

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:

Spreading The Word
Genesis 11 Verses 1-9



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.

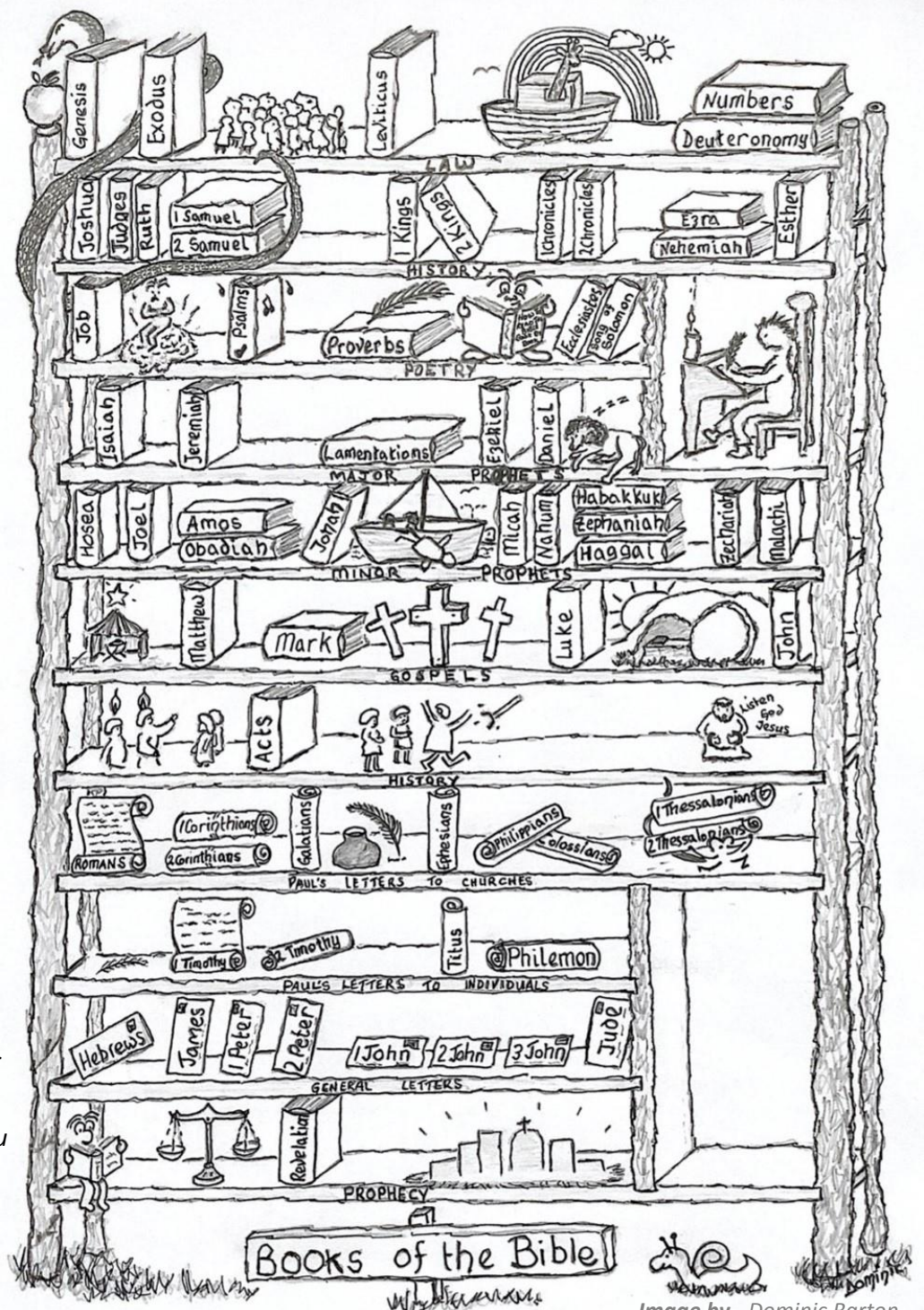
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 Genesis was written around 1430 BC by Moses. The book tells the stories of how the world was made and the stories of the first people. Genesis is a book of two halves. The first half (verses 1 – 11) tells the stories of all that happened before Abraham, including creation, the flood, and the Tower of Babel. The second half (verses 12 – 50) tells the stories of the people who would become the start of the nation of Israel, including Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph (many of these stories are found in the Jesse Tree).

The Tower of Babel is an origin story; it tells the story of how different languages came to be in the world.

The Story – Genesis 11 v 1-9 (The International Children's Bible)

At this time, the whole world spoke one language. Everyone used the same words. As people moved from the East, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia. They settled there to live.

They said to each other, "Let's make bricks and bake them to make them hard." So they used bricks instead of stones, and tar instead of mortar. Then they said to each other, "Let's build for ourselves a city and a tower. And let's make the top of the tower reach high into the sky. We will become famous. If we do this, we will not be scattered over all the earth."

The Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the people had built. The Lord said, "Now, these people are united. They all speak the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do. They will be able to do anything they want. Come, let us go down and confuse their language. Then they will not be able to understand each other."

So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth. And they stopped building the city. That is where the Lord confused the language of the whole world. So the place is called Babel. So the Lord caused them to spread out from there over all the whole world.

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

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

A cartoon version by Crossroad Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CW-NXNzdZhM>

Retold by Children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKr5BqlaHyA>

Told by a storyteller https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIG5h9P_rqk

Hello in different languages https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnVmsWIh_d0

Mr Tumble CBeebies simple Makaton <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIXsU4V0zz8>

Dance and Sing

All around the world by VBS kids https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjBxhdi_OT4

Celebration by World Kids Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Lu41LuQos>

He's got the whole world in his hands <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T1CLIMjiTw>

Amazing Grace from around the world <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BA7pdABvpnc>

Hello song in different languages <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=472AnCrHYVs>

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

A new story to share together

How The World Got New Words (a retelling of the Tower of Babel)

Listen to Nicola retell the story on [How the world got new words - YouTube](#)

In the beginning, the creator made the world and all its people. The people were one, they had one language, one song, one story and they were united.

They understood each other and worked well together. They built their cities and towns, filling them with their homes and temples.

They were one, one language, one song, one story and they were united.

But the creator wanted more for them, there was so much more world to cover, more to see and explore. And so, the creator sent them something new...

The creator put new words into their hearts and mouths. Now, they were not united by their words, or song or stories.

They had to work hard to understand each other, they had to speak slowly and help each other like never before.

The people collected themselves into groups, groups who all had similar new words, groups who had things in common and could understand each other. They moved further away from the city they had built. They spread out across the land and the whole world, celebrating their new words and languages, and learning to sing their new songs and stories.

They may have missed living as one united people, with one language, one song and story; but they had gained so much more.

Now they were not one, they were many. Not just in one place, but all around the world. Not just one song but many songs full of colour and creativity. Not one language but many with new words to learn and explore.

This is how the creator meant it to be.

We are still united as we all carry the creator's song in our hearts, but now we use many different and colourful words to sing it.

Now they are many; many words, many songs, and many stories.



families on faith adventures

at home

Made up Scrabble

Have a game of scrabble using only made up words. You can make up any word and place it down as long as you can pronounce it and explain its meaning. For example: digbed, pronounced Didgybed, means the sunken the groove in the bed that is left by a person sleeping in it for years.

Only in Our Family

Many families have words that they use that no one else uses. It might be a word that someone mispronounced once and everyone adopted its use from that point on. Or it might be a word you use to describe the thing that changes the TV channels. Celebrate the words and phrases that are unique to your family, discuss where it originally came from, who used it first. You could even capture them in a family dictionary.

Table Top Discussions

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

- Why do you think God wanted the people to be spread over the world speaking different languages?
- How many languages are spoken in your family tree? Is there a language you would like to learn?
- I wonder what God's language is? What about the angels, what language do they use?
- What do you think the world might have looked like if this story had not happened?
- Does a world of different languages and countries mean a confusion or something else?

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.



Multicoloured fabric



Bricks – LOTS!



Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



Green fabric



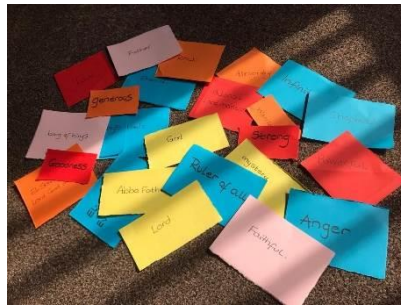
A spoon or paper
plate showing a
happy face on one
side and a sad face
on the other

Letters



Pray Together

Scatter Prayers

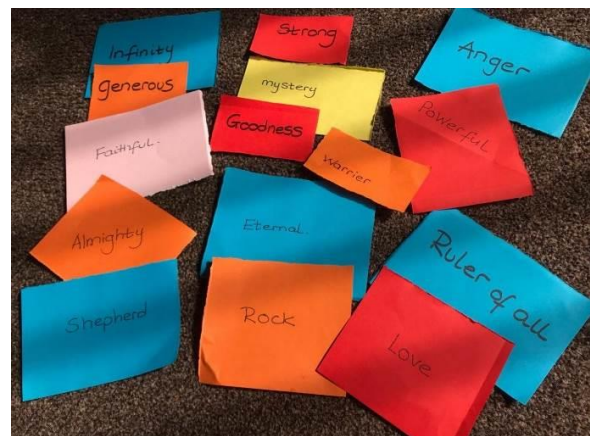


This is a chance for you to think a little deeper about God: the names often used to name God and the qualities and characteristics often associated with God. The pictures offer a few ideas to get you started, though you will probably be able to think of far more.

You will need: coloured paper and pens.



