**Come to the Party!!**

**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**

**First and Last**

*What you will need:*

* A watch or a timing instrument

Get the children to stand in a circle and set them the challenge of sitting down when they think a minute has passed. Make sure all time pieces are out of sight on walls and on the children themselves first, of course! Then start the watch. Some will sit down before the minute and some after, but the winner is the one who sits down the closest to 60 seconds.

**Party Tag**

The aim of the game is to collect as many guests as you can throughout the game. Get the children to stand at one end of a room. Choose a child to be on and stand in the middle of the room. Then get the group to run other from one end of the room to the other while the tagger tries to catch someone. The tagger, having tagged someone, then holds hands with them and they become a chain. When the children run again, the taggers must remain holding hands while the most recent addition to the chain tries to tag another person. Each time someone is tagged, they join onto the end of the chain. Continue until the whole group are holding hands, with the last one being the winner and the next to be on.

**The Big Story: Luke 14 vs 1-23 – Party invite**

*What you will need:*

* Party Hats
* Party blowers
* For Sale sign
* Cow picture with Sold on it
* Just Married sign
* Bandages

Reader 1: Today’s story comes in three parts.

Reader 2: Cool - three times the fun!

Reader 1: And it all happened one day when Jesus was having dinner with some of the most important Pharisees!

Reader 2: Not them again - they are horrible! What was he doing having dinner with *them!*

Reader 1: Well, I guess it is true they weren’t always very nice but I am sure they thought that what they were doing was right.

Reader 2: Yeah right! So, you’re telling me that they weren’t trying to trick Jesus again?

Reader 1: Well yes, they kind of were. The thing was, it was the Sabbath. That’s the day when Jewish people believed you shouldn’t do any work, just like God had one day when he rested after creating the world. Whilst Jesus was celebrating the Sabbath with this group of Pharisees, a man came to them who had sore joints and couldn’t walk properly.

Reader 2: Hold on hold on! (*Choose a volunteer to be the sick man. Wrap knees and elbows in bandages from the bag and get them to pretend to be achy*) Ooh that looks nasty!!!

Reader 1: Being the Sabbath, nobody was meant to be working so Jesus asked the Pharisees if healing the man counted as work?

Reader 2: How can healing be classed as work? Surely it is just the right thing to do?

Reader 1: That’s what Jesus thought and the Pharisees didn’t say anything, so he got up laid his hands on the man and healed him. The man happily skipped away. (*Remove the bandages and get the child to skip off)*

Reader 2: Wow – that’s a really happy ending to your story.

Reader 1: Hold on, hold on. We’re not finished yet. I told you there were three parts to our story. Part two, Jesus talked about how you should behave at a party.

Reader 2: Ooh party! I love a party! Can we have one now?

Reader 1: Yes, I don’t see why not! Get some chairs out!

(*Excitedly get some chairs for readers 1 and 2 and some of the children*)

Reader 1: Now, as the host I will sit here!

Reader 2: And I will sit next to you, as I’m the second most important.

Reader 1: Well, it is funny you should say that, because that was Jesus’ second point. Jesus said, “Did you notice how people always barge for the best place around the table, wanting to sit next to the person whose party it is?”

Reader 2: Fair enough -- it is always the best seat.

Reader 1: But Jesus said, “What happens if the host was actually saving that chair for someone else?”

Reader 2: Well, that would be a bit embarrassing if I had to get up in front of everyone.

Reader 1: Well, guess what…. (*Reader 1 indicates that Reader 2 should move down and invites one of the children to sit next to them. Reader 2 skulks off to another chair and sits sulking)*.

Reader 1: Jesus says it would be better to sit in a lower seat and be invited up, rather than to expect to be in the best seat.

Reader 2: I guess so, I feel a bit silly now.

Reader 1: Don’t worry. Now the third part was the most challenging. Jesus turned to the host of the party and said to him, “ Next time you hold a party, don’t just invite your family and rich neighbours or the people you want to invite you back - invite everyone including those people who you would normally never think of.

Reader 2: What, even people who are annoying or who smell a bit off?

Reader 1: Jesus told a story about how a rich man once threw a party for all his rich friends and gave them plenty of notice, got the best food in, got entertainment, you name it.

