

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:

Prepare the Way

Mark 1: 1-12



Illustration by
Lambsongs.co.nz via freebibleimages.com



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.

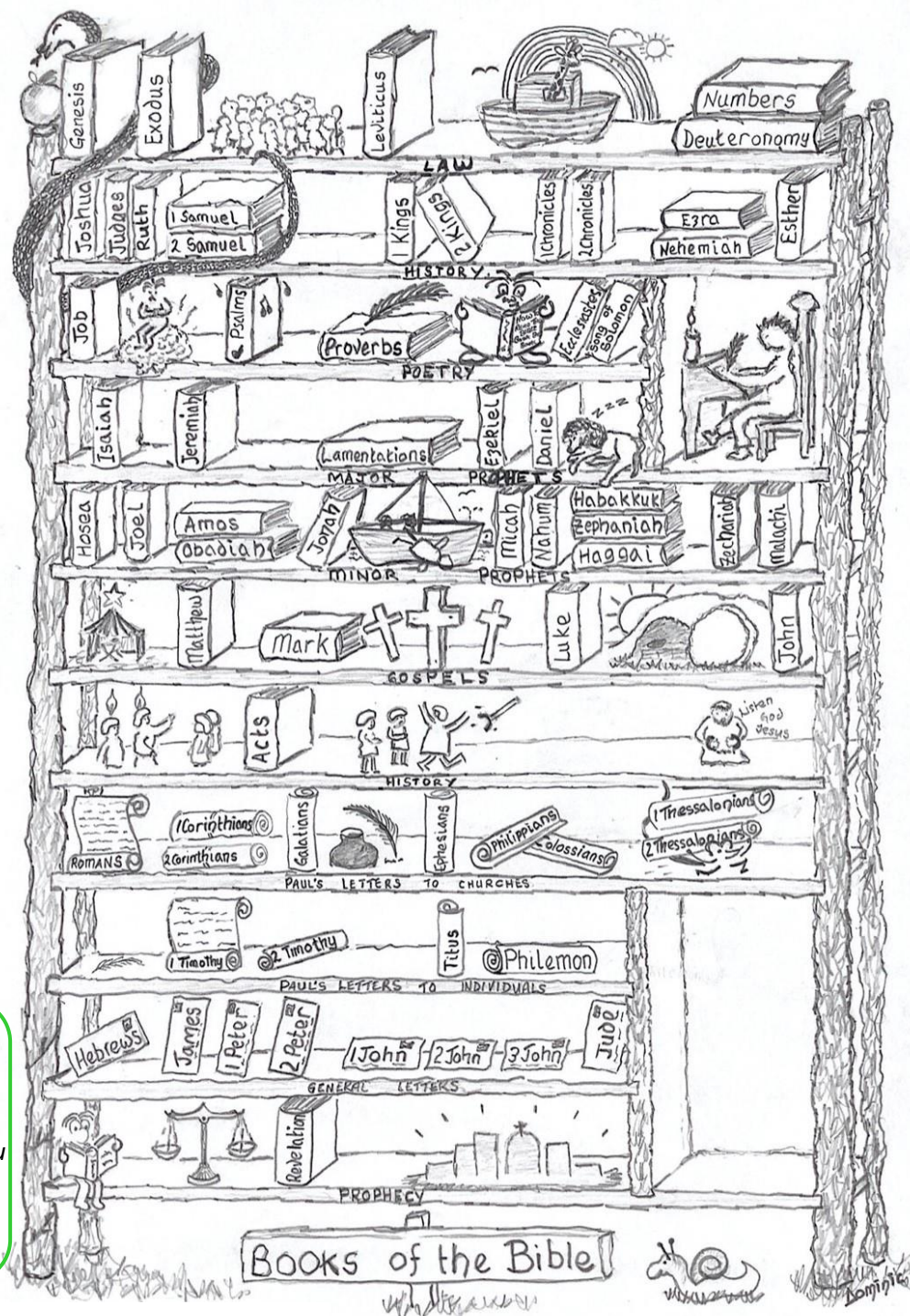
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – Prepare the way

Bible Context: The book of Mark was written around 50 AD by Mark (John Mark) who was a friend of the disciple Peter and later travelled with Paul. The book is full of miracles and Mark wants his readers to see how powerful, kind, and merciful God is.

