



Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work
so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*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: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: 2 Chronicles 30: 21-27

Theme: Be joyful and keep the faith

Contents:

<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Together</u>	2
<u>Experience</u>	3
<u>Explore</u>	4
<u>Express</u>	5
<u>Handouts</u>	11

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

Today's theme of "Be joyful and keep the faith" is taken from 2 Chronicles 30: 21–27 in the Old Testament.

In this passage of the Bible there is a festival called "the festival of unleavened bread", which follows the "Passover festival". Unfortunately, the festival had been forgotten about for a few years. However, people had finally remembered how good God is and started celebrating again.

Do we still celebrate festivals? Well, actually we do. St David's Day is a great example.

St David is the patron saint of Wales (the country, not the mammals!) and people (mainly Welsh) will be celebrating this day by wearing or handing out daffodil flowers and celebrating Welsh culture. St David did many miracles and said amazing things such as, "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things."

But back to the festival of unleavened bread. This is normally a seven-day festival. It takes its name from the time when the Israelites were escaping from Egypt in a hurry. They didn't have

time for the bread to rise, so during the festival they do not eat any foods that rise, only the ones that stay unleavened.

You can find out more about the feasts and festivals at:

The Society of Old Testament study (SOTS) <https://www.sots.ac.uk/wiki/jewish-festivals/>

Or watch this video about the festivals: All the major Jewish Holidays explained in 5 minutes by a History professor, by David & History for the Ages

<https://youtu.be/stxNEUMjUDA?si=Y1LW5tk3ykRof5Uu>

Together – prayer and games

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

Active game – How far will it go?

Break your group into teams. Arrange a selection of flat bread varieties (Pitta/tortilla/naan/roti) on a table near where the teams are gathered. (Consider using bread that is past its sell-by date to reduce food waste!)

Offer the team several rounds of challenges, to complete together. Teams must decide which type of flat bread to use for each challenge – before they are told what it is. Choose a selection of challenges from the list below. The winning team is the one that gets the highest score on the greatest number of challenges.

- How far will it go? – Mark out a starting line with masking tape. Measure how far a team member can throw the bread.
- Catch! – How many times can you throw the bread between team members, without dropping the bread?
- Pairs – How far apart can two members of your team stand apart and successfully catch the bread chosen?
- Ready, aim, fire! – Set up a bread (or paper) target. Each team must aim their chosen bread product at the target; closest wins!

You will need to be aware of any allergies that your group have when choosing who handles the bread products in each team.

Quieter game – Bread tasting and quiz

You will need:

Different types of bread and paper with the bread names on, and possibly country flags if you want to add this element.

What you do:

Place the bread on plates around the room. Place cards with the name (and country) on around the room.

The children work together to taste each bread (please be aware of allergies), and then agree what the bread is called and which country it comes from.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the EasyEnglish version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20chronicles%2030%3A%2021%20-%2027&version=EASY>

Where can I find the story online?

Under-fives: A fun explanation and song about the feast of unleavened bread told by a Jewish girl, by Children of the Most High.

https://youtu.be/CEdWRDy4Uwk?si=QHYjL_Ngh_S7Udvt

Five-to-elevens: A lovely retelling with images, told by The Rivers Team

<https://youtu.be/4LR4hv4vfml?si=qKuK9Au-kjjUjLeH>

Songs to support the story

Under-fives: Jesus is the joy by Ken Blount

<https://youtu.be/jJW4sq6h9Sc?si=Cj14gD2k9VnJkPhe>

Five-to-elevens: Celebrate by Forrest Frank

<https://youtu.be/1ORWOJaF9yU?si=wn8Hed2hS3GbwONG>

Explore – ways into the theme

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

A new way to explore the theme

Read aloud the Bible passage or watch one of the videos describing it. Explain that in the Old Testament, the part of the Bible before Jesus was born, we hear all about different Jewish festivals. This is one of them. The people are so joyful because they are celebrating a festival that hasn't been celebrated for a long time and want to please God. In fact they are so joyful they didn't stop after seven days but celebrated for a further seven!

