



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 Timothy 3: 15b-17

Theme: The Bible is for sharing and for passing on to others

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

This is the final week of our theme 'the Bible' and we will be asking "What does the Bible mean to you?"

In the translation we have chosen there are some longer words that might need exploring with your group – words like 'inspiration' and Christian jargon such as 'salvation'. Asking what these words might mean to your group is an important part of developing their understanding, so it will help if you've already given some thought to how you might answer the questions, too. You might find it helpful to look at the passage in some other translations using www.biblegateway.com or the Bible translations used at your church.

The Bible is, of course, a collection of different holy scriptures – it's more of an anthology or compendium and it is the Word of God as interpreted by humans in their own time, place and context. God didn't dictate it in the way that God passed on the ten commandments to Moses. Different churches and individuals within those churches may have different understandings of how the Bible was written and it is important that we respect those differences.

In the passage we are using this week, Paul is writing a letter to Timothy – his protégé. Paul knew that Timothy had been raised in a religious household; this might not be true of all the participants

in your group. Indeed, some people haven't been brought up in households where faith and religion are mentioned at all and come to faith later in life when they are teenagers or even adults. The fact that Paul is writing to somebody who was brought up in faith might make it difficult for participants who have not had that experience. It is worth remembering that it doesn't matter when we start to follow Jesus, just that we do.

Some sensitivity will be needed with regard to the conversations later in the session about things that we use at various stages of life. Some of your children may have, or know someone with, developmental delays or physical or mental health needs which mean that they are at a different stage than others e.g. needing support for incontinence, needing physical support to carry out certain activities, needing some external emotional support such as a comfort blanket etc. You will need to be careful that their dignity is protected in your language and in the responses of your group. You might need to consider in advance how you will approach this.

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: An explanation of what the Bible is and who wrote it by The Bible Project
<https://youtu.be/ak06MSETeo4?si=4UmlNcPxLMFZ3ERB>

Word of life by Jeremy Camp <https://youtu.be/Hjf278z1atY?si=E7HJZyK5EIKnjAZ>

Questions for discussion

- Did you already know any of this about the Bible or did any of it surprise you?
- Why do you think the Bible has never been added to?
- What does the song tell you about what the Bible means to the song writer?

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.

The material in the Faith Adventures: Children Together is appropriate to tackle at any level.

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.

Talking together: Going deeper

- What do you think salvation means? Can you work out what it might mean? What do you think salvation looks like?
- Is the Bible the only example of holy scriptures for Christians?
- The one story we have of Jesus as a child is him reading the scripture in the temple. I wonder if you can follow Jesus without ever reading the Bible?
- This letter (the Bible passage we are reading) was sent to someone who had grown up in a faith. Have you missed your opportunity if you were not brought up in a Christian home?
- Do you agree with what Paul wrote in this letter? Would you change anything if you were writing it?
- Which bits of the Bible/God's Word are most important for a child to hear?

Conversation starters

- Is it OK to question what we read in the Bible?
- Was the Bible written by God?
- Can you pick and choose what you read from the Bible?

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.

Biblical prayer

Amongst other things, the Bible can teach us how to pray. The most famous prayer in the Bible is probably the Lord's Prayer, but this prayer from David's Psalm 25 is a good prayer to link in with today's theme. You could use this prayer or could write a version of it in your own words.

Show me your paths
and teach me to follow;
guide me by your truth
and instruct me.
You keep me safe,
and I always trust you.

Please, Lord, remember,
you have always
been patient and kind.

Forget each wrong I did
when I was young.
Show how truly kind you are
and remember me.
You are honest and merciful,
and you teach sinners
how to follow your path.

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.

Researching the origins of the Bible

We know that the Bible is a collection of holy writings – the list of books is known as the Canon. But different denominations sometimes include other books, too.

Invite your young people to research how, when and who decided which books should be included in the Bible – and which should not.

Why do they think certain scriptures were included?

Why do they think certain scriptures were not?

From the characters the young people know of in the Bible, do they wish any of them had written something that was included?

Do they think that any parts of the Bible could be taken out and nothing be lost? Which bits are essential? Which bits are missing?

Word of Hope

You will need: recent newspapers, scissors, glue, card

Look through the newspaper, paying attention to the words and phrases. Cut out individual words that resonate with you or that you think could form a positive message. Lay out the cut-out words on a flat surface and arrange them to form uplifting messages or prayers. How many different messages can you create from the words? Once you've created a message you like glue the words onto a piece of card. Whilst creating your messages/prayers, take a moment to reflect on the news stories in the paper and events taking place locally and globally. Consider praying for those affected by these events.



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:

- 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. How about asking **What does the Bible mean to you?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://jpit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
- Visit a Christian bookshop, a church or a library and see what different versions of the Bible you can find there. Which one seems best suited to you? Maybe you could borrow a version (if you don't already have one).
- Look at the index of books in a Bible and spot one you hadn't heard of before. Read a bit of that book and see what type of book it is and whether you can find God in it.

Thank you for exploring the Timothy 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