

## **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:**

Extraordinary

John 2:1-11



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*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.

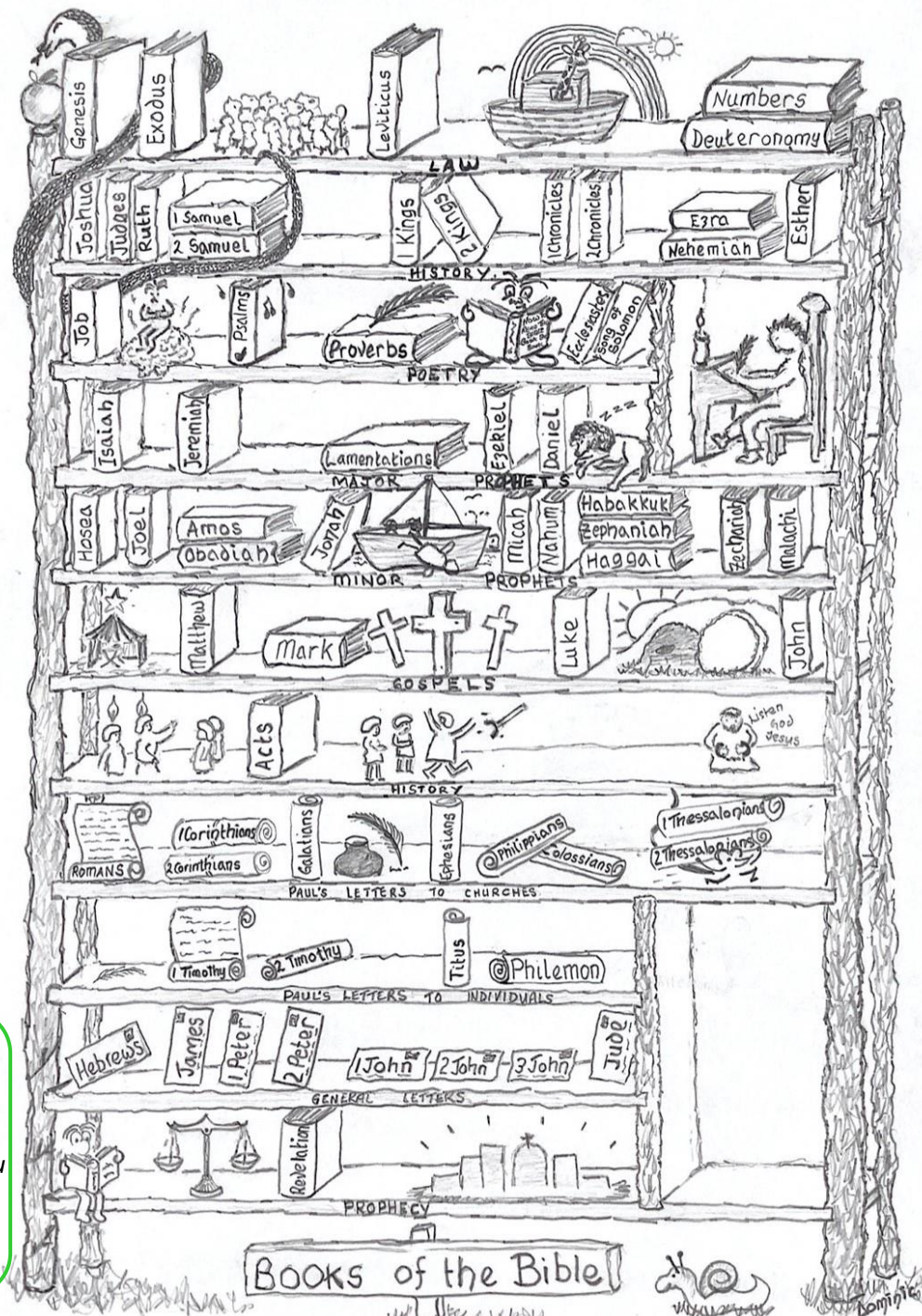
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



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 – Wedding at Cana**

The book of John was written by the disciple of the same name around 80 AD. John was a fisherman and his simple writing makes John's book the first one new Christians often read.

John wants his readers to see that Jesus was the Son of God. This is the story of Jesus first miracle; Jesus takes the ordinary and makes it amazing.

### **The Story – John 2 v 1 - 11 (The International Children's Bible)**

Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his followers were also invited to the wedding. When all the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

Jesus answered, "Dear woman, why come to me? My time has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you to do."

