



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*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: [www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR](http://www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR)

## Title: 2 Chronicles 30: 21-27

**Theme:** Be joyful and keep the faith

**Contents:**

<a href="#"><u>Introduction</u></a>	.....	1
<a href="#"><u>Together</u></a>	.....	2
<a href="#"><u>Experience</u></a>	.....	3
<a href="#"><u>Explore</u></a>	.....	4
<a href="#"><u>Express</u></a>	.....	5
<a href="#"><u>Handouts</u></a>	.....	9

**Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?**

Today's theme of "Be joyful and keep the faith" is taken from 2 Chronicles 30: 21–27 in the Old Testament.

In this passage of the Bible there is a festival called "the festival of unleavened bread", which follows the "Passover festival". Unfortunately, the festival had been forgotten about for a few years. However, people had finally remembered how good God is and started celebrating again.

Do we still celebrate festivals? Well, actually we do. St David's Day is a great example.

St David is the patron saint of Wales (the country, not the mammals!) and people (mainly Welsh) will be celebrating this day by wearing or handing out daffodil flowers and celebrating Welsh culture. St David did many miracles and said amazing things such as, "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things."

But back to the festival of unleavened bread. This is normally a seven-day festival. It takes its name from the time when the Israelites were escaping from Egypt in a hurry. They didn't have

time for the bread to rise, so during the festival they do not eat any foods that rise, the ones that stay unleavened.

You can find out more about the feasts and festivals at:

The Society of Old Testament study (SOTS) <https://www.sots.ac.uk/wiki/jewish-festivals/>

Or watch this video about the festivals: All the major Jewish Holidays explained in 5 minutes by a History professor, by David & History for the Ages

<https://youtu.be/stxNEUMjUDA?si=Y1LW5tk3ykRof5Uu>

## Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

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.*

Alternatively, you may join with the widgit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

---

### Active game – How far will it go?

Break your group into teams. Arrange a selection of flat bread varieties (Pitta/tortilla/naan/roti) on a table near where the teams are gathered. (Consider using bread that is past its sell-by date to reduce food waste!)

Offer the team several rounds of challenges, to complete together. Teams must decide which type of flat bread to use for each challenge – before they are told what it is. Choose a selection of challenges from the list below. The winning team is the one that gets the highest score on the greatest number of challenges.

- How far will it go? – Mark out a starting line with masking tape. Measure how far a team member can throw the bread.
- Catch! – How many times can you throw the bread between team members, without dropping the bread?
- Pairs – How far apart can two members of your team stand apart and successfully catch the bread chosen?

- Ready, aim, fire! – Set up a bread (or paper) target. Each team must aim their chosen bread product at the target; closest wins!

**You will need to be aware of any allergies that your group have when choosing who handles the bread products in each team.**

---

### **Quieter game – Bread tasting and quiz**

*You will need:*

Different types of bread and paper with the bread names on, and possibly country flags if you want to add this element.

*What you do:*

Place the bread on plates around the room. Place cards with the name (and country) on around the room.

The children work together to taste each bread (please be aware of allergies), and then agree what the bread is called and which country it comes from.

## **Experience – Bible story and songs**

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Easy to read 2 Chronicles 30: 21–27

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20chronicles%2030%3A%2021%20-%2027&version=EASY>

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)  
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

The Israelites who were in Jerusalem enjoyed the Festival of Flat Bread for seven days. They were very happy. Every day, the Levites and the priests made loud music to praise the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> All the Levites understood how they should serve the Lord. So King Hezekiah thanked them. The festival continued for seven days. They offered friendship offerings to the Lord. They thanked the Lord, the God of their ancestors.

<sup>23</sup> Then all the people who were there agreed to continue the feast for another seven days. So they did that happily for seven more days. <sup>24</sup> King Hezekiah of Judah gave 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep to the people. The leaders also gave them 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. Many more priests also made themselves clean to serve the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Everyone at the festival was very happy. They included all Judah's people, the priests, the Levites and the whole group of people who had come from Israel. There were also foreign people who were living in Israel and in Judah. <sup>26</sup> Everyone enjoyed the festival in Jerusalem. Nothing like this had happened in Jerusalem since the time when David's son Solomon was

king of Israel.<sup>27</sup> The priests and the Levites stood up and they asked God to bless the people. Their prayers reached the Lord's home in heaven, and he did what they asked for.

