**Leaping and Praising God**

**Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the opening Prayer)**

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let’s hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam’s adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

**The Opening Prayer**

We are friends together *(shake hands with both palms facing towards body)*

On a faith adventure (*point to forehead with thumb. Hold other hand with palm facing up and bring the side of your first hand down so that it goes across the palm of the second hand just below the fingers)*

With the Bible as our mapbook *(draw cross with thumbnail on back of hand then put hands together and open like a book)*

And Jesus as our guide *(use index fingers to point into palm of each hand in turn).*

God, be with us in all that we do *(point up, then make index finger into a hook shape and move down as though pulling down towards you)*

And go with us wherever we go *(point outwards).*

Amen *(two thumbs up with hands apart, bring hands together)*

**The alternative Prayer**

Lord help us to be:

**P**repared for adventure

**I**n all we do.

**L**oving and caring,

**O**pen to others

**T**ogether as one community

**S**haring the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

**Fun Together**

**Line dancing activity:**

**What you need:**

Music

Space

**What you do:**

Either make up a simple line dance sequence to a Christian song or use the following <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pep7rdO-g8Q>

**Piggyback/ carry horse game:**

Divide the group into two teams. Decide on a start and finish line and the rules of what’s acceptable carrying and what isn’t.

The winning team is the one that gets each of their team members from one side to the other first by carrying each team member either by piggyback or two people creating a seat with their joined up hands. When the last members need to be carried, other members of the team will need to come back to help them.

**Today’s theme** is exploring the importance of relationship with God and the need to celebrate it.

**The Big Story- Leaping and praising God – Acts 3: 1-8**

**What you will need:**

During this story there will be noises for the group to make. Write them on placards/ signs before you start and allocate someone to hold them up at the right time. It would work best to write a word on either side of the placards/ signs

**(AHHHHHH) / (BOOOOOO) / (OHHHHHH) / (YAAAAAAY)**

NARRATOR 1: There were once two men named Peter and John,

NARRATOR 2: to the temple they both had gone,

NARRATOR 1: t’was 3 o’clock, the time for prayers,

NARRATOR 2: They wandered along without any cares. **(AHHHHHH)**

NARRATOR 1: ‘Til they stumbled upon a man with no shoes, **(BOOOOOO)**

NARRATOR 2: He asked….do you have a penny or two?

NARRATOR 1: This man sat by the beautiful gate,

NARRATOR 1: Where each day he’d endure such terrible hate, **(BOOOOOO)**

NARRATOR 1: For into the temple he was not allowed to go,

NARRATOR 2: As the people inside, they always said no. **(OHHHHHH)**

NARRATOR 1: The man, not wanting to be rude, said

NARRATOR 2: “A penny or two please, to buy me some food?”

NARRATOR 1: He rattled his bowl and hoped for a penny,

NARRATOR 2: “I’m sorry,” said Peter, “’cos I haven’t any, **(BOOOOOO)**

NARRATOR 1: But a better thing I’d like to share, **(YAAAAAAY)**

NARRATOR 2: I really feel it would only be fair.

NARRATOR 1: Your legs don’t work, that I can see, **(OHHHHHH)**

NARRATOR 2: By the Power of God invested in me, **(AHHHHHH)**

NARRATOR 1: Get up, get up, walk, trust in the Lord.”

NARRATOR 2: The man thought a moment, but then no more.

NARRATOR 1: He leapt up and found his legs did work. **(YAAAAAAY)**

NARRATOR 2: No more at the beautiful gate will he lurk!

NARRATOR 1: Into the temple he jumped and leapt,

NARRATOR 2: His faith in God is what he kept, **(AHHHHHH)**

NARRATOR 1: And all who saw and heard the man shout, **(YAAAAAAY)**

NARRATOR 2: said, “I wonder what that was all about?” **(OHHHHHH)**

**Creative Adventure**.

Beautiful door banner

**What you’ll need:**

Wallpaper or large paper

Gold/ bronze paper

Sellotape

Scissors

Gems

Stickers

**What you do:**

Make a beautiful banner that can be attached to the top of a door to represent the beautiful gate and the fact that we are all welcome through God’s beautiful gates of faith. You could make one for the room you use as a group, or each person could make one to take home.

Draw or cut out the shape that you would like your gate to take, if possible measuring the top of your door first.

Decorate the gate to look golden and shiny using the paper/ crayons/ gems and stickers.

You may wish to add the words *The gate named “beautiful”* like in the Bible reading, or similar words about God’s welcome for all.

**Cup puppet:**

**What you need:**

Paper cups

Sellotape

Strips of paper

String

Scissors

**What you do:**

Carefully pop two holes into the bottom of the cup.

Thread some string through one of the holes and secure with a knot. Thread the other end of the string down through the cup and secure with a knot, you should be left with a long handle, this is what you will use to make your puppet move.

Turn the paper cup upside down. Using the crayons decorate it with a face.

Fold 4 separate strips of paper in a concertina, these will be two arms and two legs.

Sellotape the two arms either side of the still upside-down cup

Sellotape the legs hanging down from the opening of the cup.

You can make your puppet jump up and dance around.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what would be the first thing you’d do if you were the person who had been healed?

I wonder what you would think if you were someone in the crowd?

I wonder why Peter chose this man to heal?

**The Adventure Map**

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written shortly after Jesus’s time. They tell us about what Jesus said and did and how his friends lived their lives, sharing with others how to be good followers of Jesus.

Take the group to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the group to find where on the Map today’s story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the group to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

**Walking the Way**

**This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.**

For the Younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that’s why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA’s scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn’t mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn’t mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA’s memory isn’t very good as FOFA’s brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

**Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is:** Peter and John made a real difference to the man who was at the Beautiful Gate. Think about what you could do to make a difference in your community, either for one person or for many. You may not be able to heal someone but there are lots of things you could volunteer to do to help.

**Adventurers Go!**

So today we heard that no matter what riches we have around us the most important thing is your relationship with and the trust you can have in God. The power of God is more precious than anything else, this is to be celebrated.

**Prayers (choose one/both)**

Prayer

*Encourage the group to suggest some precious things, like the beautiful gate was precious, and insert them into this prayer.*

Dear God, You are more precious than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and more precious than\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Remind us to treasure you always.
Amen.

Active Prayer

Either make up a simple dance for people to follow as a prayer or let the group express themselves with free dance – there is no need for words unless you would like to add some or use the words from the other prayer before starting the music. Relate the fact you are dancing to the verse in the story which says…’He was walking, leaping and praising God’ Acts 3:8

If possible, offer scarfs or ribbons to use within the dance.

Some music to use for the prayer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0Glq025b60> – God’s great dance floor/ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HESEhVW9UDE> – Dance, dance, everybody dance.

**End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

**We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.**

**Adventurers go! Amen**

**What you will need:**

**Game:**

Music

Space

**Story:**

**Craft:**

Wallpaper or large paper

Gold/ bronze paper

Sellotape

Scissors

Gems

Stickers

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Possible hazard** | **Action required** | **Action taken** | **Signature** |
| **During session** | Risk of injury when playing the carry game | Careful supervision/ explanation of rules at beginning/ halting of any undesirable behaviour. Ensure that smaller children do not attempt to give piggybacks to bigger children.  |  |  |
| **During session** | Risk of injury from using scissors | Use age appropriate scissors |  |  |