Reader 2: Cool! Where is my invite? I want to go to that party! *(Go into bag and get out party hat and party blower and get in the party mood!).*

Reader 1:When the day came, the man was all prepared and sent out his servants to tell his guests that he was ready for them.

Reader 2: Yeah Conga! *(Get all the children up from the seats to do a conga).*

Reader 1: Well yes, it should have been a party atmosphere but when the servants got to the guests’ houses they all made the most miserable excuses. One said they had bought some property and had to go look at it (*get for sale sign with sold on it out of the bag and give to one of the children in the conga line)*.

The second had bought some new cows and wanted to go and see them (*get out a picture of a cow with sold on it and give it to the next child).*

The third had just got married and wanted to spend some time with his new wife *(take a ‘just married’ sign out of the bag and give to the third child).*

Reader 2: Woah! He was unlucky. All that party food, drink, entertainment gone to waste!

Reader 1: You would think so, but the master sent his servants out again and told them to find every homeless or lonely person, every person on the street who could do with a meal and invite them to come and eat at his party.

Reader 2: That was a really generous and kind thing to do.

Reader 1: When the servants came back, there was still room, so he sent them out again to the outer roads and into the hills to find anyone who was hungry and invite them to his party. When they returned with more people, the master was pleased and said that he would not allow any of those who were invited to come to the party, even if they arrived now.

Reader 2: Wow that is amazing! I wonder who we would invite to a party?

**Creative Adventure**

**Inviting fun**

*What you need:*

* Blank postcards or card cut to size
* Craft items to decorate the card (stamps, glitter, stickers etc)
* Felt tips/ coloured pencils
* Envelopes
* Wax stamp set (available from amazon or you could use a coin and a wax candle)

Activity

Get the children to create an invite for a friend to come to FOFA with them. They can make this as elaborate as they like. When it is done, place it in the envelope. Melt some of the wax on the flap of the envelope and use the stamp to make a seal on the envelope. You could use a standard candle and something like a coin or any embossed item. Then encourage your children to give their invite to the friend. This is optional, of course; if they don’t feel confident to do so, that is fine).

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

I wonder how you would feel if people didn’t come to your party?
I wonder what seat we would have taken at the table?
I wonder who Jesus would invite to a party today?

**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: To consider who you would invite to Jesus’ party. Maybe you could invite someone to come to FOFA with you, or you could invite someone a bit different from your usual friends to come and play or to come round for tea (with parent/carer’s permission first, of course)

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we have heard how Jesus made three points at the meal with the Pharisees. Firstly that if someone needs help and healing, then nothing matters more. Second is to be humble with others and not expect to be the favoured one all the time, and lastly that everyone is welcome to his love.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

Jesus, help me to look for those on the outside .

Help me to invite them to know you and your love for us.

Let make everyone know that they are welcome to your party.

Amen

Active Prayer

Get a table in the centre of the room and place some sweets, biscuits or fruit on pieces of paper with the words “Welcome to God’s party”. Invite each of the children to come up and collect their feast. Hand them the biscuit/treat and say “God invites you to a party”. Encourage the children to say thank you to God.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

***What you will need:***

**Game:**

* A watch or a timing instrument

**Story:**

* Party Hats
* Party blowers
* For Sale sign
* Cow picture with Sold on it
* Just Married sign
* Bandages

**Craft:**

* Blank postcards or card cut to size
* Craft items to decorate the card (stamps, glitter, stickers etc)
* Felt tips/ coloured pencils
* Envelopes
* Wax stamp set (available from amazon or you could use a coin and a wax candle)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Use of sharpies and food colouring possible staining of clothes | Consider handing out protective clothing | Closely supervise activity and offer protective clothing if required  |  |
| **During session** | Hot wax may get onto skin  | Warn children of risk. Activity supervised by adult | Remove hot wax immediately if it gets on skin and put burned area under cold running water for 10 minutes  |  |
| **During session** | Use of oil in the craft Possible allergies and damage to building if spilt | Check allergy information and supervise closely clear up any spillages immediately to avoid slips and falls | .  |  |
| **During session**  | Scissors cutting hands | Use child friendly scissors  | Closely supervises the activity  |  |