

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:

Frame it!

Deuteronomy 8: 6-11



*Illustration by
Sweet Publishing / FreeBibleimages.org*



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.

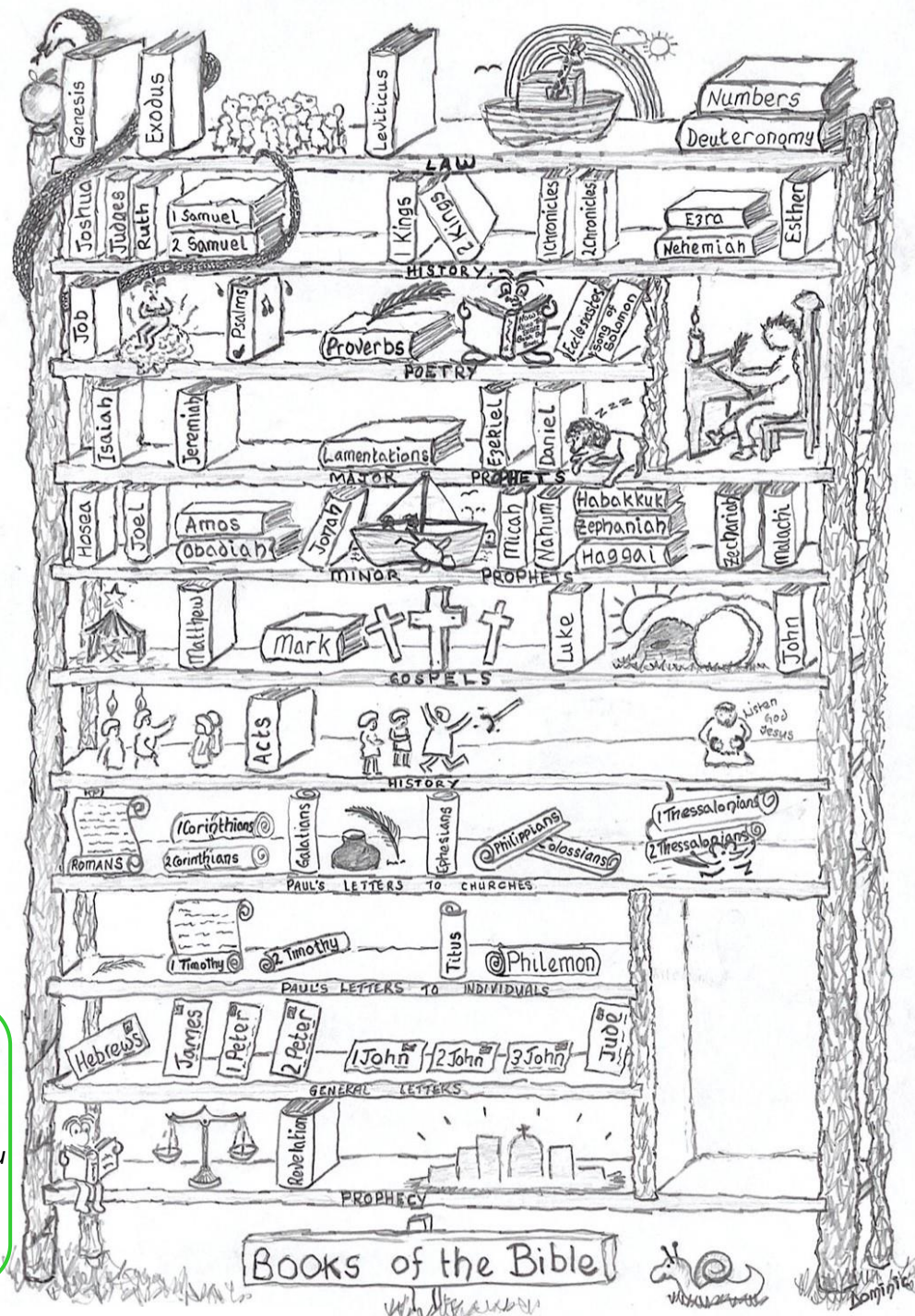
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – Frame it!

