

## 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:

Limitless

Luke 9 verses 12-17



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.

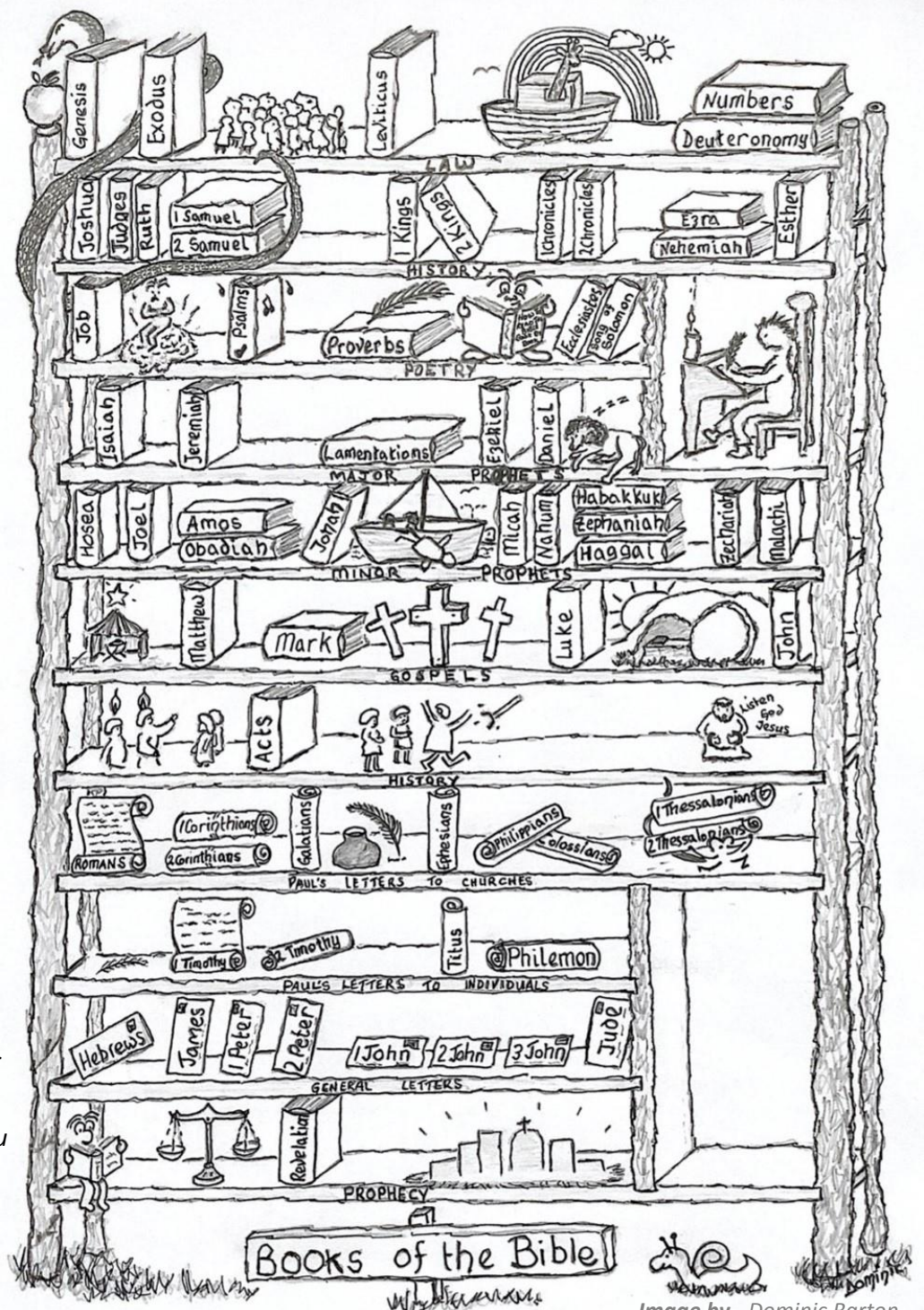
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – Luke**

The book of Luke was written around 60 AC by Luke, the doctor who became a disciple of Jesus. Luke wanted to show Jesus being with people and remind us that Jesus came as the saviour for Gentiles as well as Jews.

In this story we hear how Jesus used a small boy's lunch to feed 5,000 people – it was a miracle. This is one of the few stories that is found in all four of the Gospels. It is worth reading them in each one as each writer explains the story differently. Luke seems to give the basic facts; he doesn't even mention the little boy who gave his lunch. Luke concentrates on Jesus' role in the story as being most important.

