



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# families on faith adventures

@ home

## 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:

Gifts of Joy

Matthew 2 verses 1 - 12



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

From



and



*Illustration by [lambsongs.co.nz](http://lambsongs.co.nz) via [freebibleimages.com](http://freebibleimages.com)*





## 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.

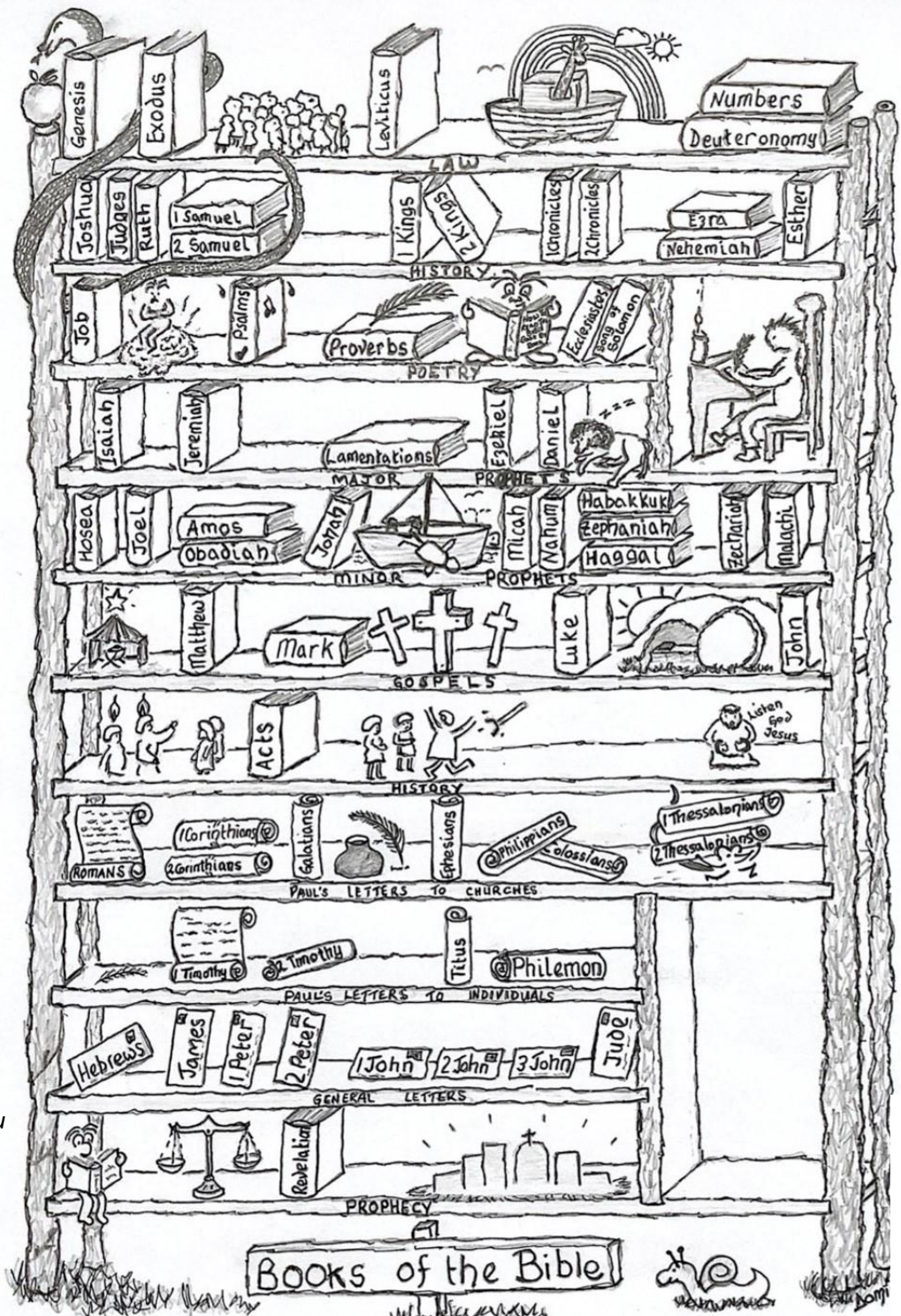
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.

