



## **Psalm 104 - a song of WOW!**

### **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 1: What am I?**

Required for the game:

- Post it notes labelled with things from nature

Onto each child's back or forehead, fasten a post-it note. These should be labelled with all different natural things from God's creation – e.g. donkey, grass, daisy, robin, eel – choose carefully which item you give to which child so that they all have items which they would recognise. If you have non-readers in the group, use pictures.



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The children then have to walk around the room asking each other yes/no questions about what is on the post it note (e.g. is it an animal? Is it blue? Can I touch it?). A yes/no question is one which can be answered with a simple yes or no. How long does it take the children to identify what is on their post-it note?

### **Game 2 : Charades**

You will need:

- A list of 20 things from nature

Split the group into two or three teams. One runner from each team comes up to the leader and the leader whispers the first item on the list to them. They then run back to the group and have to mime that thing without making any sound. The group have to guess what word they are acting out.

The person who guesses correctly then runs and whispers the answer to the leader, who in turn whispers to them the next item from the list.

The winning team is the team that gets to the end of the list first.

Easy suggestions: kangaroo, monkey, tree, bird, rain, whale, rabbit

Harder suggestions: oxygen, earthquake, leaf, grass, fog, rose, pigeon

**Today's theme is about how all creation points to God**

### **The Big Story: Psalm 104**

We're going to do the story differently today. First of all, we're going to use our imaginations. Have you ever had a time when you're so happy that you've skipped or danced or sung a song? Can you share a bit about how you felt and what you thought? What made you feel so happy? And what did you do?

The Bible is full of songs and poems that people wrote because they were feeling so happy about everything God had done for them. Sometimes the poems and songs are about the sad times too, but today we're going to talk about a good time.



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I want you to think about our world and all the amazing things God has created. There are so many things, big and small, that we can't name everything. Let's take 2 minutes and think of as many things as we possible can and we'll draw them on this big piece of paper. Think about different animals and birds and insects and fish; think about things that grow, different plants and trees; think about the different kinds of countryside and different things you'll find there..... call them out and then come and draw them on the paper.

When we begin to think about it, the world is an amazing place. Do you think we've thought of everything? In Bible times, people lived even closer to nature and were even more aware of it around them. Our song was written by David who was a shepherd, so he was out wandering in the fields and on the hills and mountains all day with the sheep, probably with quite a lot of time on his hands. So he liked to write songs and poems to God about how he was feeling. As I read it to you, see how many of the things on our picture he mentions in his song too. If there are any we've missed, maybe we could add them as we go along.

## In Praise of the Creator

**104** Praise the LORD, my soul!

O LORD, my God, how great you are!

.....

- <sup>10</sup>You make springs flow in the valleys,  
and rivers run between the hills.
- <sup>11</sup>They provide water for the wild animals;  
there the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- <sup>12</sup>In the trees near by,  
the birds make their nests and sing.
- <sup>13</sup>From the sky you send rain on the hills,  
and the earth is filled with your blessings.
- <sup>14</sup>You make grass grow for the cattle  
and plants for us to use,  
so that we can grow our crops
- <sup>15</sup> and produce wine to make us happy,



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olive oil to make us cheerful,  
and bread to give us strength.

<sup>16</sup> The cedars of Lebanon get plenty of rain—  
the LORD's own trees, which he planted.

<sup>17</sup> There the birds build their nests;  
the storks nest in the fir trees.

<sup>18</sup> The wild goats live in the high mountains,  
and the rock badgers hide in the cliffs.

<sup>19</sup> You created the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time to set.

<sup>20</sup> You made the night, and in the darkness  
all the wild animals come out.

<sup>24</sup> LORD, you have made so many things!  
How wisely you made them all!  
The earth is filled with your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> There is the ocean, large and wide,  
where countless creatures live,  
large and small alike.

<sup>26</sup> The ships sail on it, and in it plays Leviathan,  
that sea monster which you made.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>27</sup> All of them depend on you  
to give them food when they need it.

<sup>28</sup> You give it to them, and they eat it;  
you provide food, and they are satisfied.

...

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD all my life;  
as long as I live I will sing praises to my God.

<sup>34</sup> May he be pleased with my song,



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for my gladness comes from him.

I wonder what we would choose to put in a song or poem to God?

### **Creative Adventure**

#### **Craft 1: Creation Cakes**

You will need:

- Pre-baked fairy cakes (Check for allergies, esp gluten intolerance and vegans, and provide alternative)
- Various colours of writing icing and fondant icing
- Circular cutter the size of a cake top
- Round bladed knives, cocktail sticks etc to cut and mark the icing
- Lump-free jam to coat cakes
- Optional cake decorations (e.g. mini-Smarties, chocolate vermicelli, jelly sweets shaped like animals etc)

Remember to wash hands and wear aprons, also roll sleeves up.

Spread a layer of jam over the top of the cake.

