



The Ungrateful Servant

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: Just a minute

What you need: Nothing

Get all the young people to stand up and close their eyes. Tell them that the aim is to stand for one minute exactly, explaining that you will time it and they have to guess when a minute is up. When each child thinks a minute has passed, they should sit down without saying anything. Notice which child sits down closest to the exact moment and, once everyone is sitting down, tell them which one was closest. This person is the winner. The game illustrates that sometimes it is difficult to have patience.



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Game: It's the Rules

What you need:

- Scarf
- Oven gloves
- Hat
- Dice
- Large chocolate bar (for each team)
- Knife and fork and plate. (not a sharp knife) (for each team)

The unfair game

Sort the children into teams. The teams have to roll the dice in turn. If they roll a 6, that person has to put on the gloves, the hat and the scarf and use the knife and fork to cut their bar of chocolate into single chunks and eat it without using their hands. The rest of the children roll the dice, each team in turn. As soon as another child rolls a 6, the first child stops eating and takes off the clothing so that the next child can take over.

Part way through the game, change the rules slightly. Choose one of the teams to have different rules - for example, they don't have to roll a 6, they can roll an even number; or they don't have to use the knife and fork.

Listen to the complaints. Stop the game and ask what the problem is. The children will claim that it is not fair and that we should be all treated equally. Ask the children to remember how this felt for when you do the big story. Then finish the game and see which team finishes their chocolate bar first.

(Note: be aware of any children in the group who are unable to eat chocolate. Those with a dairy free diet may still be able to eat plain chocolate. If you are unable to find a suitable alternative to chocolate, encourage the children with dietary requirements to choose a substitute to eat the chocolate and give them a sweet they can eat to replace each slice their substitute manages)

Today's theme is that we can learn to forgive others when they hurt us

The Big Story: The Ungrateful Servant - Matthew 18: 21 to 35

Get some chocolate and cut it in half and explain that you will give half each to two of the children but that you will want the chocolate repaid at some point in the future. Then ask for volunteers to eat it.



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Wait until the children have eaten the chocolate and then ask for it back straight away.

When they say that they can't give it back straight away but most likely could next week, tell them that that just isn't good enough, you want it back now. Tell them you had said it was just a loan and they need to give it back straight away.

When they tell you that they can't, ask them what they are going to do about it.

When they say there isn't anything that they can do, say that it's ok and that you will let them off.

Ask your two volunteers what they would do now if one of the other children owed them chocolate. Would they ask for it back? Would they want it back straight away? Or would they be more like you were and let them off? Then go into the story:

One day Peter asked Jesus a question about letting people off. The question went something like this: "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or friend when he does something mean to me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered him, "I tell you, seven times is not enough. You should forgive them as many as seventy times seven." *(You could see whether anyone can do the maths to work out 70x7. Jesus didn't mean exactly 490 times but meant a big big number.... Too many to count)*

Then Jesus began the parable to explain.

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted all his servants to pay him back. These servants had borrowed money from the king and the king wanted it back today.

As he was going down a list of servants who needed to give him money, he came to one that owed him millions of pounds. Does anyone know how much a million pounds is? It's lots of money, probably enough to buy two really nice houses or one big fancy castle... or two million crême eggs!

I'm surprised the king even lent that much money to one person! I think the servant was surprised too because he didn't have the money to pay the king back.

So the king decided that the servant and his wife and children should all be sold to pay for the money they owed him. This would mean that they would be sold to someone who would make them all slaves (even the kids).

The servant knew this would be terrible so he fell on his knees and begged the king, "Be patient with me and I will pay back everything."



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The king had MERCY on him and told him he didn't have to pay it back at all. He just let him go. Wow! He didn't just give him a bit more time, he let him off completely!

You won't believe what happens next! The servant was so relieved. He'd escaped being sold as a slave and his wife and his children were safe too. And on his way back, he met one of the other servants who had borrowed a couple of pounds off him. What do you think he said to his fellow servant?
(Encourage the children to speculate)

The minute he met this man who only owed him a few pounds, he grabbed him round the neck and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he yelled.

His fellow servant hadn't got the money to pay him back straight away so he did the same thing that the first man had just done. He fell on his knees and begged, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back."