In that place there were six stone water jars. The Jews used jars like these in their washing ceremony. Each jar held about 20 or 30 gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled the jars to the top.

Then he said to them, "Now take some out and give it to the master of the feast."

So the servants took the water to the master. When he tasted it, the water had become wine. He did not know where the wine came from. But the servants who brought the water knew. The master of the wedding called the bridegroom and said to him, "People always serve the best wine first. Later, after the guests have been drinking a lot, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine till now."

So in Cana of Galilee, Jesus did his first miracle. There he showed his glory, and his followers believed in him.

### Online versions of the story

#### **Watch and listen**

Cartoon by Saddleback kids [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7plJa\\_qnVug](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7plJa_qnVug)

Drawn animation by Kidswise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OilBJ5-GVE0>

Retold by children by PursueGod Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAZE8WrmXIg>

Story video by Faith Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQwgCCfAJwk>

How to water into wine science experiment

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

#### **Dance and sing**

Water you turned into wine by Matt Redman

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

The miracles of Jesus by VBS Kids [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ4rBly5\\_to](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ4rBly5_to)

Faith by Nick and Becky Drake <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUG4AXD8RgI>

My God is Powerful by VBS Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1MDCwirYoQ>

Nothing is impossible by Planet shaker Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIWHcN-eU9M>

#### **Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story**

##### **Transformational Science experiments**

We might not be able to do miracles, but we can have some science fun making transformations using things we find around the house.

All these experiments are tried and tested to be safe. It is sensible to wear an apron or similar and to wear eye protection just in case you get something in your eye (e.g. lemon juice). Adult supervision is advised and, for the secret writing experiment, is essential.

## Changing Colour

### ***What you need:***

- Red cabbage
- Scissors
- Glass mixing bowl
- Wooden spoon
- Water
- Three glasses
- Lemon juice
- Baking powder
- Tea strainer or sieve
- Drinking straw

### ***How to do it:***

Cut the red cabbage into small pieces.

Crush/grind the red cabbage with the spoon in the bowl and a little water.

## Make things fly

### ***What you need:***

- Bendy drinking straw
- Ping-Pong ball

### ***How to make the ball fly:***

Bend the straw to make a right angle.

Put the straw in your mouth.

Pour the water into a glass, leaving the cabbage behind (use the tea strainer or sieve). You only need the water.

Divide the solution you have made into three glasses.

Add lemon juice to one glass.

Add baking powder to another glass.

Compare the glasses – what colours are they now?

If the colour is hard to see, you can add some water to make it lighter.

Blow through the straw to make bubbles in the third glass – what colour does it go?

Be careful not to suck!

Put the ping-pong ball over the end of the straw.

Blow through the straw to keep the ping-pong ball in the air without holding it.

How long can you keep it flying? What happens?

Try this with a hair dryer set on cool and you can also use a larger beach ball.

## Secret Writing

### *What you need:*

- Lemon juice
- Paper (thin white paper is best)
- Cotton bud
- Fine paint brush
- Toaster or hair dryer

### *How to do it:*

Write a message on the paper using lemon juice and a cotton bud.

Leave it to dry.

Heat the paper over a toaster or using a hair dryer BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO SET FIRE TO IT!

What happens? Can you read your message?

## Ta Dah! – fun challenge all week

In this story, Jesus took something ordinary and did something amazing.

This week, have fun appreciating the amazing ordinary things we do every day and go overboard celebrating them. When someone makes a meal using simple ingredients, give them a cheer and shout 'It's amazing, Wow what a meal TA DAH!' Walk into the living room on Monday morning and announce that using simple garments you have transformed yourself into an amazing creation TA DAH!. Shout TA DAH after each item is scanned at the supermarket and so on. Have some fun this week making the ordinary amazing.

## Table Top Discussions

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

- Mary suggested that Jesus could help when the wine ran out. She was expecting him to do a miracle. How did Mary know?
- Mary knew the potential in Jesus, she knew who he really was. Who is it that sees the potential in you? How do they help you to show it?
- I wonder if Jesus was invited to more parties after he did this miracle? Who has the best party piece in your family?
- What do you think happened after the party where Jesus did the first miracle?
- Can you think of times when you have known that God was with you in the ordinary?

