

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>

Exodus 2: 1-10 – Moses in the bulrushes

Theme: Celebrating different kinds of caring

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

This passage from Exodus does not set the context so you may need to explore the context a little. The Israelites – the descendents of Joseph and his family – had become slaves in Egypt but were increasing in number and posing a threat to the Egyptians, so Pharaoh issued a decree that every new baby boy born to an Israelite family should be killed to stop the population growing. So baby Moses was at risk – even after the Egyptian Princess found him!

This session is originally written to be used on Mothering Sunday, or Mothers day. It is important to remember that you can never be 100% certain of the life experiences of others and unexpected things can be triggers. People of any age who have experienced neglect or abuse, abandonment or bereavement, even refugee children who were sent abroad unaccompanied may struggle at times with this session. Creating a separate quiet space for someone to go to when feeling this way may be of benefit as well as explaining before the session begins that it is ok to listen and not participate in all areas of the session. The focus of this session is on ‘mothering’ rather than specifically on mothers. Even the story of Moses has the role fulfilled by birth mother, adoptive mother and a sibling.

What is mothering? What kind of people are we celebrating? Mothering involves guiding you through life, caring about you, protecting you, helping you grow. It can be done (or not done) by fathers and siblings, grandparents, other relatives, foster parents, adoptive parents, friends, godparents, sometimes even strangers. The church through it’s congregation should guide us, care for us, protect us and help us to grow too. You may want to think about some ways in which your church does this.

Exodus means 'going out' in Latin. Moses grew up to lead the Israelites out of slavery and oppression in Egypt. God sends a series of plagues to convince Pharaoh to let the people leave Egypt with Moses and this event is what Jewish people remember when they celebrate Pesach or Passover, the meal which Jesus was sharing with his disciples at the Last Supper. You may wish to refer back to this if you use the session about the Last Supper in March week 4.

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.

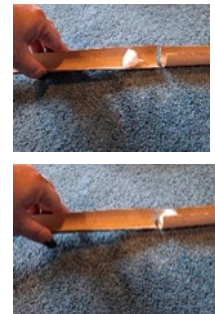
Amen

In-person game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme

Alternative game : Drainpipe

Gather some empty wrapping paper tubes and cut them in half, length ways. One person is to roll a table tennis ball down the first tube, the next tube needs to be brought next to the first tube and so on to make a path of tubes for the ball to roll along. See how long people can keep the ball rolling along the tubes. If it falls down, start again!



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: Video of the story: Pharaoh's daughter adopts the baby as her own child – The ten commandments 1956 – FaithGenre

<https://youtu.be/pXxg7xsrjHg?si=4EQ7yDicBOGvEJSH>

Song: 'Here For You' – Kygo ft. Ella Henderson

<https://youtu.be/Sy5vKRRBjCE?si=Bf4u9R9BU8lag8Md>

Questions for discussion

Watch the YouTube video and listen to the lyrics of the song, prompt discussion with these or your own questions.

- How might the way the mother of Moses cares for the baby differ from the way the pharaoh's daughter might care for the baby?
- What sort of caring do you think of when listening to the song by Ella Henderson?

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:

Think about different mothering roles and what they might require. What might a job description look like if for a mum, a carer, a sibling, etc? Take some time to think about what that role might involve. Does the age of the person being cared for make a difference to what roles that person may take on? What different skills do those in mothering roles need? Plan and write a job description.

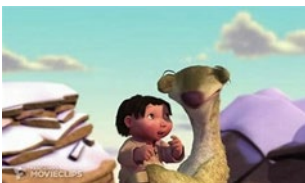
There is a template at the back of this session to get you started.

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.

A helpful film to suggest watching (outside of the group session) on the subject of caring, is Blind Side starring Sandra Bullock.

A clip to watch during the session



Clip from the film Ice Age – Returning the baby

https://youtu.be/DpvNsqgmVyl?si=V8Mu2lwo3Cp_QMBB

Questions to think about.

- Other than family members, are there other people who look after us?
- Who do you feel comfortable talking to when things are difficult?
- Are there different ways to look after someone?
- There is a well known proverb: 'It takes a village to raise a child' What do you think it means?



Talking together: Going deeper

- I wonder if the father had any say in what happened with Moses?
- I wonder why the pharaoh's daughter might have chosen to adopt the baby and why she wanted someone else's to look after it?
- I wonder whether the family expected the baby to be found?

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 - based on the prayer attributed to St Teresa of Avila "Christ has no body but yours"

Christ, help us to remember that you have no body but ours;

No hands, no feet on earth but ours.

Help us remember that ours are the eyes with which you look compassion on this world;

That ours are the feet with which you walk to do good;

That ours are the hands with which you bless all the world.

We are your hands and feet, your eyes and your body.

You have no body now on earth, but we can play that part,

Working together to do your will.

Help us and encourage us, teach us and lead us as your body here on earth.

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. 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.

Children alone

Many children and young people find themselves alone for a variety of reasons, war, broken homes, homelessness etc. This website highlights the story of two young people who found themselves alone when war broke out in their town. There are also prompts and resources such as prayer ideas to help us respond to such situations. You will need to set up a free account to download these resources.

<https://prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/christian-aid-children-alone/> Case study

<https://prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home/> Prayers

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 **Who has helped care for you during your life so far?**
 - Is there someone who you know who has experienced being alone, can you befriend them and see what sort of support they need?
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://resources.jpit.uk) Commitment For Life cforl.co.uk
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Thank you for exploring the Exodus 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





Position	
Salary	
Hours	
Tasks	
Character	
Job description	

