**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 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 1: Leader of the Band**

What you need: A circle of chairs

Get the children to sit around in a circle either on chairs or on the floor. Send one of the children out of the room. Whilst the child is out of the room select a “BAND LEADER”: the aim of this person is to select an imaginary instrument to play (e.g. Trombone, Guitar, Trumpet etc). Once the child has started playing their imaginary instrument, the rest of the “THE BAND” (the other children) pretend to play the same instrument. Then invite the child who was outside back into the room.

The aim of the game is for the “BAND LEADER” to change the instrument that the band plays without the watcher spotting them.

**Game 2: Line up**

What you need: Nothing

Get the children to stand in a line. The aim of the game is for the group to line up in a specific order without anyone speaking. There can be a number of different topics that you could use, for example:

Age order

Favourite colour order (rainbow colour order – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet)

Shoe size order

Height order

Order of birth month

Etc

**Game 3: David says**

What you need: Nothing

This is the same as Simon says but just that it is David that is calling the shots in this game.

The leader calls out a series of instructions (e.g. hands on head, wiggle your foot etc) and models the action. If the leader prefaces the instruction with “David says…”, the children follow the instruction. If the leader omits to say “David says…”, the children should ignore the action and anybody doing it is then out.

If you want to make it a little more difficult you could use the names of Jesse’s other sons they were Eliab, Abinadab, Shamea, Nethanel, Raddai and Ozem, But David is the only one that they should follow.

**Today’s theme is God doesn’t always choose the biggest, bravest or strongest**

**The Big Story – 1 Samuel 16: v1-13 – David’s called**

**What you will need:**

* Some paddles or cards with scores on numbered 1 to 10 (like strictly come dancing)
* Table and three chairs
* Name labels with Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Nethanel, Raddai, Ozem and David’s names on them.
* A big sign saying “the next big king”
* Pretend/real microphone
* Bow tie

Reader 1: So today we are going to hear about how God chose a new king of Israel

Reader 2: Oh had the old one died? That’s sad!

Reader 1: No, the old one had gone rogue and had not listened to what God wanted him to do. His name was Saul. God was so unhappy with him that he sent his faithful servant Samuel out to choose a new king.

Reader 2: Ooooh Would Samuel have wanted to do that? It sounds a bit risky!

Reader 1: No. Samuel wasn’t too happy about this. He liked Saul and really didn’t want to choose a new king, but he also didn’t want to make the same mistake as Saul and disobey God. God told him to stop moping around and get on with it.

Reader 2: That sounds like my dad!

Reader 1: God sent Samuel to see a man called Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. Jesse had 7 sons.

Reader 2: I bet there was a queue for the bathroom every morning at their house!

Reader 1: Quite! Samuel went to Jesse and asked to see his sons so that he could choose which one God wanted to be the next king of Israel

Reader 2: Cool this sound like a new talent show! In fact …

*(Get the score paddles and the sign out of the bag. Stick the sign on the front of the table. Then choose three children to be judges and give them the score paddles)*

Reader 1: What are you doing?

Reader 2: I’m creating a game show! *(take out microphone and put on bow tie. Act as if you are a game show host)* Welcome everyone to the newest fun game show “The Next Big King”. Here we are in Bethlehem and today we are going to find the next big king!! So we have our seven contestants who will battle it out to be “The next big king”

Reader 1: Really!?

Reader 2: So judges, all you need to do is work out who is the biggest, strongest, oldest, wisest, handsomest brother of them all, to be “The next big King”. You will score from 1 to 5.

So, without further ado ,contestant number 1 is Eliab. He is Jesse’s first born son: strong, good looking, fights in the Israelites army, the ultimate warrior. *(Hold Eliab’s arms up to show his muscles and do this for all the brothers except for David).* Judges, your scores please.

*(Get children to hold up scores)*

Well, that seems to be it. Eliab will be the next king

Reader 1: NOPE, I’m afraid God said no!

