

## **Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!**

*This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.*

*We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.*

*The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.*

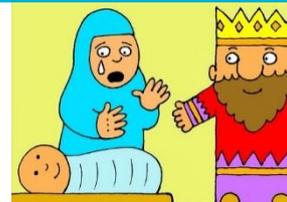
*These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with members of the family you can't see now except via the internet.*

*The resources are based on our non-uniformed children's groups, Friends on Faith Adventures and Pilots, but have been modified to make them suitable for all families at home.*

*These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!***

### **This week's Bible story is:**

## Round the Table 1 Kings 3



*With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.*

## Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

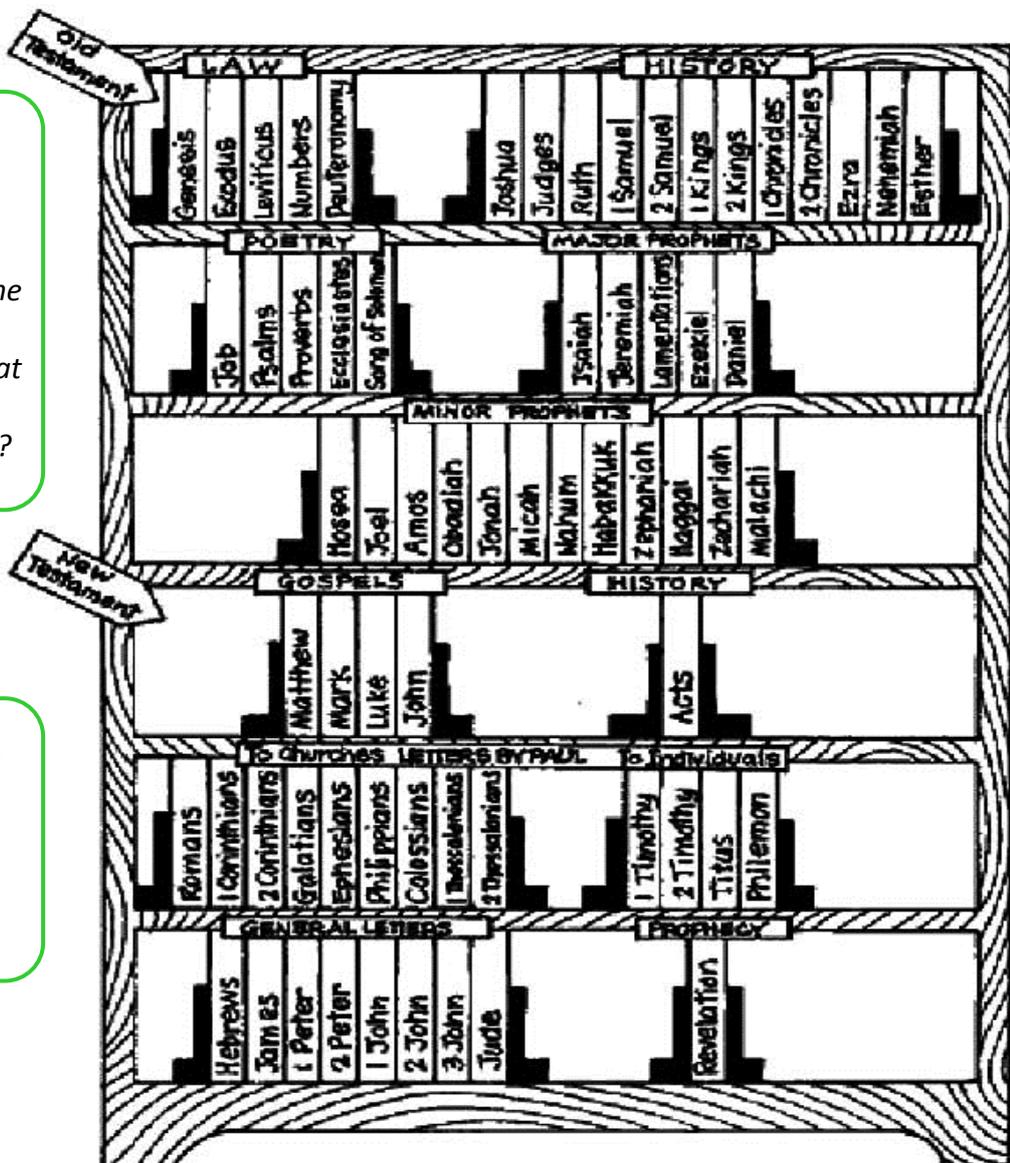
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.



