

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:

All Sorts of Families
Ruth 1 Verses 6-11 and 14-19



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.

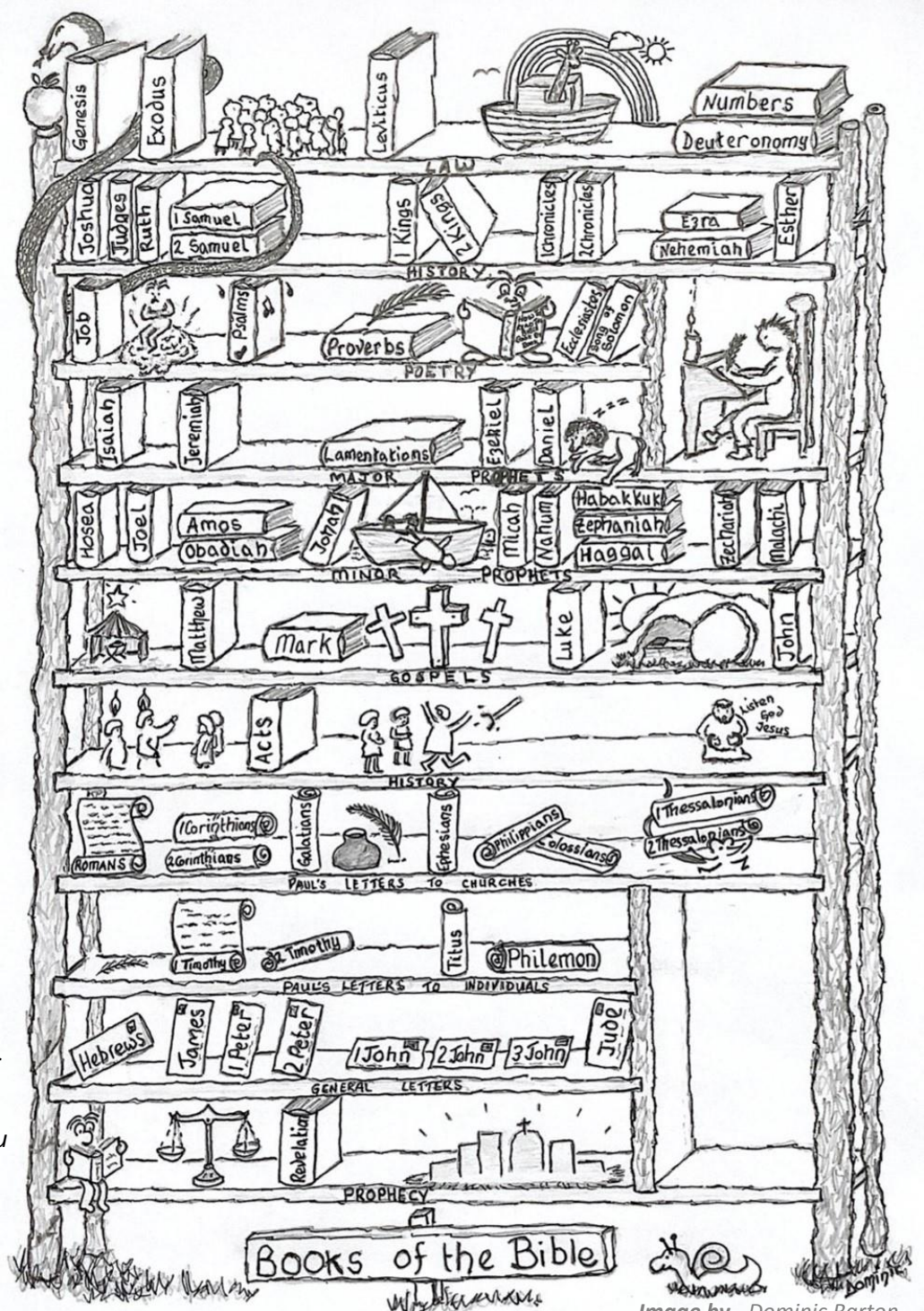
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – Ruth

The book of Ruth was written around 1100 BC and it is thought the author is the prophet Samuel. The book tells the story of a Moabite woman called Ruth who leaves her people and home to stay with her mother in law Naomi. Most of the book takes place in Bethlehem and Ruth becomes the great grandmother of King David, leading to Jesus' birth.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

Fun version by What's in the bible (VeggieTales)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Kt0qeKYNs4>