The book of Deuteronomy was thought to be written by Moses around 1400 BC. This seems strange as it covers the time period when Moses died.

It covers around 50 years of time where the Israelite children, who had left captivity in Egypt, had wandered in the desert for 40 years and were now grown adults. The book reminds this new generation of the laws God gave under Moses' leadership. It also contains a final blessing that Moses gives before his death.

The Story – Deuteronomy 8 v 6 - 11 (The International Children's Bible)

Obey the commands of the Lord your God. Live as he has commanded you and respect him. The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land. The land has rivers and pools of water. Springs flow in the valleys and hills. The land has wheat and barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey. It is a land where you will have plenty of food. You will have everything you need there. The rocks are iron. You can dig copper out of the hills.

You will have all you want to eat. Then praise the Lord your God. He has given you a good land. Be careful not to forget the Lord your God. Do not fail to obey his commands, laws, and rules. I am giving them to you today.

Scriptures quoted from the International Children's Bible®, copyright ©1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson.
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Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Don't Forget to Remember read by Ellie Holcomb

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

God's law of love by Lifetree Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRdiXSRD7d0>

Love God, Love Others by Kidmocm https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14hOxWe_FVU

Dance and sing

Don't forget to Remember by Ellie Holcomb

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNsoXsyeUE0>

I am a child of God by Lifetree Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5MeNT1GEAI>

World outside your window by Hillsong young and free

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpB7s61iOqM>

Waving through a window by Pentatonix <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpqEeFk7qos>

This is God's world by Paul Field https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_9_8A-HmNM

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

Window on the world God has given you

Use the pictures attached or use the video collection of windows around the world <https://youtu.be/3guJP5B3L0g> Take some time to explore the views from other people's windows. What do you see? What do you notice? Which window would you like to be sat next to? What's your favourite view from a window you can remember?

Perhaps take some time to look out of each window in your home, often each window gives a very different view.

The passage in Deuteronomy encourages us to appreciate and celebrate the place we find ourselves in. To celebrate the part of creation we are living in. The passage lists different types of landscape - what would the list include from your area?

Find ways to celebrate and enjoy your 'views'. You could take a photo from the same window at different times of the day to see how the view changes. You could paint or draw your favourite view. You could write a poem or list. Whatever you do, take time, appreciate it, and thank God for your own view.



Table Top Discussions

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

- We have spent a lot of our time indoors over the past 18 months. What are some of the things you remember seeing from your window?
- As Christians, we give people a glimpse into what God might be like. How do we do this? What do others see in you?
- What's the best view you have ever had from a window?
- Why do you believe God has put you in the area you are in? Is there something we should be doing?
- How important do you think the old Moses Laws (10 commandments) are to us nowadays?
- When Jesus was asked what the most important rule was, he said, "Love God and Love Others". How do we do this?



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:

Frame it!

Deuteronomy 8: 6-11



Illustration by Sweet Publishing / FreeBibleimages.org



A bottle of water

Green fabric



A frame to look through



A mirror or foil to look like water



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



Bread or cracker or rice cake to eat

Some small items made of different metals



Please supervise small children! Watch out for small items being swallowed, ensure sticks are not splintery or sharp, etc.



Twigs or tree bark



Fruit and berries to eat (remember to cut grapes in half lengthways)

Pray Together

Look out and pray

Set up a space near a window in your home. Make it a comfortable space to sit and add a Bible and some paper and pens. Add anything else to the space that might help you to sit, think and pray.

Each day, try to make time to sit near this window and take time to be still. Look out onto your view and pray for the things you see and hear, or for the things that God places on your mind. Pray for your community, your neighbours, the animals, and creation you have around you. Pray for yourself and your family too.

It's good to have space to daydream. God has often spoken to people in these moments. You might like to draw or write as you pray.

Read Deuteronomy 8 again and thank God for the place you are living in.



