



Faith Adventures for Children Together



*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

2 Peter 1:12-19

Theme: The story of remembering the stories in the Bible.

Contents:

Introduction	1
Together	2
Experience	3
Explore	3
Express	5
Handouts	8

Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

1 Peter

This is a 5th session and aims to bring together the various passages we have looked at over the last month on the theme of 'Stories'. It is also a standalone session – so it doesn't matter if you haven't looked at all, or any, of the previous weeks.

We have chosen The Living Bible translation but you might find it interesting to look at other translations (you can visit www.biblegateway.com to help with this).

The Living Bible mentions that the writer is not telling Fairy Tales about Jesus, indeed it goes on to say that the writer was an eye-witness to what they write about.

The stories told about Jesus in the gospels were factual accounts – the stories told by Jesus (parables) were made up to get a point across to the people who were listening. This is an important difference for your group to understand: Jesus existed, the Good Samaritan in the story Jesus told didn't.

Telling stories has always been an important way of sharing knowledge in communities and cultures. They have not always been written down – many have only been documented relatively recently. Each storyteller would tell a story in the way that suited them, and their audience, best – so we can't be totally sure about what has been added to a story for effect.



The passage we look at today may contain triggers for members of your group who have recently suffered loss, or have relatives who are suffering from dementia and are unable to 'remember' things. We should always be aware that there might be triggers in inviting people to remember their own stories – and respond with care and compassion.

Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

In-person game - Pass on the action

This game helps to introduce the idea of passing something on that is not written down just as stories in the bible would have been passed on verbally.

The children need to be standing in a line one behind the other all facing the same way. If you have a larger group you may want to make two or three teams. Have a number of actions written on individual pieces of paper or card. Show the action to the person at the back of the line. That person then taps the shoulder of the person in front of them who turns to face them and they mime the action two or three times. They then turn round and tap the



shoulder of the next person in the line. This continues down the line until each person has seen the action. The last person in the line then says what they think the action is. The person at the front then goes to the back of the line and you play another round. Continue until all the children have been at the back of the line starting the mime. This can be a fun game as the actions develop and change as passed on and the answer is different to the one on the card.

Alternative game - Story Statues

This game is rather like musical statues but with a bible story theme. Think of bible stories that the children in your group will know well and prepare a list ready for the game.

Get everyone to run around and play some music as you would for musical statues. When you stop the music shout out the bible story. At this point the children freeze in a pose representing something from the story. It does not have to be a competitive game but it can be if helpful for your group.

Experience

For this story we recommend using the Living Bible

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%201%3A12-19&version=TLB>

Where can I find the story online?

Under fives: Bible stories – saddleback kids (This video features five stories, you may want to watch just or two of them)

https://youtu.be/IYcqT7xgtAY?si=tGI_x2aHf4MMkJX3

Over fives: Greatest story ever told – Bible in 3 minutes by Crow putt

<https://youtu.be/tkREA4fxZF4?si=2nJ7z2bC9HXsixxv>

Songs to support the story

Under fives: The B-I-B-L-E by Wesley's wuppets

https://youtu.be/E2fPTpdW_As?si=TqF9rPHm3QR6JoxbFive to elevens

Over fives: Children in the Bible -Hillsong kids

<https://youtu.be/Pyx6IDsrjoi?si=aMgb36O1PRoYF8TQ>

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the passage

Gather together a number of items that relate to stories in the bible, you can use items from the previous weeks stories as well as other stories in the bible. The pictures show some ideas. You will need about 8 -15 items. (Under fives could use the 'what's in the box items') Lay all of the items out on the floor or on a table and gather the children round the items. Give them a minute or two, timed, to view everything. Cover the items with a cloth and then remove an item from under the cloth. Remove the cloth and see if they notice the item that



is missing. As an alternative to make the game more challenging you could get them into groups to see how many of the items they can remember and list.

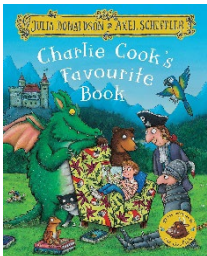
When you have played the game look at the items and ask what stories they think the items relate to. Some items will bring to mind lots of stories. For example if you use a stone they may recall the story of Jacob or think of the tomb at easter, or stones in the desert when Jesus was tempted. Talk about the stories and also what it is about the items or the stories which help us to remember them.



Talk about the bible passage and remembering stories and passing them on. Think about how they remembered what was missing in the game and talk about eyewitness accounts as mentioned in the passage. Think about why we remember stories and use the talk about and wondering questions to further explore.

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.



Charlie Cook's favourite books – by Julia Donaldson

<https://youtu.be/zEXYAulP52o?si=LZoB4OM2zEAmZLvL>

Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

- What stories do you remember? What about Bible stories, is there one you especially remember?
- Why did Jesus tell stories?
- Do stories have to be true?
- Are true stories better than fictional ones?

Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder what your favourite story is?
- I wonder what helps you remember a story?
- I wonder how we remember a God story?

What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing "what's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). You could tap



the top of the box twice after the word 'box'. Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Story book – talk to the children about their favourite stories.
- Bible – talk about the stories in the bible and what are their favourite stories.
- Dove – remember the story of Jesus baptism, “this is my son who I am well pleased” (verse 17-18) you may want to remember the Noah story.
- A rainbow – reminds us of the story of Noah and God's promises.
- A battery-operated candle – talk to the children about Jesus the light of the world who shines light into the dark places, when we are scared a light comforts us.
- Shining star – Jesus is our shining star and is with us in all the stories we hear.
- Heart – talk to the children about keeping all these God stories in our heart.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (A cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

Prayer stations

You will need:

wipe clean board and pens
a teddy or something soft
playdough
tray
sand
gems or small stones or pretend coins
sieves



Create five different prayer stations under the following titles: Tell/ Tend/ Teach/ Transform/ Treasure.

These are to represent the five marks of mission. Place the item and the words in their respective area and encourage the children to move around the areas (in any order) and to stop and use the item as suggested.

It would be beneficial if the leader were to demonstrate what to do with the item rather than what to say when there before you start.

Tell – *Help me to tell my friends about you God.*

Whisper these words or words of your choice into your cupped hands.

Teach – *Thank you God that we learn about you through the stories of the Bible.*

Use a wipe clean board and pen to draw something they remember from the Bible.

Tend – *Open my eyes and ears to those who need my help.*

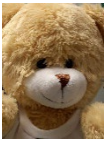
Hold onto the soft teddy/ blanket/ etc and think of how we can care for others.

Transform – *Please transform the world God into a fun, healthy and peaceful place.*

Make a world out of the playdough, perhaps some people too.



Treasure – *I will treasure you always God my friend.*
Sift the sand looking for a treasure. Say Amen when you find it.



Spoken prayer

Dear God

For stories of adventure and courage:

we give you thanks.

For stories where lives are changed:

we give you thanks.

For stories that help us learn more about you:

we give you thanks.

For the love and hope each story brings:

we give you thanks.

For the power of your word:

we give you thanks.

Help us to continue your story

and share it with others

Amen.

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond. <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Bible Storybook



You will need:

- A4 piece of card, reused cereal packages would work well.
- A4 paper.
- Some collage materials.
- Images of items for the stories from magazines.

What you do:

Punch holes into the cereal box and the paper.



Ask the children to pick their favourite bible story to create into a story book, you do not need to add words just use images.

Decorate the front cover of your book, making sure the child adds their name as the author.

Then add in pages of your book, using a page per scene of the story. They can simply draw the images for each page or stick images found in magazines to create their story.

Ready, steady, cook – Bible stories

You will need:

Some food items which will help to recreate a story

What you do:



Ask the children to think of a bible story, and then give them five minutes to recreate the story using the food. I wonder if the others can guess what the story is?

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

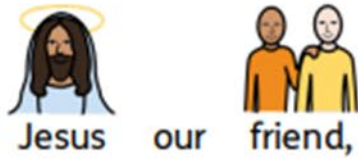
What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Join in the Bible quiz:
<https://youtu.be/jxWcvK-Cu-I?si=osL7m3WHGfnOFVTE>
- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you about what their favourite Bible story is and why?

We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **1 Peter 2** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing lorraine webb@urc.org.uk

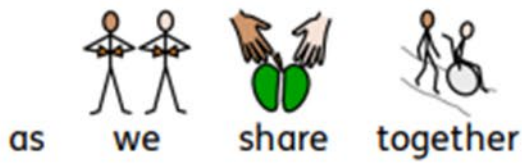
Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Esther the influencer**



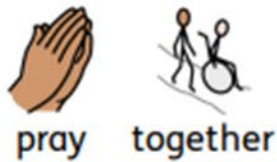
Jesus our friend,



be with us today



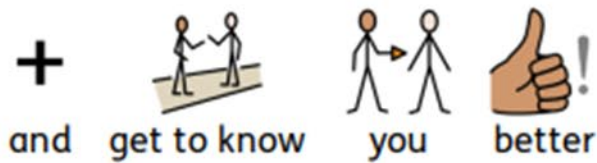
as we share together



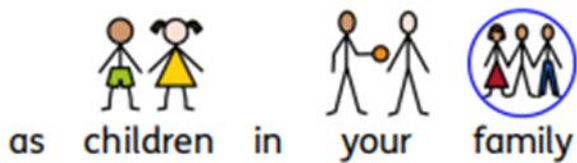
pray together



play together



and get to know you better



as children in your family



Amen



Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat with left hand



Alternate hands back and forth





