



FAMILY PRAYER ADVENTURE JOURNAL

Sara & Sam Hargreaves





Jesus

Welcome Prayer Adventurers!



Today you set off on your journey together.

Who are the team members going on this adventure with you?
Fill in their details below...

There are six 'PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM' cards, each featuring a compass rose and fields for 'NAME:' and 'SPECIAL SKILLS:'. One card is pre-filled with 'Jesus' and 'Listening, Leading Saving'. A red tag labeled 'Team Leader' points to this card. A speech bubble from a character at the bottom says 'Roger Roger!'.

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: _____
SPECIAL SKILLS: _____

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: _____
SPECIAL SKILLS: _____

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: _____
SPECIAL SKILLS: _____

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: _____
SPECIAL SKILLS: _____

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: _____
SPECIAL SKILLS: _____

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: _____
SPECIAL SKILLS: _____

Team Leader

PRAYER ADVENTURE TEAM
NAME: **Jesus**
SPECIAL SKILLS: **Listening, Leading Saving**

Roger Roger!

You can think of prayer being a bit like
radioing your team leader back at base camp.

Throughout this adventure you are going to pray for 5 people to know Jesus better.

Have you decided on your 5 yet? Talk about it, and then write their names down below, one on each finger.



Hold up your finger and say the name of that person. Then pray:

“Jesus, help them to know you better”

Do the same for your four other fingers, naming the person and praying the prayer.

Then end with a big, loud “Amen!” (Which means something like “I agree, make it happen God”.)

Challenge yourself to pray for these people each day using your fingers.





You've sailed across a sea and landed on a desert island. There seems to be buried treasure hidden all over the place!

Find a Bible (or a Bible app or website) and look up the buried treasure below. Then write a word or two about what you learn about God from that verse.



You also have valuable experiences of God to share.

Talk about: who is God to you?

What has God done for you? What words would you use to describe who God is and why he is worthy of praise?

Write these below...

Five oval-shaped boxes for writing, each containing the text "God is:" followed by a line for writing.

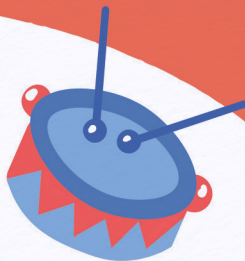
After all that digging of treasure, it's time to set up camp and celebrate.
Gather around your campfire and turn the treasures you've written down into a shout of praise.

To get a rhythm going, slap your knees twice and then clap your hands once (like the beat of the song "We will rock you").
Or you could find a drum or table, or bang on a box to add to the rhythm.
Then as you slap your knees say:

"God is....!"

and as you clap, add one of the words you've written down.
Keep going until you've said all the words you wrote down – you could even add more if you like. Speak these out to God and the world around you as an act of praise and worship.

(If you've got access to the Podcast you can join in using that, or just follow the instructions below)



The words you wrote down are reasons why God is worthy of praise. They are also reasons why we can trust God to answer our prayers. Sometimes it helps to remind ourselves of what God has done in the past, before we ask him for something for the future. Have a go at praying like this:

"God, in the past you have Today, I ask you to Amen."

Don't forget to pray for your 5 people using your fingers.





Thanks



**Today's adventuring has been hard work.
There have been lots of challenges and tough situations.**

Below are four adventure challenges - which of these would most cause you to grumble?



Sleeping on the floor



Walking long distances



Eating tasteless rations



No WiFi signal

When our adventure gets challenging it is easy to grumble and get grumpy, but even the toughest day can seem brighter when we remember to be grateful. Being grateful means saying “thank you” to God for the small things and the big things - remembering that all good gifts come from him.

It is easy to forget to say “thanks”. One time in the Bible, Jesus healed 10 people in one go (amazing – like a strike in bowling!) However, only one of them came back to him to say “thank you” (you can read that story in Luke 17:11–19).



Grateful game

You've reached a forest which is dense and hard to get through.

To keep your spirits up you decide to play a game based on “I went to the shops and I bought...” as you trudge along.

One person starts by saying: “I’m thankful to God for” and says one thing they are grateful for. Then the next person has to repeat “I’m thankful to God for” including the first person’s word, and then add an extra item they are thankful for. The third person has to remember the first two things and add their own... and so on around the circle.

