



## **Bless'ed children**

### **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**

Required for the game

Chair, keys and a blind fold

Place the chair in the middle of the room and choose a child to sit on it. Put the blindfold on the child and place an item under the chair (e.g. keys). Get the rest of the children to sit in a circle around the blindfolded person and choose one child to go and get the keys. The aim of the game is to get the keys without the blindfolded person pointing at you, like the disciples trying to stop the children getting to Jesus



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### Second game

Get one child to be the stopper. The rest of the children stand at one end of the room and have to run to the other end without being tagged by the stopper. Once a child is tagged they have to hold hands with the stopper and they join the stopping. The more people that are tagged the longer the barrier becomes and the harder it is to pass. The winner is the last one to be tagged.

**Today's theme is about how children can have a relationship with God of their own**

### The Big Story: Blessed Children

Mark 10 : 13-16

Required in the bag:

- Dog mask (supplied)
- Dark sunglasses x2
- Magicians wand (black paper rolled up with two white paper ends)
- A small parcel wrapped in shiny paper and a bow on it)

Reader 1: So, today's story about Jesus, is a really short one. It only takes up a couple of sentences in the bible but it is probably one of the most important for you to hear.

*(get a child to be Jesus)*

Reader 2: Well the bag looks pretty empty!?

Reader 1: Yes, because there isn't a lot in the way of props for today's story. So we catch up with Jesus when he was out and about. He spent his time going from town to town, telling people about God and performing miracles.

Reader 2: I love magic! (go into the bag and pull out a magicians wand)

Reader 1: No, I keep telling you this was not magic. A miracle is an amazing thing that God does for his people. These were miracles like making people well, bringing people back to life, helping blind people to see again.

Reader 2: Oh I see. Get it ... get it... I see...?

Reader 1: Yes, Yes, very good. Well, as you can imagine, everyman and his dog wanted to see Jesus



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Reader 2: *(Get a toy dog or a dog mask out of the bag, get a number of the children to be followers and one to be a dog)*

Reader 1: Everywhere Jesus went, a large crowd of people went with him and wanted Jesus to bless them or heal them.

Reader 2: Nice to be popular!

Reader 1: But the crowds were big and it was difficult for Jesus to get to them all. Sometimes the disciples thought they had to step in to make sure that people waited their turn and didn't crowd Jesus.

Reader 2: What, like body guards? *(get two children to be bodyguards and get a pair of dark sunglasses out for each of them)*

Reading 1: Well, I suppose you could say that, but Jesus wasn't frightened of the people. He wanted to help them and teach them. Anyway, on this day there was a big crowd and some of the people brought their children with them, wanting Jesus to bless them.

*(Get the remaining children to shout out "bless me, bless me" and wave their hands in the air to attract Jesus' attention)*

Reader 2: What is wrong with that?

Reader 1: The disciples thought that Jesus was busy enough blessing all the adults. He wouldn't want to be bothered with children. After all, children aren't very important.

Reader 2: Well, that's not very nice!

Reader 1: No, and Jesus didn't think it was very nice either! As soon as he saw what they were doing, he told the disciples to let the children come right up to him so that he could bless them all.

Reader 2: Wow! Go Jesus!

Reader 1: Jesus loved children. He wasn't only interested in the adults, he wanted to be friends with the children too and to help them get to know him.

Reader 2: I bet the disciples were embarrassed. They'd been saying "stop, go away" and now they had to say "Come on, come and see Jesus".

Reader 1: But Jesus doesn't stop there. He told everyone that they should come to him like children.

Reader 2: What ? Crawling on the ground, or skipping, or with muddy hands?



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Reader 1: No, Not like that! What he meant is that children have a special place in God's kingdom. Sometimes adults get bitter or do things for the wrong reasons, or try to make rules about who is allowed to be a follower of Jesus. Children just do it because they want to.

Reader 2: I never thought of it that way. He has a point.

Reader 1: Jesus then gathered all the children closer to him and said a prayer for them, asking God to love them and keep them as his special friends.

