

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:

Let's Do Breakfast!
John 21 verses 1 - 14



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.

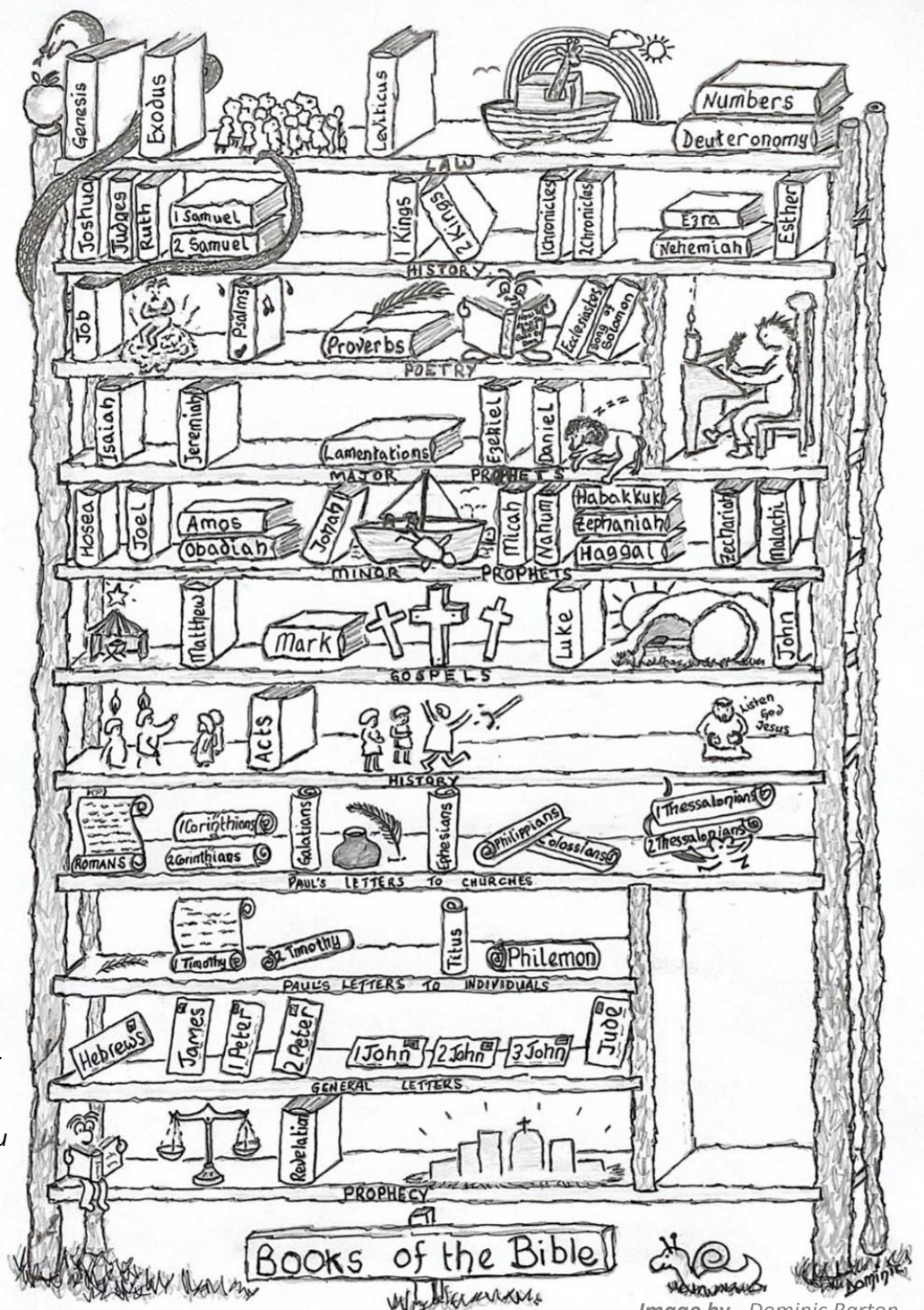
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – John

The book of John was written around 80 AD by the disciple of the same name. The book tells the stories of Jesus and the amazing things he did. John was a fisherman with his brother James and, when they became Jesus' disciples, they both spent a lot of time with Jesus. John writes in a way that is easy to read, which is why this book is often the first one new Christians will begin with in the Bible. John is trying to show us that Jesus was more than just a prophet or amazing man, Jesus was the Son of God.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