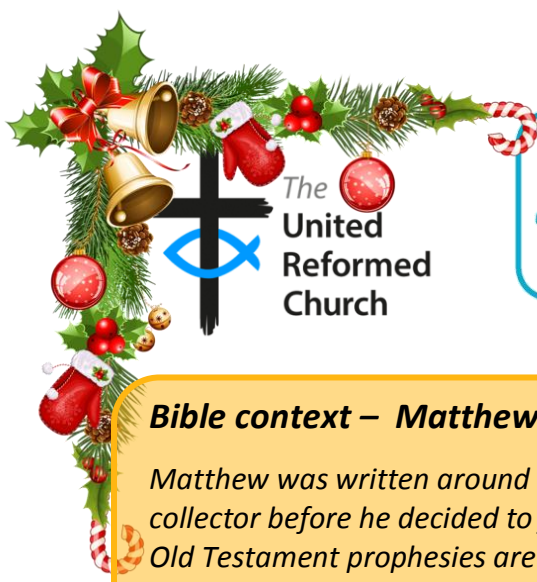


Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

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.





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## families on faith adventures

at home

### **Bible context – Matthew**

Matthew was written around 60 AD by the disciple of the same name. Matthew was a tax collector before he decided to follow Jesus and he often writes for the Jews, showing how Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus as the promised king. No surprise then, that he includes the story of the wise men, star gazers and astrologers who travelled from the East to visit the new born king. We can't be sure how many wise men came. But they brought with them three gifts. Jesus would have been a toddler by the time the wise men visited him.

### **The Story – Matthew 2: 1-12 (The International Children's Bible)**

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

you are important among the rulers of Judah.

A ruler will come from you.

He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.'" Micah 5:2

Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

Scriptures quoted from the International Children's Bible®, copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.





# families on faith adventures

at home

## Online versions of the story

### Watch and Listen

Cartoon by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhngROCM>

What gifts will you bring? by children at Pursue God Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEhaEu57KuM>

All about Three Kings Day by a child called Connor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLD1mOJcXlc>

The Spark - a Christmas short film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqIUQgn8SZg>

Children telling the story of the wise men <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPRCoxXt7VY>

### Dance and Sing

Joy joy joy joy down in my heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imK7pAMf61E>

O come all Ye faithful 5 strings flash mob <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI2c9ypr4U>

Wise Men Rap by Bcc Kids choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oq-leDhcG6k>

3 Kings music video from The Star <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3182kVUk-5A>

He is the gift by Shawna Edwards <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ4JA3YZCj0>

## Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

### Giving Yourself a Gift for Next Christmas

As you take down and pack away all your Christmas decorations, take some time to write yourself a note and pack it away in the same box. Next Christmas when you come to unpack the decorations you will find the lovely surprise and you will encourage yourself. You could include a little gift with it to make you all smile.

### Fun Pass the Present Game

Everyone chooses a present/item that they are willing to play the game with (there is a chance you won't finish the game with the gift you began with.)

Everyone takes it in turn to roll a dice and follow the instructions. The dice goes round the group three times then the game is over and you all keep the present you are holding.

Roll a One – Everyone passes their gift to the left one place

Roll a Two – Everyone passes their gift to the right one place

Roll a Three – You swap your present with anyone else

Roll a Four – The youngest in the room can swap with anyone else

Roll a Five – the oldest in the room can swap with anyone else

Roll a Six – no present moves

### A Bedtime Story to watch together

The animals' Christmas Carol Story by Helen Ward

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmhHOypgy7c>





# families on faith adventures

at home

## **Table Top Discussions**

*During Epiphany we remember how the wise ones brought their gifts to Jesus. This week, take some time to consider what gifts and talents God has given to you as individuals and as a family. Then consider how you might use them or share them to give them back to God as a thank you offering. For example, you might feel that you have been blessed with a lovely home as a family, how can you share it with others such as inviting people for a meal.*

*Are you using your skills and talents to serve God and share God's love with others? Perhaps include some ideas in with your new year's resolutions.*





The United Reformed Church

# families on faith adventures

@ home

## 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.

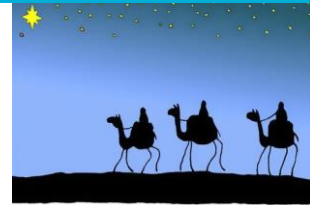


Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.

