



# 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 Peter 1: 12-19

**Theme:** The story of remembering the stories in the Bible.

### Contents:

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

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

#### 1 Peter

This is a 5<sup>th</sup> session and aims to bring together the various passages we have looked at over the last month on the theme of 'Stories'. It is also a standalone session – so it doesn't matter if you haven't looked at all, or any, of the previous weeks.

We have chosen The Living Bible translation but you might find it interesting to look at other translations (you can visit [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) to help with this).

The Living Bible mentions that the writer is not telling Fairy Tales about Jesus, indeed it goes on to say that the writer was an eyewitness to what they write about.

The stories told about Jesus in the gospels were factual accounts – the stories told by Jesus (parables) were made up to get a point across to the people who were listening. This is an important difference for your group to understand: Jesus existed, the Good Samaritan in the story Jesus told didn't.

Telling stories has always been an important way of sharing knowledge in communities and cultures. They have not always been written down – many have only been documented relatively recently. Each storyteller would tell a story in the way that suited them, and their audience, best – so we can't be totally sure about what has been added to a story for effect.

The passage we look at today may contain triggers for members of your group who have recently suffered loss, or have relatives who are suffering from dementia and are unable to 'remember'



things. We should always be aware that there might be triggers in inviting people to remember their own stories – and respond with care and compassion.

## 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:** 7 stories you didn't know were in the Bible – Bible animations

<https://youtu.be/jFbhz3a-oFk?si=37ZiDwGdpKA1ms0s>

### Questions for discussion

Watch the YouTube video.

- Were these all new stories to you?
- What do you think to the stories?
- Can you think of the: funniest story/ weirdest/ most horror/ unbelievable Bible stories and so on?

## 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:

Gather together a number of items that relate to stories in the bible, you can use items from the previous weeks stories and other stories in the bible. The picture shows some ideas. You will need about 8 -15 items. Lay all of the items out on the floor or on a table, give everyone a minute or two to view everything. Cover the items with a cloth and then remove an item from under the cloth. Remove the cloth and see if they notice the item that is missing. As an alternative to make the game more challenging you could get them into groups to see how many of the items they can remember and list.



When you have played the game look at the items and ask what stories they think the items relate to. Some items will bring to mind lots of stories. For example if you use a stone they may recall the story of Jacob or think of the tomb at easter, or stones in the desert when Jesus was tempted. Talk about the stories and also what it is about the items or the stories which help us to remember them.

Talk about the bible passage and remembering stories and passing them on. Think about how they remembered what was missing in the game and talk about eyewitness accounts as mentioned in the passage. Look at different versions of the same story, how do they differ? I wonder why that is. Use [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) to look at different versions of today's reading drawing attention to the different words used in verse 16 to describe the stories. For instance, the living Bible uses the phrase 'fairy tales' and the good news uses 'made up'. Do the different words matter?

### 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqOC\\_knfvqw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqOC_knfvqw) Fry and Laurie – an annoying eye witness

This is a light hearted look at somewhere retelling something they have seen. Do you think it matters whether the person telling the story is an eye witness or not? What difference does it make? Have you been an eye witness to a story to be told?



## Talking together: Going deeper

- How does it feel to tell the truth and not be believed.
- How do we know the stories of Jesus are true?

## Conversation starters

- I wonder where are you in God's story?

# 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.

Create five different prayer stations under the following titles.

Tell/ Tend/ Teach/ Transform/ Treasure.

These are to represent the five marks of mission.

1. To tell the Good News of the Kingdom - TELL
2. To teach and nurture others - TEACH
3. To respond to human need by loving service - TEND
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation - TRANSFORM
5. To strive to safeguard the world all who live in it - TREASURE

Place an item and some words to represent the title (for instance you could use a soft toy for tend) in their respective area. Move around the areas (in any order) stopping to interact with each item and to allow people to say their own prayer.

It would be beneficial to explain the aim of each area before you start. Give enough time, 5-10 minutes perhaps to allow everyone enough to visit each area.

---

## 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.

## Exploring the newspaper stories.

(This activity could also be used to help EXPLORE the story)  
*You will need:*

Copies of different newspapers from the same day  
 Highlighter pens



The letter writer explains that they were a witness to the events that they write about but eyewitnesses can be very unreliable! This is often made worse when journalists 'frame' a story to suit the political or social viewpoint of the newspaper for which they are reporting.

Invite your group to pick a front-page story from a newspaper and compare how that story has been told in the other newspapers. You might explore:

Is it a front-page story in all the newspapers? If not, why not?

Does every newspaper report the facts or do they 'spin' the story in a particular way?

Use highlighter pens to pick out words/phrases that lead the reader to respond in a particular way to the story.

Which version of the story do members of the group trust most? Why?

What makes the stories memorable?

## Ready, steady, cook – Bible stories

Follow the instructions found in FACT however extend the activity to include making more than one story from food. Give each group two minutes to create a Bible story before moving onto the next one. Each contribution could be marked and best one chosen or it could be made into a guessing game. The group decide on which story they are recreating and everyone else has to guess which story it is.

## 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. **What sorts of things help you remember stories you have been told or have heard?**
  - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://resources.jpit.uk) Commitment for Life [cforl.co.uk](https://cforl.co.uk)
  - <https://youtu.be/jxWcvK-Cu-I?si=osL7m3WHGfnOFVTE> How many of these Bible stories do you recognise? Perhaps you could play this as a game with your friends, each using emojis to tell a Bible story and seeing who can guess it first.
  - Young people may be more likely to engage with this challenge if it were sent in the days after a meeting via an email or if your group has one (with appropriate permissions) in a WhatsApp group chat.
-



Thank you for exploring the **1 Peter** 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)

