**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**

* Bandages
* Stopwatch/ timer
* Dolls (optional)

**All bandaged up!**

The aim of the game is to bandage your partners arm in the quickest time possible. Pair people up or into 3’s if necessary and ensure each group has a bandage. To win, the bandage must all be used and be secured either with a bow or tucked into the bandage. Set a timer to 0 and once ready press start to start the game and stop when the first person has finished, they are the winner of that round. Keep playing until everyone has had a turn and see who was the fastest overall. **ALTERNATIVELY**: The game could be played bandaging the eyes of the dolls instead.

**Voice in the Dark**

One team member is seated and blindfolded. Other group members, one at a time, say a short message to the person wearing the blindfold using a disguised voice. The aim of the person blindfolded is to guess who is talking.

**Today’s theme is knowing that our lives can be changed by seeing God more clearly.**

**The Big Story – *Now you see me -* Mark 10**

Reader 1: So today we are going to take you on a journey back to the Bible time when Jesus was touring the lands and meeting people on his way. But today it is going to be a bit different as you are all going to play the part of the same person. A man called Bartimaeus.

Reader 2: Bartimaeus! But wasn’t he…blind?

Reader 1: You are right, he was.

Reader 2: Wow, that must have been really hard for him?

Reader 1: I think so too. Let’s put ourselves in his place today and find out how hard it must have been for him. Close your eyes tight or put your hands over your eyes. We are going to travel back in time to the busy town where Bartimaeus lived. Try to imagine you are Bartimaeus. Imagine that you have not been able to see for a long time. You have to beg for your food and drink. It is hard for someone who couldn’t see to have a job so there wasn’t much you could do but sit out in the heat of the day and plead with people to give you money or food. Each and every day.

Now tell me what senses are you using most now? *(Remind what senses are if they are stuck to answer)*

*(Give time for the children to respond)*

So, like you, what Bartimaeus relied on most was his hearing. He heard people walking by, animals in the market, people shouting at each other, and everyday people walking by, some giving him the odd coin but mostly being ignored. (Walk up and down, making deliberate noises with your shoes. Have some sheep noises, either someone making them or on a mobile device. Drop the odd coin in the hand of one of the children.)

Then one day there are lots of footsteps going by. (Walk up and down, again making deliberate noises with your shoes but faster this time) There is a bit of a buzz in the sound of the people and through the crowd of voices someone says the name Jesus, and then another person says his name. Is this really Jesus, is he really here?

Bartimaeus decides that there is nothing for it and he shouts out “Jesus, son of David, please help me”, but all the noise and bustle is making it difficult to be heard. So, he shouts again louder “Jesus Son of David have mercy on me”, and this time someone hears him…. but he doesn’t get the response he wants and suddenly a cross voice that is hard and rough says shhhhhhh! (Get someone to make a shhhhhh noise)

Bartimaeus has nothing to lose though - he is used to people shouting and kicking him - and he shouts a little louder.” Jesus, Son of David, HAVE… MERCY… ON…ME”. And suddenly the crowd goes quiet. And a soft voice speaks and says, “Bring him to me.”

Bartimaeus gets up and staggers his way towards the voice that has called him and the voice says to him. “What can I do for you?”

Now you have to understand being blind in those days was difficult. If you were blind you had no way of making money and if you have no money then you have no home or new clothes or even food. So this was Bartimaeus’ chance to ask for anything. Should he ask for the best food in town? Or a new coat because the one he was wearing was getting a bit smelly? Or should he think big and ask for somewhere to stay. Surely if Jesus told them to, someone would take him and look after him. But Bartimaeus thought for a while and realised that the thing he wanted more than anything was to see. He stood in front of Jesus and said “Rabbi I just want to see”

Jesus said to the man, “On your way.”

Reader 2: Is that all? Jesus didn’t put his hands on the man or ask him to kneel or anything like that?

Reader 1: He didn’t need to. He just said to Bartimaeus, “Your faith has saved and healed you” and once Bartimaeus took away the bandages from his eyes he could instantly see again (get the children to open their eyes or to take their hands away) just like that!

Reader 2: Just like that!

Reader 1: Just like that! But it was Bartimaeus’ faith, his belief in Jesus that healed him. He knew Jesus was the son of God and that by calling out to him, Jesus would see him and heal him.

Reader 2: Wow, I wonder what my life would be like if I saw Jesus that clearly?

**Creative Adventure**

**What you will need:**

* Jar or glass for each person
* Jug of water
* paper
* Felt tip pens

Using the paper and felt tips draw a colourful design, a picture of a smiling face or the words, ‘I can see’ would link it to today’s story. Prop the piece of paper behind the glass or jar and carefully pour in the water, watch what happens to the words as the water is poured in. The words should perhaps shift place or/ and become bigger. Experiment with moving the paper around, bringing it nearer and further from the water jar. Link to the fact that the more we get to know Jesus the more he sees us and knows us and us him.

**ALTERNATIVELY** Use some cotton buds to write messages on white paper using a mixture of lemon juice and water. The messages will be invisible until you hold them up to a light – just like the light of Jesus can shine through us and make us complete.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder how it felt to be seen by Jesus?

I wonder how we can help others to see Jesus?

I wonder what Bartimaeus did after regaining his sight? Try and find out!

**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 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: **Each morning as you wash your face and clean your teeth in the mirror look at your reflection and say ‘Jesus help me to see you more clearly’**

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today we have heard how having Jesus in your life can be completely life changing. The more we learn to know and love Jesus, the more clearly we see what he can do in our lives.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

*Father God,*

*We are sorry that sometimes we forget that you are here with all the time,*

*Help to open eyes so that we can see the great things that you do for us every day.*

*Let us be more like Bartimaeus and trust in you and ask for the things that will make our lives truly better.*

*Having faith that if we really need it, you will give it to us. Thank you. Amen.*

**Active Prayer**

Everyone should sit in a circle and either put on a blindfold or close their eyes really tightly. Tell everyone not to take off their blindfolds or open their eyes until they hear the words ‘Open our eyes’

Now get the other leaders to either speak loudly around them so that it seems like they are in a market place or else play this market place sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uRtW8lBe0I> through a computer, after a few seconds of listening to the sounds say the following.

*Reader*: Jesus, in the loudness and busyness of our daily lives, help us hear you say, “Come to me.”

Reader: Jesus, in the loudness and busyness of our daily lives, help us to stop (**Stop** the sounds abruptly) and see you more clearly – ‘open our eyes’ (Everyone can open eyes/take off blindfolds)

*Reader*: so our lives can be changed by seeing you more clearly. 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**

* Bandages
* Stopwatch/ timer
* Jar or glass for each person
* Jug of water
* paper
* Felt tip pens
* dolls

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Risk of falling over while wearing a blindfold | Supervise during activity/ ask children to stay seated during game |  |  |
| **During session** | Risk of spillage of water on clothes and floor making it slippery | Protective clothing/ supervise pouring of water |  |  |