But the ungrateful servant said, "No way!" Instead, he had the man thrown into jail until he could pay the money back. And of course that meant for a long, long time as there was no way the man could even earn the money while he was locked up in prison.

People heard what had happened and told the king how unfair his servant had been. So the king called the servant in. "You wicked servant, he said, "I cancelled all that you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have shown your fellow servant some mercy and forgiven him, just as I did for you?"

The king immediately threw the ungrateful servant into jail, saying that he should stay there until he could pay back all the money he had borrowed after all.

Jesus ended his story. "This is how your heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother with all your heart".

Do you remember the question Peter asked Jesus at the beginning? How many times should you forgive someone if they do something wrong to you?

God wants us to keep on forgiving and to show mercy to others.

Reader 2: I wonder how easy you find it to be merciful?

Creative Adventure

You will need:

- Printed templates



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- Scissors
- Sellotape
- Fine liner coloured pens
- Haribo hearts https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gourmet-Sweet-Company-Haribo-Throbs/dp/B07H5PTN48/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=haribo+hearts&qid=1582557684&sr=8-4 OR
- Vegan/gluten-free/no additive alternative – Love Hearts (carefully vetted for the message on them!)

Print off the template (you can enlarge the image if you think that it will be a little fiddly for little ones)

Cut out some of the little envelopes then decorate them by colouring in the letters etc.

Fold in the two side tabs and fold up the bottom section with the words “you are forgiven” on. Fold the template to make an envelope by folding over the tabs and sellotaping down.

Take one Haribo heart or Love Heart sweet and place it in the envelope then fold over the top flap and tuck inside the envelope, creating a little packet.

Once the children have created as many as they would like to give away, explain that that the idea is that when they want to forgive someone for doing something wrong, they can give them one of the envelopes with a heart in it to show their forgiveness.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder if you can think of a time when someone forgave you for doing something wrong?

I wonder if we could forgive someone more than seventy times for doing us wrong?

I wonder if God really does forgive everyone in the end?

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



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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 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: **Try to spend a whole day or even a whole week being more patient**



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Adventurers Go!

So, today's story was about how God wants us to keep on forgiving others and to show mercy just like God does for us. Sometimes that is really hard and sometimes it can seem impossible, but God says that we should forgive someone as many times as it takes.

Prayers (choose one/both)

Spoken Prayer

Lord

You ask us to forgive people when they have done us wrong

This is really hard sometimes because it hurts to be wronged.

Please help us to forgive, especially when we don't really want to.

And please help us to remember to say sorry when we get it wrong so that you can forgive us too.

Amen

Active Prayer

Get the children and adults to sit around in a circle and place a candle in the middle on a piece of paper cut into a heart shape. Give each of the children an extra Haribo heart or Love Heart sweet (with appropriate wording on it!) and ask them to think about something that they are sorry for and would like God to forgive. They can then place their 'heart' on the edge of the paper heart as a 'sorry' prayer.

Leader could say "Jesus promises that God will forgive everyone who is truly sorry"

Children and adults say: **Amen** then go and retrieve their own heart sweet and eat it to show that the wrong-doing is forgiven and no longer held against them.

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:

- Scarf
- Oven gloves
- Hat
- Dice
- Large chocolate bar (for each team)
- Knife and fork and plate. (not a sharp knife) (for each team)

Story:

- Chocolate bar

Craft:

- Printed templates
- Scissors
- Sellotape
- Fine liner coloured pens
- Haribo hearts https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gourmet-Sweet-Company-Haribo-Throbs/dp/B07H5PTN48/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=haribo+hearts&qid=1582557684&sr=8-4 OR
- Vegan/gluten-free/no additive alternative – Love Hearts (carefully vetted for the message on them!)

Active Prayer:

- Candle
- Large paper heart
- Sweet hearts as above



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Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
Games/Big story/Craft /Prayer	Food allergies	Check consent forms for allergies	If there are dietary requirements, change the food or modify the activity as suggested above.	
Craft	Scissors	Potential to cut hands clothing hair etc	Offer round ended scissors for younger ones and offer close supervision	
Active Prayer	Candle may be knocked over and burn	Use LED/battery candle or ensure candle holder is stable and secure. If a child is to light a candle, use a taper and hand-over-hand Keep children away from unguarded flames	Close adult supervision	