You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.

### **Bible context – 1 Kings**

*The book of 1 Kings was written around 550 BC. We are not sure who wrote it. It tells the story of the reign of King Solomon.*

*Solomon was King David's son. God said to Solomon in a dream, "Ask me for anything and I shall give it to you". Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people. Solomon is said to be the wisest person to ever live.*

### **Online versions of the story**

#### **Watch and listen**

Solomon's story as a cartoon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmDTuYEGmW0>

The story told by Saddleback kids in drawings (suitable for older children)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUqEXQVJdAE>

A story about 2 brothers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cWXsNrpvqY>

#### **Dance and sing**

The Wisdom Song by Sovereign Grace Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPCf7ViZpEU>

God can do anything Doug Horley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwYJ-HHa3A0>

This is amazing Grace Bethel Kids Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxVadCcRfoI>

**The Story - 1 Kings 3 v 16 - 28 (Adapted from The Children's International Bible)**

*One day two women came to Solomon. They stood before him. One of the women said, "My master, this woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to a baby while she was there with me. Three days later this woman also gave birth to a baby. No one else was in the house with us. There were only the two of us.*

*One night this woman's baby died. So during the night she took my son from my bed while I was asleep. She carried him to her bed. Then she put her baby in my bed. The next morning I got up to feed my baby. But I saw that he was dead! Then I looked at him more closely. I saw that he was not my son."*

*But the other woman said, "No! The living baby is my son. The dead baby is yours!"*

*But the first woman said, "No! The dead baby is yours, and the living one is mine!" So the two women argued in front of the king.*

*Then King Solomon said, "Each of you says the living baby is your own. And each of you says the dead baby belongs to the other woman."*

*Then King Solomon sent his servants to get a sword. When they brought it to him, he said, "Cut the baby into two pieces. Give each woman half of the baby."*

*The real mother of the living child was full of love for her son. She said to the king, "Please, my master, don't kill him! Give the baby to her!"*

*But the other woman said, "Neither of us will have him. Cut him into two pieces!"*

*Then King Solomon said, "Give the baby to the first woman. Don't kill him. She is the real mother."*

*When the people of Israel heard about King Solomon's decision, they respected him very much. They saw he had wisdom from God to make the right decisions.*

## **Ideas to retell/explore the story**

### **Common Ground**

by Revd Roger Jones

Two neighbours Ned and Nigel, and Bert the builder! Bert standing firmly between them.

**Ned:** Ah, Bert the builder - Thank you for coming today. Is Bob away?

**Bert:** He is entertaining children...again- I do all his work now!

**Ned:** Well, I would like you to build a large wall just along here...and make sure it is in his (pointing angrily at Nigel) garden

**Nigel:** No, "I" would like you to build a large, tall wall just along here

**Bert:** Actually, that is almost the same place - between your two gardens -

**Ned:** I am providing the timber so I...

**Nigel:** I have lots of timber, you can use mine and I have nails...

**Bert:** Erm...excuse me. You both would like a wall to separate your land - along the ground just here...

**Ned:** Yes, I have had enough of him - borrowing all my gardening equipment and never bringing them back...

**Nigel:** Like what...!

**Ned:** My Lawn mower,

**Nigel:** It was broken - I filled it with petrol and it never worked.

**Ned:** It was electric! That's why it caught fire.

**Nigel:** You should have given me the lead then.

**Ned:** Well, what about the tools I have given to you over the years...hammer, screwdriver and my drill...why didn't you just go and buy your own

