



# Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work  
so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:  
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus  
together in the home, church 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/FACT-how-to-sheet](http://www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet)

## Title: Numbers 29: 1-6

**Theme:** Festival of new starts

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

This festival covers so many different themes.

For instance, it signals the start of the seventh month (but hold on, maybe you can investigate which seventh month it is in the Jewish calendar). It is also the start of a new year, a new month, a day that people were not meant to work on, and a day for the celebratory blowing of trumpets.

Offerings, which take place frequently in the Old Testament, were also high on the agenda for this day. In the passage you will see how specific the offerings were.

Nowadays, offerings are no longer needed as Jesus gave his life for us as the eternal offering, so we will always have that link between us and God through the blood Jesus gave.

Back to the trumpets. These were commonplace in Old Testament times. It would have been the norm for people of all ages to blow trumpets for a number of different reasons. This time they were blown as a celebration. Can you think of other times?

And with this passage being about a new start, does this also help when thinking about how Jesus has given us all a new start, by being our sacrifice?

As you will also see in the passage, the offerings were often given as an apology. How often do we say sorry and accept apologies? Do we just accept the words “I’m sorry” or do we need actions as well?

## Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

### Gathering prayer

**Jesus, our friend,**

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

**be with us today**

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

**as we share together,**

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

**pray together,**

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

**play together,**

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

**and get to know you better**

(point up with one hand)

**as children together in your family.**

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three ‘steps’ as though to indicate children of three different heights)

**AMEN**

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

**Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.**

**Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.**

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,  
adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

**Amen**

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### Active game – Make a loud noise

*You will need:*

- a trumpet, or use this YouTube link to play a trumpet sound:  
[https://youtube.com/shorts/OZMXOfyndiw?si=PypIMILQARIG7\\_-n](https://youtube.com/shorts/OZMXOfyndiw?si=PypIMILQARIG7_-n)

This game is a take on musical statues and links to our theme of starting again, turning over a new leaf. Your group move/dance around the room until they hear the trumpet; when your group hear this sound they must turn to face in a different direction or move in a different dance style.

### **Quieter game – Wipe clean**

*You will need:*

- wipe clean boards or laminated white sheets of paper
- felt tips

Pass the wipe clean board to the first person; they start to draw a picture or write a story. When the trumpet sounds, pass the board on, wipe it clean and start again. This helps us to remember that Jesus can give us a new start.

## **Experience – Bible story and songs**

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the International Children's Bible

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers%2029%3A1-6&version=ICB>

### **Where can I find the story online?**

Under-fives: I am sorry, forgive me, by Hooray kids songs

<https://youtu.be/LhQ1cDH3bSY?si=6zugGIIJqPMW2Flv>

Five-to-elevens: Why forgive? by Crossroads Kids' Club

<https://youtu.be/EgcvPRMiP7w?si=-0qsRxLGfZJmGVIW>

### **Songs to support the story**

Under-fives: A New Beginning with God, by Little Bible Melodies

<https://youtu.be/YyXarnyfyCU?si=M094Rf4N0P1KGYuL>

Five-to-elevens: You Forgive Me, by Lifetree kids

<https://youtu.be/LO-2fm7IKcU?si=O0fkK7IRZayB47xU>

## **Explore – ways into the theme**

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

### **A new way to explore the theme**

*Frog on the Log* – we can get stuck <https://youtu.be/idg7eppuuUI?si=aYjMkIHj5XHHIfE->

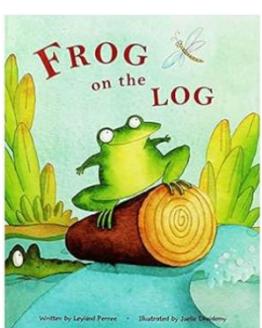
In this story we see a frog who doesn't want things to change. The Bible tells us that God is always with us. No matter where we go or what we do God is there to help and guide us. The Bible also says that God loves and forgives us when we ask.

Have a discussion around what it means to have a fresh start, and what can be forgiven. Write these thoughts on paper cut out to look like snakes. You may need to help stimulate this conversation by talking about a personal experience you have of starting again.

Using a piece of paper, have some fun wafting away the things to be forgiven to a metaphorical “bin” area. The snakes link in with the festival of St Patrick.

### Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



*Frog on the Log* by Leyland Perree (2009: Alligator Books)  
<https://youtu.be/idg7eppuuUI?si=fnoNfY5ndD8OcAo2> by Amy Holwell

In this story we see a frog who doesn't want things to change. He likes his log and he does everything he can to keep things the same way and hang on to his log. However, in the end he is forced to leave his log, to change his plans, and in doing so he rejoins his friends and gains a new friend. Doing things wrong separates us from God; saying sorry and changing our ways re-unites us with God, our biggest friend.

- I wonder what sorts of things separate you from your friends.

### Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- What significance do trumpets have in the Bible? Can you think of other times trumpets were used?
- If a trumpet reminded you to talk to God today, what would you want to say?
- Is there someone you need to forgive this week?
- How can you show forgiveness the way God shows forgiveness to us?
- What can we do to remember God every day, not just on special days?

### Wondering reflection on the theme

- I wonder if you've kept up with any New Year's resolutions you may have made.
- I wonder what a new start looks like.
- I wonder if you've been given a fresh start when you've said sorry.
- How does it feel when someone forgives you?
- How do you think God feels when we ask for forgiveness?
- Why is it sometimes hard to forgive other people?

### What's in the box (for under-fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, “What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag” (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the

things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Wipe clean boards, an Etch A Sketch, laminated paper – if we say sorry to God, all our mistakes are wiped away.
- Toy lamb – in the Old Testament, when people wanted to say sorry to God, they had to take offerings to the Temple such as a lamb.
- Sorry card – sometimes people will send a sorry card to a friend or relative to show how sorry they are for a mistake they have made.
- Instruments (kazoo – trumpet) – in today's passage people were asked to sound trumpets to remember God.
- Mega blocks - that can be stacked, taken apart and put together differently, as a visual display of starting again.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

## Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

### Prayerful activity – Flap away

Optional tealights

Using the “snakes” from the metaphorical ‘bin’ area, ask those gathered to screw up a snake, not necessarily theirs, pray for forgiveness for the (unknown) things mentioned on each snake and then throw into a bin or shred the snakes. Each person then takes a tea light and lights it to represent Jesus, the light of the world, and the forgiveness given. These tea lights can then go home with each person so they can re-light them when they are tempted and/or when forgiveness is asked for.

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### Spoken prayer

Each time the word “Lord” is used, make a tube with your hand and blow into it like you might into a trumpet.

Lord, you are all mighty and awesome.

Lord, we praise you and thank you.

Lord, you make all things new.

Lord, you are helping to change me right now.

Lord, no matter what has happened in my past and what mistakes I've made, I know you forgive me.

Lord, thank you.

Amen

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## Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage the children to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Time to make a trumpet to celebrate occasions, the video will show you how to make this easy trumpet so you can have fun

**Make trumpets** <https://youtu.be/1N6DWqb2d-I?si=VxfUwB2XYJbpE1pL>

*You will need:*

- A4 paper
- scissors
- cellotape
- straws
- pens

Start by rolling the paper around the pen from one corner across to the opposite one. This will create a long thin tube.

Remove the pen and add a small amount of tape to the tube to keep the shape.

Then cut an A4 sheet of paper in half (width ways) and make a smaller tube shape following the same steps as above.

Flaten the tube, then fold this smaller tube in on itself equally in thirds, this will create a handle that can then be cello taped to the larger tube we made earlier.

Then taking the other half of the sheet that we cut, make a cone shape that will be small enough to tape to the bigger tube that we created, so one end will be small and attached to the tube, the other end will look like the part of the trumpet that the sound comes out of.

Now to make the mouthpiece, taking a straw you will need to cut two V shapes out of the end, please take care with this bit as the ends may be pointy and sharp, an alternative to cutting the V's is to flatten the straws end, this is to make a small entry point for when we blow so it creates a unique trumpet sound. Then place the straw into the smaller end of the tube, tape it in place and have fun blowing.

If you limited on time or have young children you wish to roll a piece of paper into a cone, secure and blow – though the child would need to make the trumpet noise!

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## Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you a time when they have forgiven someone or when they have been forgiven.

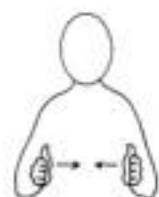
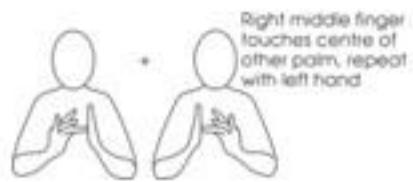
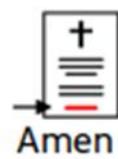
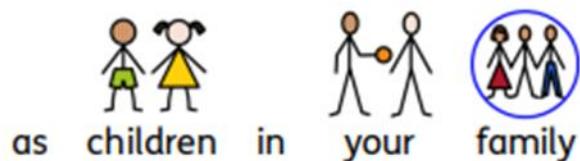
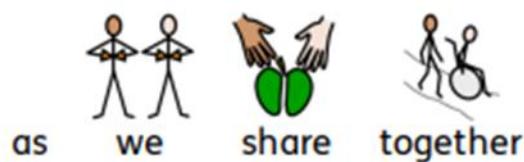
- Is there something you have been meaning to do or to start over? It could be trying to keep your room tidy or remembering to say thank you. Whatever it is, could you try getting in the habit of starting it again?

We hope you enjoyed exploring the passage from **Numbers** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk](mailto:sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk)

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group [bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](https://bit.ly/FACT_FB)

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Palm Sunday**






The Lord's Prayer




Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.





Thy kingdom come, thy will be done






on earth as it is in heaven.






Give us this day our daily bread






and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us






Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil







For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory






For ever and ever. Amen



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