

# 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>

## Psalm 104: 5, 31

**Theme:** God loves their world.

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

The theme for this week is 'God loves their world' and we will be exploring this using selected verses from Psalm 104. We could have used all of the psalm! It is a poem of thanks, praise and love to God for all they have created for us and it would be useful for you to read the whole psalm to put into context the verses on which we will be focusing.

The material will coincide with the week in which many people celebrate Valentine's Day and, through the activities and prayers, we will be looking at how thankfulness and praise is part of the language of love.

God loves the world that they made – and part of our response to the enduring love that God has for us is to love the world, and all that is in it, as well.

We would never turn our back on someone we love – and neither does God.



# 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.

# 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:** Andy Hunter – Presence Project – How Great Thou Art Feat. Sam Goudie  
<https://youtu.be/48o-rBFRXps?si=FyilxIFjqZgRdbFP>

God of Immeasurable Might – Resound Worship  
<https://youtu.be/wka0pntwwHk?si=4Kq3YKaZgWvU-q-H>

## Questions for discussion

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

Listen to the lyrics to the song “God of Immeasurable Might” and discuss the questions below:

- Which lyrics stand out to you?
- What is your favourite part of God's Creation? Why?
- What connections do you see between the song lyrics and Psalm 104?
- The song includes the lyric “on solid foundations established creation and gave it life.” How does this relate to Psalm 104 verse 5? What do you think it means to be built on solid foundations?



## 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.

As we explore Psalm 104 today let's explore the natural world through our senses using **Sensio Divina** this literally means 'Divine sensing'. It is a meditative way to connect and talk to God through nature, it is normally made up of four stages, the preparation; the sensing stage; the imagination stage, and the spiritual stage.

This can be done outside, or inside, and in any environment, urban or within a green space. You will be surprised what things you can see inside (i.e. wood, wool, spiders webs, maybe leaves blown in or even condensation on the windows).

You can use this script or adapt it.

*Take the children to the chosen space and allow them to move around to explore at will.*

*Take time to do this and encourage the children to explore the space.*

Take some deep breaths and be aware of your surroundings.

Shrug your shoulders and wiggle your fingers and toes, shake your arms and your legs, to let go of any tension in your body.

While we explore the space together, be aware of distractions but do not focus on them.

Go at your own speed and wonder about all the things you see as you move around the space.

Try and keep as quite as possible. If you get the giggles, just try and let them go and keep the quietness.

Begin with looking at the whole space, be wondering, use all your senses. *(encourage them to look at the really big things around as well and the very small)*

What do you hear, see, smell, or touch in this space?

What are your first impressions?

Don't think about the detail you see here.

*Give the children a few minutes to look around them*

Now take time to really look at the detail in what you see.

Wonder about God who created this detail.

How does this make you feel?

Imagine how long it took to create what you see in this space

Image the process of growing and how it connects together

Focus on the detail of what you see, feeling or hear.

Wonder about how this was created.

Be aware of the creator God and what God is saying to us through the things we are seeing.

What is God saying to us about how we look after creation?

How do you feel?

How do you respond?

Take time to be in this space through all your senses.

*Return to where you meet or stay where you are to wonder about the psalm and what they have seen during this meditation.*

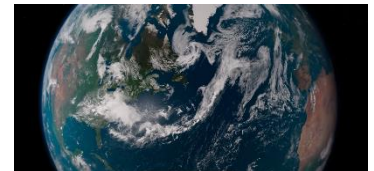
*As a response to this see the "Respond" section of the resource, to create a picture collage using natural elements about what they have seen and how they respond to it.*

### 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.

#### The beauty of earth by the beauty of:

[https://youtu.be/CI\\_kXbhTi8k?si=PsPc55Qcem4CVrvK](https://youtu.be/CI_kXbhTi8k?si=PsPc55Qcem4CVrvK)



- What emotions do you feel watching this video?
- Where is the furthest, deepest you have explored the world?
- What would you say to someone who asks whether God made the world?

#### Talking together: Going deeper

- What does it mean to endure?
- If the earth could talk what would it say?
- How can we show our love for creation?
- Does God consider us to be part of nature?

#### Conversation starters

- Do you think God would change or tweak anything?
- Did God make any mistakes? Is there anything God doesn't enjoy about creation?



## 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.

### Prayer prompt

Listen to the song and use it as a time for reflection. Think about how it makes you feel. What word of praise and thanks would you like to say to God? Take some time listening to the song again and write your own short prayer of praise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ykEw42xCk>

Share your prayers together as a time of spoken prayer.

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### 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.

### Worm charming

If you have a patch of grass or soil near the church, your group might like to have a go at worm charming.

*You will need:*

- string tied into a circle or hula hoops
- buckets
- items such as toothbrushes
- small sticks etc.

*What you do:*

In small groups or pairs, place a hula hoop on the floor, this is your charming area. Give the groups a set amount of time (10 mins is the minimum) to charm as many worms to the surface as possible. Tap the ground lightly using feet, fingers of small tools and worms will come up to the surface. When you see one, catch it and place it in the bucket. The winning team is the one who collected the most worms. Have a conversation about being gentle with the worms and putting them back when the game is finished.

### 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 would you add to the world?**
  - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://jpit.uk) Commitment for Life [cforl.co.uk](https://cforl.co.uk)
  - There is much we do not know about the world. Could you find out three exciting facts that you didn't know before? Share them with someone else.
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Thank you for exploring the **Psalms** 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)