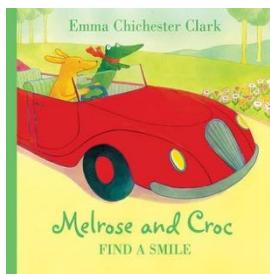
I wonder what 'forgotten' festivals or celebrations you can think of, either at home or at church?

Make a group calendar recording all the shared history of the Church. To help a particularly young group you could provide some festivals as a starting point on cards either written or with a symbol. For instance Christmas, Easter, Harvest, etc

Once a bit of time has been given to creating this calendar see what people notice. Are there festivals that your group could mark? Especially any that have been forgotten about (such as Church anniversaries) If time plan how you'd celebrate and for how long?

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. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



Melrose and Croc Find a Smile by Emma Chichester Clark (2019: Collins)

<https://youtu.be/XI5ENiMSdB8?si=iMXAXaCg2JHCoJrB> Read by Mrs Matt

Croc shows his friend Melrose lots of little ways to help him feel happier. They try out lots of different ways, to find Melrose's lost smile.

Questions

- Why do you think Croc chose the things he did to help Melrose? Do you think they were things they had done together before?
- What do you enjoy doing with other people – what things are more fun to do in a group, than on your own?
- Do you have a favourite memory of celebrating with other people?

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

- Who do you know who organises the best party? Who would you invite to your party?
- What things do you celebrate in your family?
- I wonder why the Israelites were celebrating the festival of the flat bread.
- Are there any festivals you think the church has forgotten to celebrate?

Wondering: Ways to reflect on the theme

- I wonder if there is a difference between a celebration and a festival.
- I wonder how many people were fed at this festival.
- I wonder where they kept the animals.
- I wonder if there is a festival you'd like to make longer.

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). 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:

- Party Poppers – when we celebrate we maybe have party poppers and party hats. How else do we celebrate?
- Flat bread – This is flat bread, it was the bread we heard about in the story today. Why not try some?
- Welsh cakes, daffodils and leeks – 1 March is also the day we think about St David, the national saint of Wales. These are some things which are used to celebrate his day.
- Love spoon – A love spoon is a wooden spoon decorated with symbols of love, and are given to people we love.

- Kool & The Gang – Celebration https://youtu.be/3GwjfUFyY6M?si=P4c-sel8loi_86pY
- 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 – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity Prayer Spoons

You will need:

- a wooden spoon for each member of your group
- sticky notes, paper shapes or folded card
- pens or coloured pencils
- sticky tape or a stapler



What you do:

Give each member of the group three pieces of card or paper, then ask them to choose things that they would like to pray for – they could express these prayers with words or pictures. Encourage the group members to choose someone they know well, someone from the local community (or a group of people, like teachers or those work in shops) and a place in the world, or part of creation.



When each person has three prayers prepared, move into a time of prayer together. You could play a piece of quiet music, or sit quietly. Use a short prayer, like the one below, allowing time for prayers to be added to the spoons.

Alternatively, use air-drying clay to form shapes that will thread onto the spoon's handle. The shapes could represent chosen prayers, or once they have dried you could decorate them with colours and prayers.

God,

We pray for those we love.

Be with them and hold them close.

(All stick prayer for the person they know well onto the spoon.)

We pray for those who work hard in our community,

And those who need help

(All stick prayer for the local area onto the spoon.)

We pray for your beautiful world,

For your amazing creation

And places that are troubled

(All stick prayer for a place, or part of the world, onto the spoon.)

Amen.

Spoken prayer

Add actions to this short prayer based on what St David said. All say the phrase in bold.

Be joyful and keep the faith

help us do the little things –
to be kind, to share, to help, and to care.
Let our small actions make someone's day brighter.

Be joyful and keep the faith

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.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage the children 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.

