**Abraham’s Journey**

**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**

**Cross the river**

*What you need:*

* Squares of carpet or similar that can be laid on the floor and walked on, needs to be big enough for at least one person to stand on.
* Tape for the floor
* The aim of this game is to cross from one side of the room to the other as quickly as they can. To get across, the participants must use squares of carpet. Ensure everyone has a square of carpet and tell them that they are to imagine the floor is a river that they must cross by placing the squares onto the floor. They are not to put their feet in the river (it may help to tape a start line and an end line on the floor to highlight the river). Depending on the age of those playing you can make the game harder or easier by varying the number of squares or the number of people who can stand on one square at any one time. For competitive participants, maybe do this against the clock or racing another team.

**Fly away**

*What you need:*

* Paper
* Tape for the floor
* Instructions[98c7d046-4abe-433e-8c01-c27f02dbacb0 (700×875)](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/maven-user-photos/98c7d046-4abe-433e-8c01-c27f02dbacb0)

Fold the paper into the shape of an aeroplane and then challenge everyone to fly them across the room and see who can get it to journey the furthest. You may want to put a line on the floor with tape to make sure everyone uses the same starting point.

**Today’s theme is about how, as we journey through life, God is always by our side.**

**The Big Story – Genesis chapters 12 to 25 – A summary of the journeys of Abraham’s life.**

*What you will need:*

* Props to help create different settings for Abraham’s life
* Perhaps sign posts made of card with town names on

*Everyone needs to be able to move around as the story is told. If you have space, you may want to move from room to room in the building you are using or you may want to stick to one room and move from corner to corner. Consider whether you could decorate the areas you travel to with blankets/ carpet/ cushions or whether you are going to ask everyone to use their imagination. Consider having boxes or blocks for when it says Abraham built an altar to God.*

Today we are going to hear about Abram. God asked Abram to do many things and to be able to do those things Abram had to travel and live in many different places. Abram did lots and lots in his life and it would be hard to hear it all now. However to help us understand a little of his life and the journeys God asked him, to take we are going to go on a journey together now and hear about some of his adventures.

READER 1: Abram started his time with God in a town called Harran. He lived there with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. *(Choose three volunteers to act the part of Abram, Sarai and Lot – put a tea towel on each head and maybe give Abram a walking stick. Let these three lead the rest of the group on their journey).* When God spoke to Abram he said:

READER 2: Abram, I need you to leave your town of Harran and go to Canaan, there I will bless you and make you into a great nation.

READER 1: So Abram packed up everything, took Sarai and Lot and set off on his journey. First he went to Canaan, calling at various places on the way to spend the night, *[travel to Canaan]* but he didn’t stay long in each little town. God kept moving him onwards.

*[Move to Shechem]* While in Shechem, God spoke to Abram and said:

READER 2: “To your children, I will give this land.” Hold on, isn’t that a bit odd? Abram hasn’t got any children.

READER 1: No, but Abram didn’t question God right then. Instead he was so thankful to God that he built him an altar there in the land *[build an altar]*.

READER 2: And that’s where they settled and lived happily ever after?

READER 1: No, God had other plans. He kept moving Abram and his family onwards.

Abram then continued on to Bethel *[travel to Bethel],* pitching his tent and spending time talking with God there. Once again Abram built an altar to God *[Build an altar].* He built these altars to show that it was a special place and that, although Abram and his family were moving from place to place, God was always by Abram’s side, no matter where he went.

READER 2: He didn’t settle in Bethel, did he? I know what’s coming next.

READER 1: That’s right. Next Abram and the family moved on to Negev. *[Travel to Negev]* He didn’t stay there long before journeying to Egypt. [TRAVEL TO EGYPT] Abram said to his wife Sarai:

READER 2: “Sarai ,you are a beautiful woman. I am worried that the Egyptians might want to kill me and steal you away if they know you’re my wife!“ After all that travelling, Abram might have come to a sticky end!

READER 1: That’s right! So Abram and Sarai decided not to tell the Egyptians or the Pharaoh that they were husband and wife and, surprise surprise, Pharaoh *did* see how beautiful Sarai was and decided that she was to go and live with him in the palace. He didn’t have Abram killed because he thought that they were brother and sister, not husband and wife. However one day the Pharaoh found out the truth and he said to Abram:

READER 2: “You have lied to me and my people! Why did you not tell me Sarai is your wife? You’re lucky I don’t have you killed. But you must all leave and take everything with you.”

READER 1: So once again Abram and his people set off, back to the place called Bethel *[travel to Bethel]*. They journeyed through many towns, but once in Bethel Abram set up a tent and made another altar to the Lord *[Build an altar]* . But God wasn’t finished with him yet- he still had places to go. The family was growing and not always getting on well, so Lot took his part of the family off in a different direction while Abram carried on until he found himself in Hebron.  *[Travel to Hebron]* He heard God speaking to him:

READER 2: “Look around where you are, I will give you all you see in the east, the west, the south and the north for you and your children. You will have many descendants who will do great things for me.” I bet I can guess what Abram did then! *(Encourage the group to guess – they will undoubtedly come up with ‘build an altar’!)*

READER 1: Yes, Abram built another altar to the Lord. *[Build an altar]*

READER 2: “Look in the sky Abram, see those stars, you will have more descendants than there are stars in the sky.”

