

## Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!

This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.

We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities, and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.

The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.

These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with family or friends via the internet.

These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!**



With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

### This week's Bible story is:

## I Choose You

### Mark 2 verses 13-17



and



Illustration by  
lambsongs.co.nz via freebibleimages.org

## Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

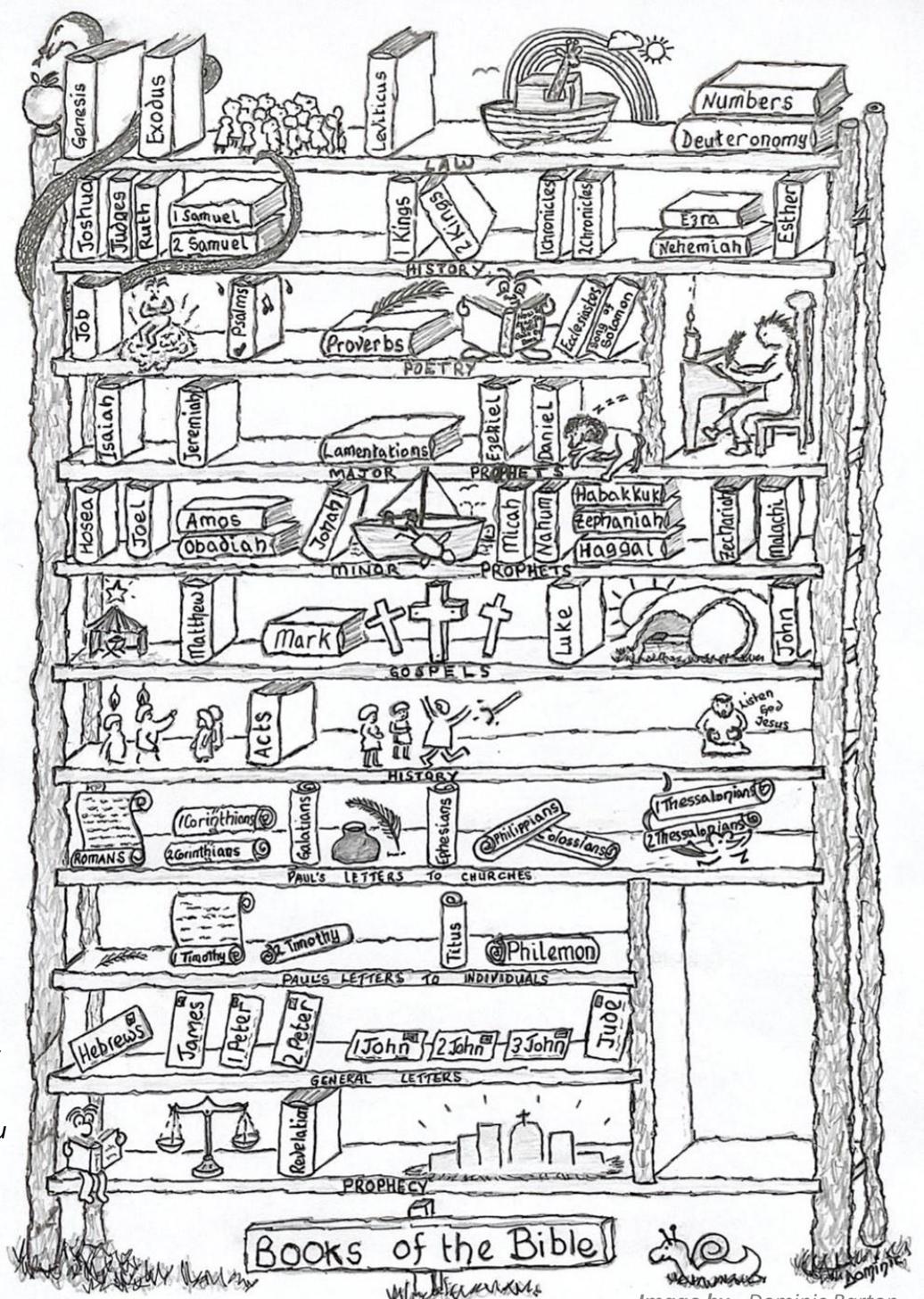
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.

You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.



### **Bible context: Mark**

The book of Mark was written around 60 AD by Mark who was thought to be a friend of Peter, who then travelled with Paul and Barnabas. Mark's book begins at the start of Jesus ministry as an adult. Jesus travels, telling stories and performing miracles for ordinary people and makes it very clear that God's love is not just for a few people who are in charge, it is for everyone!

This week's story helps us to remember that we all belong with Jesus, even if others don't seem welcoming or we find it hard to believe ourselves.