The Story told by Rachel Boxer (Guildford Diocese)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=jllFAk-321Q&fbclid=IwAR0aEH94Tost3fIsJituDbTdTYaN6Bi3PMdafurbPUosKspGmjGSMQ2b5IU>

Animation by Bible Blocks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18Ks1GbKqsI>

Toddlers Animation by SSPM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9xxmmM-4sw>

Retold by children in the Wonder Clubhouse (For younger children)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHMNQpNiL2I>

Told by RE:Quest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3md399yBEI>

Dance and Sing

I wanna be like Jesus by Stacy Yang <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUeffGGdmc>

Jesus is alive by Orange kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHn4XIFqXps>

Every step by Nick and Becky Drake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZBhKp5_HwE&list=RDnZBhKp5_HwE&start_radio=1

My best friend by Hillsong Kids https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_G2UwHpvMo

I am a friend of God by We are Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p8x2eK45fY>

The Story – John 21 v 1-14 (The International Children’s Bible)

Later, Jesus showed himself to his followers by Lake Galilee. This is how it happened: Some of the followers were together. They were Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. Simon Peter said, “I am going out to fish.”

The other followers said, “We will go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know that it was Jesus. Then he said to them, “Friends, have you caught any fish?”

They answered, “No.”

He said, “Throw your net into the water on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

The follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Peter heard him say this, he wrapped his coat around himself. (Peter had taken his clothes off.) Then he jumped into the water. The other followers went to shore in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. When the followers stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire, and there was bread.

Then Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish that you caught.”

Simon Peter went into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish. There were 153. Even though there were so many, the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, “Come and eat.” None of the followers dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

This was now the third time Jesus showed himself to his followers after he was raised from death.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

The Story Retold – An Ordinary Day?

It was an ordinary day. Things hadn't been ordinary for a while. Peter, James, John and the other disciples had spent three amazing, adventurous years with Jesus. They had seen him heal the sick, feed the 5,000 with a child's packed lunch, walk on water and raise the dead back to life. They had heard his amazing, sometimes confusing stories and they had shared many meals with him. It had been an amazing, extraordinary few years. They were with him when he was arrested and they saw him die on a cross. Then they had been amazed to see him back from the dead and standing amongst them. But then he had disappeared and the disciples had gone back to their ordinary lives.

Now they stood by the banks of Lake Galilee. The waves in the water looked as they always did, the beach felt the same between their toes, it was just another ordinary day. Peter, James, and John had been ordinary, humble fisherman before they became disciples and they were hungry. So they did what they had always done before, they jumped into their ordinary fishing boat and went out into the water. They fished all night long but caught nothing. This was quite ordinary. Sometimes you could fish all day and night and not catch anything! Nothing out of the ordinary about that.

The sun was beginning to rise and they still hadn't caught any fish. They were very hungry. Peter noticed someone on the beach by the edge of the water. It's quite ordinary to see people at the beach. This person was waving and so Peter waved back. The person then shouted out to them, asking a question that fisherman ALWAYS get asked; 'Have you caught anything?' a typical, ordinary question to ask.

'Nothing' Peter replied. The person continued to shout to them, 'Throw your nets on the other side of the boat'. The fishermen were confused; what did this person know? They were fisherman. They knew what they were doing. But something made them give it a try.

They threw their ordinary net over the side of their ordinary boat and something AMAZING happened. In seconds, the net was completely full. They hauled their amazing, surprising catch up into the boat. It was heavy with fish. Peter looked back at the person on the beach and knew immediately who this was; he jumped out of the boat and waded to the shore as fast as his legs could take him.

This was no ordinary man on the beach. This was Jesus!

It was AMAZING to see him again. He was alive and stood in front of them. Peter shouted back to the others to come and see. Jesus was stood by a fire and over the top were fish and bread cooking ready for breakfast. An ordinary breakfast for fisherman.

The disciples hauled their nets up onto the beach. They were still amazed and excited by the amount of fish. John even counted them. There were 153 in total - AMAZING!

They were so pleased to see Jesus again. He invited them to bring some of their fish and place it on the fire. They all sat down on the beach and enjoyed breakfast together.

