



# 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>

## Proverbs 24: 3-4

Theme: How do we make our lives a home for God?

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

**Proverbs** is a book of short sayings from Solomon and other wise people of that time. They are not prophecies or promises from God, they are the understanding of the writers of what being human is all about, the relationships between humans and the relationship between humans and God. Some may seem strange and some even funny, but many are definitely wise. Many also use figurative language, to create a visual picture of the words meaning, as is the case here.

This is a very short passage – just two verses – but there is a great deal to potentially unpack when exploring the scripture with your group.

Continuing our theme of 'Home', this week we will be exploring how we can make ourselves a home for God – what that might mean and what it might look like.

There are a couple of 'trigger warnings' you might need to think about, knowing the young people who make up your group.

1. How might you approach the theme of 'home' with those who have had to leave what they considered 'home' (asylum seekers/refugees/Domestic Violence refugees)?
2. What about those who are self-conscious of their bodies and might feel (or be made to feel) that their body is not a suitable home for God. How might you help overcome such feelings in a positive and encouraging way?



Is the traditional definition of 'home' – relating to a building – applicable here? Does everyone in your group have the same understanding of what 'home' is? Home can be about community and relationships rather than just walls and a roof. Home can be somewhere we feel safe and welcome, it doesn't need to be perfect – and God understands that.

The two verses which comprise this session's scripture passage are full of metaphors. These can be difficult to understand. A 'priceless treasure' that fills a 'room' might not be something physical – it could be the treasure of love in the room of a heart.

How might members of your group enable God to live in them, and through them? What other 'priceless treasures' can they offer to God to make God feel welcome? Allow, and encourage, members of your group to be as imaginative and creative as they want to be as they explore this passage and what it means to them to have God, not just around them, but in them.

## 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 alternative 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, EasyEnglish

**Watch:** The Book of Proverbs – The Bible Project

[https://youtu.be/Gab04dPs\\_uA?si=5e2Ji42BmnXrx2yR](https://youtu.be/Gab04dPs_uA?si=5e2Ji42BmnXrx2yR)

**Discuss:** This video is a good general introduction to the book of Proverbs. What does it tell you about wisdom? How do you think you should view the proverbs – as suggestions, recommendations or instructions?

**Watch:** Let us build a house where love can dwell

[https://youtu.be/mTdxFRfEoMs?si=fAg-ukwmJ0lpk-\\_f](https://youtu.be/mTdxFRfEoMs?si=fAg-ukwmJ0lpk-_f)

**Discuss:** You may have heard this song before – it is often known as "All are welcome". Look at the lyrics. How can we ensure our church/our youth group is a place where all are welcome, including God?

**Watch:** How Wisdom Brings Human Flourishing. Proverbs 24:3-4. Joshua 1:8 – The Well at Surf City [https://youtu.be/E\\_mIC63aczE?si=Oj9csVmokicE\\_a6W](https://youtu.be/E_mIC63aczE?si=Oj9csVmokicE_a6W)

**Discuss:** What do you think is meant by human flourishing? How does this fit with your understanding of today's proverb 24: 3-4?

## 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.

Each person is to create a model of themselves using the offered materials, keeping today's theme in mind (*God making a home in our lives*). It could be a Lego creation or perhaps clay or junk modelling, for example.

The creation needs to have a hollow center with access to the inside. This could be a slit or a lid.

Once the models have been completed, take some time to show the self-creations to each other.

Now, explore the concept of God living in our lives, making a home in us.

Write the word "GOD" or "HOLY SPIRIT" on a piece of paper and put it inside the model, thinking about what that might mean.

How would our lives change if we were constantly aware of God being a part of our lives?

This could be taken further if time allows, exploring some of the ideas in the passage about building your life with wisdom.

Where does the wisdom come from?

What do you need to be wise about?

What understanding might you need?

Do we need to be perfect before God can live in us? What evidence do we have?

Write or draw symbols of aspects of wisdom that you would like to 'furnish' yourself with and put those inside your model too.

### 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.



### Ritz advert – Ready when you aren't

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

The family in the advert are hurriedly tidying, hiding any mess and trying to pretend this is how things are all the time.

- Is this the kind of preparation the Bible passage has in mind when we are preparing ourselves for God?
- Are there people who are always welcome, whether we are prepared or not?
- Which famous person would you like to visit you – how would you get ready for them?

### Talking together: Going deeper

- Where is God in today's Proverb passage?
- What in our lives would make God welcome in our home? What would make God feel unwelcome?
- The Bible comes in different versions, each version staying true to the meaning of the verse but using different types of vocabulary to express it. For instance, some Bible versions say good sense, some say knowledge– are both the same thing?
- What's the different between visitors and family? Which do you think God is?
- Once God has come to live with you, how long do you think God is going to stay?

### Conversation starters

- What is the difference between wisdom and understanding?
- Do you need to know a lot to have good sense?
- I wonder what precious riches you have to share with God?

## 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.

### Spoken Prayer

Holy Spirit, we don't always feel very wise.

Sometimes we make daft choices

or decisions we might later regret.

Make your home with us and fill us with Godly wisdom.

Help us clear out the rubbish in our lives.

Make room for the precious treasures you bring:

Peace, kindness, gratitude, patience, love. Amen

### Creative Prayer

*You will need:* Pieces of Lego

*What you do:* Start by saying "God, help us build a home of wisdom, understanding and knowledge".

Each person in turn then chooses a piece of Lego and adds it to the previous pieces to build a house shape. As they put their piece on, they can say a prayer (e.g. help me be patient, teach me to work well with others, help me trust you, etc) either out loud or silently. Once the house is built, say "Welcome, Holy Spirit. Make your home in us".



## 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.

### Bug hotel

We may say that all are welcome, yet our society damages the habitat for so many of God's creatures. Let's try and redress the balance a little by making a bug hotel. They don't need to be as fancy as the ones in the picture, as long as they create the right environment for the mini-beasts and insects that need a home.



You could make a frame with wood, or use an old wooden box or crate, even a stack of pallets if you have space in your church grounds. Or, if space is limited, use a smaller box to fill. You will need lots of natural bits and pieces – bamboo cane, pine cones, leaves, twigs, stones, sticks, pieces of wood that you can drill holes into – whatever you can gather. This project can be as big or small as you have capacity and enthusiasm for. Build it wisely – we don't want any cuts or splinters – and if you're putting something in the church grounds, make sure you have asked permission first.

### Research: All are welcome in this place

Explore your church building, especially looking at things like noticeboards, signage and accessibility. How welcoming a 'house' is it? Would anyone feel unwelcome here? What about God? What are the signs that God is in the building?

### 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:

- Watch this music video [https://youtu.be/RKRXr-lmlUs?si=x\\_xDTwFJ1QiZli9](https://youtu.be/RKRXr-lmlUs?si=x_xDTwFJ1QiZli9)
- 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 is your most precious treasure and why did you choose that?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://resources.jpit.uk) Commitment For Life [cforl.co.uk](https://cforl.co.uk)

Thank you for exploring this **Proverbs** 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)