



# **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

### Title: Joshua 1: 9

Theme: Be Bold, be brave, for the Lord your God is with you

#### Contents:

Introduction	.1
Together	.2
Experience	.3
Explore	.4
Express	.5
Handouts	.9

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

Welcome to Week 4 of our theme looking at emotions in the Bible. This week, using the story of Joshua, we are looking at bravery – and whether or not you need to be strong to be brave.

You might like to set the scene by asking if people in your group can think of brave things that people have done – will anyone suggest that the first person to drink cow's milk was brave? Or the first sailor who set off without being able to see land in the direction they were going brave?

If we are going to make the most of life, as God wants us to do, we must sometimes be brave and take courageous decisions or make brave choices. Knowing that God is always with us (as the Bible passage promises) might give us the strength and courage to be brave, but we must also remember that God has given us free will and that means God won't always step in to stop us doing something unwise – although, fortunately, others might!

There are some very real reasons to be scared of certain things so please be aware that this discussion may be a trigger for some members of your group. Please think about how you might respond with the rest of your leaders before the session starts. It may be that you will offer a 'quiet space' for them to calm down, with support, should that be needed.



Triggers: These four sessions stir up emotions, it's important to be mindful of this and to ensure that the session ends on a positive note.

# Together - prayer and games

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 widget prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children together or else the Lord's prayer found at the end of this session.

#### **Active game - Team Games**

As teams will need to nominate players before they know the order of the tasks, those volunteering will need to be really brave!

Choose three tasks for members of your teams to complete – vary the tasks to ensure they require different skills. For example: A running race; a timed sorting task - sorting provided objects into separate categories; an obstacle race or some general knowledge questions. Collect all the resources you need for the individual tasks.

Split the group into teams and ask them to nominate a team member for Challenge A, Challenge B and Challenge C.

After you have recorded the nominations, tell the groups which order the tasks will take place in. Teams cannot change the order of their participants.

Complete the tasks – the team who wins the task, gains a point. The team with the most points, after all three tasks, wins the game.

#### **Quiet game - Charades**

For some, standing up to act out a charade will take a lot of courage and others may find it nerve-wracking to shout out the correct answer, in case they get it wrong.



Make a list of charade answers (book titles, films or songs) and write them on a slip of paper. Fold the slips of paper and place them in a hat – or tub. Split your group into two teams.

Teams take it in turns to play the game. The team nominates an actor, who chooses a slip of paper and acts out the answer written on it – starting with the answer's category. If the actor's team don't guess the charade in the agreed time, the other team are allowed

one guess – for a bonus point.

Each correct answer is worth one point. The team with the most points, at the end of an agreed number of rounds, wins. In the case of a tie – complete a tie-break round. Both teams nominate an actor, who acts out the same charade. The first team to guess the charade correctly, wins.

Before starting the game, ensure that the teams know the agreed signs for the different categories of film, book and song.

## Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Joshua 1:9 in the Living Bible

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%201%3A%209&version=TLB

<sup>9</sup> Yes, be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

The Living Bible copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

**Watch**: The calling – Wherever you will go (lyrics) – 7clouds https://youtu.be/j0v4rZz9F2I?si=laHZmWPf2W1jbPoV

#### **Questions for discussion**

Listen to the song and reflect on the lyrics.

Which lyrics stood out to you from this song? Why?

#### **Explore the questions below:**

Lyrics: "If I could, then I would / I'll go wherever you will go..."

- Have you ever had someone stand by you no matter what?
- How does it feel to know that God promises to be with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9)?
- In what ways can we reflect God's faithfulness to our friends and family?

The song talks about following someone into the unknown. Joshua 1:9 tells us not to fear.

What fears do you face about your future or the unknown?



- How does God's promise in Joshua 1:9 help you face those fears?
- What does "being strong and courageous" look like in your everyday life?

# **Explore**

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

#### A new way to explore the theme – Who's the bravest

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.

The Bible is full of stories of brave people, to name a few Deborah/ Egyptian midwives/ Esther/ Moses/ Noah/ Daniel/ Peter/ Mirium/ Jesus.

Chose a couple of characters from the Bible who show bravery, split the groups into teams and give each of them a character. Provide some wallpaper or large paper so they can draw round one of their group. Use this person template to write or draw about who their character is, how their character is brave, where in the Bible the characters story comes from and where they see God in the story. It may help to explain what it looks like to see God in the story, so for instance in the Mirium story God kept the baby safe while in the water.

Once everyone has finished doing this come together to share your findings. Are there any surprising stories/ characters? Can you relate to them in times of bravery? Could you rank them as to who is the bravest and say why?

#### 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.

Rosa Parks Song – Horrible Histories

Horrible Histories (Series 5 – Ep 1): 2013

https://youtu.be/Koeio4fqwmU?si=YUkqpEvRxGzk8tr6

This song highlights the bravery of Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus was an important part of the fight against segregation in America.

- Do you know why it was a brave thing to do?
- What were the consequences of Rosa's brave choice?
- What's the bravest thing you've ever done?





- Is there a difference between being brave and making unwise choices? I wonder what those differences are?
- What does being brave look like?
- How is God with us when we are scared?