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

#### **Watch and Listen**

Reflective story with Ruth – <https://youtu.be/yPOZR-bxfZq>

Finger puppets story by Crossroads Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l93Llvp3jl>

Cartoon by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6rj9cAJrWE>

Jesus Storybook Bible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTdNTxcnBB0>

Retold by children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbXMOL8ZZI0>

#### **Dance and Sing**

Limitless by Planet shakers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bGamq2GzZs>

God gives you all need by Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3X6OZRqUZI>

A gift to you by Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3iG1qkW9R0>

Running Over by Trinity 5g [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4\\_j-pyS2jo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4_j-pyS2jo)

Generous God by Vineyard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjXZmLeJQNs>



**The Story – Luke 9:10-17 (The International Children’s Bible)**

*The disciples returned. They told Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him. They went off by themselves to a town called Bethsaida. But the crowds learned about it and followed Jesus. He welcomed them and spoke to them about God’s kingdom. He also healed those who needed to be healed.*

*Late in the afternoon the 12 disciples came to him. They said, “Send the crowd away. They can go to the nearby villages and countryside. There they can find food and a place to stay. There is nothing here.”*

*Jesus replied, “You give them something to eat.”*

*The disciples answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish. We would have to go and buy food for all this crowd.” About 5,000 men were there.*

*But Jesus said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about 50 each.” The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He broke them into pieces. Then he gave them to the disciples to give to the people. All of them ate and were satisfied. The disciples picked up 12 baskets of leftover pieces.*

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**Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story**

**Exaggeration Game (Make it Bigger)**

*This game is very contagious and silly. All you do is shout EXTRA at people, who must immediately carry on doing whatever they were doing but now need to exaggerate it and do it over the top.*

*Imagine someone shouting EXTRA at you whilst you are washing up or unpacking the shopping. It makes for some silly fun.*

**Amazing News!**

*If newspapers existed in Jesus time, this story might have made the front page. Perhaps it looked like this:*

# The Nazareth News

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March

## Miraculous Meal Deal

Over 5,000 people got a free meal and a show on a hillside near Bethsaida. The crowd had been listening to the storyteller, Jesus Christ (aged 32), who had held them captivated for many hours. They were hungry with no local shops or picnics to hand. Witnesses say that a small boy was persuaded to hand over his lunch of five barley loaves and two small fish. It was then that Jesus the storyteller amazed the crowd by multiplying it, feeding everyone on the hill. Was there something fishy going on or was it a miracle as rumours suggest?

Jesus and his gang couldn't be found to offer comment but eyewitnesses have been telling the strange tale all over the region.

Dorcas, aged 42: "We heard that Jesus was on the hillside and so we went along. Often something amazing happens but we couldn't believe it when he fed us all with that small lunch. It wasn't anything special but there was lots of it. I was full to the brim and there was loads left over too."

Daniel, the boy who gave his lunch, said, "I just wanted to help. Everyone was hungry and I wanted to share".

It has left us wondering, who is this Jesus? What will he do next? When and where is the next show?

Have a go at turning Bible stories into front page news. What stories do you think would make the front page?

*Have a go at turning some other Bible stories into front page news. What stories do you think would make the front page?*

**St David's Day – Be joyful in faith, do the little things in life**

*This week we also celebrate St David's Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>. St David is the patron saint of Wales. He was a monk who was well known for his teaching. There are stories of the miracles that happened to him and through him. He set up twelve monasteries and his last words to his fellow monks before he died were "Be joyful, Keep the faith and the do the little things that you have heard and seen me do". The phrase 'Do the little things in life' is still a well-known Welsh phrase.*

*It's a good reminder to us to find the little things we can do to make the world a happier place. All the little things add up to be big things together.*

*Why not cook some Welsh food or even have a go at speaking Welsh?*

- *Bore da (Boh-reh dah) - Good morning*
- *Prynhawn da (Prin-houn dah) - Good afternoon*
- *Croeso I Gymru (Croy-so ee Gum-ree) - Welcome to Wales*
- *Diolch (Dee-olch) - Thank you*
- *Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus (dee-the goil De-wi ha-peece) - Happy St David's Day*

**Modern Parable – familiar stories that explore the themes**

*Bing bubbles A reminder that you only need a little to make a lot*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkZPCzvi83U>

*FOFA@H What Can You Bring? We explored this story together last August in*

[https://urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/Resources/Families\\_on\\_Faith\\_Adventures -  
Week 20 - What do You Bring .pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/Resources/Families_on_Faith_Adventures_-_Week_20_-_What_do_You_Bring_.pdf)

**Table Top Discussions**

*Each day over a mealtime, have a quick conversation. Here are a few questions to get you going.*

- *What little things have you done this week that have made a big difference?*
- *Do you think miracles still happen?*
- *If there is enough food in the world, why are some people starving?*
- *Do you think the little boy wanted to give his lunch or whether he had to be persuaded?*
- *What do you think you have to give to God? Perhaps something that can be used to serve/help others?*

## 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:

Limitless

Luke 9 verses 12-17



Something with  
rainbow colours  
for God's promise



A toy to  
represent Jesus



A magnifying glass to  
make small things  
look big



Lunchbox

Toy fish or model fish  
(or even a tin of fish)



Green  
fabric



Bread roll

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



## Pray Together

### God's Love is Limitless

*Just as the food in the story keeps going on and on, God's love for us is limitless.*



*Cut out a heart as big as you can and next time you Zoom, Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp etc with someone, put the heart somewhere that the people you are talking to can see it. Explain that God's love is limitless and that you want to share God's love with them. See how many people you can share God's love with this week.*

*Say: 'God's love goes on and on, pass it on' and encourage them to put a heart in their background too and pass it on to someone else.*



*Here is a blessing prayer that you can share:*

***May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.***



## Pray Together

### 'Jack-in-a-Box' Prayers

Think about people who you want to share God's love with.