## This week's Bible story is:

### Gifts of Joy

Matthew 2 verses 1 - 12



Something shiny

Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



Some purple fabric or other material



Something that looks precious



Something that smells nice

A star



An unbreakable nativity/crib scene if you have one

**As with all small things, please be aware of the risk of these being put into mouths, eyes, noses and ears. Please supervise small children!**

Illustration by [lambsongs.co.nz](http://lambsongs.co.nz) via [freebibleimages.com](http://freebibleimages.com)





# families on faith adventures

at home

## Pray Together

### Matchbox Prayer



Cut out the template and fold along all the dotted lines. Fold together to form a box and glue in the sides. Make the cover in the same way. You can decorate the box to make it more like a gift. Cut out a crown shape and the three gift shapes from card and colour them in. Place the gifts in the box.



Hold the matchbox and remember there have been many surprises in the Christmas story. The wise men followed a star that led them to find Jesus.

Open the matchbox and take out the crown. Remember that Jesus was born to be King, yet he did not look like a king lying in manger, born in a stable.

Pray together:

**Dear Jesus**  
**Help us to find you,**  
**Jesus our King,**  
**everywhere we look. Amen**

Hold up the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Remember that these are the three special gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus. Think about what gift you would bring to Jesus.

Pray together:

**Dear Jesus**  
**You are our king.**  
**Please be with us in all we do and say.**  
**In the sad times and the happy times,**  
**In the bad times and the good times,**  
**We give you everything we do. Amen**





# families on faith adventures

@ home

## Pray Together

### Christmas Cards Prayers



*Gather up all your old Christmas cards and gift tags and look through them, praying for the people who gave them to you and giving them a blessing for the new year. You can store them in your special box that you make in the crafts below. During the next year, take one card or gift tag out each week and pray for the person on the card.*

### Floating Stars

*Cut some star shapes out and fold each of the points into the middle. Think of the wise ones in our lives, the ones who shine like stars and lead us, the wise ones who have gifts to share. Think too of the wisdom that God gives you, the news and the gifts you are given to share with others.*



*Place the stars carefully into a bowl of water. As they float, think of the wise ones who followed the star which led them to where they could find Jesus. Watch as the points of the star slowly open, revealing what is inside. Thank God that the Good News of Jesus is not a secret, God's love is not hidden away and difficult to find. God's love was made so that we could see it easily when Jesus was born, and we too can show the way to Jesus.*







The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# families on faith adventures

at home

## Pray Together

### Gifts for Jesus

Jesus received gifts from people who had travelled from afar. It took them a long time to reach Jesus, by which time he was a toddler living with his mum and dad and beginning to play and learn more of the world. The travellers brought gifts.

Use your hand to draw some images like in the illustration below. Either draw on your hand (if you are allowed) using a washable pen or else draw round your hand onto paper and illustrate that.

As we sit and look at our image of the kings, let us think of Jesus growing up, his mum and dad, the journey the travellers took to reach the family. Thank God for what he has given and gives to us each every day. Amen





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# families on faith adventures

at home

*I wonder how the  
wise ones decided  
what gifts to bring?*

*I wonder why God  
chose to call the wise  
ones from far away to  
witness the birth of  
Jesus?*



*I wonder how the  
experience of the  
journey and seeing  
the Christ child  
changed the wise  
ones?*

*I wonder whether you  
have ever been on a  
long journey for a  
special reason?*

*I wonder whether  
you would have  
journeyed with  
them?*

Illustration by [lambsongs.co.nz](http://lambsongs.co.nz) via [freebibleimages.com](http://freebibleimages.com)





# families on faith adventures

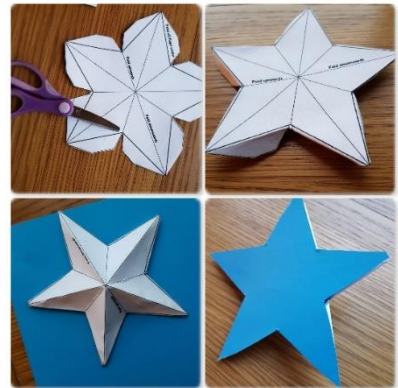
@ home

## TO DO TOGETHER...

### A Star

*Cut out the star template and fold along the dotted lines.*

*Fold the long lines upwards and short lines downwards. Once folded glue the tabs and stick to a backing paper. You could use Christmas paper for this, or make use of an old envelope. Find somewhere to hang your star.*



