**And The House on the Rock Stood Firm**

**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**

**Build a house**

*What is needed:*

* 2/3 packs of playing cards
* Stopwatch

Share out 20 cards per pair. Set a five-minute timer and challenge the pairs to build a card house. Explain that they should keep going and not give up until the timer is finished. Several rounds of the game could be played. See who can build the biggest house that stays standing.

**Blindfolded obstacle course**

*What you need:*

* blindfold
* possible obstacles, such as chairs

Layout a simple obstacle course and divide everyone into pairs. One person in the pair needs to be blindfolded and the other person guides them round the course using instructions. The person guiding must be observant to ensure their partner doesn’t walk into anything and hurt themselves. The game relies on the blindfolded person trusting their partner. Once the course has been navigated swap roles so everyone gets a turn at doing the obstacle course. Consider setting up two courses if the group is large. To link the game to the theme, highlight the need for trust in each other and to obey the instructions given. Explain that today’s session will explore the topics trust and obedience and what they mean.

**Today’s theme is that we can trust in Jesus, and this means we can obey his teachings**

**The Big Story – The Wise and Foolish Builder - Matthew 7 24-27**

Everyone is going to help tell the story today. Each time the word “rock” is said build a tower using your fists saying “**firm**”. Then each time the word “**sand**” is said, keep your hands flat and put one hand on top of the other and say **splat**. Consider having 2 people to play the parts of the two builders. They could wear hard hats and have a hammer or a similar tool.

*What you need:*

* Hammer or similar tool
* Hard hats

There were two builders and they both wanted to build a house.

The first man built his house on the rock (**firm**). We will call him Bob the Builder.

The second man built his house on the sand (**splat** ). We will call him Builder Bill.

Bob started to build his house. He placed his bricks on rock (**firm**), on rock (**firm**), on rock (**firm**) until it was fully built.

Bill started to build his house. He placed his bricks on sand (**splat**), on sand (**splat**), on sand (**splat**) until it was fully built.

The rain then started to fall and the wind started to howl. *(Encourage sound effects)*

Bob went into his brick house which stood on the rock (**firm**).

Bill went into his brick house which stood on the sand (**splat** ).

The rain fell and the wind howled on. (*Encourage sound effects)*

The brick house on the rock (**firm**) stood firm through the storm.

The brick house on the sand (**splat**) started to wobble and sway and wobble and sway through the storm.

The rain fell and the wind howled on (*Encourage sound effects)*  and the house on the sand (**splat**)fell flat!

Bob the Builder stayed dry and safe in his brick house which stood on the rock (**firm**) while

Builder Bill, who had run outside his house just seconds before it collapsed onto the sand (**splat** )was now getting wet and miserable and was feeling very unprotected in the storm.

Jesus told his friends and those around him this story. He wanted to show them that the best way is to build our lives on the right things. When we listen to him and trust him and try to follow the Jesus way of life, then we are like the man who built his house on the rock (**firm**) and will have something solid to build our life on, something that will never let us down. He warned use to not be like the man who built his house on the sand (**splat**), because if we don’t build our lives on the right things, then we might be left lost and unprotected by those things. I wonder what sort of things those unreliable things might be.

**Creative adventure**

**Junk modelling house**

*What you need:*

* junk modelling bits such as small boxes/ clean cartons/ clean yoghurt pots/ washed bottle tops/ similar
* sticky tape
* glue
* small paper with the words ‘Built on the Rock’

Challenge everyone to use the junk modelling resources to create a spectacular house. Use the glue or sticky tape to attach the small paper with words onto the house. Consider putting all the finished houses together, placing them like a town and take a photo of them altogether.

**Sandy bottles**

*What you need:*

* Small empty bottles or jam jars or sand bottles [KandyToys Kreative Kids Bottle Sand Art Childrens Craft Activity Set : Amazon.co.uk: DIY & Tools](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kreative-Bottle-Childrens-Craft-Activity/dp/B07W7JP276/ref%3Dpsdc_367654031_t3_B00CI8ZHVE?th=1)
* Funnels
* Sand of different colours
* A4 paper
* Pens
* Luggage labels

Start with writing on the luggage label: ‘But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.’ Consider writing the words on the labels in advance for young children. Put the label to one side and take a bottle. Ensure the lid has been taken off and place one of the funnels in its place. Start to carefully pour sand into the bottle. Be creative and chose different colours. Once it’s filled to the top, put a little water in and tap gently on the table to allow the sand to settle, then fill any extra space with sand. Secure firmly with a lid and tie the label round the neck of the bottle. Some people may find it easier to spoon the sand into the funnel rather than pour it.

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

I wonder …who you would have been in the story?

I wonder …what obeying God means to you?

I wonder …what trusting God feels like?

**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 group to find where on the Map today’s story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the group 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: Together with your family, play some trust and obey games. You should be able to find some online or you might want to recreate the blindfold obstacle game at home. Once you have all played a few games, take the opportunity to chat about what it means to trust and obey God and what that means for your life.

**Adventurers Go!**

So, today we have heard through a story that Jesus told, that he wants us to trust and obey him and God. Trusting and following Jesus means we have a firm foundation for our lives.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

Jesus, when you were on earth you taught us lots of different things about how to live the Jesus way. Help us this week to keep remembering that we can trust you and trust what you say. We want that to be our number one priority so keep reminding us of this story. Amen.

Active Prayer

What you need:

* Trays with sand in

Ensure everyone has access to a tray of sand - the trays or even plates of sand do not need to be very big to offer this activity. Once everyone is stood ready with their sand, ask them to close their eyes and to take a couple of deep breaths and then using their finger to write in the sand. Encourage them to write down things they have done wrong this week, things that show they have not trusted or perhaps not obeyed God very well. Or they might just want to draw a pattern in the sand while they think about these things. Once they have written in the sand, tell them they can brush the words away to show that God forgives us when we are sorry and that we can trust God to help us as we try to live the Jesus way.

**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:***

* Sand bottles [KandyToys Kreative Kids Bottle Sand Art Childrens Craft Activity Set : Amazon.co.uk: DIY & Tools](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kreative-Bottle-Childrens-Craft-Activity/dp/B07W7JP276/ref%3Dpsdc_367654031_t3_B00CI8ZHVE?th=1)
* Funnels
* Sand of different colours
* A4 paper
* pens
* Luggage labels
* junk modelling bits such as small boxes/ clean cartons/ clean yoghurt pots/ washed bottle tops/ similar
* sticky tape
* glue
* small paper with the words ‘In Jesus we can trust’
* 2/3 packs of playing cards
* Stopwatch
* blindfold
* possible obstacles, such as chairs
* Trays with sand in
* Hammer or similar tool
* Hard hats

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Possible trip hazard during blindfold game | Explain importance of good instructions to the blindfolded person, intervene if the blindfolded person looks as though they are going to hurt themselves. |  |  |
| **During session** | Use off scissors possible cutting of hands | Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children |  |  |
| **During session** |  |  |  |  |