Write or draw the names and adjectives we sometimes use to describe God. Scatter these around, maybe over the table, maybe around your home, and occasionally pick one up and share it with the rest of the family. Look at the word you have found and use that to pray, to think a little deeper, and to talk to God.



Pray Together

Scattered Scrabble

Scatter Scrabble tiles in the centre of the table. The people in the story were scattered and they had to work hard to understand each other and learn to listen and speak in different ways. Use the scattered letters to make words to help you talk to God.

You can make connecting words of things you would like to talk to God about.

Or you can pick a letter at random to thank God to pray for something or someone.

Here are some ideas:

- Something that begins with (choose a letter)
- Something ending with (choose a letter)
- Something that has a (choose a letter) in it
- A letter that begins someone's name



An alternative

If you do not have Scrabble letters you could use a tin of Alphabet Spaghetti and find letters to use.

Tumbling Tower Prayers



Build a tower with Jenga bricks or any building brick that you have. As you build the tower write the words Bless, Sorry, Thank you and Help on the bricks or write on stickers you can put on the bricks. Take it in turns to remove a brick carefully from the tower. As you take out the brick, pray a prayer for the different bricks that you have removed. Continue praying with the bricks until the tower falls over, you can then have fun rebuilding it and starting again.



Dear God, please bless...
Dear God, I am sorry for...
Dear God, thank you for...
Dear God, please help...
Amen

families on faith adventures

at home

I wonder why the people decided to build a tower?

I wonder how many words you know and which are your favourite?

I wonder whether you know anyone who is more comfortable using a different language to yours or a communication method other than speech?



I wonder why you think God created so many different languages and dialects?

I wonder whether it is necessary to use special 'church' words to talk to God?



TO DO TOGETHER...

Tower of Babel - Paper Towers

You will need: A square of paper

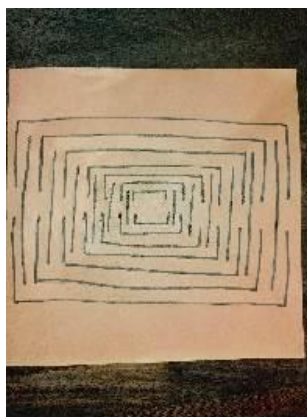
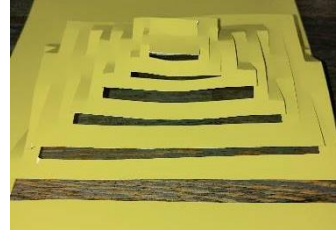
What you do:

Draw two square brackets facing inwards and then draw two lines, one above and one below, as in the picture.

Repeat this pattern until you fill your paper.

Cut along the lines you have drawn, you may need an adult to help with this.

Once it is all cut out, gently pull out the tower to make it tall like the tower in Babel, let it go and see it crumble.





TO DO TOGETHER...

World Pizza



You will need: 110g self-raising flour
120g Greek yogurt
Toppings of your choice from around the world,
including tomato sauce

What you do:

Combine the flour and yogurt in a large bowl and mix with a rubber spatula or wooden spoon until it's mostly combined.



Transfer to a well-floured surface & knead for 3-4 minutes or until the dough is smooth.

Cover the dough with a towel and let it rest for about 5 minutes.

Preheat oven to 220, gas mark 7.

Divide dough into four balls and roll out into large, flat circles.



Add toppings.

Bake 9-15 minutes depending on how heavily you add toppings.

As people have spread across the world, so different types of foods have developed in different countries. Try something on your pizza from a different country. How many different countries are represented on your pizza?



TO DO TOGETHER...

Mirror writing

You will need: A piece of paper folded in half or two separate pieces of paper
Paint

What you do:

Write a word or a message in thick paint on your paper.

Place your second piece of paper on top and press it down.

Remove it and see your message mirrored.

If you do this with one folded piece of paper, you will create a word butterfly!



An alternative

Alternatively, you can write a word and show it into a mirror.

Or have a go at looking in a mirror while you write. Can you write so that it looks right in a mirror but wrong on the paper?

Can you write a whole message in mirror writing? See if people can guess what your message is. Just as the people in Babel had their language mixed up, now our words look different from the way they originated and it can be fun to try to puzzle them out.

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

Today's story is about communication, and sometimes communication can cause problems. I wonder how you communicate with God? I wonder how you communicate with each other at home? This week, try really hard to make all your communication about building people up. If you don't understand something someone says, ask. If the other one asks, be patient. Ask God to bless how you use your words.

Outside:

As you go around outdoors, look carefully at how people have used words – on signs, on posters, on newspapers you see in the street, on adverts, on labels etc. What effect do those words have? Are people trying to be clever with their words? Are they trying to make you think in a certain way or believe a particular thing? God wants you to think carefully about what you hear and read.

For Others:

It's not always easy to communicate with others. Sometimes we need to make a bit of extra effort. Can you learn some BSL or Makaton signs to help you communicate, or learn to say a few things in a different language? It might be fun to get someone who uses that language or those signs to teach you.



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**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.



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