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

Retold in Lego by Messenger Brickfilms <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31EiO3qbGJq>

Told for toddlers by the Little worship company

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otb4_KsCC0Q

Retold by children at Crossroads Kids Club

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0t2qWjzDug>

Dance and Sing

I'll go by LifeKids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kPqPDhx3yA>

You never let go by Kids worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62H_ICNRKi8

You are my God by Preschool worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbfafXcO4dA>

Wherever you go By Bethany Paige (Reflective song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QnT323Gahq>

I will follow by Calvary Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8Chv0QmRjk>

The Story – Ruth 1 v 6-11 and 14-19 (The International Children’s Bible)

While Naomi was in Moab, she heard that the Lord had taken care of his people. He had given food to them in Judah. So Naomi got ready to leave Moab and go back home. The wives of Naomi’s sons also got ready to go with her. So they left the place where they had lived. And they started back on the way to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back home. Each of you go to your own mother’s house. You have been very kind to me and to my sons who are now dead. I hope the Lord will also be kind to you in the same way. I hope the Lord will give you another home and a new husband.”

Then Naomi kissed the women. And they began to cry out loud. Her daughters-in-law said to her, “No. We will go with you to your people.”

But Naomi said, “My daughters, go back to your own homes. Why do you want to go with me? I cannot give birth to more sons to give you new husbands.

The women cried together again. Then Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye, but Ruth held on to her.

Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is going back to her own people and her own gods. Go back with her.”

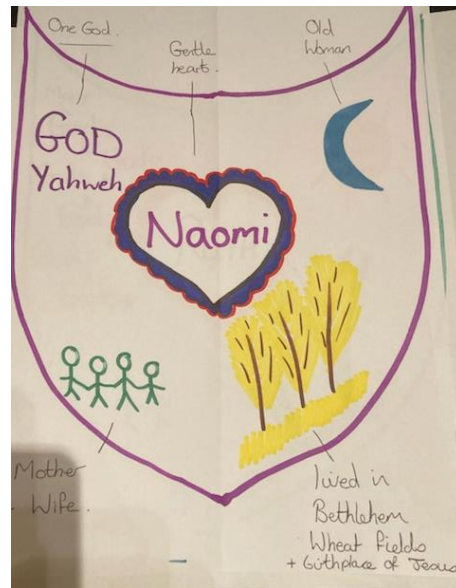
But Ruth said, “Don’t ask me to leave you! Don’t beg me not to follow you! Every place you go, I will go. Every place you live, I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. And where you die, I will die. And there I will be buried. I ask the Lord to punish me terribly if I do not keep this promise: Only death will separate us.”

Naomi saw that Ruth had made up her mind to go with her. So Naomi stopped arguing with her. Naomi and Ruth went on until they came to the town of Bethlehem.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

Family Heraldry: families coming together

In days gone by, families would have their own shield with their own images on. These images meant something to the family and would show where they lived, what they believed, what jobs they had and more. When two families merged, normally through marriage, the shields and images would also merge to show a new family shield. Here is an example using Ruth, Naomi, and their new family together.



Why not have a go at making your own either for this story or your own family story.

Not all families look the same

This story is a good example of a blended family. Ruth leaves own family, religion and 'tribe' and joins Naomi's, saying "your people will be my people, your God will be my God". It's a good reminder that not all families look the same. Families change and develop; they grow and shrink. What other examples of blended families can you think of? Do you have someone in your family who has become part of your 'chosen' family?

As you chat, you might like to check out this song Chosen Family by Elton John and Rina Sawayama <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTDRq5G77x4>

Table Top Discussions

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

- Tell the story of your families to each other. Where have you all come from and how did you all come to be together? What led you to the family you are now? Adopted children often have a life-story book to help them understand how they fitted into their birth family and how they came to be part of their adoptive family. Do you have a book like this? Or could you make one?*
- Perhaps think of the missing parts in your story and talk about the impact of them.*
- Why did Ruth decide to stay with Naomi when she would have easily remarried in her home country?*
- What can this story teach us about families?*
- If you could swap families with anyone, who would you swap with?*

families on faith adventures

at 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.