An ordinary breakfast on an ordinary beach; but this was anything but ordinary. Jesus was back, he was alive and he was right there with them.

Jesus was with them in their ordinary day and Jesus promises to be with us in our ordinary days too; and that is AMAZING!

The Fish as a Christian Symbol



Have you ever seen this sign on the back of a car, or perhaps as a badge someone is wearing? It usually means the person is a Christian. In the days of the early Christian Church, the Romans did not like Christianity and so you could often be thrown into jail (or worse) for being a Christian. When two Christians met each other, they would draw the sign of the fish into the dusty ground as a secret code that they were both disciples. Some believe that one person would draw the first arc of the fish and if the other person was also a Christian they would draw the second arc, completing the fish. I wonder how many fish symbols you will notice this week.

Modern parable – The Rainbow Fish by Michael Pfister

Enjoy this colourful story about friendship and sacrifice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifXlc0QI2kY>

Table Top Discussions

Each day over a mealtime, have a quick conversation, perhaps you could do it at breakfast time. Here are a few questions to get you going.

- *In the story we hear that there were 153 fish in the net. This seems a strange number and there are lots of theories about why it was this amount. Some say it was one to represent each of the types of fish in the sea. Others believe it is a number linked to Pythagoras rule, so it shows how all knowledge comes from God. What do you think? Why 153 fish?*
- *They say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. I wonder why this is? What other meals are important to you as a family?*
- *We heard about how early Christians used the fish symbol to connect to each other during times when it wasn't always safe. Are there places where you feel the need to hide your faith? What other signs are there in your life that shows others you are a Christian?*
- *Jesus enjoyed having meals with people. What other stories can you think of where Jesus shares a meal with others? In what ways do we share our meals with Jesus?*
- *At each meal time this week, take some time to say where you have seen God that day.*

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.



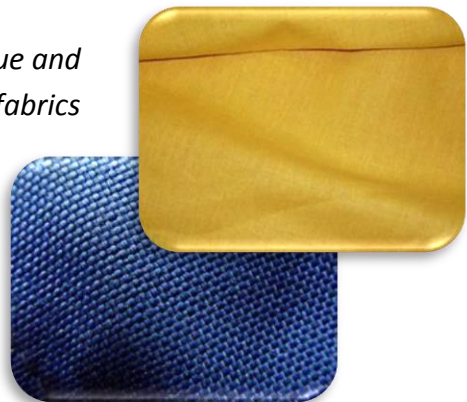
A toy to represent
Jesus

Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise



Play food / toy picnic

Blue and
yellow fabrics



A toy boat



Toy fish or
fishing game



Pray Together

Spinning Fish Prayers

The fish symbol is recognised around the world as a symbol for Christians. Because it is an international symbol, we can use the fish symbol to help us pray for different world situations.



Cut some strips of paper - the width of A4 paper is a good length and 1.5 – 2cm wide.

Cut a slit in opposite sides about 2cm in from the end.

This is joined to form a fish shape by interlocking the two slits.

Write your prayers on the strips of paper, thinking about situations where there is fighting or unrest, where people are hungry and there is a need for rain to grow food. It is challenging to see situations around the world and not know what we can do to help, but the one thing we can definitely do is to pray.

Once you have written your prayers, fold over the strips of paper and join them to form a fish shape.

Take the fish shape and hold it as high as you can above your head and then let go. Watch as it spins to the ground. This is a sign of you giving your prayers to God. As the fish reaches the ground, say Amen.



Pray Together

Magnetic Fish

Jesus met with his friends and shared a meal of fish and bread with them. We cannot always be close to our friends and family, but we can talk to God about them and ask God to bless them and keep them safe.



Cut out some fish shapes from metallic card or stick silver foil to card. Make lots of fish and then write the names of your family and friends on them. Get everyone in the family to join in so that you have lots of fish. Put a paper clip on the mouth of each fish and scatter them on the floor. Attach a magnet to a piece of string and attach to the end of a stick or cane to be your fishing rod.

Take it in turns to go fishing and, as you catch a fish, read out the name on the card and say a short prayer.

Dear God please bless..... and keep them safe.

Everyone can join in with an amen before the next fish is caught!

