

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:

Celebrate and Thank
Leviticus 23 v 42-43



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.

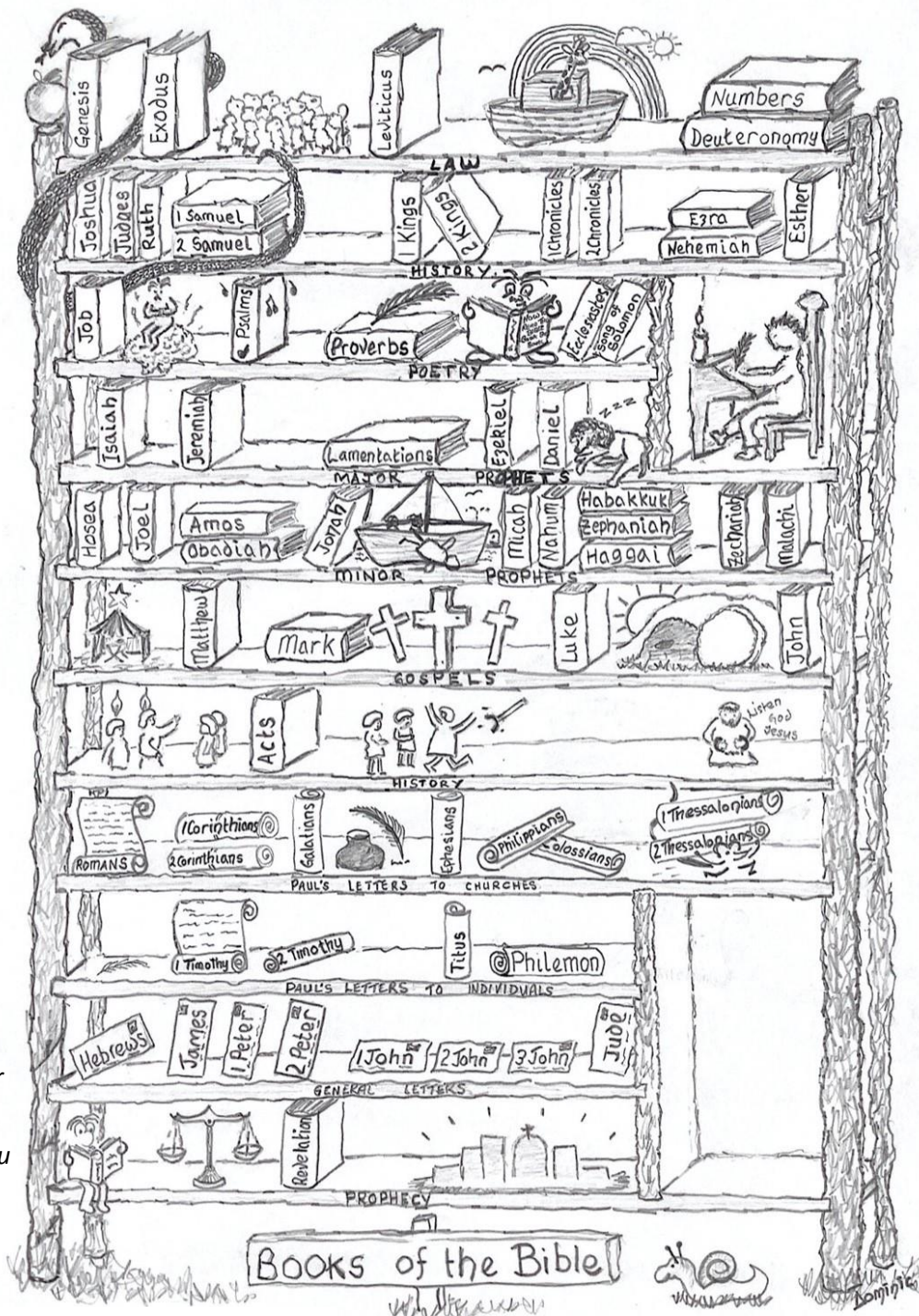
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – Genesis

The book of Leviticus is believed to have been written by Moses around 1445 BCE. It is a book of laws for the Hebrew people to follow. These laws were in place until around 70 years after Jesus came.

The law in Leviticus 23 is regarding a festival called Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles. This is a Harvest festival that remembers and celebrates God protecting the children of Israel in Exodus.