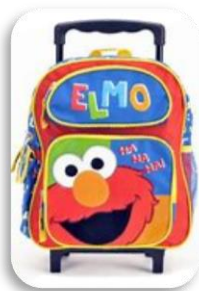


Something with
rainbow colours
for God's promise

Two toys to
represent Ruth
and Naomi



A suitcase



Photos of
your family



Wheat or grains if you have
them, maybe porridge oats or
wheatbix/shredded wheat if not



Walking shoes

Pray Together



Family Prayer Jar

You will need: A jar
Card labels
String or wool



Decorate your jar. Cut out some label shapes from card, make a hole in the top and thread string or wool through to make it like a gift tag.

Write or draw pictures of people who are part of your family, your friends and people you would like to pray for. Put the labels in the jar.

Place the jar in the centre of the table. Take it in turns to take out a card and say thank you to God for that person and ask God to bless them. Try doing this when you share a meal together as a family.

Dear God thank you for..... Please bless them in all they do today. Amen

Pray Together

Family Circle Prayers



Make a circle on the floor or table using a piece of wool or string. Make pictures or find photos of your family. As an alternative you could use play figures to be your family. Place them in the circle.

Know that God's love is all around you like the circle.



*Loving God, we bring to you in our prayers all those who make up our family circle.
We love them but we know your love for them is much greater.
Thank you for all who love us and for your special loving care.
Help us to love our friends and neighbours with your kind of gentle love.
Help us, when we are annoyed or tired, to control our behaviour so that we do not hurt other people by what we say or do.
You forgive us dear God. Please help us to forgive others even when we are hurt, and to dry our tears and trust in you when life is sad.
Help us to bring love, wherever we go.
Amen.*

Pray Together

Mosaic Prayers



Make squares of coloured card or, as an alternative, you could cut up a picture from an old magazine.

God makes each of us different and unique but we come together as family in our homes and our churches and make one colourful picture.

Perhaps there are people who you know who are hurting, poorly or sad. For each of these people, tear off a corner. Tear a square in half for things that feel broken.

Place the pieces together to make a patchwork quilt.

