

Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

children of three different heights)

though to indicate

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

In-person game

Grandma's footsteps/what time is it?

This game is a lot of fun as you play with the theme of waiting for the surprise.

Ask the group to line up at one end of the room.

The leader stands at the other end of the room with their back turned.

The group all ask together What time is it?

The leader shouts out a time e.g 3 o'clock.

The group all take three steps closer, counting out loud.

Then they ask again, this continues until the leader shouts NOW!

The group run away and try not to be caught by the leader.

Game then continues.

Alternative game

Make them laugh

The aim of this game is to do something surprising or unexpected to try and make another player laugh.

One player is selected and must close their eyes and count to 20.

During this time all other players must prepare their own pose or action that they think will cause the player to laugh.

At the end of the countdown the player opens their eyes. They must not laugh.

Repeat the countdown and try different poses/actions until the player laughs.

The player then selects the individual who caused them to laugh. This individual becomes

Increase the difficulty by not allowing the player to smile.

Experience

For this story we recommend using the Contemporary English version
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs+27%3A1&version=CEV>

Where can I find the story online?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

surp24 497.Tf*EMC q42.024 734.62 11.28 0 595.2 841.92 2004E0003>30 595s.>1Q EMC /A

Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

I wonder how God could surprise us tomorrow?

What’s in the box (for under fives)

W

the story in simple terms. with them, talking about the theme or

A Jack in the box or pop-up toys - talk about the excitement we have while waiting for a surprise

A small pass-the-parcel - talk about unwrapping the layers and the surprise you get in each layer in our story today we have learn about surprises

A calendar talk about all the surprises we may get today

A lift the flap book talk about what might be under the flap and how exciting is it to be surprised when it is revealed

A scarf Play peepo and build the anticipation up and then be talk about how we can enjoy being surprised this very moment

A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc)

Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

Timed prayers

You will need:

A timer, alternatively use this digital countdown timer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywT3v0pTtuU>

Set a timer for 10 seconds at a time.

For each 10 seconds pray for a different topic. Announce each topic and what you are expecting everyone to be thinking about before you set and reset the timer.

Suggested topics:

Thank you

Sorry

Please

OR

God

Others

Ourselves



Spoken prayer

Dear Jesus

Help me to take time to be with you.
Help me to know that you are close by.

Thank you that you want to be my friend
Help me to be ready for your surprises today,
and to know you only ever want good for us. Amen

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond. <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Jumping Toy

Jesus our friend,
welcome us today
as we share together

Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat

Alternate hands