See how many things you can remember and be thankful for!

Thanks in the sand

Finally you emerge through the forest onto a beautiful beach.

Write and draw in the sand
things you are thankful for

THANKS



RADIO BASE CAMP



Don't forget to pray for your 5 people using your fingers.





You have crossed another sea and reached a rocky landscape. It is really difficult to know where to go – there are many dead ends and paths which lead back on themselves.



Try and find your way through the maze...

On any adventure, there will be moments where you take a wrong turn or reach a dead end. You can even start to fall out with your fellow adventurers - arguing or criticising one another, or simply letting each other down.

Rocky road

One of Jesus' best friends was called Simon, but Jesus thought he was so 'solid' that he renamed him 'Peter', which means 'Rocky'. Peter was passionate and energetic in his love for Jesus. However, one dark night when Jesus was taken prisoner, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus. In fact, he denied him **three times**. (You can read about this in Mark 14:66–72).

Not so 'rock solid' at that moment, eh Peter?

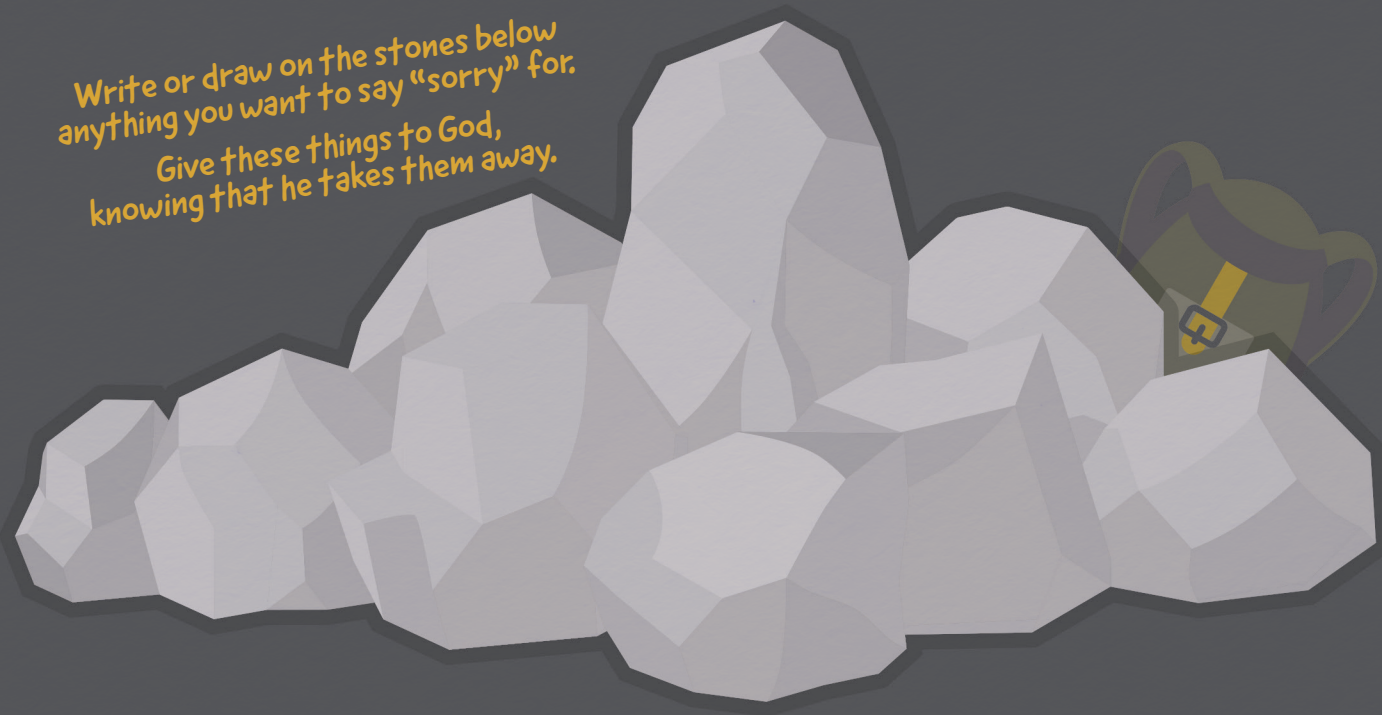
Peter realised what he'd done, and he was truly sorry about it. After Jesus was raised back to life he gave Peter three chances to say "I love you", which was probably Jesus' way of helping Peter to make up for those three denials (read that story in John 21:15–17). When Peter was sorry, Jesus was forgiving.