Praying for your food



As you prepare your food, think of God's provision. What food do you have in your kitchen and where has it been grown or made? How many different types of food are there on your plate? What are the ingredients and where do they come from? Are any produced near where you live? Maybe you've even grown some yourself!

Thank God for all the different landscapes and types of places where food grows, and pray for all those who work to bring your food to your table.

Pray together

Sun catcher prayers

Have you made a sun catcher? As the sun catcher spins, take time to pray for others, for God's big beautiful world, for the people we live with and the places we live. Ask God to fill you with love for God and creation and show you how to live in the way God would want you to live.

If you don't have a suncatcher or somewhere to hang it, see if you can use something (a mirror, a shiny teaspoon, a watch etc) to reflect the light that comes in through your window and make it dance on the wall.



Deuteronomy prayer

God, you are so good to me. Help me live how you want me to.

Thank you for all the good things in the place where I live.

Thank you for roads and houses, grass and trees.

Thank you for all the materials that go to build my house.

Thank you for all the meat and vegetables, grain, fruit, milk, eggs and berries that go to make my food.

Thank you for clean water and natural water wherever I look.

Thank you for creating the earth and making it good.

God, you are so good to me. Help me to live how you want me to.

Amen

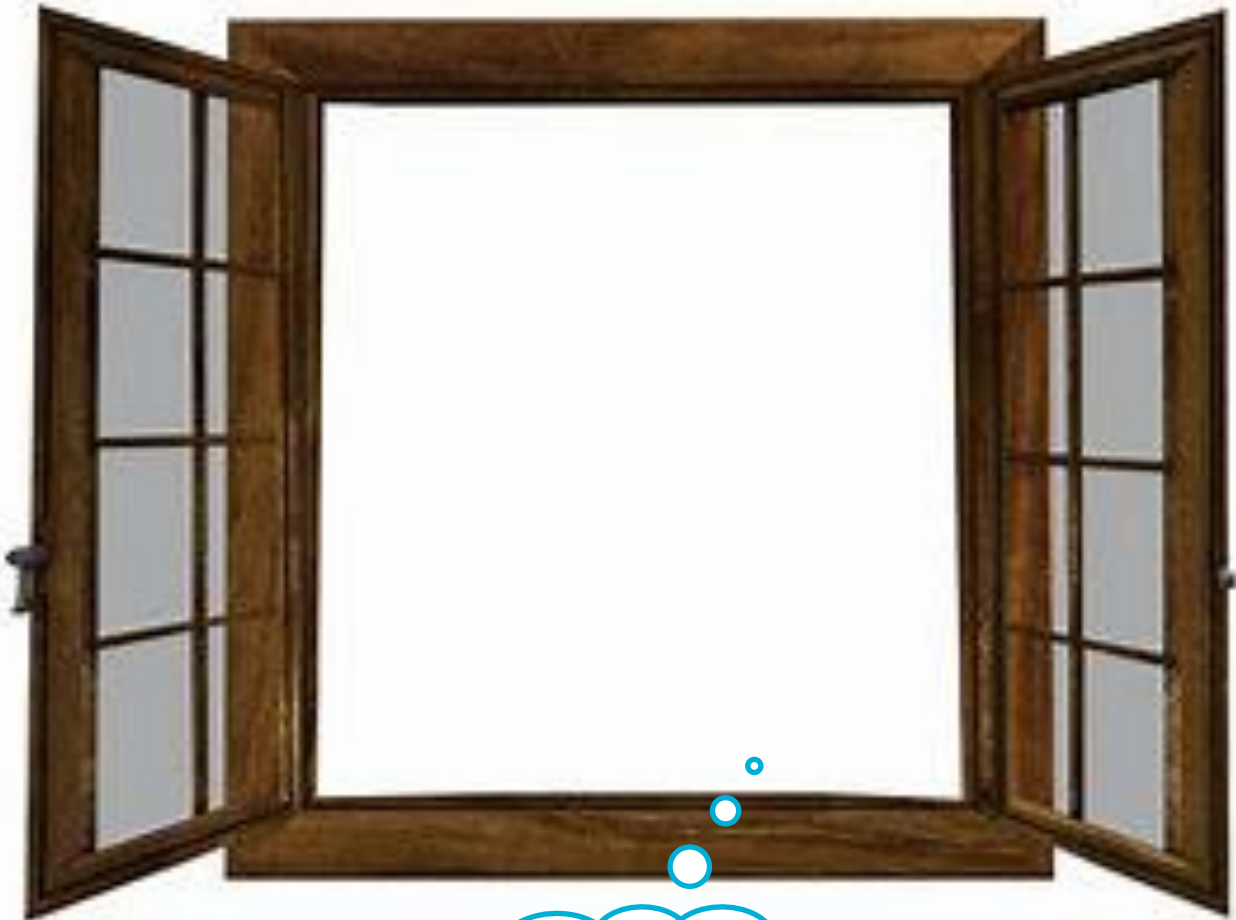
families on faith adventures

at home

*I wonder what your
favourite place is to visit
and why?*

*I wonder how easy it is
to remember that
everything good we
have comes from God?*

*I wonder what grows
or is produced/made
in the area where you
live?*



*I wonder what you
will choose to draw in
this space?*

Illustration from pixabay

*I wonder how we can
best share the good
things God has given us
with others?*

*I wonder if it is easier to
trust God when we have
little or when we have plenty
and more?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Flapjack

You will need:

- 25g butter, plus extra to grease the tin
- 75g caster sugar
- 4 tbsp honey
- 350g porridge oats



What you do: Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas

4.

Butter and line a 30 x 15cm rectangle tin with baking parchment.

Melt the butter, sugar and honey in a pan over a medium heat, stirring frequently until the butter has melted and the mixture is smooth.



Put the oats in a mixing bowl, then pour the butter and honey mixture over them. Stir until all the oats are coated.

Tip into the prepared tin, and use a spatula or the back of a spoon to evenly spread out the mixture.

