

## 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:

Seen, Known, Forgiven

Luke 19 verses 1-10



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.

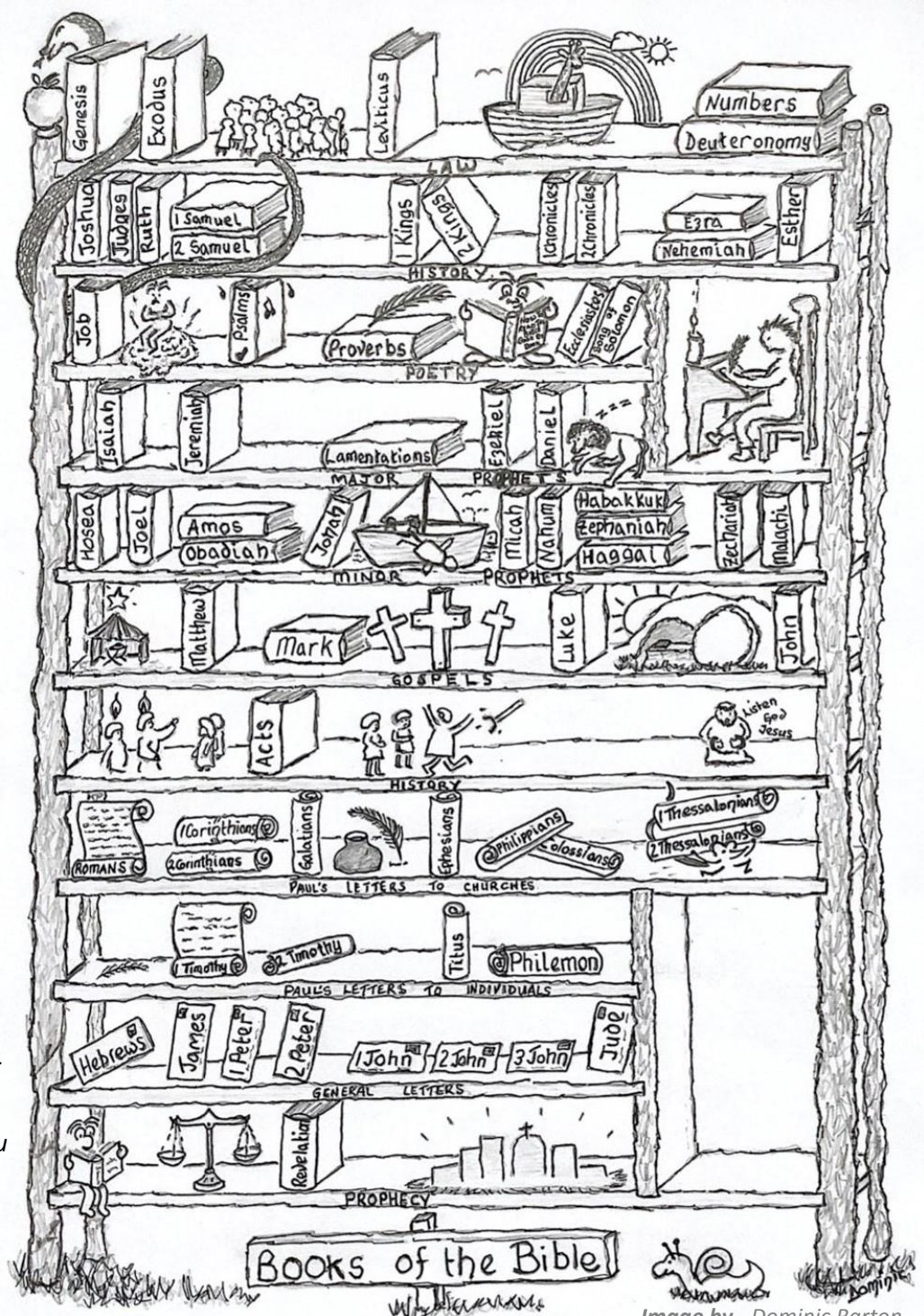
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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.

This is a familiar story that reminds us that God knows where we are and calls us by our name. Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus with love and compassion when the rest of the town hated him. The story reminds us that we are already forgiven, all we need to do is respond and allow Jesus to change our lives.

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

#### **Watch and Listen**

Story for under 5's with Nicola <https://youtu.be/MRqn1g6j1-k>

Cartoon by Saddleback <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BitbJFz2uq>

Animation by The Little Clay Bible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHXq11-RA1c>

Animation by Kidsonthemove <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBvc2wimT6M>

Jesus and Zack by Pacific Rock <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUQWsYwu3F4>

#### **Dance and Sing**

I'm Special, Loved, Accepted, and Forgiven by ElevationKids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O72j8Cc1XG8>

I Have a Maker by Doug Horley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXKWsfbizB4>

Puppets sing the story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW9KCq5LIRE>

You Say by Lauren Daigle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZvKJl1kK8q>

I am Yours by Kidsonthemove <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRP5CUFU4pg>



### **The Story – Luke 19 v 1-10 (The International Children’s Bible)**

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see above the crowd. He ran ahead to a place where he knew Jesus would come. He climbed a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. He said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today.”

Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was pleased to have Jesus in his house. All the people saw this and began to complain, “Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!”

But Zacchaeus said to the Lord, “I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!”

Jesus said, “Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them.”

*The International Children’s Bible®,  
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### **Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story**

#### **Retelling through drama and play**

This is a well-known story that is perfect to retell in your own creative ways. Perhaps through drama, song, Lego, puppets or as a flip book. Get creative and have a go at retelling this story. Don’t forget, you can share your creations by sending them in for the YouTube page.

#### **Challenge – Make yourself taller**

How many different ways can you make yourself taller? Wearing high heels, using a ladder, climbing a tree, sitting on someone’s shoulders..... Have some fun this week trying to find ways to make yourself taller. Don’t forget to be careful and always have someone with you; when you are taller its further to fall!

#### **The story of our name**

Jesus knew Zacchaeus’ name; in fact, he knew everything about him. God knows you by name. But where did your name come from? Does it have a meaning? Why do you have the name you do? What about others in your family and your friends? What’s the story behind their name? Take some time as a family to share the stories of your names and celebrate who you are.

### **Game – The name game**

In the film *The Knights Tale* (PG), the servant (Chaucer) introduces the knight using many creative words (not all of them true). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idWO9ozir1Y>  
Just for laughs, have a go at making up big wordy introductions for each other and share them. For example, I would introduce my daughter to you by saying Here she is, the girl whose heart is so soft, angels use for it for a pillow. The girl whose talent is so big, she has to be the only one on stage. The girl who is so funny she brings a doctor with her to restitch your sides. The one the only, the magnificent beauty that is Jerrrrr mimah White!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A simple version of this game is to play it as a group, someone starts by saying their own name then everyone in turn must say another 'name' for them until you can't think of anymore, e.g. Jemimah, funny, beautiful, compassionate, cheeky, and so on

### **Bedtime Story**

Settle down together and enjoy this version of the story from the Jesus Storybook Bible Read by David Suchet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq5MuHVjiwo>

Why not revisit 70x7 which has lots more ideas for exploring forgiveness  
[https://urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/Resources/Families\\_on\\_Faith\\_Adventures\\_-\\_Week\\_9\\_-\\_70\\_x\\_7\\_Forgiveness.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/Resources/Families_on_Faith_Adventures_-_Week_9_-_70_x_7_Forgiveness.pdf)

### **Table Top Discussions**

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

- The story tells us that Jesus called Zacchaeus by his name. How did Jesus know his name and everything about him?
- Zacchaeus was not welcome by his community. Who are the people in your community that are often not welcomed?
- What do you think Jesus and Zacchaeus talked about over their meal?
- Do you think people in Zacchaeus's community accepted his apologies and were different with him?
- Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. What steps do you take to be with Jesus?

## 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:

Seen, Known, Forgiven  
Luke 19 verses 1-10



A toy to  
represent  
Jesus



Something with  
rainbow colours  
for God's promise



Pieces of tree,  
twig, bark, leaves,  
- or a toy tree



Binoculars or  
homemade ones

Bag of  
coins



Small toy to  
represent Zacchaeus



Child's tea set or  
unbreakable cup  
and plate

**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

### My Name Written in God's Hand

The story that reminds us that God knows where we are and calls us by our name. Just as Jesus knew Zacchaeus, we are known by name and loved for who we are, no matter what.



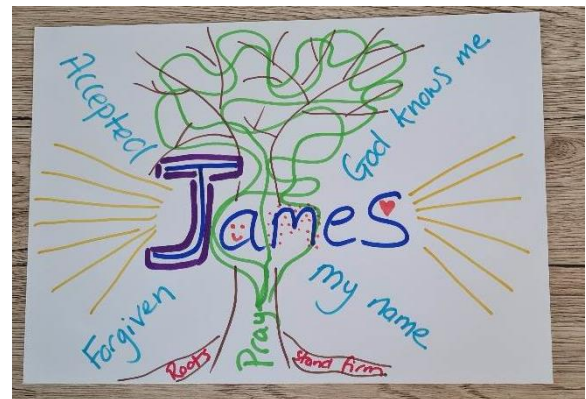
Write your name in the centre of a piece of A4 paper.

Spread some colouring pens and pencils out in front of you and, as you look at your name, start to see what colours, images and words come to mind. As you colour, let your thoughts and words become part of your name on the page.

*I will not forget you. See I have engraved your name on the palm of my hand.*

Isaiah 49:16

God has each of our names written on the palm of his hand. As you look at your name on the paper, imagine God holding you, keeping you safe, protecting you. Write down what makes you happy, sad, worry, be fearful, and want to shout for joy.



### Tree Prayers



Make a tree on a large piece of paper or some card from a delivery box. With paint or crayons, make a trunk and lots of branches. Cut out leaf shapes from paper.

As a family, write all the names of the people you know and think of - your family and friends, people at your school and work. See how many leaves you can make and then stick them to the tree. Put the tree somewhere where you can all see it, perhaps on a door or cupboard. Each time you pass the tree, touch one of the leaves and ask God to bless the person whose name you are touching.