### Hobby Horse Camel

**You will need:** Cardboard tube  
Kitchen roll tube  
Stiff cardboard  
Ribbon

**What you do:**

*Using the template cut out two camel heads. Attach one head to the tube and then add the spacer tabs before joining the other head piece to the opposite side of the tube and spacers. Secure with tape to ensure the tube stays in place. Draw on eyes nose and mouth, and then decorate with ribbons.*





# families on faith adventures



## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Crown Gift Box

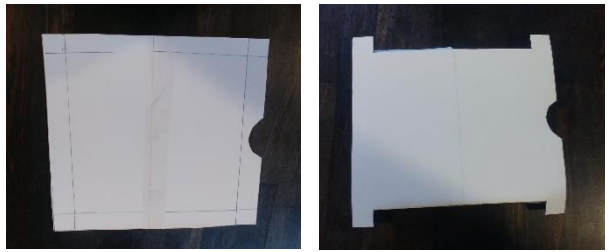
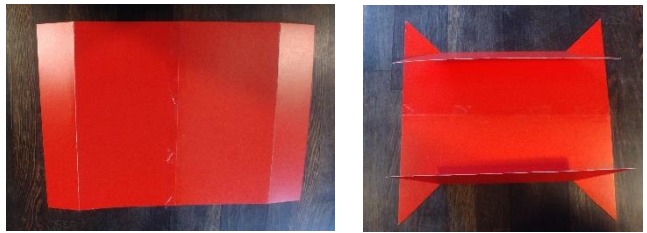
**You will need:** Four pieces of A4 card or a stiff gift bag

**What you do:** Cut two templates out - one for the lid and one for the box.

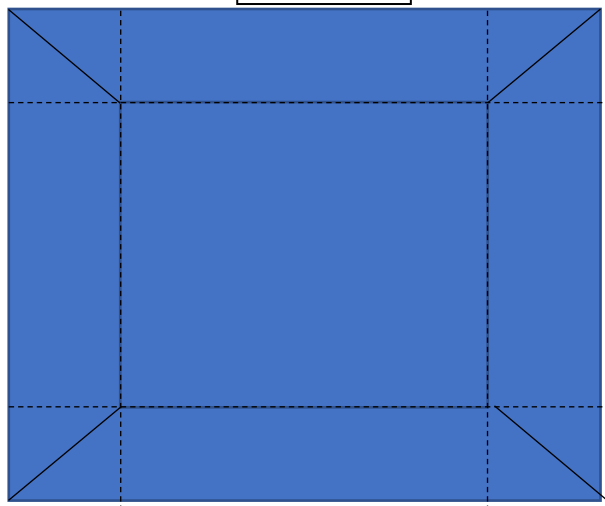
For the main box, follow example one (this is not to size), the centre square will be the finished size of your box. Cut along the diagonal solid lines and fold along the dotted lines. (The wider the side panels, the deeper your box will be. Fold the sides up and glue or tape the tabs created to the sides to form your box.

For the lid, follow example two, (this is not to size) the centre square should measure 3mm larger than the main box. The side panels will be narrower cut along the solid lines and fold along the dotted lines. Glue the tabs formed to the sides, to create a box lid shape.

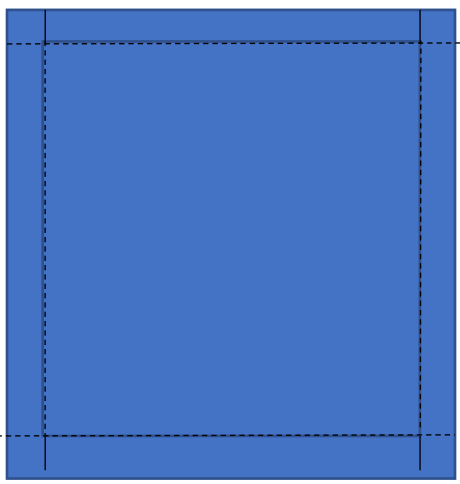
Decorate your box and lid to make a beautiful box to store your old cards and tags in.



Example 1



Example 2





# families on faith adventures

@ home

## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Crown Cakes

#### You will need:

*For the Cake:*

100 g (4 oz) softened butter

100 g (4 oz) caster sugar

Two large eggs

100 g (4 oz) self-raising flour

1 level tsp baking powder

*For the Icing:*

White piping icing

Coloured fondant icing

Coloured writing icing



#### What you do:

Heat the oven to 200C fan, 180C fan, gas 6.