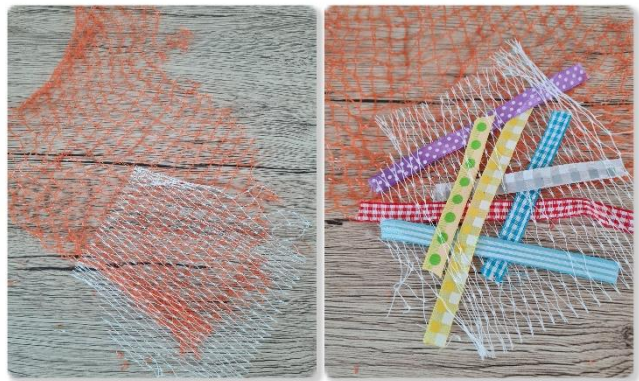
Pray Together

Prayer Net

The disciples caught a net full-to-overflowing with fish. Here is an idea to make a net full-to-overflowing with prayers.



Use a net bag from either cheese or fruit to make a mini net. Cut some lengths of wool, string or ribbon. Place the net in the centre of the table and take it in turns to weave a prayer into the net using lengths of wool etc as your prayers. You can do this quietly, as God knows the prayers in our hearts and minds. Take some time to sit quietly or you could listen to some reflective music as you weave.



Music suggestions

Be still – Hillsong worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zcHHp0GTuc>

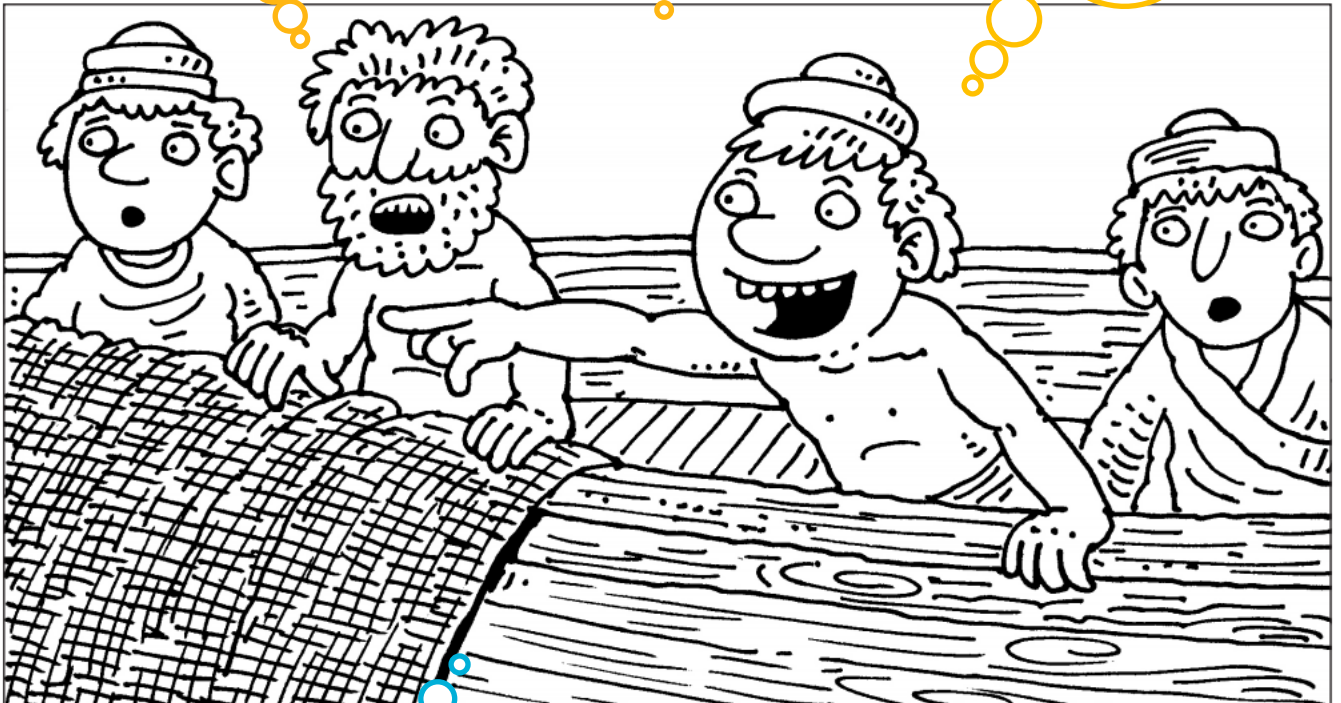
Be still and know – Scripture Lullabies

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

I wonder why the disciples chose to go back to fishing?