## Online versions of the story

### **Watch and Listen**

Mark 2v13-17 by Wild Bible

[\(4\) Wild stories about Jesus - Mark 2:13-17 - YouTube](#)

Animation by Luke Daymond

[\(4\) The calling of Levi \[Animated Story\] Mark 2:13-17 - YouTube](#)

Stories of the Bible by Saddleback Kids

[\(4\) Jesus Calls Matthew - YouTube](#)

Bible stories by Lifekids

[\(4\) Jesus Calls Matthew | Bible Story | LifeKids - YouTube](#)

Jesus calls the Tax collector by Bible Kids

[\(4\) Jesus Calls the Tax Collector | My book about Jesus | Sunday School Lesson for Kids \[Episode 3\] - YouTube](#)

### **Dance and Sing**

Welcome Everybody – Fischy Music performed by Sally and Alastair McDonald

[\(4\) Welcome Everybody! - YouTube](#)

One Family – Ablaze Kids

[\(4\) One Family \(Ablaze kids\) - YouTube](#)

Everybody's Welcome – Vineyard Kids

[\(4\) EVERYBODY'S WELCOME \[Official Live Video\] | Vineyard Kids - YouTube](#)

I belong – Victory Kids Worship

[\(4\) I Belong to God | Kids Church Praise Dance Video - YouTube](#)

All belong here – The Many

[\(4\) All Belong Here - The Many - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

**The Story: Mark 2 verses 13-17 (from The International Children's Bible)**

Jesus went to the lake again. A crowd followed him there, and he taught them. While he was walking beside the lake, he saw a tax collector named Levi son of Alphaeus. Levi was sitting in the tax office. Jesus said to him, "Follow me". And Levi stood up and followed Jesus.

Later that day, Jesus ate at Levi's house. There were many tax collectors and "sinners" eating there with Jesus and his followers. Many people like this followed Jesus. The teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Jesus eating with the tax collectors and "sinners". They asked his followers, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

Jesus heard this and said to them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. It is the sick who need a doctor. I did not come to invite good people. I came to invite sinners."

*Scripture quotations are taken from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.*

**Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story**

*These activities are designed to enable you as a family to explore where we belong and why.*

**Explore The Scene**

*Create the story scene, perhaps by drawing it or making it as a 3 D model, and place it in the middle of your space or table. Now take some time to look at the story and wonder together. These prompts might help:*

*Who are you in the story, who do you relate to the most and why?*

*What do you think each person in the scene is feeling /thinking?*

*What do you see happening in this scene, that the words of the story might not show us?*

*Who is this story about? Who are the main characters?*

*Who are the people that belong at this table? Who doesn't belong and why?*

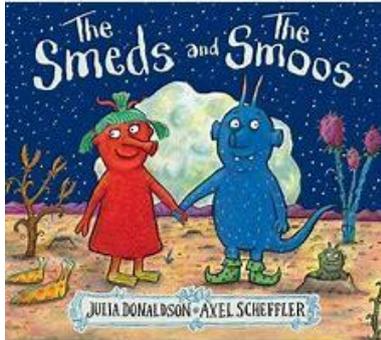
*You could add to your scene over the week or during your discussions, adding thought and speech bubbles and so on.*

**Act it Out**

*Using role play is a good way of exploring the emotions and thoughts of the people in the scene. Allocate the roles and have some fun recreating the scene. You don't have to stay true to the words in the bible. I wonder what this story would look like if we brought it into the modern day?*

### **Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme**

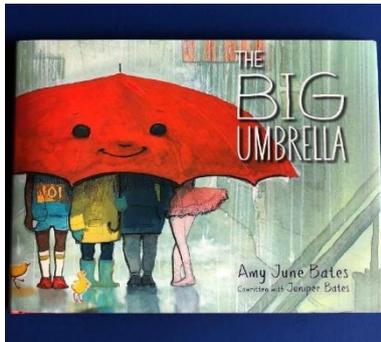
These stories explore themes of belonging, being loved and being welcomed just as we are.



#### **'The Smeds and the Smoos'**

by **Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler**

[\(4\) Bedtime Stories | David Schwimmer reads The Smeds and The Smoos | CBeebies - YouTube](#)



#### **'The Big Umbrella' by Amy June Bates**

Read by **Books with Blue**

[\(4\) The Big Umbrella : Kids Books Read Aloud by Books With Blue - YouTube](#)

### **Table Top Discussions**

Each day over a mealtime, have a quick conversation. Here are a few questions to get you going.

- Who are the people you are sitting with each day?
- How do we welcome people into the groups we belong to?
- Do you feel you belong, where do you feel you belong?
- When and how do we exclude people without meaning to?
- What do you think this story is teaching us about Jesus and about ourselves?