**Nigel:** Because I was mending your shed!

**Ned:** And he complains about my piano playing - all the time

**Nigel:** Well it's too...too...

**Ned:** Do you know a piano tuner just turned up at my house my house last week

**Bert:** Didn't you call a piano tuner?

**Nigel:** No, I did...that it too out of tune!

**Ned:** Well you should hear him on the violin... I've been asking him to play a song my dog doesn't know.

**Bert:** What do you mean?

**Ned:** Every time he plays his violin my dogs howls!

**Nigel:** Yes, and another thing - your dog - always frightening my cat

**Ned:** It's your cat that keeps pooping in my garden

**Nigel:** That's because your dog frightens him!

**Ned:** And your dog bit the piano tuner...

**Bert:** Ok! Ok! Look it seems to me that you don't want a wall!

**Nigel and Ned together:** We don't?

**Bert:** I will take your wood and nails - and I'll build you a...a... coffee table and two chairs!

How's that. Here just like this one. (shows them to table and chairs) Then you can sit, drink a coffee together and talk about the things you have in common.

**Ned:** Like what?

**Bert:** Well you both like gardening and with all your tools I am sure you can find things you can build together

**Nigel:** Well that true – you remember we used build go-karts when we were younger?

**Ned:** Yes that was fun...

**Nigel:** we shared good design ideas.

**Bert:** And you both like music – rather than criticise one another constantly, maybe you can find some music you have in common and play together...

**Nigel:** Yes, I would like that

**Bert:** You both seem to have a love of animals too. Perhaps you can go on some visits to farms

**Ned:** Or animal sanctuaries

**Nigel:** Yes, that would be good

**Bert:** You see, around this coffee table, you can make yourselves some drinks and I am sure you will find that you have far more things that you have in common than the things that separate you...

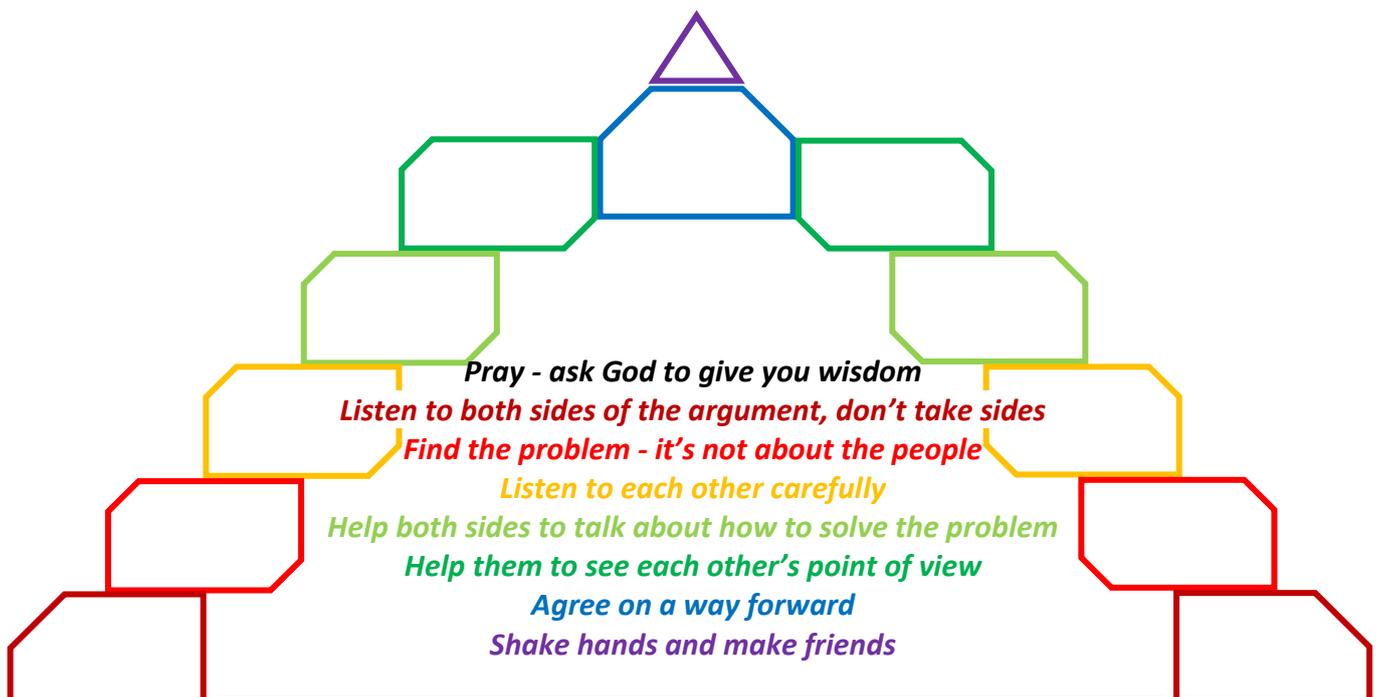
**Nigel:** Yes, Bert you are right! I'll tell you what I'll get the coffee. What sort of coffee do you like Ned.