## Pray Together

### Accepted and Forgiven

Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus with love and compassion when the rest of the town hated him. The story reminds us that we are already forgiven - all we need to do is respond and allow Jesus to change our lives.



Cut out a rectangle of card to make a bookmark. Cut out shapes to remind you that God knows you, perhaps an initial or a picture of you; a tick to remind you that you are accepted and forgiven; and a heart to remind you of God's love. Stick the shapes onto the book mark. As an alternative you could draw the shapes onto the card.



- I wonder what might you want to change?
- I wonder what might you want to say sorry for?

Play the song - I'm Accepted, I'm Forgiven by Devine Hymns  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmJSEhn7DtU>

Music is a good way to just still our minds and helps us to think. As you listen to the words place you finger on each of the symbols.

**Dear God**  
**Thank you for seeing me as I can be.**  
**Help me to grow into the person you know I can become.**  
**Amen**



*I wonder what Zacchaeus was thinking when he saw Jesus had spotted him up the tree?*

*I wonder if you've ever felt too small or unimportant to be noticed?*

*I wonder how Jesus knew Zacchaeus's name?*



*I wonder how people could spot the difference in Zacchaeus after he met with Jesus?*

*I wonder whether you live your life any differently because you know Jesus and Jesus knows you?*

**TO DO TOGETHER...**



**Revelation 21: 5 Behold I am Making All Things New**

Zacchaeus was not liked, and many people thought he was useless, but Jesus saw things differently and helped Zacchaeus become a different person. How often do we stop to see the usefulness in things? Here is a craft to help.

**You will need:** a recycled can (use a ring pull can rather than one opened with a tin opener for safety) or box

Coloured paper

Fabric or felt

Decorations e.g. stick on gems, buttons, shells, sticky shapes, dried pasta shapes, paper shapes or pictures cut from magazines, beads, stickers

Scissors, glue

Colouring pens



**What you do:**

Make sure whatever container you are using is clean and dry. Cover with paper and line the inside if you want to. Now you can decorate it using anything you want to make this feel more like yours. Choose a special Bible verse to write on it - there are some suggestions below. In God's eyes everyone is a treasure, even those that others reject. Your can has now become a treasure box you could keep special things in. What will you put in it?



**Suggested Bible Verses:**

Psalm 139: 1 'O Lord you search me, and you know me'

1 Samuel 16:7 'God does not look at people as we do - God looks at the heart'

Jeremiah 1:5 God said 'I knew you before you were born'

Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me'

Psalm 145: 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him



## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Name Plates

**You will need:** A large sheet of paper or card  
Some colouring pens or paint

**What you do:**

Design your name in graffiti style - you can use any font style you wish. Maybe look online for some ideas.

Decorate it in some 'unique to you' colouring. Cut it out and glue it onto some strong cardboard backing - if you wanted you could put some small pieces of card or sticky fasteners between the name and the backing to make it stand out. Then you could fasten it on your bedroom door with some blutack or by making two holes in the centre of the top and threading a piece of ribbon or string through to hang it from the door handle.







## TO DO TOGETHER...

### Zach Up a Tree

**You will need:**

- 1 Twix single, Mars single, or Twirl (for the trunk)
- 1 gummy bear or Jelly baby (for Zacchaeus)
- 1 bar of white chocolate
- Some Rice Krispie Cereal
- A few drops of green food colouring

#### **What you do:**

First let's make the rice krispie treat "leaves" of the tree.

In a LARGE microwave safe-bowl, melt the white chocolate slowly. Stir to mix and combine and, while stirring, add food colouring 2-3 drops at a time to get desired colour.

Add the cereal to the green goo and mix. Fold until the krispies are all coated and coloured green.

Allow to cool slightly while you prepare the "trunks".

Place your Twix single, Mars single or Twirl on a plate.

Make a small ball of the green Rice Krispie mix, about the size of a golf ball. You can use an ice-cream scoop if you have one, otherwise use a spoon. Flatten slightly and insert one "trunk" into the bottom of the flattened ball.

Add a Gummy bear or Jelly Baby.

Serve chilled and ENJOY!!!



# Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

**At Home:**

*Two of the holy habits that can help us in our journey with Jesus are to eat together and be generous. Jesus invited himself round to Zacchaeus's house for tea so that they could eat together and get to know each other, and one of the hard parts of lockdown has been not being able to eat or drink with people outside our household. So make a special effort this week to eat together as a family, maybe even to make each others' favourite meals.*

**Outside:**

*Zacchaeus climbed a tree to help him see Jesus. Trees are really special things – not only for their height. They help give us the oxygen we need to breathe. And they can affect our mood too. Find a tree and look at it closely. Get to know the bark, the leaves, the shape of the tree. Can you find out what type it is? Give your tree a hug or even climb up into the branches if you're allowed. Trees are part of God's creation, God's plan, and can point us to God.*

**For Others:**

*Jesus went to tea with Zacchaeus. Can you make a card with a teabag or a sachet of coffee or hot chocolate, if you have one, and send it to someone as a surprise? Maybe you could even arrange to meet up on Zoom and have a drink "together".*



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  
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Church