**Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Opening Prayer)**

Welcome 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 that we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

**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**

Game 1

This game is the same as Duck, Duck, Goose. Get the children to sit in a circle looking inwards. Choose one person to be Joseph (you could put a tea towel on his head to make it a bit more fun) and get them to walk around the circle touching the other children’s heads or shoulders as they go past. Each time they touch someone they say “NO ROOM” until they get to the child they wish to pick when they shout “ROOM!” The aim is that the child picked as “ROOM!” has to get up, race around the circle and get back to his space before Joseph can run round and get there (taking his room). If Joseph gets there first the other person then becomes Joseph.

Game 2

Get a lot of balloons and place a piece of paper in each with the words ‘no room’ on them. In one balloon place a piece of paper with ‘got room’ in it. Get the children to pop the balloons by sitting on them only and the winner is the first to find the room.

**The Big Story – Mary’s story - Luke 1: 26-38/ Luke 2: 1-7**

What’s in the bag:

Wooden spoon

Little watering can

White towel as headdress for Mary with Tights or rubber band to hold

Halo (made out of wire and tinsel)

Donkey ears on an alice band

Tea towel and rubber band/ old tights x2

Get 5 volunteers

*[Ask one of the volunteers to be Mary]*

Reader 1: So today we are going to here a story that you’ve probably heard before about a woman called Mary.

Reader 2: What, Mary Berry? She makes great cakes.

*[Pulls wooden spoon out of the bag and gives it to Mary]*

Reader 1: No this was a younger woman called Mary…

Reader 2: Oh, I know who you mean! Mary, Mary quite contrary how does your garden grow…

[*Pulls out watering can and gives it to Mary]*

Reader 1: No, Mary from the Bible! She was just a girl when something amazing happened to her. She was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus.

*[Get headdress out of the bag and puts it on Mary]*

Now, one night when Mary was asleep, she was woken by something awesome.

(Get out pillow and cover and get Mary to bed)

Reader 2: Was it an Amazon Echo? Alexa is awesome!

Reader 1: No it was an angel. *(get young person to be angel and give them a halo)*

The angel came and said that Mary was going to have a baby. But not only that, the baby was going to be a boy and was the son of God.

Reader 2: THE SON OF GOD… I bet that was a bit of a shock!

Reader 1: Well Yeah! How do you tell your friends and family that you are going to have GOD’S baby? She wasn’t even married, and her boyfriend Joseph was already stressed because he had to back to his home town for some government register thing and it was miles and miles away.

(*Get young person to be Joseph. Place tea towel on head and attach with large rubber band or old tights*)

Reader 2: Could they not just take an Uber?

Reader 1: This was well before cars were invented. The only transport Joseph had was a donkey.

(*Get a young person to be the donkey - attach some ears to an alice band*)

Reader 2: Well that’s going to be a mission then!

Reader 1: Tell me about it. Well the time came when Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, that was where Joseph had been born. But by this time Mary was REALLY pregnant. It wasn’t long until she was due to have the baby. Imagine being REALLY pregnant and having to travel miles on a DONKEY

Reader 2: I feel sorry for the donkey!

Reader 1: When they got to Bethlehem, hundreds of people had already arrived and the place was packed. Every hotel and room was booked.

Reader 2: Seriously had they not heard of hotels.com!

Reader 1: If there were no cars in those days, then funnily enough there wasn’t the internet either! So Joseph, being the good man he was, went to look for a hotel. He went to the first: Knock knock

(*get young person to be innkeeper with towel and band on to open pretend door and shake head*)

No Room

He went to another Knock knock (*same yp shakes head*)

No room

He went to another and another (same young person keeps opening the door and shaking his head)

Reader 2: Hold on, that innkeeper seems to be the same every time.

Reader 1: I think he owned a chain! Anyway, bottom line was there wasn’t any room anywhere. Mary was getting desperate as she was about to have the baby. So Joseph went to one more place and knocked on the door… Knock Knock

Reader 2: Not him again…

Reader 1: SHHH! Joseph begged the man for a room but he had nothing and was about to send him away when he said that all he could offer was a stable. It was warm and dry and Mary and Joseph had run out of options

Reader 2: I bet Mary wasn’t impressed!

Reader 1: I think by this time Mary would have taken anywhere! And in that stable was where Mary had her baby, a little boy just as the angel had told her. She carefully wrapped him up and put in the hay trough and called him Jesus.

Reader 2: That is an amazing journey.

Reader 1: And this was just the start of Jesus’ amazing journey with God and his mother Mary.

Reader 2: That’s incredible. I wonder, what it was like to be Mary and be called by God?

**Creative adventure**

* Card
* Paper
* Paint/Sharpies
* Gold paper

Give each child a round piece of card slightly bigger than their hand. Paint or colour this dark blue or black. Then give each child a piece of white paper/thin card and get them to draw around their hand. Cut out the hand and then decorate each finger as Mary, Joseph, and Kings. Then make the palm of the hand into the stall by either painting it brown/yellow or stick pieces of straw. Cut out a small oval of white card and paint a pink face to represent Jesus and stick in the middle of the palm.