READER 1: Many years went by, Abram was now 99 years old and Sarah, his wife was of a similar age. He remembered God’s promise but really didn’t understand it at all. But still he stayed faithful to God. And God changed his name from Abram, which means ‘exalted father’ to Abraham which means ‘father of a multitude’ and Sarai’s name, which meant ‘my princess’ was changed to Sarah which means ‘princess to all’. Abraham and Sarah still didn’t understand, but still they stayed faithful to God.

READER 2: So, after all this travelling, did God keep the promise made right at the beginning?

READER 1: Well, one day Abraham spotted three visitors coming towards his tent, so he and Sarah prepared a lovely feast for them and washed their feet. While this was happening one of the men said to Abraham:

READER 2: “We will back next year to visit you both and your new child.”

READER 1: Sarah who was listening nearby just laughed and laughed. She could not believe that she would have a child for she was very, very old. But God never breaks a promise - even when we least expect it. Sarah became pregnant and had a baby boy.

READER 2: “Here is our son, just as God promised. Let’s name him Isaac, which means laughter.”

READER 2: So, after all that journeying and travelling, after being faithful and telling others about God……God’s promise of many children came true. I wonder where they all travelled to?

**Creative adventure**

*What you need:*

* A4 paper
* Used wet (but cool) tea bags
* Felt tips
* Abraham template
* Scissors
* Lolly stick or similar
* Glue or sticky tape

Lightly smear the wet tea bags over an A4 piece of paper to create the look of an old map. Use the felt pens to decorate your paper like a map, include all or some of these places which Abraham visited. (Make sure your paper is dry before you start)

Harran/ Shechem/ Canaan/ Egypt/ Negev / Hebron/ Sodom/ Gomorrah/ Gerar/ Bethel/ Machpelah. You might want to use a Bible atlas to try to locate the places or you could just put them in order on the map. You could draw altars at the places Abram built an altar and draw stars in the places God spoke to Abram and made a promise.

Why not make some slits in the paper at the different places. Cut out and colour the Abraham template and glue/tape the figure to a lollipop stick so you can move him about. You could now move the figure from place to place on your map as you retell the Bible story.

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

I wonder …where you would like to journey to?

I wonder …if you would go anywhere God asked you to?

I wonder … if we have to travel to go on a journey with God?

**The Adventure Map**

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.

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: Decide where you would like to journey to and how you will get there. As you make your journey, watch and listen for signs of God. Once at your destination, take a photo of the place and think through all that happened on your journey. Perhaps look at a map of your town/ world and ask God where he would like you to journey to.

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today we have heard how all things that happen each day of our life is part of our journey with God. We have also learnt that God may ask us to journey somewhere but that we are not alone because God walks with us.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

Adventurous God,

Take us on a journey with you.

A journey of adventure and discovery,

A journey that helps us know you better

For we know you are there by our side.

Help us take others on a journey with you too.

Amen

Active Prayer

* Pens
* Paper
* Instructions
* Bibles or the verse printed out

Ensure everyone has access to Psalm 23 from the NIV Bible (A copy of the reading is included in this session), the instructions, a pen and piece of paper. Explain that for this prayer everyone is going to journey through the Bible. Following the instructions below will reveal the words needed. Once everyone has found the words/ written them down then they could be said out loud together. Older children can be left to complete this independently, younger children may need the individual lines of the Bible verse numbered to help them as well as some adult supervision.

LINE 1, WORD 2 \_ \_ \_ \_

LINE 7, WORD 4 \_ \_ \_ \_

LINE 15, WORD 5 \_ \_ \_ \_

LINE 10, WORD 5 \_ \_

LINE 2, WORD 6 \_ \_

LINE 16, WORD 1 \_ \_

LINE 18, WORD 6 \_ \_ \_ \_ AMEN

**Psalm 23**

**A psalm of David.**

**1**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
**2**    He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
**3**    he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
    for his name’s sake.
**4**Even though I walk
    through the darkest valley,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2023&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14240a)]
I will fear no evil,
    for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
    they comfort me.

**5**You prepare a table before me
    in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
    my cup overflows.
**6**Surely your goodness and love will follow me
    all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
    forever.

**Answer: LORD, WALK WITH ME IN MY LIFE.AMEN**

**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**

* Squares of carpet or similar that can be laid on the floor and walked on, needs to be big enough for at least one person to stand on.
* Tape for the floor
* Paper

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Burns from tea bags | Adult to get the tea bags ready/ ensure they are cool enough to use |  |  |
| **During session** | Injury from paper aeroplanes | Direct aeroplane away from people when trying them out.  |  |  |
| **During session** | Use off scissors possible cutting of hands | Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children |  |  |

* Tape for the floor
* Instructions[98c7d046-4abe-433e-8c01-c27f02dbacb0 (700×875)](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/maven-user-photos/98c7d046-4abe-433e-8c01-c27f02dbacb0)
* A4 paper
* Used wet (but cool) tea bags
* Felt tips
* Abraham template
* Scissors
* Lolly stick or similar
* Glue or sticky tape
* Pens
* Paper
* Instructions
* Bibles or the verse printed out
* Props to help create different settings for Abraham’s life
* Perhaps sign posts made of card with town names on

ABRAHAM TEMPLATE