Flatbread

Preparation time: less than 30 mins **Cooking time:** 10 to 30 mins **Makes:** 4–6 flatbreads

You will need:

- 200g/7oz plain or wholemeal flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
- 100ml/3½fl oz warm water
- 2 tbsp oil (olive, sunflower or vegetable)
- plus extra oil for cooking

Adults may need to help prepare the following:

Toppings (placed on the flatbread in this order): tomato passata, cheese, green peppers, yellow peppers, orange peppers, cherry tomatoes (or red pepper), red onion chopped.

What you do:

Place the flour and salt in a large bowl and trickle on the water bit by bit.

Mix the water and flour mixture together. Using one finger so that you don't get a whole hand covered in dough. Doughy hands can be cleaned by rubbing a little more flour onto the hands over another bowl or the bin – resist the urge to wash doughy hands as you will block the drain!

Add the oil and knead the dough – you are aiming for a soft dough. If it is too sticky, add a little more flour, or if it is too dry add a splash of water.

Knead the dough for 5 minutes – this can be done in the bowl or on a clean surface.

You can cook the breads straight away or leave the dough to stand for about 30 minutes. This is a good time to prepare your toppings. Divide the dough into four balls (or six if you have a smaller frying pan).

On a clean surface, roll each ball of dough one at a time using a rolling pin. If you pick up the flatbread and move it around often you know it hasn't stuck. (You may need to sprinkle a little flour on the surface but only use a little as too much will dry out the dough.) Don't worry if they aren't perfect circles!

Here is something for the grown-ups! Heat a large frying pan. Take a sheet of kitchen paper and rub a little oil onto the surface of the pan.

Cook each flatbread for about 2 minutes on one side – it should puff up a little. Flip the flatbread over using tongs and then cook for a couple of minutes on the other side.

The flatbread should have turned lighter in colour and may have a few spots of brown. Keep the cooked flatbreads warm, wrapped in foil or a clean tea towel, until the others are cooked.

When they are cooled a bit, spread some passata on them, sprinkle them with some cheese and then arrange your toppings in a rainbow.

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:

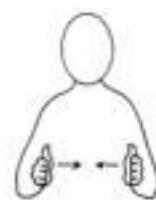
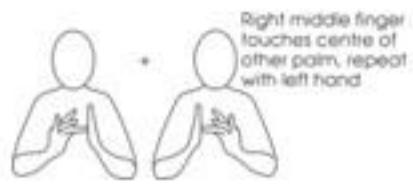
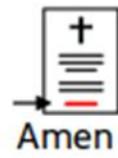
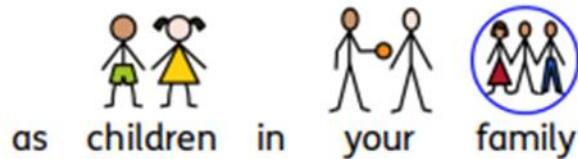
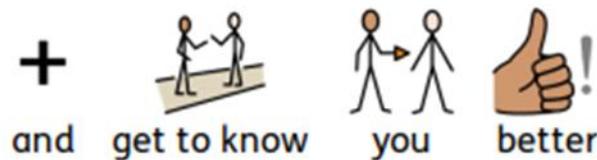
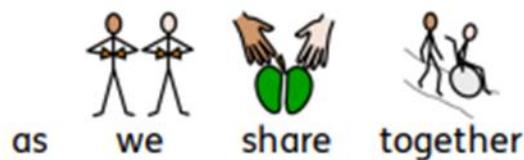
- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them what helps them to keep faith in God.
- Could you embrace the phrase "Be joyful and keep the faith" in all you do this week?

We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **St David** with us.

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

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group **bit.ly/FACT_FB**

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Psalms**




 The Lord's Prayer
 

 Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 






 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
 








 on earth as it is in heaven.


 Give us this day our daily bread
 



 and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us
 








 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
 







 For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
 



 For ever and ever . Amen
 







CPClegg, David I Patterson, Sketched by Shalone Cason at sdcason.com, CC BY-SA 4.0