The book begins with the story of John (Jesus's cousin) who is preparing the way for Jesus. He is telling people about God and is baptising them to be followers of God. He is also telling them that Jesus is coming.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Story from the Jesus Storybook bible read by David Suchet

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

Jesus is baptised cartoon by Saddleback kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAmwA>

John the Baptist by Crossroads Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NMHOLPWeTM>

Story for older children by Kids on the move <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88JYcN2-FiQ>

Read along video by Foundry Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO84K9RuF0>

Dance and sing

Got that feeling (Trolls) cover by Valley Children's Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAEe3idzOMc>

Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Godspell) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1SiaCV26aQ>

Jesus Holy Cokey by 7servants <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAdvwa78UGq>

Jesus in the morning by Lifetree Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F-spTjIGB0>

Reppin Jesus by Praise Blast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAJCaCL_nHE

The Story – Mark 1 v 1 - 11 (The International Children’s Bible)

This is the beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as the prophet Isaiah wrote:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you.

He will prepare your way.” [Malachi 3:1](#)

“There is a voice of a man who
calls out in the desert:

‘Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make the road straight for him.’” [Isaiah 40:3](#)

John was baptising people in the desert. He preached a baptism of changed hearts and lives for the forgiveness of sins. All the people from Judea and Jerusalem were going out to John. They told about the sins they had done. Then they were baptised by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothes made from camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. This is what John preached to the people: “There is one coming later who is greater than I. I am not good enough even to kneel down and untie his sandals. I baptise you with water. But the one who is coming will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the place where John was. John baptised Jesus in the Jordan River. When Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven open. The Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. A voice came from heaven and said: “You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you.”

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

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

School reports

Around this time of year, we are looking at our school report from last year and looking forward to the school year ahead. Can you imagine if Jesus had a ‘school’ report for his first year of ministry? This is what it might have looked like.

Annual Report

Name: *Jesus Christ*

Age: *30*

Address: *Unknown, homeless?*

Overview Statement: *Jesus has had a good start to his year.*

There was some concern about him being a little withdrawn and not being seen for around 40 days after his welcome baptism. However, he is making excellent progress.

He has made friends quickly and has a small group that he spends most of his time with. It has been noted that he often chooses to be around those who are not always seen to be 'good examples' and sometimes 'troublemakers'. Jesus might want to think about who he chooses to be with.

Jesus is a popular man and always seems to draw a crowd around him wherever he goes.

Skills and Attributes: *Jesus is often the centre of attention especially when he is telling one of his stories. Jesus is a natural storyteller and enjoys debating with others regarding current affairs.*

He seems to be learning some new tricks and rumours suggest he has turned water into wine at a family wedding.

Jesus is kind and gentle and notices those who are on the edge or without friends, often making time to be with them.

Jesus has some strong beliefs that he is certain about, but he might need to be aware that others do not always agree and this could see him in trouble further down the line.

Jesus is a strange young man - nothing special, doesn't necessarily stand out - but there is a certain something about him that people seem drawn to him. I'm sure he is going to go on to do amazing things.

HT/Parent's Comments: *This is my precious Son; I love him and I am well pleased with him.* *GOD.*

Appraisee's comments and future targets: *This year has certainly been a busy one and I am aware that I don't have much time left to do things. My plan is to keep moving around, speak to as many people as possible and eventually save the whole world.* *Jesus*



I wonder what your report might look like for last year, if it was written about you as a whole person and not just about academics. Why not have a go at writing one? (Blank Template attached) You could also write one for each other.

Table Top Discussions

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

- What does it mean to take Jesus with us wherever we go?
- Before Jesus went back to heaven he said, “Go into all the world, telling them about Gods love and baptising them”. How do we do this?
- Who was it that told you about God/Jesus? Who have you told?
- Have you been baptised? Tell each other the story of your baptism.
- John the Baptist had a message to give to people. What message do you think God has for us today and who is going to bring it?

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:

Prepare the Way

Mark 1: 1-12



Illustration by
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Toys (waterproof!) to represent Jesus and John



A feather



A bowl or tray with water



Something with the child's name on



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



A plate or whiteboard marked with washable ink which can be cleaned off

Pray Together

Getting Ready prayers

Lay out your clothes to get ready for the day. As you put each item on about each part of your day.

- Socks – pray for the walk to school or work
- Shoes –pray for the places you walk throughout the day
- Clothes – Pray for the people who are similar to you and that God will help you reach out to those who seem different
- The badge you wear –think about your identity and pray that people will know that you are a child of God
- Coat –pray for protection throughout the day, for yourself and for those you love
- Bag – Pray for the things you carry with you in your heart and the things you need to let go of



Water blessing

There is a simple prayer you could do each morning as you wash, or even do over each other at the start of each day.

As you place your hands under the water, think about baptism.

Thank God that we have a new life in him and our sins are washed away.

As you lift out your hands, take some water and place it on your head, speak God's words as a reminder to yourself:

God says, "This is my child whom I love. I am well pleased with them."

As you turn the tap off or pull the plug, remember that you're ready for whatever God has planned for you.

Now go, knowing that you take God with you wherever you go.