## What's in the box?



What treasures can you find to put in the box for your little ones to explore?

Perhaps older children could help find the things.



Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.

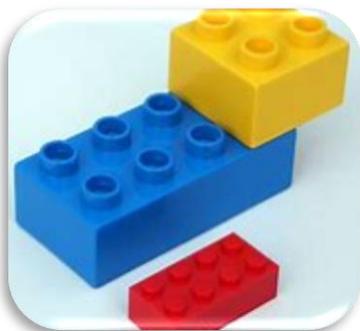


Something with rainbow colours  
for God's promise



Two toys to represent  
Jesus and Levi/Matthew

Some things that clearly  
belong together and one  
that is different



A bag of coins

## Pray Together

### Woven Heart

**You will need:** A heart cut from card  
Different textures: wool, paper, ribbon, feathers, material, sandpaper etc



Cut a heart out of card and make holes around the edge. Thread string across the heart to make a web. Cut lengths of different colours and textures. Strong, rough, shiny, soft, colourful,...

Take the strips of different textures and think about how they make you feel or perhaps who they make you think of. Slowly weave the different textures through the heart. You could write the name of people you want to pray for on a strip of paper and thread that through the heart. As you do, this take some time to reflect on how each of us are loved and are part of God's family.



*I am known and loved by God*

*I am in God's family.*

*Thank you, God.*

*Amen.*

*This prayer activity could be done on your own or as a family or group together.*

### Surrounded and Held



Find a brick or a stone, button ... that represents you and place it in the palm of your hand. Know that God holds you in the palm of his hand. Think about all the people that are part of your life, people that support and encourage and help you to feel you belong. As you think of them, close your hand around the stone. Name the person you are thinking of and say thank you to God for them.

*Dear God,*

*help me to know that I am held by you.*

*Thank you for all the people that encourage me and support me.*

*Amen*

## Pray Together

### All Over the World

*All over the world I have sisters and brothers,  
People I know and many others.  
People with black hair, blonde, grey or brown;  
Some live in the country and some live in town.  
We are all so different, but there's one thing we know,  
Jesus, our brother, loves us as we grow.  
We are Jesus' family, God's children on earth,  
Brothers and sisters sharing love beyond worth.*

Poem From Roots

**You will need:** Kitchen paper  
Watered down paint  
Paint brush



Place the paper on a plate or protected surface. Take it in turns to add drops of paint to the paper and watch as they slowly blend and merge together. As you add your drop of paint, thank God for something that is unique to you, perhaps the colour of your eyes, your hair, your favourite food. Keep going until the paper is full. Read the poem (above) and thank God for all your differences and that we are all part of Gods family.



*I wonder how people felt about Matthew after Jesus called him to be his friend?*

*I wonder how easy it is to include someone who is usually mean to you?*

*I wonder who you feel is most like you in this story?*



*I wonder how you choose your friends?*

*I wonder how we can deal with knowing that everyone belongs to God's family and everyone is loved by Jesus, no matter what they've done in the past?*