Stick the hand to the backing card an punch two holes with a pencil or hole punch and string with cord or wool to hang.



**OR**

For this adventure you will need:

Materials:

Wooden clothespins (the old school, no spring kind) – 3 per ornament for Mary & Joseph. One cut down for baby Jesus (you could do this with the children if they are older or in advance if you children are old enough with a junior hacksaw)

1″ Wooden star

Metallic Wire – 12″ long

Thin Metallic Cording

Jute twine or ribbon for hanging

Hot glue gun & glue sticks

1. Tie the thin metallic cording in a bow around the small wooden peg.
2. Wrap a length of metallic wire around one of the clothespin’s “head”.  I did it sort of like twisting the twist tie on your bread – just tuck in any extra tail of wire and don’t snip off the long length of wire left!
3. Hot glue your two clothespins together, side by side.
4. Hot glue the small wooden peg at an angle on the front of your clothespins.
5. Wrap the rest of the wire around the star at various points until all the wire is wrapped around the star (you can see this best in the main picture above or in the last photo in the collage).
6. Create a loop with your twine and hot glue the knot to the back of the ornament – my knot fit perfectly in the space between the two heads.

**If you want you could get the children to decorate the pegs first by adding faces and coloured clothes.**



Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what God might ask you to do

I wonder what it was like in the stable

I wonder how Mary felt about bringing up the son of God?

**The Adventure Map**

In this first session 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 of the models of Mary, Joseph and Jesus that the children made to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and the start of the journey. 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:

Go into the box and bring out FOFA the bear. Introduce the young people to FOFA.

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:

Welcome to 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: make a Christmas card to give to somebody who has said yes to doing a difficult or unpleasant job, maybe your local fire station or hospital, your school cleaners or the person who collects your refuse each week.

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we have seen how a simple girl was chosen to be mum to the son of God’s. It must have been difficult for her to trust God and to say yes. This decision could have ruined her and would have been very hard to explain to other people. But Mary trusted God and agreed to play her part.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Dear God,

When we are challenged,

When listening isn’t easy,

And we don’t know how things will work out,

Help us to know that you have a plan for us

You know how things will work out and you will always be there, guiding us.

**Amen**

Active prayer

Go out side as a group and look at the night sky – if your group meets during the daytime or you don’t have an outside space, use your imaginations – look up at the ceiling and imagine it dark and star-lit. Shiver and huddle up as though cold.

Think of Mary on that Donkey, travelling day and night, tired, cold.

Thank God for her strength and determination.

Now go back inside to the warmth and comfort of your building, sit around together and get cosy and warm. If you are indoors, stretch and act out being warm and taking coats and scarves off.

Think about Mary and Joseph finally finding somewhere to stay, the joy of the birth of their baby boy and the relief that all the angel said came true.

Let’s thank God for his wonderful gift, the gift of Jesus. Let’s jump up, punch the air and shout THANK YOU GOD!

**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**

Game

Balloons

Pieces of paper with no room written on it and one with a picture of a stable on it

Props

Wooden spoon

Little watering can

White towel as headdress for Mary with Tights or rubber band to hold

Halo (made out of wire and tinsel)

Donkey ears on an alice band

Tea towel and rubber band/ old tights x2

The Craft

* Card
* Paper
* Paint/Sharpies
* Gold paper

**OR**

Wooden clothespins (the old school, no spring kind) – 3 per ornament for Mary & Joseph. One cut down for baby Jesus (you could do this with the children if they are older or in advance if you children are old enough with a junior hacksaw) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/HANGERWORLD-Traditional-Clothes-Garment-Washing/dp/B002A8G9X2/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?keywords=wooden+dolly+pegs&qid=1567508801&s=gateway&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUExVFBIQ1NZTjFHMEJKJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwNDIyNjU3MUVKMVVOOUtDQjJOWiZlbmNyeXB0ZWRBZElkPUEwOTgyNzM2MUZPMjJFTDFLQzFITyZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU=>

1″ Wooden star <https://www.amazon.co.uk/CCINEE-Natural-Christmas-Hanging-Decoration/dp/B06XSMH26Z/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=wooden+stars&qid=1567508898&s=gateway&sr=8-6>

Metallic Wire – 12″ long <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Efco-22-225-10-Brass/dp/B000VKMQH4/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=brass+wire&qid=1567509098&s=gateway&sr=8-5>

Thin Metallic Cording

Jute twine or ribbon for hanging

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| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Hot Glue gun | Close adult supervision for all using or adults to use for younger members. | Make one person responsible for the use of the glue gun and make sure it is not left unattended |  |
| **During session** | Possible sharp edged on the wire | Make sure suitable warning is given | Get the person leading the session to warn children that the wire could be sharp and to be careful. |  |
| **During session** | Use of sharpies and possible damage to clothes | Consider offering protective clothing | Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens. |  |
| **During session** | Use off scissors possible cutting of hands | Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children | Allocate a helper to the younger children or get an adult to do the cutting |  |

Hot glue gun & glue sticks