I wonder which is your favourite part of this story?

I wonder how the disciples were feeling before Jesus appeared on the beach?



I wonder how you feel and what you do when you see someone special who you've not see for ages?

*I wonder whether you ever feel tempted to do things that your faith or your conscience says you should not do?
How do you stay strong?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Let's do Breakfast

You will need: Breakfast items such as cereal, eggs, toast, bacon, fruit
Breakfast drinks such as orange juice, milk

What you do:

Jesus invited the disciples to come and have breakfast.

Why not make breakfast for someone else?
Remember to get help pouring things or cooking hot food if you need it.

Prepare a tray or table, and then invite someone in your family for breakfast. Here are some breakfast ideas.





TO DO TOGETHER...



Wobbly Fish

You will need: Some coloured paper
Scissors
Glue

What you do:

Cut a square of paper and fold it in half across the diagonal.

Open it up and fold the two opposite corners into the middle to make a kite shape.

Open the paper up again and fold along the original diagonal fold. Using scissors, cut from the fold line to the crease line. Do this all the way along that fold line stopping about a 1cm from the end.

Fold the fish back into a kite shape and round off the point.

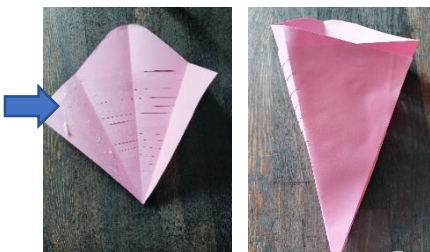
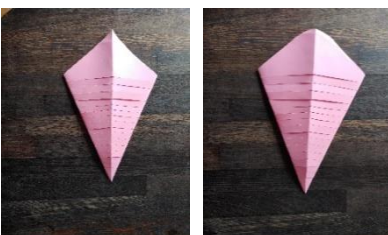
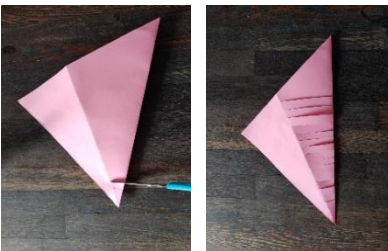
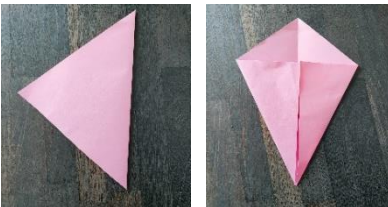
Turn it over and glue one of the sides to the other side.

Fold a small piece of paper and draw half a heart shape on to both sides, this will give you the shapes you need for the fins and tail. Cut them out and glue these in place.

Draw on some eyes.

How many fish did the Disciples catch?

You can make lots of different types of fish.





TO DO TOGETHER...

A Beach In a Jar

You will need: A jar or plastic tub
Play sand
Small stones or stone coloured beads
Small Shells or some shell shaped sequins
Some fish shapes made from card, split pins or paperclips

What you do:

Fill a clean dry jar or tub with play sand, add in the shells or shell shapes, pebbles or beads, and fish shapes.

Close the lid and shake the jar gently.

What can you see? As you shake it and look at your beach in a jar, remember Jesus meeting the disciples on the beach for breakfast.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

The disciples were surprised by the sheer number of fish they caught when Jesus told them to throw their nets out on the other side of the boat. I wonder who you can surprise this week by doing more than they ask for? Maybe if someone asks you to make your bed, you could not only make your bed but make theirs as well. Maybe if they ask you to make them a drink, you could give them a biscuit too. Maybe if they ask you to do the dishes, you could dry the dishes and put them away when you finish.

Outside:

The fish symbol is used by many people to show that they are Christians. As you are out and about, keep your eyes open for the Christian fish symbol and, whenever you see one, say a prayer for people around the world who have to keep their faith a secret or hidden from others.

For Others:

Peter leapt out of the boat before it reached the shore, he was so pleased and excited to see Jesus again. As the restrictions lift after lockdown, we are able to see and mix with more people at last, and even hug those who are particularly special to us. Can you find ways to show other people just how pleased you are to see them?



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.



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