Emptying your backpack

Like any good adventurer you are carrying a backpack, full of important supplies and kit. However, during today's walk it has been getting heavier. You open it up to find that lots of the rocks from the maze have fallen in and are weighing you down.

Everyone makes mistakes, but we don't have to carry those around with us. Saying "sorry" to God means he takes our mistakes and throws them "as far from us as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12).

Write or draw on the stones below
anything you want to say "sorry" for.
Give these things to God,
knowing that he takes them away.



Sometimes other people hurt us, and of course this is not our fault.
But if we don't forgive them, their hurt becomes another rock in our backpack, weighing us down.

On this next pile of stones,
write down anything
done to you that you want
to forgive someone for.



RADIO BASE CAMP



Have any of your 5 people done anything to hurt you? Ask God to help you forgive them.





You come to a clearing and decide to stop and count the supplies in your backpack.

How many cupcakes can you count?

How many would you each get if you shared them out with your group?



Imagine that you got one bite of a cupcake, and the biggest person in your group got the rest. How would that make you feel?

One word which might spring to mind is 'unfair'. It can feel this way across our world sometimes. How come some people seem to get richer while others get poorer? How come some people have food, clean water and medicines, while other people have none?

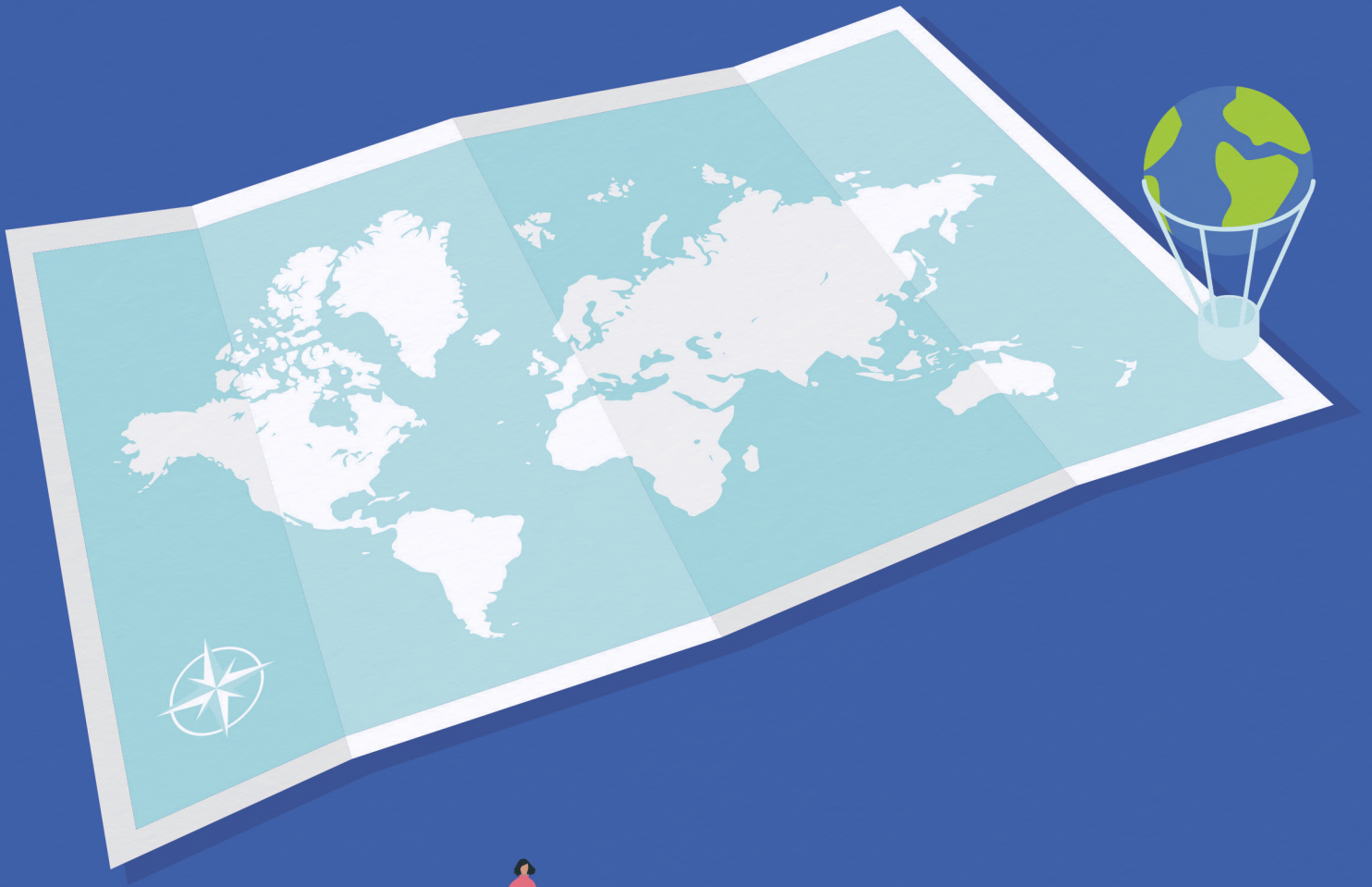
God promises us that one day he will make all things right, bringing justice to those who have been treated unfairly (see *Revelation 21:3-4*). But until that day, he wants us to work with him to bring fairness to his world. This is part of the adventure of knowing God.

