

# 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>

## 2 Chronicles 7: 14 – Heal the world

**Theme:** The world has made a mess of things, but God can help us change things together?

### Contents:

<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Together</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Experience</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Explore</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Express</a> .....	4

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

The focus this week is “The world has made a mess of things but God can help us change things together.” We will be focusing more directly at caring for God’s creation in another session, but this week’s reading naturally leads to some questions about it, too.

The important word is ‘change’. The passage invites us to ‘repent’ and it will be helpful if, at the start of the session you introduce this word and explain that it means recognising what you’re doing wrong, stopping, changing your behaviour and turning around to a new way of living. A recent example of this, is that during the pandemic lockdown, when we had to change our behaviour, nature often flourished in the most unexpected places!

There is often a feeling of climate dread when we talk about environmental issues but this passage reminds us that we can be hopeful and that, trusting in God’s truth, we can make the necessary changes.

We have to acknowledge that it is adults that have caused some of the problems that children and young people are now facing, and will face in the future, but their voices, and their actions, can be used to help motivate adults to ‘repent’ and this will provide the opportunity for some intergenerational responses.

The passage invites us to look for God’s face and be humble – and we will be asking where we see God’s face today and what it means to be humble.

This might raise questions about pride – and it is important to remember that Pride (LGBTQIA+ movement) and personal or societal pride are different things – and that God loves everybody.

As a starter to the session, you might invite your group to complete the eco-church questionnaire. It can be found at [Family-friendly church - United Reformed Church](#)

## 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.

### Making Faces!

Split your group into teams.

Each team is given a box or basket of household objects.

In an agreed time, the teams must work together to make a face, using their objects. You could hold an 'art show' after the task is completed, where the teams can walk around the space to view the faces.

*For smaller groups, pairs or individuals could take turns to make a different face from the same items; to make it more challenging you could add additional rules like working in silence.*

## Experience

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

**Watch:** Stories of hope and faith: All Saints Day <https://youtube.com/shorts/-ZTzJlloX7E?si=HXUYcl6vUF2OHW3J>

Elevation Music: King of Kings by Jarrod Cooper  
[https://youtu.be/SnuRldNwiwg?si=Ens9H8ZWx\\_-LaQmj](https://youtu.be/SnuRldNwiwg?si=Ens9H8ZWx_-LaQmj)

## Questions for discussion

Watch the YouTube video and listen to the lyrics of the song.

- Why do you think All Saints Day is also a day to remember those who have died?
- Some countries have a national holiday on 1 November. Why do you think this is? Should we?
- How does the song King of Kings relate to the passage from Revelation?
- What does the line "In royal robes I don't deserve....." mean to you?
- The lyrics describe different ways of relating to God:

King of kings, Majesty  
 God of Heaven living in me  
 Gentle Saviour, closest friend  
 Strong Deliverer, beginning and end

- Which best describes your relationship with God/Jesus? What words might you use?

## 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:

### Rose, Thorn, Bud: A Reflection Activity

This activity helps participants to reflect on the past week identifying positive moments and challenges faced. Show an image of a rose and encourage participants to reflect on the prompts below.

- **Rose (Success):** Share a positive experience from the past week.
- **Thorn (Challenge):** Discuss a challenge faced recently.
- **Bud (Potential):** Identify something to look forward to in the coming days.

Remind everyone that they should only give examples that they feel comfortable sharing with the group. No one should feel forced or pressured into sharing if they do not want to.

### 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.

Chronicles 1 and 2: Bible project

[https://youtu.be/HR7xaHv3las?si=Nn79pl\\_\\_ARQ4xaFD](https://youtu.be/HR7xaHv3las?si=Nn79pl__ARQ4xaFD)

You may wish to watch the whole video which overviews books 1 and 2 or from 4 minutes 27 seconds which talks solely about the second book of Chronicles.

- How does this overview of Chronicles help us understand the verse we have looked at today?