There are obvious similarities between the Jewish Festival of Sukkot and the Christian Festival of Harvest. Both are a chance to remember and celebrate God's provision to us and be thankful.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Lego Sukkot

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=SRHkqWGyn4Y&feature=emb_logo

Sesame Street explain Sukkot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z5rGZc2w3Y>

All about Harvest as a festival <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7q6JZkb8L8>

Kid President 25 things he is thankful for <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA5Qpt1JRE4>

What is the Bible? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dv8dHsxjLd8>

Dance and sing

A samba Harvest Festival <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqpkWsR6Yew>

Every Praise by Hezekiah Walker <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuuZMq6NveA>

Everybody Praise him by Ark music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGKTZnmjMVY>

Living in a booth by fountainheads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXx5Wp3GcSE>

Hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9KbqW>

The Story – Leviticus 23 v 39 -43 (Adapted from The Good News Bible)

When you have harvested your fields, celebrate this festival for seven days. The first day shall be a special day of rest. On that day take some of the best fruit from your trees, take palm branches and limbs from leafy trees, and begin a religious festival to honour the LORD your God. Celebrate it for seven days. This festival is to be kept by your descendants for all time to come. All the people of Israel shall live in shelters for seven days, so that your descendants may know that the LORD made the people of Israel live in simple shelters when he led them out of Egypt. He is the LORD your God.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

A Little Bit About Sukkot

During this festival, Jews build a shelter outside (preferably) to live and eat in. It is a simple three-sided tent that has branches on as the roof. You should be able to see the sunlight peeking through the leaves and feel light drops of rain. This is to remind us that God's light and provision filter through any situation to find us. It's sometimes referred to as a reminder that you might not see God but you can see God's shadow in life. It is a time when Jews might also make a pilgrimage to the temple.

Watch the Harvest and Sukkot clips and discuss what you can do as a family in your home to celebrate Harvest.

A Special Place to Eat

Why not have a go at building your own Sukkot, either inside or outdoors if you are brave enough: a simple tent in an area where the whole family can meet and eat together, making it as comfy and colourful as you can. Alternatively, decorate the area around your dinner table. Think Harvest and decorate it with pinecones, pumpkins, apples, conkers and more. Use leaves and conkers and acorns to make natural bunting, make paper chains. There are lots of ideas to use in this document. Or why not just go for a picnic when you can and sit in God's creation to eat and be together?

Celebrating the Gift of God's Word

The Torah (Jewish Holy Book) is a full part of the celebration. Psalms 113 to 118 are important parts of the festival of Sukkot. They remind the family of the stories of God leading his people out of slavery in Egypt (The Exodus). Take some time this week to read the Bible as a family regularly. It could be a new holy habit for your family. Choose a time when you are altogether during the day e.g. a breakfast or mealtime, and read one of the Psalms above, using a family friendly Bible. Or perhaps each person in the family can choose their favourite readings to offer each time.

Bible in a Year – Bible Sunday 25 October

At the end of Sukkot there is a two-day festival to celebrate the Torah. It marks the end of the year of reading the scriptures and the beginning of the new year of reading. Christians sometimes choose to read the Bible in a year and we celebrate the Bible on Bible Sunday. As a family, why not pledge to read the Bible in the coming year together. There are some good resources to help you to do it in a family friendly way. Here is just one good example:

<https://childrensministry.com/family-bible-reading-plan/>

Dinner Table Chat Activities

Gods Provision

Find ways of sharing what you are thankful for as a family. It might be a short prayer of thanks at every meal, or a night-time conversation before bed. What am I thankful for today? Which part of God's provision am I thankful for today?

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:

Celebrate and Thank
Leviticus 23 v 42-43



Bread



Stars



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



Twigs and
leaves, conkers,
acorns, etc



Edible plant food
such as celery,
carrot sticks



Blanket to
hide under



Pray Together

Thank You, Garden Prayers

You will need:

A small plant pot filled with soil or gravel
Fruit and vegetable cut outs (see template)
Lolly sticks, twigs, or pencils



Colour in the fruit and vegetables or design your own. Cut out the shapes and stick each one to a twig, pencil, or lolly stick. Think about extra items that you might like to add to your garden of prayers.

Take it in turns to plant a stick into the pot and say thank you to God for all that he provides. After each stick is planted say together:



Give thanks to God, for he is so good! His love lasts forever! (Psalm 118)

This is the Day that the Lord has Made!

Psalm 118:24 - 'This is the day that the Lord has made we will rejoice and be glad in it'. Some days are happy sunny days and other days are rather stormy but whatever kind of day we have we can remember that God made it and find reasons to be glad.