*EasyEnglish Bible Copyright © MissionAssist 2019 - Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1162807. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

**Watch:** Listen to this song Goodness of God by Bethel Music <https://youtu.be/-f4MUUMWMV4?si=DcjyEyw9Gd6MUSDE>

### An opportunity for reflection

- Consider what it means to live a life that remembers God's faithfulness in our lives.

## Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

### A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, 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.

Read aloud the Bible passage or watch one of the videos describing it. Explain that in the Old Testament, the part of the Bible before Jesus was born, we hear all about different Jewish festivals. This is one of them. The people are so joyful because they are celebrating a festival that hasn't been celebrated for a long time and want to please God. In fact they are so joyful they didn't stop after seven days but celebrated for a further seven!

I wonder what 'forgotten' festivals or celebrations you can think of, either at home or at church?

Make a group calendar recording all the shared history of the Church. To help stimulate thoughts you could provide some known festivals as a starting point on cards either written or with a symbol. For instance Christmas, Easter, Harvest, etc

Once a bit of time has been given to creating this calendar see what people notice. Are there festivals that your group could mark? Especially any that have been forgotten about (such as Church anniversaries)

We are currently in the season of Lent, is this something to celebrate? Is it seen as joyful or something more solemn? How could we celebrate and bring joy into now?

If people have been able to provide in advance old calendars and there is time, look back through them and identify what were celebrations, what were festivals.

## 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 Avengers*

2012: Disney

The Avengers and Shawarma, clip by Saint Francis

<https://youtu.be/P05deS1h6oM?si=jDeqToLdcKOYjovL>

Even though the team are exhausted, they decide to celebrate their victory by sharing a meal together.

## Questions

- What is your favourite celebratory meal to share with family or friends?
- The Avengers are eating together to mark their incredible achievement, and unexpected success. Do you think those first families who celebrated the Passover meal together thought they would be successful as they tried to escape from Egypt?
- Who would you like to share a meal with, and why?

## Group discussion

- What do Christians do at Lent to prepare for Easter?
- Verse 24 refers to priests following some cleaning rituals to make themselves clean. I wonder what that looks like and what that means?

## Personal reflection

- How might you celebrate something important?

## Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

### Praying together

**Prayers** 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.

## Prayerful activity Prayer Spoons

*You will need:*

- a wooden spoon for each member of your group
- sticky notes, paper shapes or folded card
- pens or coloured pencils
- sticky tape or a stapler



*What you do:*

Give each member of the group three pieces of card or paper, then ask them to choose things that they would like to pray for – they could express these prayers with words or pictures. Encourage the group members to choose someone they know well, someone from the local community (or a group of people, like teachers or those work in shops) and a place in the world, or part of creation.



When each person has three prayers prepared, move into a time of prayer together. You could play a piece of quiet music, or sit quietly. Use a short prayer, like the one below, allowing time for prayers to be added to the spoons.

Alternatively, use air-drying clay to form shapes that will thread onto the spoon's handle. The shapes could represent chosen prayers, or once they have dried you could decorate them with colours and prayers.

God,

We pray for those we love.

Be with them and hold them close.

*(All stick prayer for the person they know well onto the spoon.)*

We pray for those who work hard in our community,

And those who need help

*(All stick prayer for the local area onto the spoon.)*

We pray for your beautiful world,

For your amazing creation

And places that are troubled

*(All stick prayer for a place, or part of the world, onto the spoon.)*

Amen.

## Spoken prayer

*All say the bold bits together.*

**Be joyful and keep the faith.**

God, help us show kindness in the everyday stuff –  
sharing, helping out, and looking out for others.

Use our small actions to brighten someone's day  
in ways that actually matter.

**Be joyful and keep the faith.**

**Amen.**

---

## 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. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

### St David who?

The expression “Be joyful and keep the faith” is attributed to St David. Can you find out more about why he became a saint, what he is a saint of, and why he is famous for saying this phrase. Create a small video/reel or post which could be shared with the wider church.

### 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 does “keep the faith” mean to you?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources ([jpit.uk](http://jpit.uk)) or *Commitment for Life* ([cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk))
- St David advocated for small things creating big impact. How can you bring some joy to someone's life this week?

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

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk](mailto:sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [www.bit.ly/FACT\\_Fb](http://www.bit.ly/FACT_Fb)



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

+ and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever. Amen

**CPClegg, David I Patterson**, Sketched by Shalone Cason at [sdcason.com](http://sdcason.com), CC BY-SA 4.0