<https://youtu.be/cGxYvos1DMw?si=Nk6pdZpRonpyEaJq>

- How does this video relate to the verse we have looked at today?
- Humans do not always look after the world. What '*wicked ways*' do we destroy the world? How can we help restore it?

### Talking together: Going deeper

- What does it mean to humble yourself in this context?
- If there's going to be a new heaven and new earth (Revelation), why bother?
- Are there things it's OK to be proud about? Is it always a sin?

### Conversation starters

- What's one small thing you could do and one big thing you could do towards healing the land?
- If God is all-powerful, why doesn't God do something about the earth?

## Express

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

### Praying together

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.

Firstly, work together to create a statement and response which can help to punctuate your prayer, such as:

Statement: Thank you for the beauty of your world

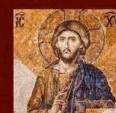
*Response: Help us be responsible caretakers*

Or:

Statement: When we don't take care of your creation.

*Response: Lord, we are sorry.*

The repeated phrase will add structure but also give the whole group the opportunity to join in with the prayer as it is spoken.



**"TO REPENT IS NOT TO LOOK  
DOWNWARDS AT MY OWN  
SHORTCOMINGS, BUT UPWARDS AT  
GOD'S LOVE, IT IS NOT TO LOOK  
BACKWARDS WITH SELF-REPROACH  
BUT FORWARD WITH  
TRUSTFULNESS, IT IS TO SEE NOT  
WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO BE, BUT  
WHAT BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST I  
MIGHT YET BECOME."**

*St John Climacus*

Next, decide on a small number of themes to focus on. Your group may be particularly interested in climate justice, animals or polluted water. Write two or three sentences for each theme. What are your concerns? What would you like to see change? Punctuate each section with your statement and response.

Finally, choose how you would like to address God at the start of the prayer and finish with 'Amen', so all can join in and agree with what you have prayed together.

## Responding together

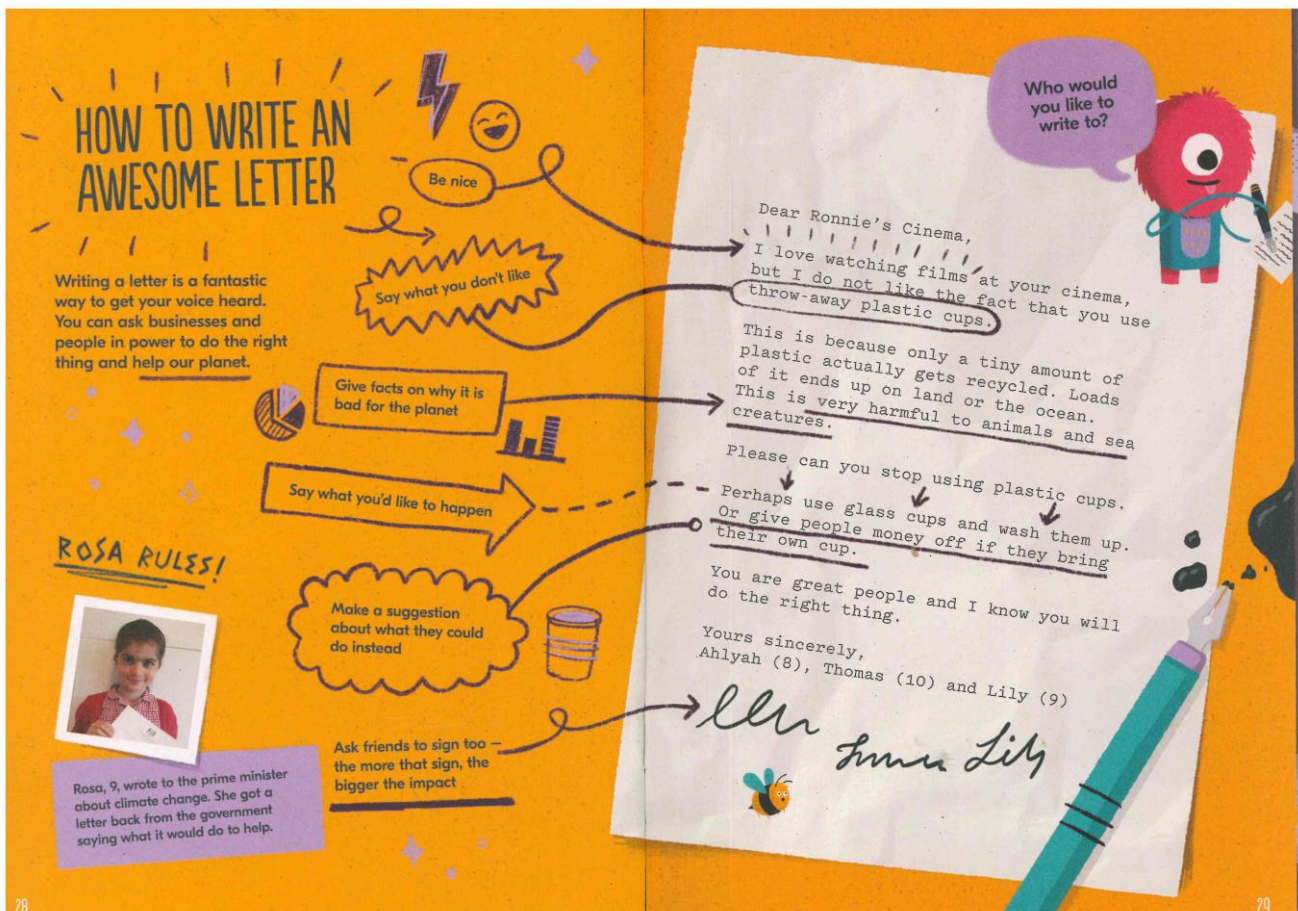
This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity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