**Ned:** O...I think...Common Ground.

**Nigel:** Me too.

### How to be a Bridge Builder

Sometimes friends fall out or have an argument and you are caught in the middle. Or perhaps you are the one your friends come to when they are disagreeing. Here are a few tips in how to build a bridge between them and help them to be friends. Remember that sometimes it is best to ask an adult to help out.



### **God's Wisdom Collage**

*Create a poster / wall with clippings from newspapers, or handwritten issues / dilemmas. Encourage the family to draw or write responses to them, words of wisdom from God. This could be a good discussion starter during the week.*

### **Dinner table Chat Activities**

#### **Court is in Session**

*Over a meal each day, hold a simple court session. One person can bring a problem to the court. It can be from a newspaper, from the list below or a real problem that they have experienced or witnessed.*

*Everybody round the table can give evidence for either side of the 'argument', making sure that there is a good balance of evidence. This is a good way to practice putting yourself in someone else's shoes.*

*One person is nominated to be the judge. They listen to all the evidence and then give their judgement. What do they think of the problem and what should be done?*

*Chat about how it feels to be the judge and have to make decisions about other people. How does it feel to have someone else make the decision about your problem?*

#### **Case studies for the court sessions:**

- *Two friends have fallen out because one thinks they should meet up and have fun but the other is too nervous to meet up still.*
- *One parent doesn't want their child going to a friend's house because the friend is a bad influence. The child wants to go.*
- *Two friends are arguing. One has a new pencil case that the other gave them. The other friend says it wasn't to keep, it was just to borrow. They want their pencil case back.*
- *Person A is upset that Person B won't help them with their project. Person B says they have their own project to do and is too busy. Person A thinks they are not being fair.*
- *A person has two friends and the three of them do a lot together. The first person has won two tickets to go to see a band but which friend should they take?*

## What's in the box?



What treasures can you find to put in the box for your little ones to explore?

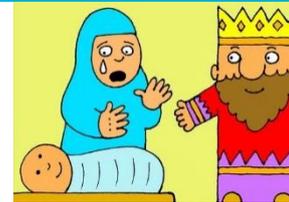
Perhaps older children could help find the things.



Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.

## This week's Bible story is:

Round the Table  
1 Kings 3



A children's  
Bible



A crown



Something with  
rainbow colours  
for God's promise

A toy dressed  
up as a king



Some balance scales or a toy  
seesaw or homemade  
balance board (see below)



A wise old owl toy  
or unbreakable  
ornament



## Pray Together

### Traffic Light Prayers

**You will need:** Black card or paper  
Clothes peg  
Red, green and yellow pom poms  
...Or small circles of paper



Stick your circles or pom poms to a rectangle of black card to make a traffic light. Stick the traffic light to a clothes peg. You will then be able to use this as a bookmark to remind you to be still, think and pray and go God's way.



Stop and be still – Listen to God

Slow down and make time for God – Think and pray

Go God's way every day

Sometimes decisions are very difficult, and it is good for us stop and listen and talk to God. Holding your traffic lights as a family, join together to say the following prayer:

**Dear God, grant me the calmness and peace  
to accept the things I cannot change  
Give me courage to change the things I can  
and give me wisdom to know the difference.  
Amen**

*(An adaptation of the serenity prayer)*

*Dear God, we thank you for all the gifts that you have given us. We thank you that we can ask you for help if we have difficult choices to make. Help us not to rush in but always to think and pray when we have tricky decisions to make so that we can use your wisdom to guide us. We pray that you will give us the courage to share our gifts with others, even when it seems difficult. Amen*

