**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**

What you will need:

* A pass the parcel with gifts in each layer
* Sponge ball/Beach ball
* Kitchen timer

**Today’s theme is about how we put things in front of our relationship with God.**

**Pass the parcel with a twist**

Create a pass the parcel with a small gift in each layer. Play as usual where the person who has the parcel at the point the music stops, unwraps a layer. The twist is that they do not keep the gift for themselves but pass it back to the person who unwrapped the layer before them. We are called not to keep all God’s gifts for ourselves but to give what we have to others.

**Pass the bomb**

Get a sponge ball and play a game of catch with children standing in a circle. The person with the ball needs to call out a name and throw the ball to the person whose name they call as quickly as they can. If they hold onto the ball for too long, they are out – they must pass the ball on as soon as they catch it. Before starting the game, set a timer to go off after a random amount of time without telling anyone how long it is set for. When the alarm goes off, the person holding the ball gets a small prize, but not if they deliberately hold onto it instead of passing it on. (In that case, the person deliberately trying to win is out and the prize goes to the person who passed to them). Again talk about generosity and how God calls us to share what we have.

**The Big Story: Matthew 19 - The rich man.**

You will need in the bag:

* Ipad/ tablet
* A laptop computer
* A mobile Phone
* Some jewellery

(Reader 2 has a ipad/tablet or expensive watch)

Reader 1: Woah, that’s nice……… Is that new?

Reader 2: Yeah! This thing is amazing.. You can use it anywhere.

Reader 1: Anywhere?

Reader 2: Yep. Last week I used it in the garden, in the kitchen and even in the toilet!

Reader 1: Oh wow - that was too much information!

(Reader 2 gets out a laptop computer)

Reader 1: Woah! What is that that is amazing. Where did you get that from?

Reader 2: Oh, just something I picked up last week.

Reader 1: Just like that? That’s nice.

Reader 2: Yeah, it’s pretty good. But if you like that, just have a look at this…

(Reader 2 gets out a mobile phone)

Reader 1: What!

Reader 2: Yeah, it’s the latest release. I queued five hours to get this. It’s amazing!

Reader 1: You do know you can’t take them with you?

Reader 2: What are you talking about? These are all the latest mobile technology – you can take them anywhere.

Reader 1: No, that’s not what I mean. When people say “you can’t take it with you” they mean that it’ll all get left behind when you die and go to heaven. God won’t care about whether you used to have the latest technology – God cares about whether you live a good life and are a follower of Jesus. Let me tell you about a story in the Bible. One day, when Jesus was travelling with his friends, a rich man came up to him.

(Get two children to be Jesus and the rich man)

Reader 2: He doesn’t look very rich yet!

(Reader1 gets some jewels out of the bag and gives them to the rich man)

Reader 1: So, the rich man comes up to Jesus and ask what good thing he could do to get into heaven.

Reader 2: What did he think? Did he think you could get into heaven by swiping your credit card or something?

Reader 1: Well he probably would have done if they had had credit cards in those days. So Jesus said to the man, ‘Do you follow the Ten Commandments?’

Reader 2: Is that someone’s Twitter handle?

Reader 1: Honestly! No, it is the set of ten rules or laws that God gave the people to follow, things like not stealing and respecting God.

Reader 2: Oh, nice one! That would catch him out. I bet he didn’t. I bet Jesus told him to get his act together and start keeping the rules.

Reader 1: Well, actually you’re wrong there. The rich young man followed the commandments really carefully and had done since he was a child. He really did do his best.

Reader 2: Ah, so was he OK then? Had he got a place in heaven, first class, reserved seat?

Reader 1: The man asked ‘I do all that, but is there anything else I need to do to be sure of going to heaven?’

Reader 2: Well surely, whatever it was he needed, he could just go out and buy it if he was that rich?

Reader 1: Jesus said to the rich man, ‘Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor. Then come and join me.’

Reader 2: Oh my! I bet that was the last thing the rich man expected or wanted to hear!

Reader 1: Well no, he went off very sad. Jesus then said that it would be harder for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than it would be for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of God.

Reader 2: A camel through an eye of a needle? A great massive lump of camel through a teeny tiny hole in a needle? Like *that’s* ever going to happen!

Reader 1: Exactly! The disciples were really shocked too and worried. I mean, if it is impossible for a man who has been really successful and made loads of money to get into heaven, then what hope has anyone?

Reader 2: So what is the answer?

Reader 1: Jesus said to them, ‘You, my friends, have given up everything to follow me. You’ve given up your jobs, your houses, even your families. Because you are willing to put our relationship first, you will have eternal life and be with me in heaven.

Reader 2: So does that mean I have to give away all my tech to get to heaven?

Reader 1: I’m not saying that, but remember that these things aren’t the most important things in life. It’s far more important to put God first and live the life of a follower of Jesus, doing the things you know are right and good. Phones and tablets and fancy watches won’t be any good to you if you don’t put God first.

Reader 2: So I don’t really need all the latest gadgets then?

Reader 1: It’s nice, but make sure it doesn’t get in the way of your relationship with God. That’s the most important thing.

Reader 2: I see. I wonder what would help me put God first in my life?

**Creative Adventure**

**Creative Gifts!**

What you need:

* Paper bowls
* Pens/pencils
* Paper
* Glue
* Biscuits (small)
* Decorative icing tubes

Activity

Get the children to draw a picture of Jesus in the bottom of the bowl. Once they have done this put the bowl to one side. Take the biscuits and get the children to decorate them with some of their favourite material possessions (e.g. Games consoles, toys, etc). Once they have decorated them, place the biscuits in the bowl and suggest that the children give them away. Make it clear that we are not asking the children to give away the actual items but that they should consider that these things can get in the way of their relationship with Jesus. Once they have given all the biscuits away, they will see Jesus in the bottom of the bowl more clearly.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder whether the rich young man did give up his possessions?  
I wonder what your most important possession is?  
I wonder how we can make sure we put Jesus first?

**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: What could you give up or give away – maybe something you have, maybe some of your time - to show that you are walking the Jesus way?

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we have heard about a really difficult time for a rich man when he asks how to get to heaven. He was not expecting Jesus’ response of selling everything he owned. Today think about what could you give up or give away to show Jesus is your friend?

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer  
Jesus, being your friend is the most important thing.

Help us to remember that.

In the week ahead, help us to let nothing stop us following you.

Amen

Active Prayer  
Get the children and volunteers to shout out all the things they own or want to own or like to do so that there is a frenzy of noise. Prearrange the signal that when the leader puts their hands together, everyone goes quiet and puts their hands together. You’ll find some people notice this sooner than others, but the room will gradually become quieter until everyone is silent and standing with hands together. Then the leader will whisper “Jesus, you’re my everything, help me follow you” and the children and other volunteers repeat it after them.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

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

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you will need:**

**Game:** Blindfold, Chairs and music

**Story:**

* Ipad/ tablet
* A laptop computer
* A mobile Phone
* Some jewellery

**Craft:**

* Paper bowls
* Pens/pencils
* Paper
* Glue
* Biscuits (small)
* Decorative icing tubes

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Physical games | Consider trips and slips potential | Closely supervise activity and calm if required |  |
| **During session** | Potential hit by the ball in the game | Make sure all thigs that could cause slips trips and falls are out of the way warn against throwing the ball too hard | Allocate a helper to the younger |  |
| **During session** | Potential food allergies | Check consent forms for potential allergy problems | Offer alternatives if children are allergic to ingredients |  |