Cut four strips of paper and write your prayers on them or draw pictures of the names of the people you would like to pray for. The strips of paper are going to make a spring so your prayers will pop up! Glue the strips of paper together to make two longer strips out of the four strips on the template. Glue these two long strips at a 90 degree angle, then start folding them, one on top of the other, also at 90 degrees. When you have completed the folding, stick the ends together. Cut out a heart or any shape you like and write on it the word Amen. Stick this to the end of your paper spring. Using a matchbox or any small box, stick the spring into the bottom of the box, press it down and close the box. Hold the box in your hand while you think about the prayers you wrote, then open the box and watch as your prayers spring out. Be ready to say Amen!



### Tiny Prayers



St David said "Be joyful, Keep the faith and the do the little things that you have heard and seen me do".

All the little things add up to be big things together and this is the same with our prayers.

Cut out some very small pieces of paper the size of a postage stamp and write very tiny prayers. See how small you can write.

Here are some ideas to start your prayers

- Dear God thank you for...
- Please help me to care for...
- Please bring peace in...
- I am sorry for....

*I wonder what you'd tell your friends afterwards if you'd been there when this happened?*

*I wonder why the crowd didn't just go home to eat?*

*I wonder if there's been a time when something amazing has happened because of some small thing you did?*



*I wonder whether this means God sometimes **needs us** when things need putting right?*

*I wonder what you bring to God's service?*



## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Printing Headlines

**You will need:** Potato  
Paint  
Paper / or paper bag



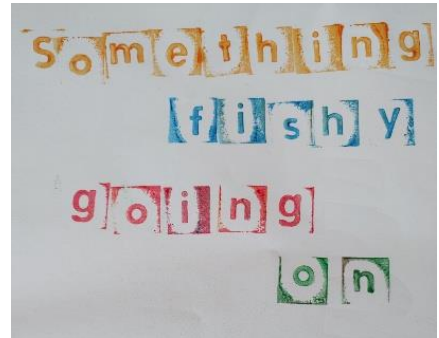
### What you do:

Think of the story today and what headline you want to make. Keep it simple.

Cut out the letters you need from slices of potato.

Put a small amount of paint in a tub and press the potato in it and press it onto the paper.

You could use the paper bag to put your sandwiches in for a picnic!



### Alternative

You may have a printing set you could use, or you could cut letters out of newspapers or magazines to make your own headline.





**TO DO TOGETHER...**



**Amazing Growing Mousse**

**You will need:** 1x 170g tin of evaporated milk well chilled  
1 sachet or block of jelly  
(sugar free can be used too)

**What you do:** Melt the jelly with half the amount of water recommended on the packet, allow to cool at room temperature for 30 min. Using an electric whisk, whisk the evaporated milk until it has tripled in size. (You can use a hand whisk too) While continuing to whisk, gradually add the jelly. Whisk for a further 30 seconds then pour into a bowl. Put in the fridge to set. **Warning:** when whisking, use a bigger bowl than you think you need as you'll be surprised how much this fluffs up.



**Limitless Bubbles**

**You will need:** Washing up liquid  
Water  
Food colouring

**What you do:** Put some washing up liquid into a bowl with a small amount of food colouring and some warm water. Get a hand whisk and let's have some messy fun. The bubbles get more and more as you whisk it up. You may want to put a waterproof cloth down under your bowl or do this on a waterproof surface or outside as those bubbles are going to grow and grow!





The  
United  
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Church

families  
on faith adventures

at home

# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**At Home:**

*I bet Jesus said thank you to the child who gave up their lunch to feed the crowd. Try to remember to notice and say thank you to others in your household whenever they do something, however small, that is helpful to you.*

**Outside:**

*Start a mini-miracle. When you're out and about, smile or wave to everyone you meet. Most people will catch your smile, and many will pass it on to someone else. Your smile could travel right round the world and come back to you in the form of someone smiling at you!*

**For Others:**

*I wonder whether you know 5000 people? As a family, take ten minutes and make a list of everyone you can think of that you know. Don't just think of the obvious people. Can you name 20? 30? 100? When you've done your list, ask God to bless all the people you've named.*



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*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.*

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