**The Greatest Commandment**

**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**

**Clever drawing**

*What you need:*

* Paper plates
* Felt tips

Each person is to place the plate on top of their head, keeping it in place with one hand and with a felt tip pen ready in the other. The leader reads these instructions out loud, instructing everyone what to draw on the plate.

1. Draw grass on the ground.
2. Draw the sun with rays in the sky.
3. Draw two flowers in the grass that are not touching.
4. Draw two birds in the sky under the sun.
5. Draw a ball in between the flowers.
6. Draw one cloud in the sky next to the sun.

Now you can compare your drawings!

**Top trumps**

*What you will need:*

* Trump cards such as these or similar [Dogs Top Trumps Card Game : Amazon.co.uk: Toys & Games](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dogs-Top-Trumps-Card-Game/dp/B00UN7SUNO/ref%3Dasc_df_B00UN7SUNO?tag=bingshoppinga-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=79852089215481&hvnetw=o&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=&hvtargid=pla-4583451664090855&psc=1)

Follow the instructions found in the trump card pack. Essentially the cards are dealt equally to each participant, they take it in turns to choose a category and each read out the numbers under that category. The card that trumps all the rest wins and the person holding that card wins the opponents’ cards. The winner is the one with the most cards at the end of the game.

**Today’s theme is about what God’s greatest commandment is for our lives– to love God.**

 **The Big Story - The greatest commandment Mark 12:28-34**

*What you need: (children can take cushions out of the bag as the story is told)*

*(Quoted Bible verse from Children’s international Bible)*

* A bag
* 1 cushion with the word heart pinned to it
* 1 cushion with the word soul pinned to it
* 1 cushion with the word mind pinned to it
* 1 cushion with the word strength pinned to it
* Bin liner with pretend rubbish in

Reader 1: Come on, come on, empty the rubbish and then next you can fold up the washing oh and don’t forget………………..

*[Reader 2 picks up bin bag]*

Reader 2: Hang on, one thing at a time, I’ll forget the next thing to do if you tell me too many in one go

Reader 1: Not asked, commanded *[said with contempt]*

Reader 2: Commanded, um…….I don’t think so *[drop the bin liner]*

Reader 1: *[looking a little confused]* – what? I am in charge of you, therefore I can command you

Reader 2: That’s not how it works………..goodness *[picks up bin bag again, muttering]* you’ve obviously never heard of the greatest commandment *[starts to walk away]*

Reader 1: What was that? About greatest commandment?

Reader 2: Forget it, you’ll only command me to do other jobs and I have enough of them to do as it is………

Reader 1: No, I won’t I promise, I really am interested in this greatest commandment, please…….

Reader 2: Ok then, basically Jesus and some others were having a debate when one guy joined in and asked Jesus what he thought was the most important commandment?

Reader 1: That’s easy

Reader 2: Is it?

Reader 1: Yeah, to do as you are told by a higher authority, like you doing what I tell you!

Reader 2: Yeah right! Actually, I think the person asking the question was really thinking about the ten commandments. He was probably trying to trick Jesus into choosing one because then it would look like he thought the other nine were less important.

Reader 1: So which one did he choose? I bet it was the one about not murdering people. Or maybe the one about not being jealous of the things your neighbour owns.

Reader 1: That’s what you might think is the greatest commandment but that’s not how Jesus answered. Instead he summarised all ten of the commandments like this:

The most important command is this: ‘Listen up! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart,

*[take heart cushion out the bag]*

all your soul,

*[take the soul cushion out the bag]*

all your mind,

*[take the mind cushion out the bag]*

and all your strength.

*[take the strength cushion out the bag]*

And Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’

Reader 2; Wow…..I was not expecting that! But what a good answer. He summed up all the ten commandments in one really clear message about love.

Reader 1: Yes, that’s right. It’s not about bossing people around, it’s about loving and respecting God and each other and doing what’s right as a result.

Reader 2: I wonder if the person who asked the question was surprised at the answer too.

Reader 1: He agreed with Jesus and said that he could see that loving God is more important than all the offerings or things we could give to God. Jesus told him he was a wise man and was close to God.

Reader 2: Thanks for telling me that about Jesus and the greatest commandment. Here, let me help with that rubbish bag – we can do the chores together *[takes bag]*. So, I wonder, what does it mean to love God and your neighbour like Jesus said?

**Creative Adventure**

**Woolly hearts**

*What you will need:*

* Different colour wool
* Heart templates of differing sizes
* Pencils
* Scissors
* Sticky tape
* Card
* Piece of paper with the words ‘Love the Lord your God’ written on it.

Cut a heart shape out of card. Chose a ball of wool and tape the loose end to the back of the heart. Now wrap the wool round and round the card until it is covered in wool. To alternate colours, cut the end of the wool and tuck the end into the wool that is already wrapped round the heart to secure it. Then push the end of the new wool into the wrapped wool and start to wrap it round the card until it is fully covered and soft. Then push each end of the piece of paper (with the words ‘Love the Lord your God’ on) into the heart to secure it in place.

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

I wonder why this is called the greatest commandment?

I wonder what it means to love your neighbour as yourself?

I wonder how we can love God with our heart, minds, strength and soul?

**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: Try to be really aware of God during this week and to remember to invite God to be part of everything you do. Record some of the times when you have shared an activity with God or spent some time talking to God.

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today we have learnt about the how Jesus commanded us to love God with our hearts, mind’s, souls and strength – we looked at what that might mean and how we can love God each day.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

Loving God,

Help me to love you with all

My heart,

My mind,

My strength,

And my soul.

With my everything.

Thank you that you love me so much.

Amen

Active Prayer

*What you need:*

* [heart](https://timvandevall.com/printable-paper-dice-template/) biscuits (or use round biscuits but decorate them in a heart shape)
* Icing sugar
* Sprinkles
* spoons

Spoon some icing onto a heart biscuit and spread it out, while sprinkling the sprinkles onto the biscuit say the following words.

‘Let us love the lord our God with all our heart, our mind, our strength and our soul.’

Eat the biscuit

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

***What you will need for this session:***

* Paper plates
* Felt tips
* Trump cards such as these or similar [Dogs Top Trumps Card Game : Amazon.co.uk: Toys & Games](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dogs-Top-Trumps-Card-Game/dp/B00UN7SUNO/ref%3Dasc_df_B00UN7SUNO?tag=bingshoppinga-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=79852089215481&hvnetw=o&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=&hvtargid=pla-4583451664090855&psc=1)
* Different colour wool
* Heart templates of differing sizes
* Pencils
* Scissors
* Sticky tape
* Card
* Piece of paper with the words ‘Love the Lord your God’ written on it.
* A bag
* 1 cushion with the word heart pinned to it
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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 age-appropriate scissors |  |  |
| **During session** | Allergy to ingredients in the hearts/ sprinkles/ icing sugar | Check if there are allergies |  |  |