Place fairy cake cases into a 12-hole bun tin.



Measure all the ingredients into a large bowl and beat for 2-3 mins until the mixture is well blended and smooth. Fill each paper case with the mixture.



Bake in the preheated oven for 15-20 minutes until the cakes are well risen and golden brown. Lift the paper cases out of the bun tin and cool the cakes on a wire rack.

Create mini crowns by rolling a small ball of red or blue icing and flattening the bottom. You can cut a cross into the top.

Roll out a piece of yellow to form a rectangle and cut into strips about 0.5cm wide. Lay two strips over the ball and push them gently into the cross on the top (use a little water to help them stick). Trim the ends off. Place one strip around the base of the crown and trim to fit.



To add jewels, decorate using small dots of writing icing. Put to one side.

Once the cakes are cool, pipe a swirl of piping icing on the top. Place the crown on the top. Alternatively, you can cut off the top of your cake and shape it into a crown shape, then put a swirl of icing on your cake and rest the crown on the top.





# families on faith adventures

@ home

## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Gifts of Hope and Joy

**You will need:** Some small boxes  
Purple card or wrapping paper  
Ribbon

**What you do:**

Punch a hole in the top of the small box and create a hanging loop using thread or ribbon.

Wrap the box in purple paper or wrapping paper and then decorate using some ribbon around it to create a gift.

If you don't have any small boxes, why not use a cube template and make a box out of cardboard? Remember to cut tabs to help you glue the box into shape.

You could use the gold pen to write the words HOPE and JOY on the sides of the box as a reminder that Christmas commemorates God's greatest gift to us. Another idea might be to write the words using glue and then sprinkle glitter on it. Now hide your decorations away ready to put on your tree for Christmas 2021.





## families on faith adventures

at home

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**At Home:**

*Make some cardboard stars – you could even stick some tin foil on one side of them to make them shiny. On the back, write the words “A gift of Joy for 2021”. Now hide them around the house in places where other members of the family might find them. As you hide them, ask God to be with the person who finds each one. As you find them, say a prayer of thanks for all the good gifts God has given you, including the gift of God’s love. Then hide them again for someone else to find.*

**Outside:**

*It’s another good time for star-gazing. The wise ones followed a star which led them to Jesus. Wrap up warm, go outside, and see if you can spot the brightest star in the sky. Look at the beauty of the heavens and spend a bit of time asking God to be present with you throughout 2021.*

**For Others:**

*You may have received some special presents this Christmas that need a bit of space to store them in, so this is the perfect opportunity to give a gift of joy to someone else. See if you can find some children’s books you’ve outgrown which you could donate to a local doctor’s surgery for their waiting room once the pandemic restrictions are over.*





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/>

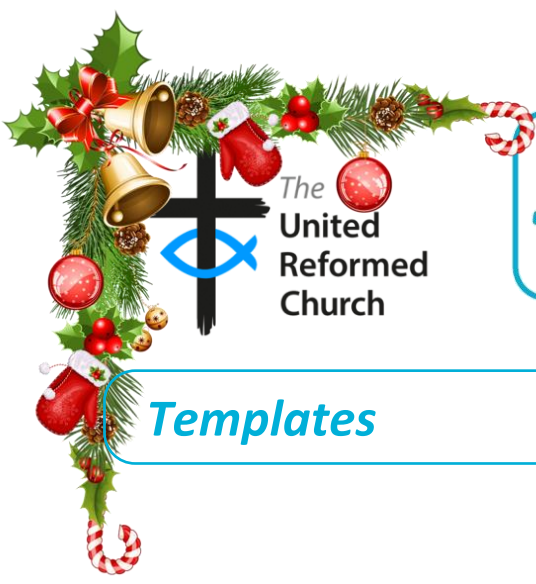
Remember you can find more resources on our website:  
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