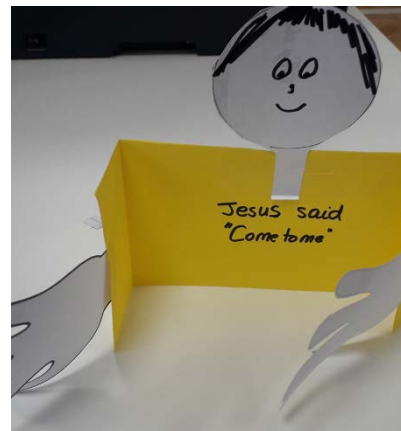
Reader 2: Woah, that must have been amazing for the children. I wonder what it would be like to stand close to Jesus?

### **Creative Adventure**

#### **Craft 1: welcoming Jesus**

##### **You will need:**

- A strip of coloured card
- White card
- Scissors and pens and Sellotape or glue
- Wool
- Googly eyes



Cut a strip of card by halving a sheet of A4 lengthways. Put it on the table landscape.

Cut out two hand shapes from a white piece of card by drawing round your hands as a template and glue or Sellotape one at each end of the first piece.

Fold each end in towards the centre so that the two hands overlap.

On another piece of card, draw a circle, using a mug as a template. Cut it out with a tab of card at the bottom which can be glued onto the long strip in the centre of the top edge so that the circle stands above the edge of the strip as a head. Draw a face on the circle and stick wool as hair and googly eyes where the eyes should go.

In the centre of the long strip write "Jesus says, come to me" – these words should be covered when the hands are folded in, and revealed when the arms are opened out in greeting.



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### **Craft 2: Stop/go lollypop**

#### You will need:

Digestive biscuits

Red fondant icing

Green fondant Icing

Jam/syrup (as sticking agent)

Lolly sticks

White squeezey icing to write with.

Circular cutter, the size of the biscuit

Rolling pin

Icing sugar

Wash your hands first. Take the red fondant icing and roll out to be about 2/3mm thick. (you may need icing sugar to stop it sticking) Use the cutter to cut out a circle. Now do the same with the green royal icing. Smear some of the jam/syrup over the one side of the biscuit and place one of the two circles of icing on the biscuit. Then do the same on the other side with the other colour of icing. Place the lolly stick in between one of the circles of icing and biscuit to create a stop/go style lollypop. With the white icing, pipe the word stop on the red side and Go to Jesus, on the green side.

The children then have a stop/go lollypop to Jesus

#### Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder what children thought when the disciples stopped them getting to Jesus?

I wonder if anything stops us getting to know Jesus today?

I wonder how many people would turn up in our town if Jesus came today?



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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.

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: invite a friend to come with you to FOFA or to a church event

### **Adventurers Go!**

So, today's story was about how the disciples thought Jesus wouldn't have time or patience for the children but Jesus wanted the children to come to the front of the crowd and be close to him. Nobody can stop us being loved by God and getting to know him, just as we are.

### **Prayers (choose one/both)**

Dear God

Lots of people may think we're not very important and a bit of a nuisance.

But we are so glad that you love us, just as we are.

Help us not to let other people put us off from getting to know you.

Stay close to us throughout the week in everything we do.

**Amen**

### **Active Prayer**

Keep us running to you (run on the spot), even when others say STOP! (Stand still)

Even when others say "BE QUIET" (fingers on lips), keep us shouting "AMEN!" (Shout!)

Even when others say, you're too small and unimportant (curl down small)

Remind us that you love us and we're very special in your eyes. (Leap up and hug arms around shoulders) **Amen**



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End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

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

Adventurers go! Amen





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### What you will need:

#### Game:

- Blind fold
- Chair
- Keys (or something similar)

#### Story:

- Dog mask or toy dog
- Dark sunglasses x2
- Magicians wand (black paper rolled up with two white paper ends)

#### Craft:

- Digestive biscuits
- Red royal icing
- Green royal Icing
- Jam/syrup (as sticking agent)
- Lolly sticks
- White squeezey icing to write with.
- Circular cutter size of the biscuit
- Rolling pin
- Icing sugar

OR

- A sheet of coloured card
- White card
- Scissors and pens and Sellotape or glue
- Wool
- Googly eyes



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Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
During session	Messy food stuff on clothes	Consider offering protective clothing	Offer children protective clothing and	
During session	Potential collision in the game	Make sure all things that could cause slips trips and falls are out of the way	Allocate a helper to the younger	
During session	Potential food allergies	Check consent forms for potential allergy problems	Offer alternatives if children are allergic to ingredients	
During session	Use of scissors	Use round ended scissors and supervise cutting activity	Adult supervision	