## Making your voice heard

One good and effective way to have your voice heard is to write to a local MP or the Prime minister about your concerns. You may even receive a response. You could write individual letters or a combined one from the group as a whole.

There are many ways to write a convincing letter but this illustration has some very good tips.

Used with permission: [www.friendsoftheearth.uk](http://www.friendsoftheearth.uk)



**HOW TO WRITE AN AWESOME LETTER**

Writing a letter is a fantastic way to get your voice heard. You can ask businesses and people in power to do the right thing and help our planet.

Be nice

Say what you don't like

Give facts on why it is bad for the planet

Say what you'd like to happen

Make a suggestion about what they could do instead

Ask friends to sign too – the more that sign, the bigger the impact

**ROSA RULES!**

Rosa, 9, wrote to the prime minister about climate change. She got a letter back from the government saying what it would do to help.

Who would you like to write to?

Dear Ronnie's Cinema,  
I love watching films at your cinema, but I do not like the fact that you use throw-away plastic cups.

This is because only a tiny amount of plastic actually gets recycled. Loads of it ends up on land or the ocean. This is very harmful to animals and sea creatures.

Please can you stop using plastic cups.  
Perhaps use glass cups and wash them up.  
Or give people money off if they bring their own cup.

You are great people and I know you will do the right thing.

Yours sincerely,  
Ahlyah (8), Thomas (10) and Lily (9)

Lily

## 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 do you think we should be doing to heal the environment/ world?**
  - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://Resources(jpit.uk)) Commitment for Life [cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk)
  - Be very mindful this week of all that goes on in your house and in your own life. Is there more you could be doing to help save the planet? Some things to be aware of:  
How often do you use single use plastic?  
How long do you run the tap for when cleaning your teeth?  
Do you switch lights off when not needed?  
Do you use a bag for life?
- 

Thank you for exploring the **Chronicles** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [https://bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](https://bit.ly/FACT_FB)

