**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 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**

Game 1

The children stand in a circle and one is chosen to sit in the middle with their eyes closed as though asleep. The children circle round them while an adult says “The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps. Your protector is always awake” The adult then taps one child on the shoulder and that child tries to creep up on the one in the middle. If the child in the middle hears something, they point to where they think the person is and if they are correct, the person creeping up takes their place. If the person creeping up manages to get to the person in the centre without being spotted and can tap them on the shoulder, they get a loud cheer from the rest of the children.

Game 2

Make an obstacle course for teams to negotiate blindfold (or with eyes closed), following the guidance of a team member calling out instructions. Complete the obstacle course as a relay race, with each child in the team taking over as guide when they reach the end and the previous guide taking the blindfold back to put on the next team member to go.

**Theme:** God is our protector and is always there for us

**You will need:**

Crown

Microphone

Cardboard lyre, guitar or ukulele

Woolly hat and scarf

Umbrella

Sword

Label “God” on a string to put round volunteer’s neck

Mug labelled “coffee”

**The Big Story – David’s song: Psalm 121**

Reader 1: Every half term we have a big story that’s a little bit different to the others.

Reader 2: You mean it’s a little story this time?

Reader 1: Not exactly. It’s not a story at all.

Reader 2: (*miming charades)* Is a movie? Is it a play or a TV series? How many syllables?

Reader 1: No, it’s still from the Bible but this time it’s a song or a poem. One that was probably written by David. *(Volunteer takes the role of David)*

Reader 2: Ooh, I know David. He was the shepherd boy who killed a giant and became king. I didn’t know he was a pop star too!

(*Gives David a crown and a microphone)*

Reader 1: That’s because he wasn’t one. Put that microphone away. David just wrote songs to sing while he played his lyre.

Reader 2: I don’t think it’s very nice to call him a liar!

Reader 1: No, he wasn’t a liar, although he didn’t always do the right thing. A lyre was a musical instrument, a bit like a harp. I guess these days it would be like a guitar or a ukulele

(*replace the microphone with a guitar or ukulele or a cardboard lyre shape stringed with wool. You will use this every half term)*

Reader 2: So tell me about this song he wrote.

Reader 1: David lived near the mountains and that is where he kept his sheep when he was a shepherd boy. He looked up at the mountains and they made him think about God and how God had created all things. He knew that God would help him when things were tough.

Reader 2: I expect it was quite dangerous in the mountains. He’d need a woolly hat and scarf to stop him freezing to death, and a sword to fight off any vicious animals, maybe even an umbrella in case a rock fell on his head (*give David a woolly hat and scarf, a toy sword and an umbrella),*

Reader 1: I don’t think he’d have had any of those things. His song went “I look to the mountains: where will my help come from? My help will come from the LORD who made heaven and earth”

Reader 2: I guess if God made heaven and earth, he will have made the mountains too. No wonder David knew he could trust God to be powerful and strong.

(*Volunteer 2 to be God – put a label round their neck saying “God” and move them into a strong-man pose)*

Reader 1: David called God his protector. A protector is no good if they are only around some of the time, but David knew that God was always there and didn’t sleep.

(*Give God a mug labelled “coffee” and stand him/her right next to David)*

Reader 2: DIdn’t he even have a nap sometimes?

Reader 1: No, David sang “Your protector is always awake. The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps”

Reader 2: What, even during the night?

Reader 1: No, David sang “The LORD will guard you, he is by your side to protect you. The sun will not hurt you during the day nor the moon during the night”

Reader 2: That’s amazing. He really did trust God to be a strong protector. That must have made him feel so much more confident.

Reader 1: And thinking about those tricky paths in the rocky places, he also knew that God would guide his steps and keep him safe. Not only in the mountains but in everything he did. His song went: “He will not let you fall. The LORD will protect you from all danger: he will keep you safe. He will protect you as you come and go, now and for ever” How’s that for a good song?

Reader 2: I think that would be my number 1. Imagine a song about God always keeping you safe! I wonder what you favourite bit of that song is.

**Creative adventure**

For this adventure you will need:

Materials: 2 lollipop sticks, cocktail sticks or paper straws

 Several balls of wool in different colours

 Scissors to cut the wool

 (for younger children you may want to glue the sticks/straws together in advance)

 Ojo de Dios <https://www.dltk-kids.com/world/mexico/ojo_de_dios.htm>



The "Ojo de Dios" or God's Eye is an ancient symbol made by the Huichol Indians of Mexico and the Aymara Indians of Bolivia.

In Mexico, The central eye was made when a child was born.  Each year, a bit of yarn was added until the child turned five at which point the Ojo was complete.

1. If the children are very young or have difficulty with coordination, you may want to glue the sticks into a cross shape before the session, but otherwise they should just hold the sticks in a cross with the vertical stick on top.
2. Always going in the same order around the sticks (you could number them to help the children keep track – the numbers will be covered by the time you have finished).
3. Wrap the wool once around 1, once around 2, once around 3, once around 4.
4. Continue working round the cross in this way until you think the centre piece of the eye is big enough and you want to swap colour.
5. Snip the first colour of yarn and tie on a second colour.  Continue on with the second colour and then a third, fourth and fifth as desired.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what in nature might help you think about God

I wonder when you might need a protector

I wonder what it feels like to climb a mountain

**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 craft items 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: find somewhere, something or someone that helps you listen for God

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we have heard about a song that David wrote, celebrating how God made him feel safe and how the mountains reminded him of God’s strength and power. No wonder he felt like singing! Maybe we could write a song about what God means to us, or just listen to some songs while we pray.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Dear God,

You are strong and powerful and always watching over us.

Help us never to be afraid because we know you will help us.

Keep showing us your beautiful creation and helping us to know that you are there.

**Amen**

Active prayer

Place a string or rope along the floor in a straight or wriggly path (depending on age of the children) and get them to take it in turns to walk along that lie, putting one foot right in front of the other like walking a tightrope. As they walk along it, read Psalm 121. When the Psalm finishes, all shout:

**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

Obstacles

Blindfold

Big story

Crown

Microphone

Cardboard lyre, guitar or ukulele

Woolly hat and scarf

Umbrella

Sword

Label “God” on a string to put round volunteer’s neck

Mug labelled “coffee”

The Craft

2 lollipop sticks, cocktail sticks or paper straws

 Several balls of wool in different colours

 Scissors to cut the wool

 (for younger children you may want to glue the sticks/straws together in advance)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Children falling over obstacles in the game  | Adult supervisionChildren encouraged to walk rather than run  | Make one person responsible for overseeing each team |  |
| **During session** | Children cutting themselves or clothes with scissors during craft  | Use round-ended scissors. Reinforce with children how to pass scissors and move safely with scissors  | Adult supervision for craft |  |
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