



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/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

Proverbs 11:25

Theme: Serving others – be our guest!

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

As we continue our topic on food and fasting, we should emphasise again that we do not advocate fasting for children or young people – young bodies need nutrition to grow and develop properly, and there is already too much anxiety around eating for some children and young people. Instead, we focus on eating healthily and fasting being a way of being more mindful about what we indulge in and how food and drink is used. Food is a gift from God.

Proverbs was written in the Old Testament and is not a record of God's words but more a collection of wise (or not so wise) sayings from the time of King Solomon (though not all were written by him). This proverb could sound as though your giving can make you financially rich – a belief followed by those who preach the prosperity gospel – but it is more a reminder and an invitation to exercise hospitality and the spiritual riches that come from doing good. It is the hope that comes from being in community, a glimpse of God's kingdom where we all help each other out, just like in the Beatitudes.

Some churches take this idea further and, during Lent, encourage people to bring things in to give away. There are charities that redistribute unwanted food from supermarkets, and in some American schools they have a place where children can put anything from their packed lunch that they don't want (instead of throwing it away) and others can take it and eat it. (We cannot see this working in British schools where sharing is often not allowed due to allergy risks).

In this session you will want to be aware of children who may be experiencing food poverty. God does not want us to go hungry or to give food away if we haven't enough to keep us healthy too.



Hospitality can mean things such as lending things (e.g. lending a pen to someone who doesn't have one but taking it back afterwards) or sharing by inviting someone to play a video game or watch a movie with you.

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: This Lie can keep you from Living Generously – The Bible Project

https://youtu.be/62CliEkRCso?si=QU_xUkef_TCHEQGc

Questions for discussion

- What stops us living generously?
- If everybody trusted God and lived generously, would the world be different?
- We can't give enough to change the world, so why be generous when others aren't?

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.

You might additionally choose to watch this video which illustrates the story

<https://youtu.be/qhU5JEd-XRo?si=aEsYg-jYG7CLKjeX>

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://youtu.be/tWXkX9axcWs?si=Rll_TlqFi0ot8gVE This is a popular video which has been shared multiple times on social media. How does this video link to our theme? Where can we find God in this video?

Talking together: Going deeper

- How do you think we are refreshed when we give to others?
- Is it right to give to others just because you think you'll get something out of it?
- Do you think this passage is just about food and drink?
- This passage comes from a collection of wise sayings from the time of King Solomon. Do you think it is a wise saying? Do you think it is a godly saying? Would you change it in any way?

Conversation starters

- Who would you find it difficult to be hospitable to?
- What would you find difficult to share?
- Is it possible to be hospitable when you have very little yourself?

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.

Prayer

Dear God

Please give us eyes to see the needs of people.

Give us hearts full of love for our neighbours
as well as for the strangers we meet.

Fill us with generosity and love to those who are sad lonely or weary
by showing kindness to them.

Help us to listen, to smile, and to offer a helping hand.

Help us to be welcoming and inclusive to all those we meet.

Inspire us to go out of our way to include those in the margins.

Help us to be God's hospitality in the world.

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.

Pay it forward – research

There are lots of ways in which people share and show hospitality with food and drink and in other ways. Some cafes hold "suspended coffees" – can you find out what this means? Do any cafes in your neighbourhood do this? There are apps and organisations which provide food at low cost or free when otherwise supermarkets would throw it away at the end of the day. Can you find out about these? What about things other than food and drink – like uniform swap shops for example. And there are organisations such as Beam (UK) and LendwithCARE (Overseas) that help people get started when things are tough. Can you create a poster that will encourage the congregation of the church you are in to show hospitality in this way?



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. **How does helping someone else make you feel?**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://jpit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
 - Explore your local area and find out where the foodbank collection points are. If you are in a position to do so, can you put something in one? Alternatively, can you share your things with people who need them – loan something to a friend or invite someone to watch a movie with you?
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Thank you for exploring the **Proverbs** 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