Cook for 10-15 mins until lightly golden.

Leave to cool in the tin, then remove before cutting into squares. Decorate each square using a different pattern with icing or melted chocolate.





TO DO TOGETHER...



Small World Play

You will need: Some small toys and a mat to play on.

What you do: Create different scenes to play with. For example, we created a scene of an adventure park, a mini beasts world, and we created another scene at the beach.

God has created a beautiful world with different views from different places. What does your place look like?

CD sun catchers

You will need:

- An old CD
- Paper
- Glue
- String
- Glitter or sequins



What you do: Place the CD on a piece of paper and draw around it, cut the shape out and glue it to cover the side of the CD with images on.

Decorate your CD with images or words like, Love God and Love others, or other thoughts that have come to mind through this week's Faith adventure.

Use sequins or glitter, if you have them, on the paper so that this side of your sun catcher catches the sun too.



Put a string or wool through the hole in the centre of the CD and tie a big loop so that you can hang the suncatcher somewhere where it will catch the light and be able to spin – maybe from a tree or dangling in the window.

As the sun catches the CD and shows all the lovely colours which are reflected around, think about how we frame God's world and reflect God's goodness to those around us.

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

Look in your food cupboards or when you go shopping. What countries do the foods you buy come from? Do they travel a long way? Are they fairly traded? Thank God for the people who work to provide you with the things you need and try to make sure that they are produced in a way that doesn't take advantage of other people or damage the environment.

Outside:

This reading is all about the good things of the land so find an opportunity to go out and walk around your local area. What can you find that reminds you of God's good gifts? Can you spot fruit or berries growing or is anyone growing vegetables in their garden or allotment? Can you spot trees? Sources of water (including taps!)? What can you see that's made of metal or wood or glass? Maybe this is a good opportunity for an Autumn picnic.

For Others:

Make a bounty-box. Can you put some good things in for someone? Maybe a carton of drink, a piece of fruit, a cake or piece of chocolate, a small gift. Add a card which says "eat and be full, and bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you". Decorate it nicely and give it to someone who works hard to do good things for you.



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.