It is really easy to feel overwhelmed by all the needs in the world. But we are not powerless - there are two things God asks of us.

1. Pray for the world

The first thing God asks us to do is pray (see *1 Timothy 2:1-5*).

What needs do you see in the world? It could be big things across the earth, or small things closer to home. It could be things which are 'unfair' for particular people-groups, or crisis situations you are aware of. Write them on the map below, then pray that God would make a difference in each situation.



2. Bringing your offering



The second thing God asks of you is to do **what you can**. You can't do everything! But you are carrying a backpack full of your skills, equipment and provisions, and you can share them to make a difference in the world.

One day, Jesus was teaching and a crowd of over 5000 needed to eat. The disciples were panicking, but do you remember what one small boy had in his backpack? (*Find this story in John 6:1-14.*) That's right - the boy gave Jesus five small loaves and two fish. Hardly enough to feed more than 5000 people! And yet when he offered it, Jesus took it, blessed it, shared it and it fed them all with basketfuls left over.

RADIO BASE CAMP



Think about what is in your backpack. What gifts do you have that you could share? Could you use your skills (art, cooking, sports...) or your equipment (toys, books...) or your provisions (food, pocket money...)?

Who might be helped if you shared something with them? Perhaps one of your 5 people, or someone else. Talk about this and pray that God would give you an opportunity to share what you have.





You reach a castle. It seems completely impossible to get in, with high walls, dark windows and a heavy, locked door.

Sometimes when we pray for something it can feel frustrating and difficult, like we are locked out of a castle with no way in. But one day Jesus was teaching his friends about prayer, and he said this:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

We are going to think about those three words - ask, seek, knock - and how they might help us pray for our friends and for the world.

ASK

No magic words!