## Pray Together

### Balance Scales

**You will need:** String  
Two paper/plastic plates or cups  
A coat hanger  
Some objects to act as weights



Cut six pieces of string each the same length. Tie three pieces together with a knot at both ends. Attach one end of the string to the coat hanger and, at the other end, spread the string to support the plate or cup. Repeat for the other end of the hanger. Make sure that the knot is in the middle of the cup or plate and spread the string evenly. You can hang the balance scales from a washing line outside or someone can hold the hanger over their finger to allow the scales to balance. Find whatever you have available to act as your weights for the scales for example pasta, building bricks, marbles, buttons or beads.



Take it in turns to add a 'weight' to the scales as you pray. Try to always keep the scales balanced. Holding your 'weight', say prayers of thanks, praise and blessing and add it to one side of the scales. On the other side, add your prayers of things that worry and concern you and things you are sorry for. It is good to talk to God about everything that we are feeling.



### Confetti Prayers

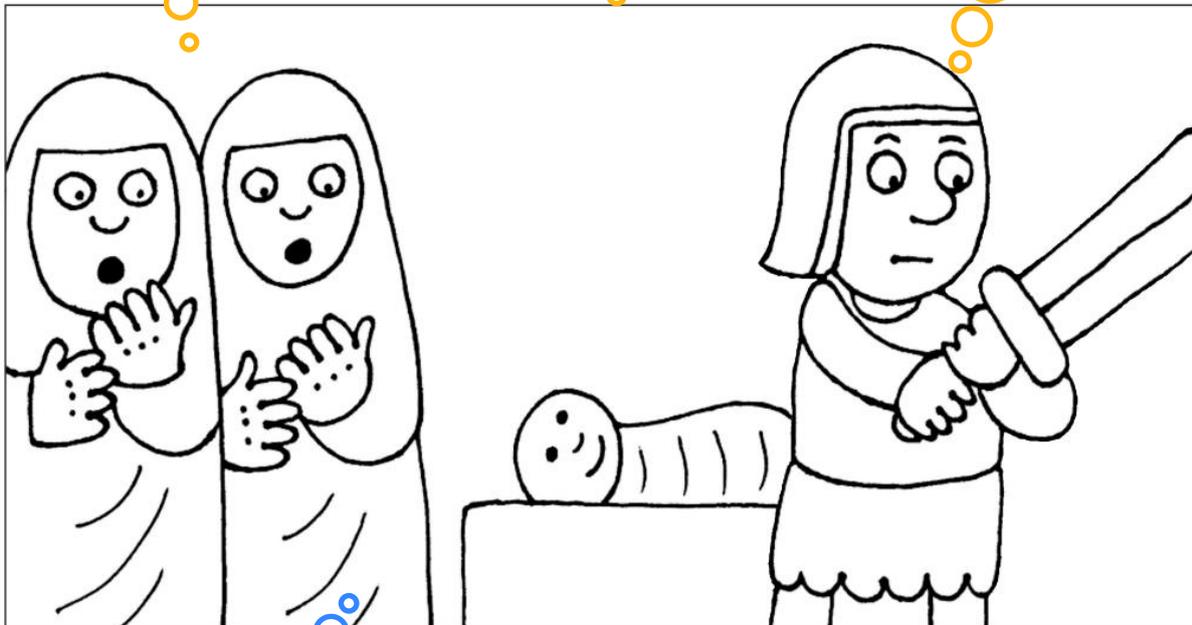
Cup some confetti in your hands. You can make this from tissue paper or thin paper. Hold it in your hand and close to your body as though it is something precious. Think of all the precious gifts that you want to thank God for. Think of what it would be like if everyone knew how good and generous God is and how much he loves us. Now throw the confetti in the air so that it can be seen showering down. Shout together: 'Let's share God's gifts! Amen'.

It might be wise for everyone to join in picking up the confetti from the floor after sharing in this prayer – don't just leave it to the person who always does the cleaning!

