**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**

**Play some traditional party games together:**

What’s needed:

* Chairs
* Music system

**Musical bumps / musical statues /musical chairs – you will need a way of playing music that you can stop or pause and restart easily. Play the version that best suits your group:**

Musical bumps – everyone dances to the music and has to sit down on the floor when the music stops – last one to sit down is knocked out – continue until only one winner remains.

Musical statues – everyone dances to the music and has to stand absolutely still when the music stops – last one to be still or the first to wobble is knocked out – continue until only one winner remains.

Musical chairs – place the chairs in a double row facing outwards, have one less chair than players. Everyone moves around the chairs and has to find a chair to sit on when the music stops – continue until only one winner remains.

**Build a pyramid shelter:**

What you need:

* Paper cups
* String
* Elastic bands

This is a team work game. The aim is to build a pyramid shelter using the paper cups. Divide everyone into team of between two and four members. Give each team four pieces of string each, an elastic band and enough cups to build a shelter. The pieces of string need to be tied to the elastic band. The team then need to work together, each taking one or two of the strings. They need to secure the elastic band round the cup, lift the cup into place, then move onto the next cup. They must not touch the cups with their hands or any part of their body. This video link may help to explain the aim of the game and is useful to watch in preparation of the game. <https://youtu.be/teJbh-dxHTQ>

**Today’s theme is about how we celebrate and give thanks for God’s generosity to us.**

**The Big Story: Sukkot/Harvest/Jubilee (Leviticus 23, 33-44)**

* Blankets
* Chairs

Encourage the group to use the blankets and chairs to create some dens for everyone to shelter under.

*Who has been to a festival before? What did you enjoy the most about it?*

Today’s Bible story describes one of the festival’s that the Jewish people liked to throw. A festival with a difference, a festival to celebrate God’s generosity to them. This is the festival of Sukkot, also known as the feast of the tabernacles. We hear about the festival from one of the books in the Bible, Leviticus, which was written by Moses.

Do you remember the story of Moses?

When Moses was a baby, he was put in a basket and onto the river to keep him safe from the soldiers. He drifted amongst the reeds and was found and adopted by the Egyptian princess and brought up in the palace. When he was a grown man, God asked him to take the people in his land to freedom and safety for they had been used as slaves. Moses did this but the people had to spend a long time in the wilderness waiting to settle in their forever home.

The book of Leviticus is a book all about how to live a holy life.

*What do you think it means – to live a holy life?*

A holy life is one that is good, faithful and special for God.

The festival lasted for one week. There were lots of things that needed to be prepared before the festival began, like these shelters we are sat under. People would build a hut shelter out of natural materials to live in for the holiday. The important thing about the hut is that it should have a roof of branches and leaves, through which those inside can see the stars at night. During the festival, everyone would eat their food while sheltered in their den.

*I wonder what sort of food they ate?*

During the festival, everyone uses palm leaves and other branches to rejoice with by waving them about and they would eat soups, salads and vegetables. They would play games and have lots of fun together rejoicing.

The people are rejoicing because they are thinking about the time that was spent in the wilderness when they escaped from slavery; they are celebrating God’s protection of the people then and of the people now. The festival helps the people remember that when in the wilderness God showed his generosity. God was with them, God is with them now and God is with us all, all of the time.

*Wow doesn’t that sound like a fun festival to be a part of?*

(This could be a good time to have a drink and some fruit whilst sitting in the shelters!)

**Creative Adventure**

**Creative party!**

Festival bunting

What you need:

* [Printable Bunting Template - wikiHow](https://www.wikihow.com/Sample/Bunting-Template) – seven for each participant
* Felt tips
* Ribbon
* Glue

Use the felt tips to write the letters S U K K O T, one letter on each piece of bunting. Decorate them with pictures depicting sukkot, leaves, branches, food, the shelter. On the last piece of bunting write the words ‘God is generous – let’s celebrate’ (Consider writing this in advanced on the bunting for those who are still learning to write). Attach the seven bunting triangles to the ribbon so they are equally spaced out and so it spells the word sukkot with the generous triangle placed at the end.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder why the Jewish people still celebrate this festival?

I wonder how God has been generous in your life?

I wonder how we could celebrate God’s generosity?

**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 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: to plan a mini festival at home, one that celebrates God’s generosity to you. Get the whole family involved. Plan the food, decoration and how you will thank God for all he has done in your life so far. Then enjoy the festival!

**Adventurers Go!**

Today we have learnt about one of the festivals that the Jewish people still celebrate today, Sukkot. We learnt why they celebrate it – they were thanking God and celebrating his generosity to them. We have explored how God has shown his generosity to us today.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Dear God, Thank you, God for celebrations,

For festivals and fun, for all you have given us.

Remind us never to waste all we have been given

but to take care of our world and be generous to others. Amen

**Active Prayer**

What’s needed:

* Inflatable world ball (If this is hard to obtain then it can work just the same with a normal ball)

God shows his generosity to us all the time and asks that we share that generosity with others. Let’s throw the ball to each other. When you catch it, shout out something you are thankful for or how you are going to show generosity to others. Keep going until everyone has had a turn. Finish with Amen.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

What you will need:

* Chairs
* Music system
* Paper cups
* Elastic bands
* String
* Bunting
* Felt tips
* Ribbon
* Glue
* Blankets
* Inflatable world ball/ normal ball

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| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Physical games | Consider trips and slips potential and deal with any falls or injuries |  |  |
| **During session** | Potential collision in the game | Make sure all thigs that could cause slips trips and falls are out of the way |  |  |