Make a sun and a storm cloud. You can do this using a paper plate or using card. Use paints or felt pens to colour them in. Cut strips of paper to go on the bottom each shape. Hang the sun and cloud in the window or somewhere where you will see them as you pass by.

Write on the strips of paper your prayers. Write or draw something that has made you happy on the strips of paper on the sun and on the strips on the cloud write or draw something that has been difficult or has made you sad.

Spend some time looking at the sun and the cloud and thank God for the happy sunny days and then take some time to ask God to help you in the stormy times.

Pray Together

Seed Helicopter Prayers

At harvest time we give thanks to God for all the things that God provides. it is a time of year when seeds are falling from trees and settling into the ground where new plants will grow.



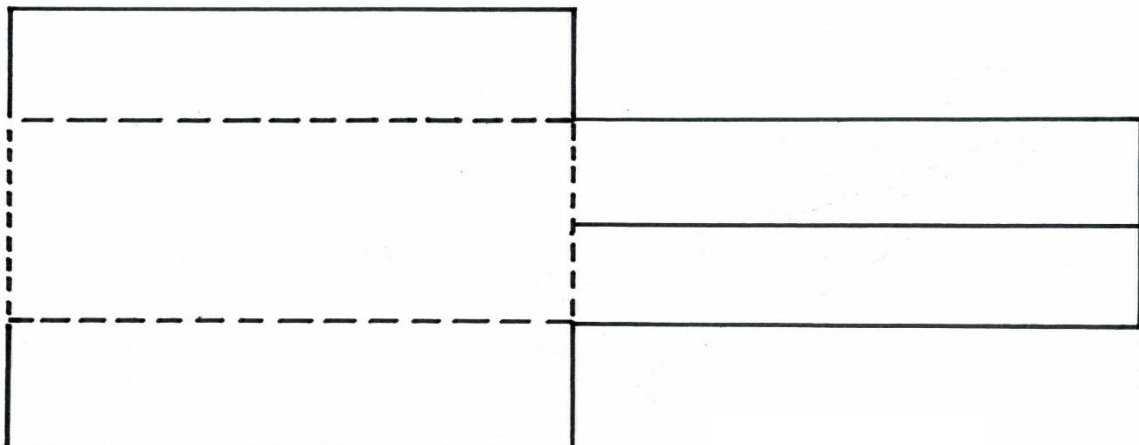
There are eight different types of tree that have helicopter seeds that spin their way to the ground. Have a look when you are outside. Can you find any lying on the ground?



If you cannot find a seed helicopter you can make your own helicopter seeds using the template.

Cut out the shape and then fold along the dotted lines and cut along the solid line. Add a paper clip to the fold at the bottom.

Take your paper helicopter or your seed and throw it into the air and watch as it spins to the ground. As it spins, think of people who help and encourage you. People who help grow your faith and know more about Jesus. As the seed lands, say thank you to God and then give a big shout out Thank you and Amen.



I wonder whether you've ever been to a Harvest celebration and what was it like?

I wonder whether the Harvest is just about food and drink?

I wonder what sort of celebration you would organise to say thank you to someone?



I wonder whether there is a reason why some people have too much to eat and some people go hungry? I wonder what God wants us to do about that?

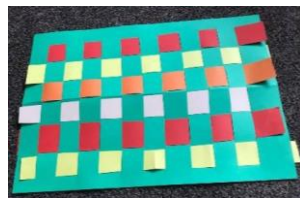


TO DO TOGETHER...

A woven place mat:

You will need coloured paper and scissors
Fold a sheet of paper in half as shown then cut as shown

Cut some strips in coloured paper and weave until your mat is cheerful. You might want to add thank you messages on your mat.



Harvest Placemats

Harvest allows us to say a big thank you for all we have to eat. Why not make a placement to use at the dinner table?

You will need: Autumn leaves – go for a walk and collect them
Glue
Clear sticky-back plastic, a plastic wallet, laminator pouch or cling film



What you do:

Collect your leaves – try and see how many types and colours you can find.

Open out your sticky back plastic, cling film, plastic wallet or laminator pouch. If you are using cling film, you may want to make a firmer frame out of cardboard and glue the cling film to it so that the centre of the frame is clear.

Arrange your leaves on the clear surface. Try to leave some little gaps between them so the light can peep through. You may wish to use some glue behind the leaves to keep them in place.

Then close the wallet and glue together, put the laminating pouch through a laminator to seal it, or put another layer of sticky back plastic or cling film over the top of the leaves.

Once your mat is complete, using a whiteboard pen you could, if you choose, draw faces on your leaves, shade the outlines or play games on your leaves. Hold your mat up so the light can shine through like the daylight and stars are glimpsed through the roof of the sukkot shelters.



TO DO TOGETHER...

Sukkot Mocktails:

The Toy Box



You will need:

Gummy bears
Granulated sugar
(in a small dish)
Powdered food
colouring
Apple juice
Lemonade to top up
A small dish of water
A paper straw
A tall glass

What you do:

1. Mix the granulated sugar with the red food powder to make a pink sugar.
2. Place the rim of the glass in the water and then place in the pink sugar.
3. Put 4 or 5 gummy bears in the bottom of the glass.
4. Fill the glass halfway with apple juice
5. The top up with sparkling water or lemonade.
6. Thread gummy bears onto the skewer and place in the glass
7. Add a straw

Cuddles at Sunrise

You will need: 1/4 cup of orange juice
1/4 cup of cranberry juice
Peach juice - squeezed or peach nectar (1 tbs)
Pineapple juice - squeeze or (1 tbs)

Orange slice
Paper/Reusable straw
Ice
Glass

What you do:

1. Dip the rim of the glass in orange juice, let it drip to remove excess fluid and then roll it in sugar to create a sugary rim.
2. Fill a glass with ice, crushed or cubed
3. Add the peach and pineapple juice
4. Pour in 1/4 cup of orange juice over the ice
5. Pour in 1/4 cup of cranberry juice on top of the orange juice
6. Add a slice of orange for garnish.





TO DO TOGETHER...

More Sukkot Mocktails:

Day at the Fair



- You will need:**
- Candy floss
 - Lemonade enough for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a glass
 - Food colouring (to match the colour of candy floss)
 - A splash of apple and blackcurrant squash
 - A glass
 - Cocktail stick

- What you do:**
- Add the food colouring to the lemonade and add a splash of apple and blackcurrant squash.
- Then spear some candy floss with a skewer, (you can make this at home if you have a candy floss machine) and place on top of the glass.



Day at the Fair – (Alternative version)

- You will need:**
- Candy floss
 - Sparkling raspberry flavoured water
 - Puréed raspberries (strained)
 - A glass and cocktail stick

- What you do:**
1. Add the sparkling flavoured water until the glass is $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
 2. Add the juice from the puréed raspberries and gently stir to get a pink colour.
 3. Then fluff some candy floss (you can make this at home if you have a candy floss machine).
 4. Spear the candy floss with the stick and place on top of the glass.



TO DO TOGETHER...

Harvest Pizza

You will need: 250g plain flour
1 teaspoon dried active baking yeast
1 pinch salt
300ml water
1 tablespoon olive oil
(alternative – use pizza mix)

*Toppings- Try and choose things which will create a four seasons pizza, of fish, meat, dairy, vegetables, fruit. (Fun fact – bananas are amazing on a pizza.)
Tomato passata or ketchup.*

What you do:

*Sieve the flour and then mix in the yeast and salt.
Stir in the water and olive oil, adding more flour a little at a time if the dough is too sticky. Form the dough into a ball, cover and let the dough rest for 15 minutes.
Preheat the oven to 200 C / Gas 6.
Spread the dough onto a generously floured baking tray.
Spread the passata or ketchup over the pizza base, layer on the mozzarella cheese and add other ingredients as desired. Bake in the preheated oven until the pizza base is puffed and golden, about 15 minutes.*



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

One of the Jewish customs for Sukkot is to break into song and dance at random moments and take everyone by surprise. Can you do this with your family this week – find a time to sing a song of praise to God and even do your own special dance. A favourite Sukkot psalm is Psalm 118 – maybe you could sing “This is the day” <https://youtu.be/2K2fDym5MxY>

Outside:

The weather doesn't look too inviting at this time of year, but can you find a place for an outdoor picnic – perhaps in a park which provides some shelter – or even make a den to have a picnic in outside? Look up at the skies above you and give thanks to God for all the good gifts you have been given.

For Others:

Food banks are struggling at the moment as they would usually have lots of donations at this time of year from churches. Perhaps you could drop an extra something into the foodbank collection point in the supermarket or in your neighbourhood. If this is difficult for you, then use your prayers to thank God for the food you eat and pray for the work of the foodbanks in your area.



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
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.



The
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Templates

Fruit & Vegetables