#### Personal reflection

- I wonder if there is a difference between being scared and being afraid?
- I wonder what you are afraid of? When have you had to be brave?
- I wonder who you speak to when you have fears and doubts?
- I wonder if you feel God with you when you are scared?

# **Express – prayer and creative activities**

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

#### **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.

Use the template below with your group, to create a spoken prayer for themselves and the world – with a specific emphasis on issues that they are concerned about and for situations where people may need courage for what they are facing.

Dear God,
For things that worry us,
For places full of fear,
We ask that you will be close to those who feel afraid.
We pray for:
For surprising situations,
For unexpected tasks,
We ask that you will give us the courage we need. We pray for:

60.00	
CO	

For those who speak up against injustice
For those who speak up for Creation,
We pray that you will give them courage.
We pray for:

#### Prayer prompt cards

Amen

For this activity we will be using the URC prayer prompt cards, there are packs for 4-8's and 8-12's, use the ones you feel most appropriate for your group.

Spread out the prayer cards image side up on a flat surface. Ask those gathered which card stands out to them as an image of bravery, ask that they select the card and think about the image they have.

You could then, sitting quietly use the card to aid personal prayer time, take it in turns to read/share the prayers on the back of the card, show the image as a prayer response or write/ say their own prayers which could then be shared.

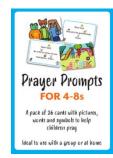
The cards can be downloaded using these links:

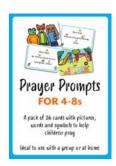
Prayer Prompt Cards 4 – 8 Download (PDF | 7mb)

**Download the prayer cards in Welsh (PDF | 7mb)** 

Prayer Prompt Cards 8 – 12 Download (PDF | 24mb)

Download the prayer cards in Welsh (PDF| 23mb





#### 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.

#### Research



Little People Big Dreams: Malala Yousafzai

By Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara and Manal Mirza

Little people Big Dreams: 2021



#### https://youtu.be/0-65uFg9nbA?si=4M1z-Wv3qJfwL0eH

Research more about the work of the foundation Malala started; to promote the right every child has to access education.

#### Malala Fund

- Why did Malala start the fund?
- Why is the work they are doing important?
- What countries does the fund work in?

#### Origami jumping frogs

There are many different activities you could do to create a frog, you could fold an origami frog, make a frog bracelet or decorate some frog biscuits.

To help us reflect on the idea of God being with us, you could share the acronym F.R.O.G. which stands for Fully Rely On God. The fact that God is always with us, even in the trials of life, and in these times we need to rely on God and his promises to us.

Create a jumping frog to help explore this, you could write Fully Rely on God on it when it is built.

Here is the link we followed to make ours. I recommend that you use normal Green A4 paper as the craft paper used in the image was a little bulky towards the end to fold: https://youtu.be/VIb2udqPx-M?feature=shared



#### Wristband

Cut a strip of fabric that will fit around your wrist with a bit of room to slide it up and down but not so much that it would slide off your arm. Decide how the fabric will attach round the wrist, either sew a couple of poppers on or use some sticky Velcro pads.

Use fabric pens to write/ draw FROG or Fully Rely On God on some material. Either sew some poppers or attach some Velcro and then pop it round your wrist. This works best with the sort of fabric that will not fray when cut.

#### Challenge

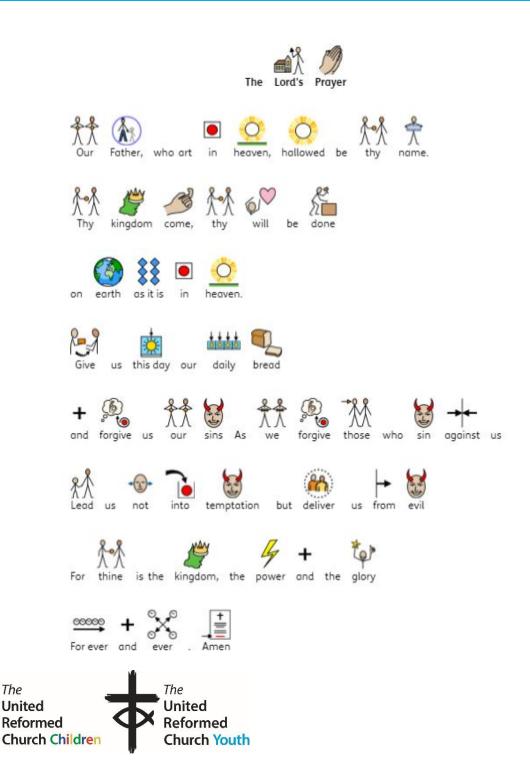
Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

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. I wonder what helps you to feel brave?
- Research something suggested by JPIT, Resources (ipit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
- There are many people who have to be brave everyday for many different reasons. I wonder if there is something you don't like to do or that scares you? It could be having the light off at night, it could be speaking in public or standing up for someone else, I wonder if you could be extra brave this week and take a first step towards conquering that fear?



Thank you for exploring the story of **Joshua** with us. Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT\_FB



The



