



Jesus picks his team

Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots 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 Pilots Prayer

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

Fun Together

Game: Follow my Leader

What you need:

- Nothing

The children stand in a line, one behind the other. The front person is the leader and moves around the room with the rest of the children following. As they move, the leader changes pace and actions and the whole line of children has to follow their lead and do the same. Occasionally change who is the leader.



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Game: Look, no hands

What you need:

- a variety of items of different shapes and sizes which can be passed from one child to the next (e.g. an orange, a can of beans, a soft toy, a football, a hat, a wooden spoon etc)
- A hoop or bucket for each team

Line the children up in two teams, with one team member standing facing them as the “feeder” who has the pile of different shaped items in front of them. At the far end of the line there should be a bucket or a hoop on the floor to mark where the items should end up.

When the leader says “GO”, the feeder passes one item to the front person in the team who must take it without using their hands. This item must be passed from person to person along the line and placed on the floor in the hoop or bucket. At no point should anyone other than the feeder touch the items with their hands. If they do, the item is given back to the feeder and the process begins again. The winning team is the team which gets all their items into the hoop or bucket first by working cooperatively as a team.

Game: Model me this

What you need:

- Lots of lego or drawing paper and coloured pens

One person sits at the far end of the room and models something out of lego or draws something on a piece of paper.

A runner from each team goes up and looks at the model/drawing then runs back to their team.

They describe the model/drawing to their team members who have to build/draw exactly what the runner describes, trying to get their model/drawing to be as accurate a representation of the original as they can. The runner can go back to look at the original as often as they need to.

After a certain amount of time (judge by progress), tell the teams to stop and give points for the most accurate representation.



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Today's theme is that we can be friends of Jesus and disciples too.

The Big Story: Jesus picks his team – Mark 1:16-20, Mark 2:13-17,

You will need:

- Teatowels
- Headbands or rope to secure teatowels
- Optional fairy wings
- Fishing net or a piece of string with a hook on the end (made out of a paperclip)
- Bag of coins

Reader 1: Today's story is about picking teams

Reader 2: (*Waving arm in the air and jumping up and down*) Pick me! Pick me!

Reader 1: No, I'm not picking a team. And I wouldn't pick you, anyway.

Reader 2: That's not very nice!

Reader 1: No, I guess not. Sorry. Anyway, Jesus was right at the start of his time teaching people about God. He was about 30.

Reader 2: Gosh, that's really old! Do we need the grey wigs again?

Reader 1: Thirty isn't old and we don't need to make Jesus look like an old man. I reckon a teatowel will be enough (*Choose a volunteer to be Jesus and put a teatowel on their head, secured with a headband or a piece of rope*)

Reader 2: Oh yes, he definitely looks about 30 now.

Reader 1: Jesus knew that he would need some friends to accompany him and work alongside him.

Reader 2: He had friends in high places. Maybe he could recruit a few angels. Hey, my mum used to call me her little angel when I was good. I could be an angel (*put on fairy wings if you have them*). Pick me! Pick me!

Reader 1: No, Jesus didn't want angels. He wanted ordinary people like you and me.

Reader 2: So who did he choose?

Reader 1: Well, first of all, he found some people fishing. Two sets of brothers. Let's have a volunteer to represent all the fishermen.



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Reader 2: They'll need something to help them catch the fish! *(Gives the volunteer a fishing net or a piece of string with a hook on it – encourages the volunteer to mime fishing)*

Reader 1: First he met Simon and Andrew, then he met James and John.

Reader 2: They sound like fishy characters. Fishy characters... get it?

Reader 1: Well, Jesus did make a bit of a joke about fishing, but it wasn't that one. He said, "Come with me and I will make you fishers of men"

Reader 2: *(Pauses for a moment, then inspiration hits)* Fishermen... fishers of men. I get it! Good one, Jesus

Reader 1: And it was true. The friends of Jesus would help bring people to hear the Good News and become followers too.

Reader 2: So, four friends. That's a good number. It's three more than I've got. Funny choice of friends, though – I mean, they must have been a bit rough and probably smelled a bit of fish. *(Looks at the fisherman and hold nose and pull a face as if they smell bad!)*

Reader 1: And yet Jesus chose them, and even had a special job for Simon. He gave him a nickname – Peter.

Reader 2: That's not much of a nickname.

Reader 1: Peter means rock. It's a bit like calling someone Rocky – like the boxer in the movies. It was another of Jesus's jokes. He said that Simon Peter would be strong like a rock for Jesus to build his church on.

Reader 2: So, Jesus and his four friends.

Reader 1: No, he didn't stop at four. He called twelve people to be his closest group of friends, his disciples.

Reader 2: Disciples, I've heard that word before. What's it mean?

Reader 1: It means someone who follows and tries to live the way that a teacher teaches is right. So Jesus's friends were also people who followed him and tried to live the way he showed them.

Reader 2: Who else did he call? *(Encourage Jesus and the fisherman to walk in a line around the group of children and back to the front, then pick another volunteer)*

Reader 1: He was walking along by the lake and he saw a tax collector counting his money.



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Reader 2: Counting what money?

Reader 1: Counting this money (*Give the next volunteer a bag of coins to count*)... the taxes he'd collected off the people to give to the authorities, and the extra he'd taken to put in his own pocket.

Reader 2: Boooooooooooooo! Jesus can't want that greedy chap. Surely everyone hated Levi.

Reader 1: Levi wasn't a popular man, but Jesus did indeed choose him.

Reader 2: I bet the people didn't like that!