*I wonder if there has  
been a time you've ever  
had to make a wise  
decision?*

*I wonder whether  
you have to be old to  
be wise?*

*I wonder what you  
would have asked for  
if God had offered  
you a gift?*



*I wonder what gifts  
God has given to  
others in your  
family?*

*I wonder who is the  
wisest person you know  
and why you trust their  
judgement?*



**TO DO TOGETHER...**

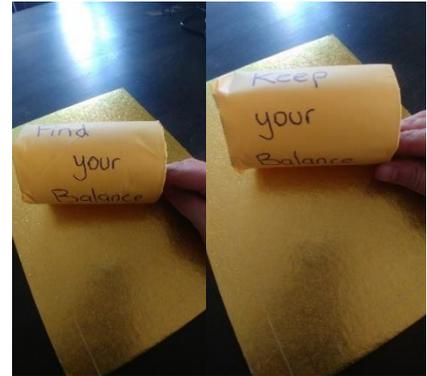
**Balance Board**

**You will need:** A clean empty can  
A piece of thick cardboard

**Alternative:**  
A pipe  
A plank of wood

**What you do:**  
Decorate the can and the piece of cardboard in whatever way you wish.

Place the can on its side and place the cardboard on top. Place a toy doll or figure on the cardboard and see if they will balance. Can you add other items to the board and still maintain balance?



Why not try the alternative and make a balance board to stand on. See how hard it is for us to find balance? Sometimes it takes a little movement to keep our balance – and it helps to keep our eyes focused on something other than the board.  
(Watch Skye and her family try out the balance board on our YouTube channel)



This reminds us of the story. To find a good solution to problems, we need to find our own balance – sometimes we may need to move a little and we always need to keep our focus on God.



## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Building Bridges

**You will need:** Wooden blocks  
The whole family or friends  
(you may need two or even three pairs of hands)



**What you do:**

Try and build a bridge of wooden blocks by balancing them on each other.

You need to have a way of stopping them from spreading so make sure you have something as stops. It's not easy and you will need to have patience.

Why not try this with ice cubes? It will be super messy.



Here are two YouTube videos explaining how to do this if you are struggling: <https://youtu.be/xQvIAfuq1p8> Or <https://youtu.be/yXB-sXKAAVU>

The brick in the middle is called the keystone. Jesus is the key stone that hold everything together.

### Little Box of Wisdom



**You will need:** A box - a cereal box will do  
Paper  
Wisdom words

**What you do:**

Tape the end of the cereal box and cut it to make a lid.

Cover it in paper and decorate it with words or images.

Put inside it some wise phrases and words you find.

(You could use the template from our Wise Words resources on 13 August if you can't find any others )



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

**Our Walking the Way Challenge  
this time is...**

**At Home:**

*Each morning, as you get up or on your way to school or work, take a few moments to talk and listen to God and ask for wisdom for the day. Let God help you when you need to make decisions and choices and to act wisely.*

**Outside:**

*Decorate a large piece of paper and write in large letters something like "Are you worried?" or "Don't know what to do?". At the bottom of the paper, fold up about 4cm and make a firm crease. Then cut slits up from the bottom to the fold line, about 1cm apart. On each of the frills write a few words from the Bible which you think might help people. Put your poster up outside somewhere so that people passing by can take a piece from the bottom of the poster away with them if they find the words helpful.*

**For Others:**

*Do you know anyone who is a new mum or dad?  
Perhaps you could give a gift to help them look after their baby. Some clothes or a toy or some nappy cream? If you can't give a gift, you could make a card and say a prayer for the new baby. If you don't know anyone, perhaps you could donate to a baby basics centre or to a local maternity ward  
<https://baby-basics.org.uk/>*



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**families  
on faith adventures**

*at home*

### **Adventurers Go!**

*You've shared together, now share with us!*

*Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges - or dress up to make a tableau of the Big Story and take a photo to send in.*

Email your photos to: [lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk)  
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.

Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Remember you can find more resources on our website:  
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

*And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.*

*Created for you by Nicola Grieves (Eastern Synod), Judy Harris (National Synod of Wales), Hannah Middleton (Northern Synod), Philip Ray (Wessex Synod, North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW), and Ruth White (Wessex Synod, South) on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team and Pilots.*

