

IN THIS RESOURCE

Appendices

11 to 14s: While the main resource is written with the five to eleven age range in mind, you may have some young people who are just outside that demographic or come as junior helpers. The first appendix gives ideas for extending the material to take them a little deeper.

Under fives: You may have some children of pre-school age within your holiday club so we have added an appendix on how to adapt the theme for little ones, including some age-specific and more sensory activities you might introduce.

Vintage: Perhaps you are running a vintage holiday club and want the theme to tie in, so there is an appendix of ideas for the elderly and for those with dementia. This theme is an excellent one to develop with elderly people as you look back over old photographs and think about relationships together.

Intergenerational: Why not develop the holiday club as an intergenerational adventure, inviting adults and young people as well as children to participate together? There is an appendix with some ideas for running an intergenerational event, which may help in adapting these materials.

Overarching themes and activities

In the first section of this resource, there are some overarching themes and activities. Here are some ideas for decorating your hall or Zoom background and for ongoing/cumulative activities for your groups of children and adults. There are also the two songs which have been purpose-written for this material by Leo Roberts and Cathryn Craig.

Reflections for volunteers

It is important for the volunteers running the holiday club to ground it in faith and sound theology and to know where the theme is taking

them. For this reason, we have included some initial reflections for the team to include in a daily pre-session briefing, with discussion points to stimulate their own thinking and learning. Obviously you will also want a prayer time together, maybe focusing on your thinking and the session ahead.

Arrival activities

You will need something to keep your children occupied from the moment they arrive until the holiday club session actually begins. These activities usually take place in the team areas and encourage children to feel welcome, engaged and to start them thinking about the theme from the very moment they step over the threshold. They will be able to work on their own photograph album as well as doing a challenge and creative activity, engaging all learning styles.

Story

We have chosen to deliver the stories in a variety of styles and encourage you to be experimental with different ways of presenting Bible stories. For those of you not confident with storytelling or drama, or for those of you running your holiday club over Zoom, there are videos of the stories being told by our team on our YouTube playlist

<https://bit.ly/SnapshotVideo>

There are also suggestions for YouTube videos you may wish to use to retell the story later in the session. These are chosen because they tell the story in a way suitable for this age range and are true to the Bible accounts.

Craft

These crafts are not prescriptive – you may substitute them with crafts of your own. We recommend checking Pinterest for ideas or referring to past issues of Families on Faith Adventures @ Home to stimulate your creative juices: www.bit.ly/fofaadventuresathome.

Do try to use recyclable or eco-friendly materials wherever possible. Craft time is a good time to talk – maybe use the reflective (wondering) questions to prompt a conversation while you are engaging in the craft together or ponder on what you have found out so far. We have included a variety of crafts and science experiments – you will probably want to choose one or maybe two, depending on your group and circumstances.

Games

Two games are described here for each session, each with a link to the theme. You will undoubtedly want to include more games – probably some of the children’s favourites.

Small group prayer activity



This is an opportunity for the small groups to pray together and to encourage a bit of creativity in prayer. Prayer during this time can be far more personal and encourage children and adults alike to build their personal relationship with God. Remember to allow time to listen and be still.

Recipes

Here are suggested recipes and food activities that are themed to our days and are quick and easy for children to make themselves during the session if you choose. If you are using them, it would be helpful to consider also serving fruit and a healthy drink. Alternative suggestions to cater for those with allergies are included in brackets in the ingredients list.

Photographs

When you leaf through an old family photo album, you often think, “I’ve still got that dress somewhere” or, “I’ve still got a bag just like that one”, so we have included several random things in each of our photographs. You could choose one from each picture to have lying around in the hall where the holiday club is taking place and encourage the children to try to spot what and where it is.

Out of the album drama

As you leaf through the photo album, characters from the scene will step out to greet you. We recommend setting up so that dressed up characters or puppets appear through a door or from behind the screen. These dramas are also available on our YouTube playlist.

Song

You will want to include songs as you gather the group to begin and also in your closing worship time; probably throughout the session too. One of our songs is about love in general, the other is a cumulative song with different verses to go with each of the Bible stories. You could sing just one verse and chorus each session or could build up by adding a verse on each time. Your church probably has additional songs which your children will enjoy – think about the lyrics and make sure they are age-appropriate and theologically sound.

Closing prayer



The closing prayers are designed to be a little more active and for everyone to get involved in them. Remember that prayer is for adults as well as children – this is not a time for the adults to go off and start tidying up! You might even want to encourage parents and carers to arrive slightly before the end of the session and join in the closing prayer with their children.

Bible version



For the purpose of this resource we have used the *International Children’s Bible*. Please make sure that you credit them, using the wording on the first page of this resource if you copy the text, and please ensure that you do not change the text in any way. Obviously you may choose to use the Bible preferred by your church family, but please ensure that it uses language which is accessible and inclusive while remaining a true translation.