Reader 1: Jesus said "I am not here for the respectable people, I'm here to bring good news for those who are outcasts. Just like a doctor doesn't come for healthy people but for those who are sick".

Reader 2: Good point. I bet being with Jesus helped them change for the better. So, five disciples. Still not enough. (*Organise Jesus, fisherman, tax collector into a line and encourage them to walk around the group of children and back to the front*) Who's next?

Reader 1: Next Jesus chose Philip and Philip went and fetched his brother Nathaniel, telling him he'd met God's son, but Nathaniel wasn't impressed. He didn't think much of people who came from Nazareth which is where Jesus had grown up.

Reader 2: That's a bit rude! Surely Jesus didn't want someone prejudiced like that!

Reader 1: Oh yes, Jesus wanted Nathaniel too. He told him that he'd seen him sitting under a fig tree before Philip had gone to fetch him. That was enough to convince Nathaniel to come along and believe in Jesus. Jesus told him he'd see lots of things far more amazing than that!

Reader 2: So that's two more disciples. How many's that? (*Counts on fingers*) Simon and Andrew, James and John, Levi (*Reader 1 interjects: who we also know as Matthew*), Philip, Nathaniel (*Reader 1 interjects: who we also know as Bartholomew*). Seven.....

Reader 1: We don't know much about how Jesus chose the other five, but we do know their names. Another James, Thomas, another Simon, and two people called Judas, although one of them is sometimes called Thaddeus, just to confuse things.

Reader 2: I want to be a disciple too. Jesus, pick me... pick me!

Reader 1: I wonder what it is like to be a disciple of Jesus today.



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Creative Adventure

You will need:

- Thirteen strips of thin card of different colours 15cmx2.5cm
- Strong cotton/thread/wool and a needle
- Scissors
- An A5 piece of card – preferably gold/yellow
- Sharpies or crayons to decorate the crown
- Hole punch
- Small beads or pieces of tubular pasta
- Three buttons

To make the fish – cut a small slit half way across the strip of coloured card, about 2.5 cm from the end. At the other end of the strip and the same distance from the other end, cut a small slit half way across from the opposite side. Write the name of one of the disciples onto the strip of paper then interlock the two slits to make a fish shape.

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On the thirteenth fish, write your own name.

Use the A5 piece of card to cut a crown shape out and write the name Jesus on it. You may want to decorate the crown to make it look really special. Use the hole punch to put three holes in it, evenly spaced, along the bottom of the crown.

Tie a button to the end of a piece of thread/cotton/wool then thread a few beads or pieces of pasta onto it so that they are sitting on the button. Then use a needle to put the thread through the top and bottom of one fish. Put four fish onto two of the threads (using pasta or beads to keep the fish separate), and put five fish onto a third thread in the same way. Tie the ends of each of the threads to a hole in the crown, the longer thread being in the middle.



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Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder how you choose who to be friends with?

I wonder whether the disciples were good friends to Jesus and each other?

I wonder what Jesus hoped the disciples would do?

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 young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children 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



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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: think of someone who helps you to know more about Jesus and make a card/write a letter/send a text message to say thank you. Remember to thank God for that person too.

Adventurers Go!

So, today's story was about the way that Jesus chose ordinary people to be his friends and his followers. He wants us to be his friends too, and to follow his way, no matter who we are or what other people think of us.

Prayers (choose one/both)

Spoken Prayer

God, you sent Jesus to be our friend and our leader. We want to say thank you that he didn't just choose the really good people, or the really rich people, or the really clever people. He chose people just like us and he keeps on calling people today. Help us to do our best to follow Jesus every day and be good friends to those around us.

Amen



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Active Prayer

Jesus, you call us to be your friends. *Children jump up and down, with an arm in the air and shout "Pick me, pick me!"*

Jesus, you call us to be your followers. *Children jump up and down, with an arm in the air and shout "Pick me, pick me!"*

Jesus, you call us to be disciples every day. *Children jump up and down, with an arm in the air and shout "Pick me, pick me!"*

Sometimes it is easy, sometimes it isn't. Sometimes it's fun and sometimes it's hard. But all the time you are with us and helping us on our way. So help us to answer your call. *Children jump up and down, with an arm in the air and shout "Pick me, pick me!"*

Amen

End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

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

Adventurers go! Amen



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What you need for this session

Games:

- a variety of items of different shapes and sizes which can be passed from one child to the next (e.g. an orange, a can of beans, a soft toy, a football, a hat, a wooden spoon etc)
- A hoop or bucket for each team

- Lots of lego or drawing paper and coloured pens

Story:

- Teatowels
- Headbands or rope to secure teatowels
- Optional fairy wings
- Fishing net or a piece of string with a hook on the end (made out of a paperclip)
- Bag of coins

Craft:

- Thirteen strips of thin card of different colours 15cmx2.5cm
- Strong cotton/thread/wool and a needle
- Scissors
- An A5 piece of card – preferably gold/yellow
- Sharpies or crayons to decorate the crown
- Hole punch
- Small beads or pieces of tubular pasta
- Three buttons



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Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
Craft	Needles: may cause injury	Use large blunt embroidery needles Provide support for any child with less developed fine motor skills	Close supervision by responsible adult Needles kept safely in a closed container and put away when not in use. Count them out and in again!	
	Beads may be swallowed	Remind children not to put beads into their mouths	Close supervision by responsible adult	
	Scissors may cause injury or damage to clothing	Use round ended scissors and scissors of appropriate size for children Remind children of the safe way to pass scissors	Close supervision by responsible adult Scissors kept safely in a closed container and put away when not in use. Count them out and in again! First aid kit available in case of injury	