*Illustration from  
Lambsongs.co.nz via freebibleimages.org*



## To Do Together...

### Mixed Media Collage

**You will need:** Some junk  
A large sheet of cardboard (from a cardboard box)

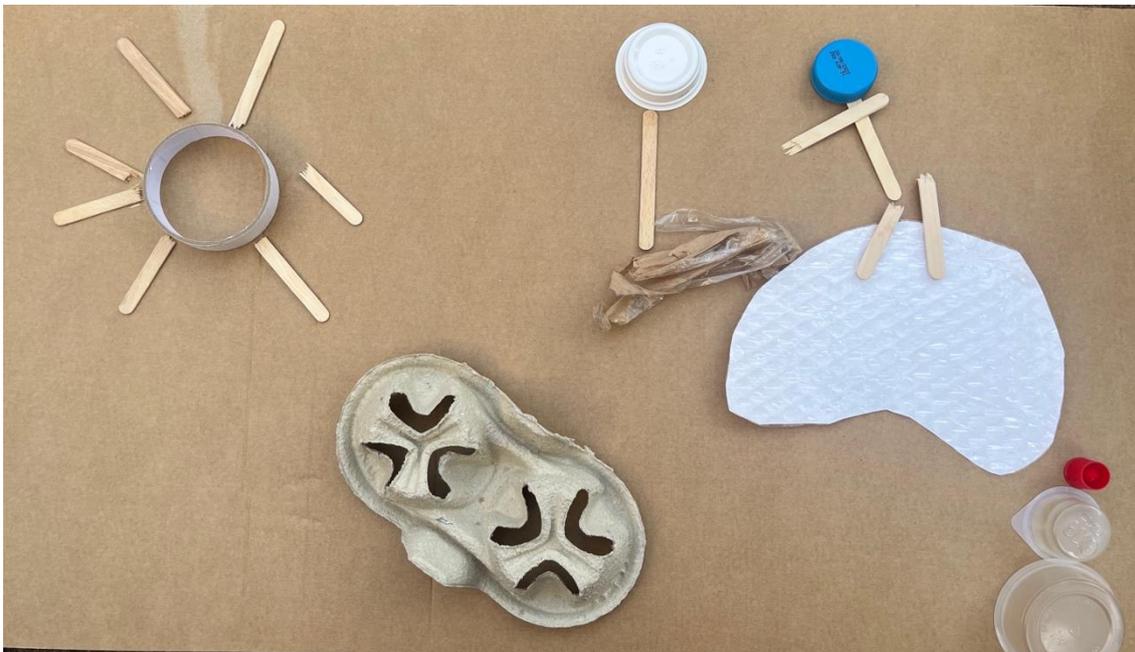
**What you do:**

Using all the different things you have collected, create a collage picture. If you wish, you could paint it afterwards or just leave it as it is. You don't have to stick everything down, maybe create a picture and then make a different one. How many different pictures can you make with the same objects I wonder?

Touch and feel the different media, how they work together, and how they all sound and feel different.



Who are you sitting with and how do we all work together to make something amazing?





## To Do Together...



### Handprint Pictures

**You will need:** Old pieces of paper  
A large sheet of paper  
A pencil and scissors



### What you do:

Ask people in your home, and visitors who come into your home, (if you are in church, why not ask everyone in church?) to draw round their hand. They could use any brightly coloured paper or could decorate their paper themselves.

Cut the handprints out and create a picture using all of them in some way. A butterfly? A tree? Something else? Use your imagination but remember not to leave anyone out.



We are each unique but together we are a masterpiece. Jesus doesn't want everyone to be the same, that is why he asked people from different backgrounds to follow him. We can all still be uniquely us but together we create God's masterpiece.





## To Do Together...

### Block Pictures

**You will need:** A colouring picture  
A range of –  
colouring pens, pencils and crayons  
Sellotape



### What you do:



Choose a colouring picture and cut it up into difference sections.

Each take a section to colour. Use your own choice of pens, pencils, or crayons – you don't have to match with the person colouring the section next to yours. Your section will be uniquely yours.



When all the sections are coloured, put your picture back together.

In our story, we hear that it doesn't matter what we are like or who we are, we all have our place in God's picture – we all belong to God. All of the people Jesus called to follow him are very different but all have something to add to the whole picture, even tax collectors.



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

**Our Walking the Way  
Challenge this time is...**

**Everyday Faith:**

Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19 or take a look at the Families on Faith Adventures @ Home issue called *Seen, Known, Forgiven* on [https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1638/09/Families\\_on\\_Faith\\_Adventures - Week 50 -](https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1638/09/Families_on_Faith_Adventures_-_Week_50_-_Seen_Known_Forgiven_Lent_5.pdf)

[\\_Seen Known Forgiven Lent 5.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1638/09/Families_on_Faith_Adventures_-_Week_50_-_Seen_Known_Forgiven_Lent_5.pdf)

Who do you think Jesus would choose to have tea with nowadays?

**Scrapbooking:**

On a piece of paper, draw bubbles to represent every group or setting where you belong. Maybe your school and class or your workplace, your groups of friends, clubs you belong to, your church etc. You could write or draw in each of the bubbles to show what they represent. Then draw a big circle round the outside of all the bubbles. This one represents the family of God. Maybe you could colour all the space inside that bubble in a bright colour that surrounds each of the smaller bubbles.

**Take it Further:**

Lots of different groups of people suffer loneliness and isolation and find it hard to find ways to feel they belong. Find out what charities in your neighbourhood support people who are lonely or isolated. Maybe your church has a project you could support, or perhaps you could suggest one. Read this webpage and see some simple ways you can help combat loneliness.

<https://bemoreus.org.uk/five-ways-to-check-in-with-the-people-around-you/>



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**families  
on faith adventures**

at home

### **Adventurers Go!**

*You've shared together, now share with us!*

*Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges - or dress up to make a tableau of the Big Story and take a photo to send in.*

*Email your photos to: [lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk)  
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.*

*Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>*

*Remember you can find more resources on our website:  
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>*

*And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.*

*Created for you by*

*Nicola Grieves (Eastern Synod), Judy Harris (National Synod of Wales), Sharon Lloyd (Programme Assistant for CYW), Hannah Middleton (Northern Synod), Philip Ray (Wessex Synod, North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW), Ruth White (Wessex Synod, South) and Jo West, on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team.*



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church