*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.*





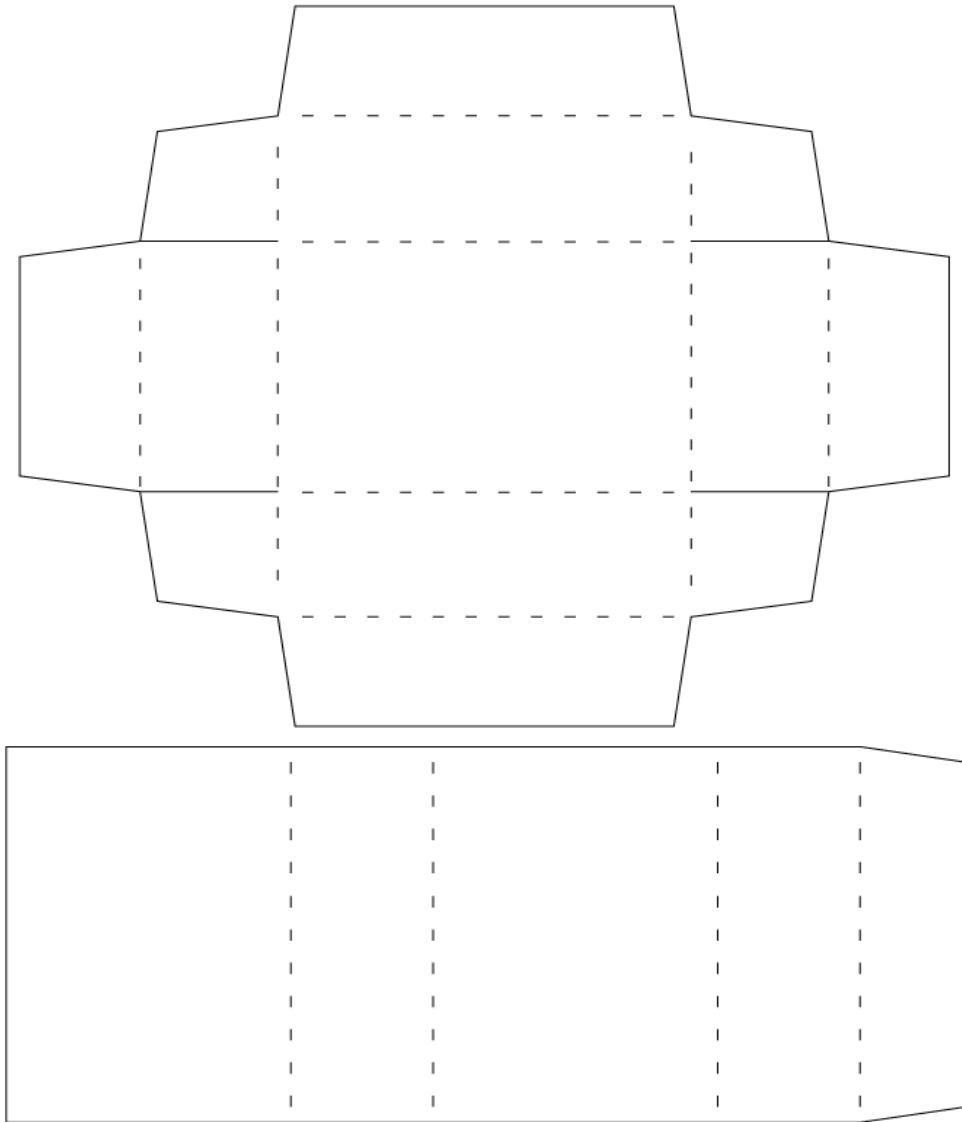


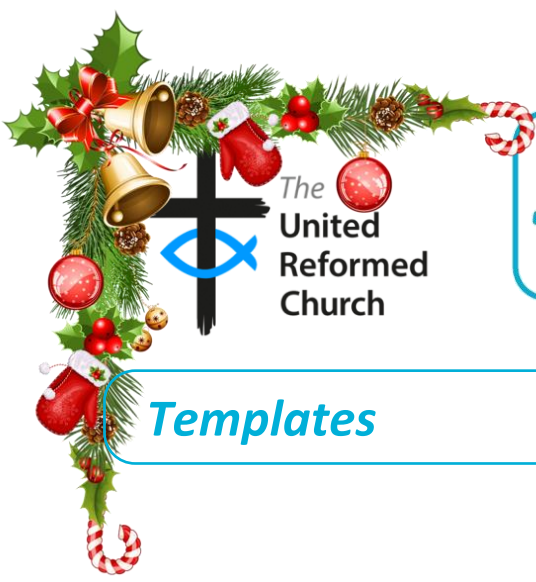
The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# families on faith adventures

at home

## Templates





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

families  
on faith adventures

at home

## Templates

