**Sorting the Sheep from the Goats**

**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 Sorted!**

*What you need*:

* Two large plates per child
* M&Ms or other small colourful sweets (Check for allergies)
* Straw, tweezers, chop sticks etc depending on age and ability of group

Each child is given 2 large plates, one empty the other full of M&Ms (or other small colourful sweets). The game is to be the first to sort the sweets into their colours, using a paper straw(To suck up the sweets) or tweezers or chop sticks – depending on the age and abilities of the group.

**Game - Your true colours.**

*What you need*:

* Lots of soft play balls or balloons of different colours
* Optional: skateboards on rope

Lots of soft play balls/balloons distributed in the room and each team has to only collect one colour. Points lost for each wrong colour. Older children could use skateboards on rope and do it human hungry hippo style!

**Game Relay race:**

What you need:

* Marshmallows or Wotsits
* Small water pistol (loaded!)
* Clothes/costumes

The aim of the game is to relay to your leader and meet their needs. The leader stands at one end of the room, the team at the other with a table. On the table they will need small water pistol, clothes/costumes and some food such as marshmallows or wotsits. In turn each child runs to the leader throws the food in their mouth and goes back to get the next item that their team has prepared. Give them a drink with the water pistol, put an item of clothing on them, give them a handshake/hug/high-five. The teams should be encouraging one another with each step. The items should be piled up at the start and the team help to sort the item into an order as their teammate is running.

**Today’s theme is Love God and Love others.**

**The Big Story: Sorting the Sheep from the Goats Matthew 25: 31-46**

*You will need***:**

* Shepherd costume (t-towel for head, stick)
* *A pile of cuddly toys/sheep and goat cut-outs with the following phrases on:*
* Feeding the hungry
* Not sharing food
* Giving someone a drink
* Wasting water
* Visiting the sick
* Being selfish
* Thinking of others
* Thinking of yourself
* Caring for someone
* Not caring

Dress as a shepherd to tell this story/ dress a child as a shepherd to help tell the story.

Jesus said that he was the good shepherd and we are his sheep.

In those days sheep and goats would be together during the daytime in the fields then in the evening, the shepherd would come and separate them. Sheep are animals who love their shepherd and follow where he goes. They like to be in a group and will look after each other. They need a shepherd to look after them. Goats are completely different, they are more individual, they are very selfish. They don’t care whether they have a shepherd and wouldn’t follow one. They look after themselves and their own needs.

Jesus was thinking about these things when he told a story.

He said that one day Jesus would come to take his sheep home – to heaven to be with him forever.

But how will he separate his sheep from the goats?

He said he will know his sheep by how they have lived and helped others.

Let’s have a go at helping our shepherd to sort these goats and sheep, the clues are there to help us.

*Have a pile of cuddly toys/sheep and goat cut-outs with the following phrases on:*

*Feeding the hungry*

*Not sharing food*

*Giving someone a drink*

*Wasting water*

*Visiting the sick*

*Being selfish*

*Thinking of others*

*Thinking of yourself*

*Caring for someone*

*Not caring*

*The group help the shepherd to sort the animals into sheep (put them on the left) and Goats (on the right)*

Jesus said that when we help others we are helping him.

Loving God means loving others.

Who wants to be sheep?

Let’s look for ways to help and care for people this week, remember whenever you help others in need, you are helping God.

**Creative Adventure**

*You will need*:

* Round biscuits or cupcakes (Check for allergies)
* Icing
* Mini Marshmallows
* Chocolate buttons

**Edible Sheep:** Decorate a round biscuit or cupcake to look like a sheep face. Using icing as a glue, mini marshmallows for the wool and chocolate buttons for the eyes and face. Make one to keep and one to give away.

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

I wonder where the opportunities are for you to love others?

I wonder what stops us from helping others?

I wonder what its mean to be a sheep with Jesus as our shepherd?

**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 young people 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: Get active. Feed the Hungry, clothe the naked or visit the sick or those in prison this week!

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today’s story was about how we can show our love for God by loving other people.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Spoken Prayer

Jesus, our shepherd, we are pleased to be called your sheep because we love you and want to follow your ways. Help us to be kind and loving to anyone in need – the poor, the hungry, the sad, the lonely, and those who are in prison or are sick – just like you showed us when you were on earth. Forgive us when we are selfish or unkind and help us to put things right again.

**Amen**

Active Prayer

**Thanking God for the places and people who help in our community:** Find a map or draw a simple map of your local town/community. Encourage the children to place a sticker or pin in the places where people can find help e.g. Hospital, schools, churches, doctors, fire station. Pray for the people in those places who help others.

**Amen**

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

***What you need for this session***

**Games:**

* Two large plates per child
* M&Ms or other small colourful sweets (Check for allergies)
* Straw, tweezers, chop sticks etc depending on age and ability of group
* Lots of soft play balls or balloons of different colours
* Optional: skateboards on rope
* Marshmallows or wotsits
* Small water pistol (loaded!)
* Clothes/costumes

**Story:**

* Shepherd costume (t-towel for head, stick)
* A pile of cuddly toys/sheep and goat cut-outs with the following phrases on:

*Feeding the hungry*

*Not sharing food*

*Giving someone a drink*

*Wasting water*

*Visiting the sick*

*Being selfish*

*Thinking of others*

*Thinking of yourself*

*Caring for someone*

*Not caring*

**Craft:**

* Round biscuits or cupcakes (Check for allergies)
* Icing
* Mini Marshmallows
* Chocolate buttons

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During the session** | Slipping on spilt water | Children to be warned not to run  Mop or cloths to be kept at hand and significant spills to be cleaned up | Adult supervision |  |
|  | Children falling off skateboards, crashing into other skateboards | Children warned of risk  Location of first aid box known  Activity to stop if risk too high | Adult supervision |  |
|  | Adult or children choking on foods | Use foods which have low risk of choking (e.g. wotsits which dissolve quickly)  First aider on hand | Adult supervision |  |
|  | Allergic reaction to foodstuffs or balloons | Be aware of any allergies named on consent forms and watch out for any unexpected reactions. Apply first aid/call 999 as necessary | Adult supervision |  |