam door hangers or door hangers cut from stiff card
* Foam craft letters
* Foam craft shapes

Activity

Use the craft letters to create a door hanger. On one side of the hanger it could say something like “Don’t knock, I’m praying” or “Stop knocking, I hear you” and on the other side “Keep knocking and I will answer” or “Knock and the door will be opened”. Decorate round the words using the foam craft shapes. Encourage everyone to hang their creation on their bedroom door.

**ALTERNATIVE/ ADDITIONAL CRAFT IDEA:**

**Prayer Dice**

What you need:

* Prayer dice template
* Scissors
* Sticky tape or glue

Start by colouring in the template squares, add a written or drawn prayer in the empty boxes. Then carefully cut round the outside lines of the template. Use the ruler to help fold all the lines to help create a cube shape. Use the sticky tape or glue to attach the grey shaded areas to the edges of the box. Throw the box like a dice and read the prayer that is showing.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder how you would answer someone who asks how we know God is listening?  
I wonder how God has answered your prayers?  
I wonder what you would do if someone knocked on your door in the middle of the night asking for food?

**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 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: Decorate a small notebook as a journal to write down your thoughts, words and pictures to God. Keep coming back to it and looking back at what you have spoken to God about and see if things have changed in that situation. Remember to keep talking to God even if things have not changed and remember to say thank you when they have.

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we have heard how Jesus told a story of someone who didn’t give up on asking his friend for help. He used this story to explain how we should pray and that we should never give up talking to God because our prayer is heard, even if we don’t think God is answering the way we’d hoped.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

Jesus, help us to keep knocking even when we feel that nobody will help.

Help us to know that you will always answer us.

You have a plan for each and every one of us.

You are always with us.

Amen

Active Prayer

Give the group opportunity to think of some short, one sentence, thank you, sorry and please prayers e.g. ‘Thank you for my friends’ or ‘sorry for getting grumpy when I didn’t win the game’ or ‘please help my brother get better from the flu’….. leaders may need to take the initiative if the children are reticent to join in at first. The go round the group with each person saying their sentence.

In between each sentence of prayer there is a response for the whole group:

*Knock twice on the floor, say “Jesus”, knock twice on the floor, say “hear us”.*

If a child doesn’t want to contribute a prayer, they can just do the knock and the group can echo it back.

When everyone has had an opportunity to contribute, the whole group can do a drumroll on the floor while they say “Aaaaaaaaaaaa-men”

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you will need:**

* Prayer dice template
* Scissors
* Sticky tape or glue
* Stopwatch
* Foam door hangers <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hangers-Crafts-Assorted-Amazing-Arts/dp/B07DKQ3RMC/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=craft+foam+door+hangers&qid=1605004795&sr=8-3>
* Foam craft letters <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Self-Adhesive-Foam-Lower-Case-Letters/dp/B00B5DFJ9I/ref=sr_1_13?dchild=1&keywords=craft+foam+letters&qid=1605004580&sr=8-13>
* Foam craft shapes <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Self-Adhesive-Classroom-Decorations-Childrens-Scrapbooking/dp/B085C31ZPQ/ref=sr_1_11?dchild=1&keywords=craft+foam+shapes&qid=1605004833&sr=8-11>

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| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **During session** | Use of scissors during craft time, chance of cutting fingers | Supervise while using scissors, use appropriate aged scissors |  |  |

