



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home 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/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Obadiah 1: 12-14

Theme: Being sorry

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Obadiah

Welcome to the world of the minor prophets! Obadiah is one of twelve ‘minor prophets’ and lived at the same time as some of the more well known prophets, Elijah, Daniel and Ezekiel. Obadiah worked for King Ahab and is known as a protector of one hundred of Yahweh’s prophets whom he hid from King Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, in a cave and brought them food and water. His book, the shortest in the Old Testament, focuses on how God judges the Edomites (who helped destroy Jerusalem along with the Babylonians) and reminds God’s people that God will never forget or abandon them.

The passage we are exploring today is about reflecting on behaviour. It is not about making people feel guilty but inviting us to think about what we do and whether or not it is the ‘right’ thing. If it’s not, of course, then we have the opportunity to change and do things differently.

As we prepare for Easter, we are encouraged to reflect on why we behave as we do and make changes to our lives if they are needed.

<https://youtu.be/i4ogCrEoG5s?si=dCCcRmEQxTCIpf1C> – This links gives a good oversight of the book of Obadiah.

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person and online game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Jenga

The game Jenga can be used to illustrate the way your actions can affect another.

Set up the game of Jenga as normal by creating alternating rows of bricks.

Allow the group to play Jenga. As each brick is removed, ask the player to advise what that brick could represent like, name calling, spiteful words, ignoring someone etc.

As the game progresses and the holes appear and the tower becomes unstable, it demonstrates how our words and actions can affect another person.

You could extend this game at a certain point – try to reinsert the removed bricks as a way of being 'sorry' the tower will never be as straight as it was when originally built but it will become more stable.

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Listen: to this song by Cher, the singer sings about past mistakes and what they would do to put it right if they could.

https://youtu.be/_eorELNxxrU?si=KI3_Tb0P0yjtbs1

I wonder what your initial thoughts are on the words and meaning behind the lyrics in the song? Does it remind you of anything? In today's world there is a lot in the news about saying sorry for and compensating people/ countries for the mistakes made by past generations, what we as a country can do to put it right. Here are some examples of past mistakes:

Slave trade

Persecution of the Jews in WW2

Apartheid (such as segregation by skin colour)

Take a few minutes to discuss together the positives and negatives of apologising for past mistakes. Does it make a difference that this generation was not alive at the times these events took place?

Explore

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

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

You will need:

- An uno game
- A heavy backpack filled with different scenarios such as war, being kind, helping others, saying mean things etc.

Gather the group together and play a quick wild uno game or something similar. Encourage them to be kind and say sorry when the cards played are tough ones.

How did it feel to give someone a negative card? How did it feel to receive one? Begin to explore what feeling and being sorry looks and feels like.

In Luke 19:41-42 we see how Jesus cried when he looked at the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus came near Jerusalem. He saw the city and began to cry for it. Jesus said to Jerusalem, "I wish you knew today what would bring you peace! But you can't know it, because it is hidden from you."

I wonder what makes God feel sad when he looks at our world today? What are the things that God would not be happy about, that we should feel sorry about and put right?

Show the heavy bag and invite the group to take out the bag the examples and put them into two piles of what makes God smile and what doesn't.

Was there anything missing? Invite the group to offer other options and examples for each pile.

How can we show that we are sorry for the things that are negative and increase the amount of things that are positive that we do?

Lent is a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter. Jesus came to die so that we could be friends with God, but he also came to show us how to live.

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

<https://youtu.be/glrM2HD-ANo?si=4gctDkuh70FV7h9w> – Disney Encanto

Questions for discussion:

- Why do you think Mirabel found it so hard to say sorry?
- Why was it so important for Isabela to hear Mirabel say the words 'I'm sorry'?
- Which of the two characters do you most identify with?
- Does it make a difference who you are apologising too and why? What if it is God you need to say sorry too?

Talking together: Going deeper

- What are the things that Jesus sees today that make him sad?
- What do we feel about all the reparation – the saying sorry for past wrongs, things before we were born?
- What is the difference between saying sorry and a confession?

Conversation starters

- I wonder why they behaved the way they did? Would they have acted differently if they were alone and not in a group?
- I wonder if the people Obadiah spoke to were sorry and changed their behaviour?
- I wonder if it's easy to accept an apology from someone else?

Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below.

Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

If you choose to use the prayer activity described in FACT then extend it by placing, rather than gluing, the articles on a piece of paper or table and then as you pray sorry over them taking each newspaper article, screwing it up and throwing it into a bin.

A spoken prayer

This is a FAYR version of a type of confession and apology prayer that many denominations (church of England, United Reformed Church, Baptist, Catholic) include in their services.

Say together:

We confess to you almighty God
and to you, our fellow human beings
that we have made mistakes, sometimes willingly, sometimes not,
in the things we have thought and said and done, and have not done,
therefore we ask for forgiveness from you Lord and from our fellow humans.
Loving God show us mercy, for we are truly sorry.

Help us to change our behaviour and to channel you in all we do.
Amen.

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

How far is east from the west

A little bit of a fun task. The Bible tells us that God removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. Psalm 103 v 12.

Provide the group with world maps and globes and ask them to find the point where the east is furthest away from the west.

They will try many ways to work this out, hopefully coming to the conclusion that it can't be 'found'.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

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- Use one of the "conversation starter" questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **What's been your experience with saying sorry yourself and others being sorry**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://Resources(jpit.uk)) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
 - I wonder if confessing and apologising is different across cultures and countries? Spend some time either chatting to those you know or researching how others may apologise. Are there any that make a particular impact on you and that you would use in your own life?
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Thank you for exploring the **Obadiah** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB