

# 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](http://www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR)

## 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 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

Let's start our time with God and each other well

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 widgit prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children Together or else the Lord’s Prayer found at the end of this session.

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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=PypIMLQARIG7\\_-n](https://youtube.com/shorts/OZMXOfyndiw?si=PypIMLQARIG7_-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. You could make it more challenging by dictating what the moves are that people need to do, or by varying the time between the trumpet sounds to be longer and shorter.

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### 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 wipes us clean; or the group could continue with the story or picture and wipe it clean at the end. This could be linked to how we keep repeating our mistakes/lies and yet Jesus still sets us free, again and again.

## Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Numbers 29: 1–6 in the International Children's Bible

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

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)  
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

### Feast of Trumpets

29 “Have a holy meeting on the first day of the seventh month. Don’t work on that day. That is the day you blow the trumpets. <sup>2</sup> Bring these burnt offerings to the Lord: one young bull, one male sheep and seven male year-old lambs. They all must have nothing wrong with them. Their smell will be pleasing to the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Give a grain offering with the bull. It must be six quarts of fine flour mixed with oil. With the male sheep offer four quarts. <sup>4</sup> And with each of the seven lambs offer two quarts. <sup>5</sup> Offer one male goat for a sin offering. It will remove your sins so you will belong to God. <sup>6</sup> These offerings are in addition to the monthly and daily burnt offerings. Their grain offerings and drink offerings must be done as you have been told. These offerings are made by fire to the Lord. And their smell is pleasing to him.

### *International Children's Bible (ICB)*

*The Holy Bible, International Children's Bible® Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.*

**Watch:** The diet starts now, by Sta cie (As this clip is very short you may want to watch it a few times)

<https://youtu.be/fFCR39qePKU?si=v-CYq7ZzCCBSJ0La>

### Questions for discussion

- Can you relate to the clip?
- I wonder how easy you find it to start something new.

## Explore

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

### A new way to explore the theme

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.

## Change

Watch the scrooge clip found under Modern Parables.

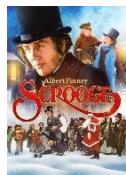
In this story we see a man who didn't want things to change. The Bible tells us that God is always with us. No matter where we go or what we do, God is there to help and guide us. The Bible also says that God loves and forgives us when we ask. Scrooge eventually realised he needed to change.

Have a discussion around what it means to have a fresh start, 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

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.



Scrooge throws scrolls about – *Scrooge*, starring Albert Finney – from 1:35:18 to 1:38 [https://youtu.be/2pq7xr\\_wtpI?si=BTDF7sE9YWwzAE1R](https://youtu.be/2pq7xr_wtpI?si=BTDF7sE9YWwzAE1R)

The scene of Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas morning is taken from the world-famous book *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens.

The clip shows how someone with so much money can still be so lonely, unhappy and stubborn. Yet when confronted with the harsh realities of life outside of his bubble, Scrooge starts to understand there is so much more, a life of happiness, giving, receiving and love. It isn't just a message about Christmas, but a message that we can all start again when we really want to.

- Have you ever had your mind changed because of something you have seen or heard?
- Or have you ever changed someone else's mind through words or actions? How did it make you feel? Was it worth it?

## Group discussion

- 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?

## Personal reflection

- I wonder if you've kept up with any New Year's resolutions you may have made.
- I wonder if you've found it hard to forgive others who have said sorry to you?

# Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

## Praying together

**Prayers** 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.

## 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.

## Spoken prayer

As everyone makes a trumpet with their hands and blows it quietly someone else reads the prayer.

Lord, I praise you and thank you that you make all things new, and you are working that power in my life right now. No matter what has happened in my past, what mistakes I've made, or where I've missed out on your best for me – it is all changing, beginning now in the powerful and mighty name of Jesus.

Amen

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## 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.

## St Patrick's day

Ireland has their own festival around this time of year, they celebrate St Patrick's day on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, he is credited with taking Christianity to Ireland, however his legacy didn't end there, can you look into St Patrick and find out what else he was noted to have done?

He also used a three leafed clover to explain a very important part of Christianity; do you know what he used the clover to explain?

Patrick wasn't always a Saint though, his story has some quite amazing twists and turns, investigate where he came from and where he ended up.

[St. Patrick and the Snakes of Ireland](#) or [Saint Patrick's Day | History, Traditions, & Facts | Britannica](#)

### 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. **When have you seen a change in someone else?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources ([jpit.uk](http://jpit.uk)) or *Commitment for Life* ([cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk))
- Is there something you have been meaning to do or to start over? It could be trying to keep your room tidy or doing your homework on time. Whatever it is, could you try getting in the habit of starting it again?

Thank you for exploring the **Numbers** passage 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) or by sharing it on [www.bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](http://www.bit.ly/FACT_FB)



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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