Pray together

Back to school prayers/New term prayers

Some of us are just going back to school and some have been back a few weeks already. Let's use the things we might find in our pencil case to take some time to pray together. You could set up an area for the week with a pencil case and the following list to use as you pray.



Pencil case prayers



Ruler – God rules over the whole world. Thank God that he is the ruler in your life and ask God to take charge today.



Eraser – God forgives. Thank God for forgiving the things we do wrong and ask for help to make wise choices.



Highlighter – Pray that God will help you to shine brightly in your class and school.



Compass – God surrounds us – Thank God for surrounding us with his love.



Calculator – Thank God for his love and ask that God will help to multiply it and share it out with others.



Scissors – Thank God for shaping us day by day into the people he made us to be.



Sharpener – God keeps us sharp. Ask God to keep us sharp as Christians, making a difference in places we go. Let our faith not be blunt and useless today.



Pen – We can *depend* on God. Thank God that he is faithful and we can depend on him all the time.



Pencil – Thank God for creating us and thank God for our creativity too.



Multi Pen – God is God in three parts. Thank God for all three: God the father and creator, God our saviour Jesus, and God with us the Holy Spirit.



Zip It up – As you close your pencil case, pray that God will go with you as you head into your day, pray that you will be able to share God's love and light with others you meet.

Why not have a go at creating some prayers for the adults in the house and the things they take with them to work/they use in the day?

*I wonder how you
prepare for a special
visitor?*

*I wonder if you can
share about a time
when you were getting
ready to do a special
job?*

*I wonder why some
people might not
feel happy about
John's message?*



Illustration by lambsongs.co.nz via www.freebibleimages.com

*I wonder why Jesus
wanted to be baptised?*

*I wonder what
baptism means to you ?*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Handprint Dove

You will need:

- A piece of blue paper
- Some white paper
- Glue



What you do:

Draw around some people's hands on the white paper.

On the blue paper, roughly draw the shape of a bird.

Arrange the handprints into the shape, with the fingers becoming the shape of a dove.

Arrange the thumbs of two larger hands to form the head and wings, and smaller hands to create the feathers and tail.

As Jesus was baptised by John, a dove came down from heaven. Doves appear more than once in the Bible; can you think of any other stories where we read about a dove? What do you think a dove might represent?

Water Pistol Games

You will need:

- A selection of water pistols
- Water
- A space to play



What you do: *Play some games with your water pistols. We made up games, like these:*

Hide and shoot – hiding and then jumping out to spray your target.

Catch the target – spray your water pistol back and forward and see if you hit the person running about.

High water – spray your water pistol as high as you can.

Long water – spray your water pistol and see who gets the furthest.

Water writing – spray your water pistol to write a message or a picture.



Jesus was baptised in the water of the river. As you play with the water, remember the story.



TO DO TOGETHER...

Pencil Case

You will need:

- An old pair of jeans
- Fabric glue

What you do:

Lay out an old pair of jeans and cut off the legs.

Cut up the side seams so that you have one half with the pockets and the other with the zip. You need the side with the pockets.

Turn the side with the pockets over and fold in half.

Lay a pencil down as a guide and trim the material so that it comes to a point at the tip of the pencil, like in the picture. Then cut off the waistband of the jeans.

Open it up and put a line of fabric glue down the sides and the bottom. Then close it up again and leave to dry. If you prefer, you could turn it inside out and stitch up the sides and across the two sides of the base with a sewing machine.

When it is dry, fray the top edges to finish it off. Now you have a useful pouch to put your pencils in for the new school year, and a handy pocket for your rubber and sharpener.



John the Baptist was sent by God to help us get ready for Jesus. As we get ready for a new academic year, we can ask God to help us and be with us and guide us in all we do.



The
United
Reformed
Church

families
on faith adventures

at home

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

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

At Home:

Write a reminder to pray for your day and stick it on or by the front door so you can read it every day before you leave for work, school, church or anywhere. This is a lovely daily prayer: "Help us to be the people you made us to be, to do the things you have for us to do".

Outside:

Many people will walk along the path on their way somewhere or to do something. Use chalk to draw a cheery picture and write a word of encouragement that will cheer them on their way.

For Others:

You may have a new teacher, or there may be someone new in your class. Make an effort to say something positive to them. Make sure it's something that's true and that you do actually mean, and say it with a smile. Maybe tell your teacher that you like the way they tell the story or that they explained something in a way that helped you understand it. Maybe tell the new person that they look nice and ask them if they'd like to play with you at playtime.



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Annual Report		
Name:	Age:	Address:
Overview Statement:		
Skills and Attributes:		
HT/Parent's Comments:		
Appraisee's comments and future targets		



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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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