Reader 2: Oh, Well that’s ok as we have Abinadab the second born. He’s just as handsome, has less to do as he doesn’t have the “first son” responsibilities, he’s a great people person, a good soldier and very strong. So, your scores please… (*Get children to hold up scores*)

Reader 1: NOPE, I’m afraid God said no again!

Reader 2: Ok so, Shammah, the third of Jesse’s sons, is the next in line: a great man loved by all his brothers, respected by his father, strong as an ox (*Get children to hold up scores*)

Reader 1: The big man said no.

Reader 2: Nathaniel then. Now with his muscles and stunning good looks, he had to be it? *(Get children to hold up scores)*

Reader 1: Nope

Reader 2: Raddia? What a stunner! The ultimate physique… *(Look at reader 1)*

Reader 1: *(shakes head at reader 2)*

Reader 2: Well that only leaves Ozem. I guess God was looking for strong and young…

Reader 1: Nope, not him either.

Reader 2: Well, that is all the strong suitable brothers. There is only scrawny little David left - you know, the runt of the family. There is no way God could want him. He is only little, looks after the sheep…

Reader 1: When David was brought in, God told Samuel, “This is the one!” There and then, in front of all David’s brothers, Samuel took out a pot of oil and poured some on David’s head, which is the way they used to anoint a king. At that point David was filled with God’s spirit.

Reader 2: Seriously, have you seen these brothers? God had the choice of all these masterpieces of muscle but instead he chose the little shepherd boy. He wouldn’t even have scored a one from our judges.

Reader 1: Well David was the one God wanted to do his work.

Reader 2: I wonder what it is like to be chosen like that?

**Creative Adventure**

You will need:

Old magazines

Scissors

Glue

Some cheap vanity mirrors (you can get these from pound shops or online) you will need on for each child

<https://www.tesco.com/groceries/en-GB/products/266991305>

Sharpies

Aim:

Give each of the children a mirror and get them to decorate it with images of what is best in them and what are their skills are that make them one of Gods chosen children. This could be pictures from magazines or they could draw on a piece of white paper and stick that to the back mirror. If you buy free standing mirrors decorate around the edge of the mirror. The idea being that the children would have a mirror that each time they look at themselves they know that God chose them.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what God would see in us that would make us

I wonder why God didn’t chose the older brothers

I wonder David was scared when he was chosen?

**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.

OR

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 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: **Find a way that shows God you that you are one of his chosen children.**

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today’s story was about how God doesn’t always chose the expected to

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Spoken Prayer

Lord, sometimes it is hard to hear your call,

Sometimes we don’t think it would be us that you are calling,

Sometimes we don’t want to hear that call because it seems too difficult.

Help us all to listen carefully and when we hear you speak to us

We will answer you and follow.

**Amen**

Active Prayer

Get a potato in advance and cut out three stamps:

One Heart shaped

One Cross shaped

One Fish shaped.

Get some paint in a tray and invite each of the children up one at a time to have their hand stamped with one of the symbols. As they do say to them “God has called you to follow him, be faithful”

**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:**

* A circle of chairs

**Story:**

* Some paddles or cards with scores on numbered 1 to 10 (like strictly come dancing)
* Table and three chairs
* Name labels with Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Nethanel, Raddai, Ozem and David’s names on them.
* A big sign saying “the next big king”
* Pretend/real microphone
* Bow tie

**Craft:**

* You will need:
* Old magazines
* Scissors
* Glue
* Some cheap vanity mirrors (you can get these from pound shops or online) you will need on for each child <https://www.tesco.com/groceries/en-GB/products/266991305>
* Sharpies

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **Craft** | Scissors | Potential to cut hands clothing hair etc | Offer round ended scissors for younger ones and offer close supervision |  |
| **During session** | Use of sharpies and glue may cause possible damage to clothes | Consider offering protective clothing | Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens. |  |
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