



New Heaven, New Earth

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: Clean your Room

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Lots of scrunched up pieces of paper

Mark a grid on the floor using masking tape, with one square per child. Allocate the squares to the children, perhaps having the older children towards the centre and the younger ones in the outer squares. Make sure each child knows which is their square.



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While the children are outside the grid, throw loads of scrunched up pieces of paper into the grid, making sure some of the paper lands in each square.

When the leader shouts “Clean your room”, each child should run to their square and try to get rid of all the scrunched up paper from their square by throwing it into other people’s squares on the grid. The game can continue as long as you like, but you could stop it when someone has an empty square or simply by shouting “Time’s up” and getting children to count how many balls of paper are in their square.

Emphasise that the paper will all be going into recycling in order to be made into something new.

Game : Squiggle

What you need:

- A large piece of paper
- Different coloured pens (one pen per child)

Each child has a piece of paper. They draw a random squiggle on it. Explain that the game is about taking something that’s a bit rubbish and making it into something new. Each child passes their piece of paper to the next child in the circle who uses their pen to turn the squiggle into a picture – maybe an animal or a plant or anything at all (within reason!) Then they draw another squiggle and pass it on.

Collect the finished pictures together to make an art gallery.

Game : New Beginnings

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Coloured markers of some kind.

Split into two teams

Draw a big tic-tac-toe grid on the floor using masking tape.



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In turn, as though running a relay race, a team member runs and places their piece on the tic-tac-toe board, trying ultimately to get three in a row. If they have not achieved this by the third runner, the fourth and all subsequent runners in the team can move one of the pieces already played.

If a team member spots that the other team is about to win, they can shout “new beginning” and a leader will wipe all the pieces off the board. Each team collects their pieces and begins the game again. The object of the game is to get three in a line without the other team calling “new beginning”.

The Big Story: New Heaven – New Earth - Revelation 21: 1 – 4 and 22: 1-5

You will need:

- Large piece of paper (e.g. flipchart paper)
- Coloured pens or pencils

Today’s theme is that one day the earth will be just how God wants it, and we will be there with God.

Reader 1: Has your bedroom ever got so untidy that someone has made you tidy it up? What sort of things happen to make our rooms untidy? What is it like when everything is clean and tidy? Sometimes things get in such a mess that we can’t even think where to begin doing something about it, but we can do it if we just make a start.

Sometimes our world looks a bit of a mess too. Here’s a big circle on a piece of paper. What sort of things could we draw on our world that make it less than perfect? Let’s draw some now.

In the Bible, a man called John had a dream. It was a bit of a weird dream. Have you ever had a weird dream? John’s dream was a bit different because his dream was like a message from God to tell him what will happen when God claims the earth as his kingdom. We call this kind of dream a vision.

Let’s hear what John had to say in his dream. Look at our picture of the world – I wonder what would be different about it. Listen and see if you can spot anything that might be changed.

Revelation 21 International Children’s Bible (ICB)

The New Jerusalem

21 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea.....³ I heard a loud voice from the throne.*



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The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God.^[b] ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.".....

22 *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. The river was shining like crystal. It flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the street of the city. The tree of life was on each side of the river. It produces fruit 12 times a year, once each month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of all people. ³ Nothing that God judges guilty will be in that city. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there. And God's servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵ There will never be night again. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun. The Lord God will give them light. And they will rule like kings forever and ever.*

Reader 2: I wonder if there's anything we can do to make this dream a bit more real in our world today?

Creative Adventure: Imagine re-creation

You will need:

- Small square canvases (The Works or https://www.amazon.co.uk/Conda-12-7%C3%9717-7cm-Canvas-Panels-Quality/dp/B06WD5SVYW/ref=sr_1_9?keywords=art+canvas&qid=1580749613&sr=8-9)
- Paint
- Glue
- Old magazines/pictures
- Collage materials

Give each child one or two canvases. Allow each child to decorate the canvases to show (either one or both) how they think a new heaven might look and how they think a new earth might look.

When they have finished, join all the canvases together to make one big picture



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Creative Adventure – upcycling

You will need:

- Used plastic milk bottles or tetra packs
- Scissors
- Stickers
- Bird seed
- String

We can use something that would be rubbish and pollute our world to make something useful which helps it instead.

Cut a hole in each side of the bottle or all four sides of the tetra-pack. The holes should be big enough for easy access to the inside of the bottle or carton and should leave space at the bottom of the container to hold the birdseed.

Tie a string around the lid of the bottle or punch a hole in the top of the carton and tie the string through that.

Decorate your bottle or carton with stickers. You could paint it too, but be sure that the paint will stick to the surface.

Fill the base of the container with bird seed then hang the whole thing up in a tree or pole. See how long it takes the birds to find their new bird feeder.

If you feel extra ambitious, you could put a long skewer or piece of thin dowelling through the base of the container from side to side to give the birds something to stand on.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what you would change about earth if you were in charge..

I wonder what heaven looks like.....

I wonder what else John dreamed about...



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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. Some tell us a bit about their visions of the future with God.

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 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



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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: Find a spot which is spoiled by litter and, wearing gloves or using a litter picker, tidy it up and make it look a bit more “heavenly”

Adventurers Go!

So, today’s story was about John’s strange dream or vision of a new heaven and a new earth. It helps us know that God lives with us now, but one day we will live with God.

Prayers (choose one/both)

Spoken Prayer

Creator God, thank you for the beautiful world you have made. We are sorry that we sometimes do things which spoil your world. Please forgive us and help us to make the world a better place.

Amen

Active Prayer Use chalks to decorate the path/step into the church/building where FOFA meets, to make it more heavenly and beautiful. Ask God to bless everyone who sees the step or who walks on it.

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:

- Masking tape
- Lots of scrunched up pieces of paper
- A large piece of paper
- Different coloured pens (one pen per child)
- Masking tape
- Coloured markers of some kind.

Story:

- Large piece of paper (e.g. flipchart paper)
- Coloured pens or pencils

Craft:

- Small square canvases (The Works or https://www.amazon.co.uk/Conda-12-7%C3%9717-7cm-Canvas-Panels-Quality/dp/B06WD5SVYW/ref=sr_1_9?keywords=art+canvas&qid=1580749613&sr=8-9)
- Paint
- Glue
- Old magazines/pictures
- Collage materials
- Used plastic milk bottles or tetra packs
- Scissors
- Stickers
- Bird seed
- String



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Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
Craft	Use of scissors – may cut fingers or clothing	Children to walk with scissors and be taught how to pass them carefully to one another. Adult supervision to ensure cutting is done in a careful manner.	Responsible adult to supervise. Support for individuals if needed – e.g. starting the cutting off for a child to continue. Use of appropriate sized scissors.	
	Paint or glue on clothing	Use aprons	Responsible adult to supervise	