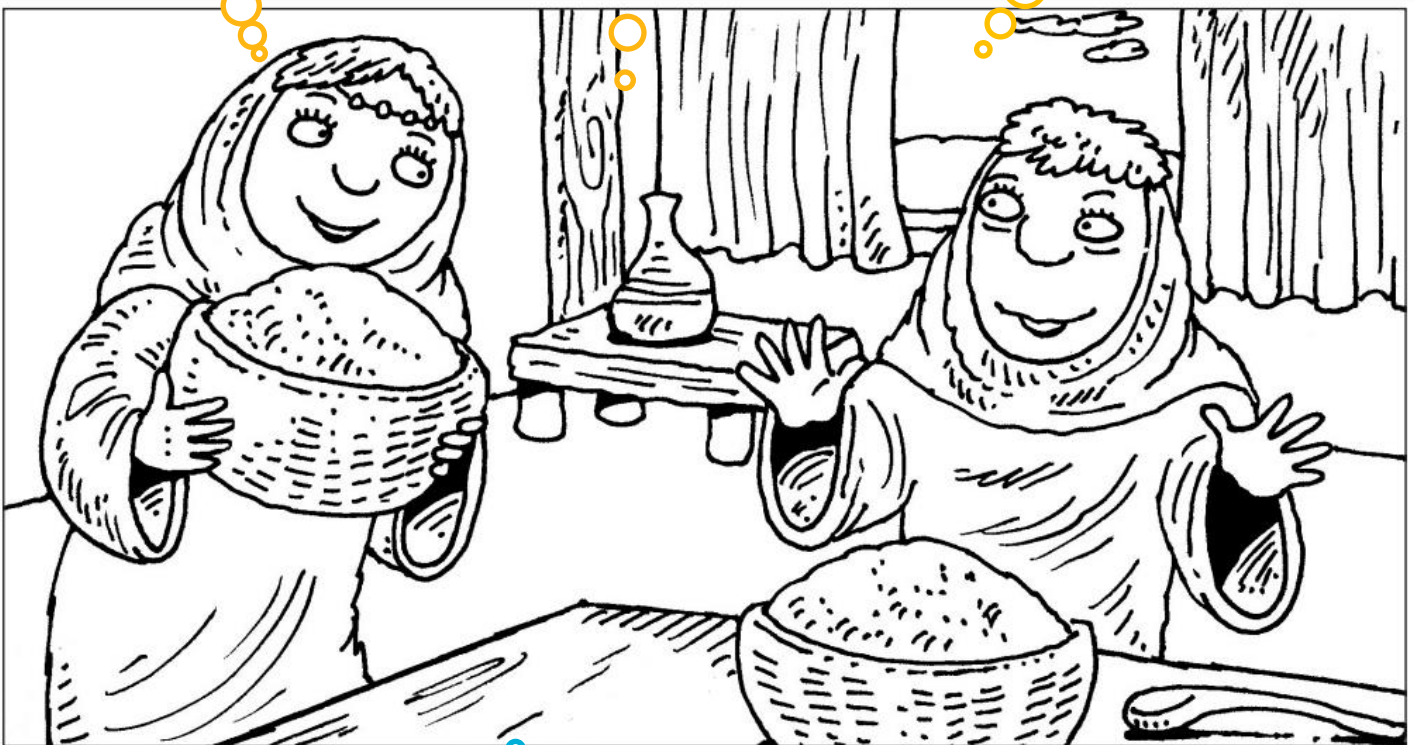


Touch the pieces or hold your hand over them as you talk to God about all the different people and situations. Ask God to be with them. Sit quietly for a moment and then end your quiet time by saying Amen.

*I wonder what
'family' means
to you?*

*I wonder if you have
someone who is much
older or younger who
is really special to you?*

*I wonder where
God is in this
story?*



*I wonder what it feels
like to move to a new
place, a new country?*

*I wonder if this story
can help us understand
what it means to be
part of God's family?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Smoothies

You will need: Fruit or vegetables of your choice
Milk or fruit juice
Yogurt or ice cream (optional)

What you do:

Think about what you would like in your smoothie. Here are some examples you might try, but the choice is completely up to you: carrot & orange, kiwi & kale, strawberry & banana.

Chop up your fruit or vegetables roughly and add some milk or fruit juice (you could also add some yogurt or ice cream at this point, if you wish). Blend it using a hand blender or a food processor until it is smooth and then pour it into a glass.

As the fruit and vegetables are blending together to make tasty smoothies, think about how Ruth's family blended together and also think about your own family and how it has been made up or changed over time. Thank God for families of all sorts.





TO DO TOGETHER...

Picture Puzzles

You will need: 6 pictures of roughly the same size
4 cubes (you could use wooden blocks or a cardboard cube template)

What you do:

Cut the pictures to be the same size as four cubes joined together to make a large square.

Number the cubes 1 to 4.

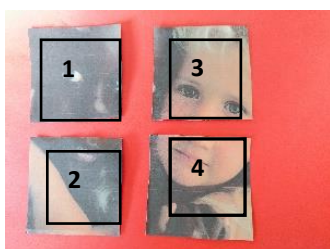
Cut the pictures into quarters and, on the back, number each quarter, always following the same pattern (e.g. top left is always number one, top right is always number 2 etc).

Glue the four quarters on to one side of each of the four cubes, making sure that the four quarters are each on the cube which has the same number on it.

Turn the cubes and stick the next picture quarters in place, again making sure that each quarter is on the cube of the same number. Repeat this until all the sides of the cubes have a different image on them.

Now mix them up and try and make the picture again. See how many strange images you can make. Can you make each of the original pictures?

As you play with the blocks, think about how Ruth's family came into being.





TO DO TOGETHER...

Mixed up faces

You will need: Some images of faces from magazines or photos of your own family that you're willing to sacrifice.

What you do:

Cut out images of faces, they need to be roughly the same size.

Then cut each picture into three, across the mouth and across the nose.

Now mix up your pictures and choose the different parts to create a new face.

As you mix up the pictures, think about how families and friends get mixed up and change over time, for example when a new baby is born, or someone gets married, when we change class in school or move from Cubs to Scouts and meet new friends. Each new group of people we belong to has an impact on how we develop and change too.



Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

Ruth promised always to be there for Naomi. Now that children are back at school and some parents and carers are starting to be out at work or doing things like shopping, we might forget about spending time together. See if you can spend some time doing a chore together like washing the car, weeding the garden, cleaning the windows, tidying a room etc and some time doing something fun together like playing a game, singing karaoke, dancing to some music etc.

Outside:

When you are walking somewhere together, why not talk about all the things you like to share as a family and what makes your family special. As you walk, look at the people you pass in the street and remember that they are part of God's family too.

For Others:

Think about those people who you are not really related to but who feel like they are part of the family. Send them a card to tell them so!



The
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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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