Cut a circle of blue or green or yellow icing to cover the top of the cake – depending on whether you want sea, sky, grass or sand.

Choose one thing that God has created that makes you feel happy. Use rolling icing and writing icing to make a model or draw a picture of that thing on your cake. Use a round-bladed knife to cut 2D shapes or model 3D shapes with your hands. It can be anything at all that's found in nature.– fish, trees, mountains, spiders, hedgehogs – whatever.

#### **Craft 2: Creation Hat**

You will need:

- A strip of coloured card approx. 12cm tall and wide enough to go round a child's head.



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- Double sided sticky tape
- A selection of leaves, grasses, feathers, tree bark etc. (You could encourage the children to bring these with them or go out and gather if time and location allows)
- Optional cut out pictures of different animals, birds, fish, insects etc

Write the words “All creation points to God” around the base of the piece of card in fancy writing.

Put two strips of double sided sticky tape along the length of the card.

Stick to it an assortment of natural materials to decorate

You may also want to draw some animals or stick on pictures of different creatures.

Fasten the strip of card into a cylinder shape to make a creation hat.

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

I wonder whether God is particularly pleased with any one thing God made?

I wonder if God created anything we don't know about yet?

I wonder if we get our creativeness from God?

### **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**



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**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: Go for a walk in the local area and see how many different things you can see that God created. Draw or photograph something and say a thank you prayer to God.

### **Adventurers Go!**

So, today we did things a little differently as we read together one of the songs or psalms that David wrote. The psalm was about all the wonderful things that God has made and remind us that all of creation points to God. Next time you look at something in nature and think about how cute or beautiful or amazing it is, remember that God made it, just as God made you.



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

Dear God

Your world is so wonderful that we just want to tell you how amazing a creator you are.

Help us to take care of your creation,

To remember how precious it is to you

And to do all that we can not to spoil it.

Help us think of you every time we see something you have made

And remember to say thank you.

**Amen**

### **Active Prayer**

Use an inflatable globe [https://www.amazon.co.uk/TOYMYTOY-Inflatable-World-Educational-Playing/dp/B07FBGK5FG/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?keywords=inflatable+globe&qid=1576580042&sr=8-5](https://www.amazon.co.uk/TOYMYTOY-Inflatable-World-Educational-Playing/dp/B07FBGK5FG/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=inflatable+globe&qid=1576580042&sr=8-5)

As a group, keep the ball in the air, batting it around the group. As you touch the ball, say "Thank you God for making..... " and try to think of a new thing to thank God for.

Do the same again, thinking of things that you want to pray for God's help for.

**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 will need:

#### Games:

- Post it notes labelled with things from nature for Game 1
- A list of 20 things from nature for Game 2

#### Story:

- Large circle of paper big enough for all children to draw onto – probably approx. A1

#### Crafts:

- Pre-baked fairy cakes (Check for allergies, esp gluten intolerance and vegans, and provide alternative)
- Various colours of writing icing and fondant icing
- Circular cutter the size of a cake top
- Round bladed knives, cocktail sticks etc to cut and mark the icing
- Lump-free jam to coat cakes
- Optional cake decorations (e.g. mini-Smarties, chocolate vermicelli, jelly sweets shaped like animals etc)

#### OR

- A strip of coloured card approx. 12cm tall and wide enough to go round a child's head.
- Double sided sticky tape
- A selection of leaves, grasses, feathers, tree bark etc. (You could encourage the children to bring these with them or go out and gather if time and location allows)
- Optional cut out pictures of different animals, birds, fish, insects etc

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- inflatable globe [https://www.amazon.co.uk/TOYMYTOY-Inflatable-World-Educational-Playing/dp/B07FBGK5FG/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?keywords=inflatable+globe&qid=1576580042&sr=8-5](https://www.amazon.co.uk/TOYMYTOY-Inflatable-World-Educational-Playing/dp/B07FBGK5FG/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=inflatable+globe&qid=1576580042&sr=8-5)



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<b>Location</b>	<b>Possible hazard</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Action taken</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>During session</b>	<i>Use of sharpies and possible damage to clothes</i>	<i>Consider offering protective clothing</i>	<i>Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens.</i>	
<b>During session</b>	<i>Use off scissors possible cutting of hands</i>	<i>Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children</i>	<i>Allocate a helper to the younger children or get an adult to do the cutting</i>	
<b>During session</b>	<i>Use of foodstuffs may cause allergic reaction</i>	<i>Check with children and parents/carers for any allergies to specific items used – e.g. gluten, food colouring, egg</i>	<i>Replace with allergen-free ingredients where needed</i>	
<b>During session</b>	<i>Use of foodstuffs – hygiene</i>	<i>Wash hands with soap and warm water before handling foodstuffs. Wear appropriate protective clothing to cover own clothes</i>	<i>Provide aprons</i>	