## 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.

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Something with  
rainbow colours  
for God's  
promise



**Please supervise small children! Watch out for chain or string getting caught around fingers, wrists or neck etc.**



Balloons (only if  
your child is not  
afraid of balloons)



Confetti – could be  
inside a jar or  
bottle but  
preferably loose as  
a proper sensory  
experience – you  
could make this by  
cutting up  
coloured paper.

A wedding or party invitation



A favourite drink in a  
spill-proof beaker

## **Pray Together**

### **Cordial Prayers**

Each time you make a glass of cordial this week use this simple prayer.

*Take a glass* – Lord you see me, nothing is hidden from you

*Put a little cordial in the glass* – you made me. I am a small part of your world.

*Add the water* – Pour your light and love into my life and help me to change the world

*Bring it up to your lips* – Aaaaaamen!



### **Celebration prayers**

Cut up some paper into tiny bits, like confetti. This week whenever you pray, make your Amen a HUGE CELEBRATION by throwing the confetti and shouting AMEN! Not just at home, but wherever you pray.... See who can make the biggest Amen!

### **Ordinary prayers – invite God into your ordinary**

Find ways this week to invite God into your ordinary, using a simple phrase.

“God be in my ordinary.”

Whenever you find yourself doing something ordinary or even boring, take a moment and pray this sentence. God is with you in the ordinary and can use those moments to do amazing things.





*I wonder what is your  
favourite part of this  
story?*

*I wonder why Jesus  
said his time had not  
yet come?*

*I wonder if you have  
ever been to a  
wedding party?*



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*I wonder what this  
story tells you about  
Jesus?*

*I wonder if you have ever  
trusted Jesus to do  
something extraordinary for  
you?*



**TO DO TOGETHER...**

**Bling it up**

**You will need:**

- An old plastic cup
- Permanent marker
- Glue
- Glitter



**What you do:**

Using a marker pen, create your design.

Use a glue spreader to fill the outline of the design with glue.

Shake some glitter on to the glue and let it dry.

To bling up the base of the cup, dip the base in a pot of glue.

Turn the cup upside down and shake glitter all over it.

Leave everything to dry.

God takes the ordinary things of life and makes them extra special, just as you have done with your ordinary cup.

Perhaps you have other things you could bling up too!



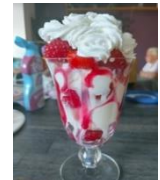
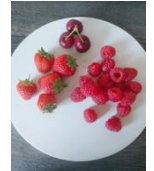


TO DO TOGETHER...

**Knickerbocker glory**

**You will need:**

- A sundae glass or a large wine glass
- Raspberries and strawberries or other fruit
- White ice-cream
- Strawberry or raspberry sauce
- Squirty cream
- Sweets and some things to decorate
- Wooden skewers
- Some decorative paper/tissue paper



**What you do:** Create a fancy decoration, by fringing two pieces of decorative paper and sticking them around the top of one skewer.

Create a sweet kebab by pushing sweets onto another wooden skewer. Put some fruit in the base of your glass.

Cover with a scoop of ice cream and add a squirt of raspberry or strawberry sauce.

Add more layers of fruit, ice cream and sauce until the glass is full. Finish off with a swirl of squirty cream.

Decorate with the skewer decoration and sweet kebab. You could add cherries and a wafer or chocolate biscuit if you like.



**Party time**

**You will need:**

- Party decorations
- Party plates
- Party poppers
- Party food
- People



**What you do:** Have a party, it doesn't have to be for any reason. Make your own party poppers using a cup and a balloon and small cut up pieces of paper. Cut the base off the paper cup and sellotape the bottom of a balloon to cover the base tightly, with the knotted opening at the base. Put some cut up paper into the cup, pull down on the knot, and let go. See the paper fly up in the air!

Jesus was at a party, and made it extra special.



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:**

*Jesus enjoyed a party. Find an excuse to have a party in your family this week. It could be something really ordinary that you celebrate – maybe getting your homework in on time or remembering to make your bed! Instead of letting it pass, have a family celebration with something good to eat, maybe some singing and dancing or cheering and making a noise, making a party hat etc. God turns our ordinary into something special and it makes God smile to see us celebrate together.*

**Outside:**

*Find some very ordinary things in your environment and try to look at them in a different way. Can you make a big picture out of them, perhaps? Or how about taking a magnifying glass and seeing what they look like close up? Sometimes just even looking at something carefully can help us see the beauty in it.*

**For Others:**

*Mary knew that Jesus had potential. What talent can you spot in others? How can you give them opportunity to shine this week?*



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### **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](mailto: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.*

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