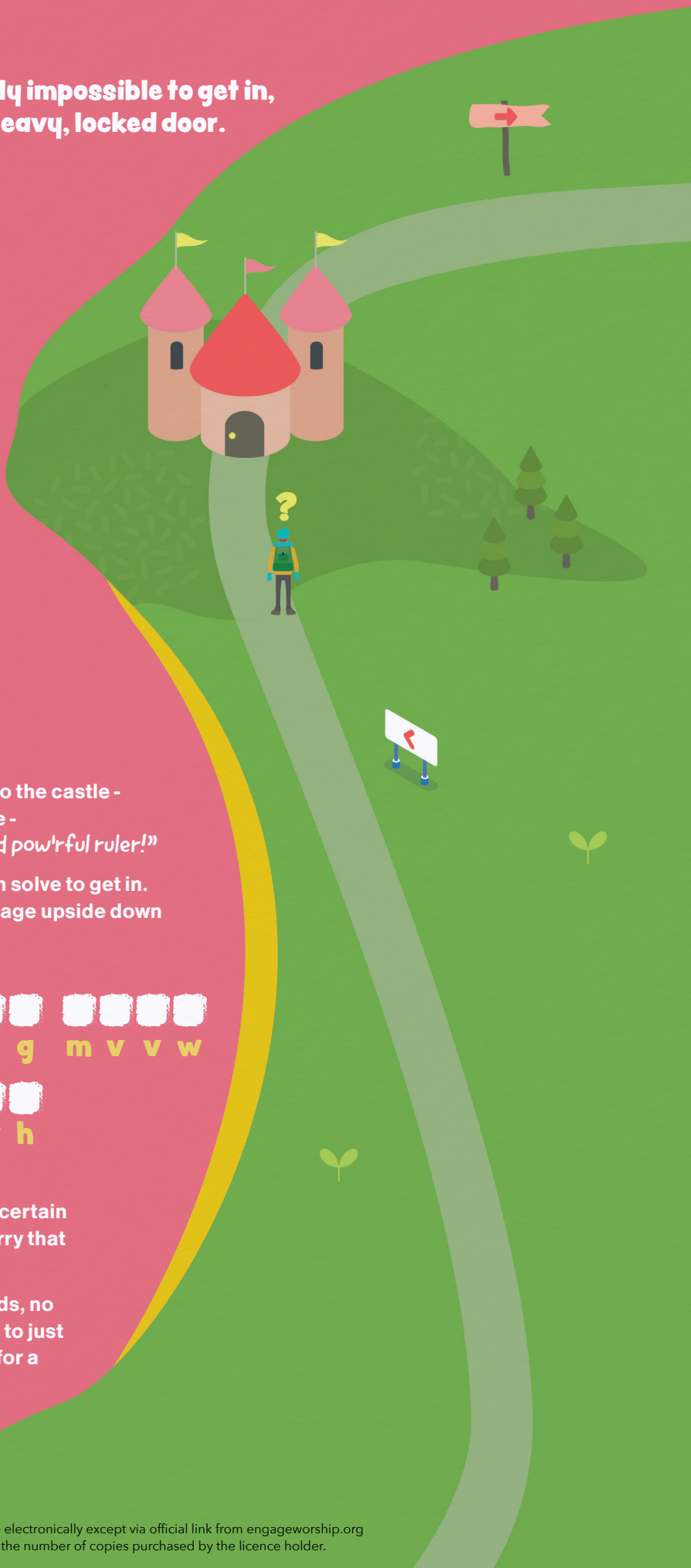
You might try using some special words to get into the castle -
 "open sesame", or perhaps some flowery language -
"prithee unlocketh thine portal, most wondrous and pow'rful ruler!"

Or perhaps we think there is a secret code we can solve to get in. For example, work out the code below (turn the page upside down for a hint if you get stuck):

k i z b v i w l v h m l g m v v w
 z m b n z t r x d l i w h

When we pray, we might be tempted to think that certain special words will make God hear us. We may worry that we don't use special language or religious code.

But prayer is not like that - we need no magic words, no funny language, and no secret codes. Jesus says to just “ask”, the same way we ask our parents or carers for a piece of toast or a glass of water.



SEEK

Be persistent!

One of your team has lost their backpack. Search for it below:



If something is really important we will keep on looking for it. We are 'persistent' - turning the whole house upside down until we have found our backpack, or compass, or torch.

Sometimes it is easy to give up when we pray because we feel like our prayers aren't answered immediately. But Jesus reminded his disciples to "pray and not give up" (see Luke 18:1-8).

KNOCK

Make some noise!

You realise that you haven't actually tried knocking at the castle door. Sure enough, you give it a sharp 'rat-ta-tat-tat' and it swings open before you.

God is not deaf, or distracted. He hears every prayer, whether it is a shout, a whisper, or even said silently in our own mind and heart.

However, sometimes it can help us to make some noise (or do something physical) when we pray. Find a table, a door or something else that sounds good when you knock on it. Then pray like this:



Decide one person to pray for, and one thing you want to ask for them.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

God we're knocking on your door to talk to you about

Please help them by

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK! Amen!

Repeat this for as many people and situations as you like.



CODE HINT : Try writing the alphabet out, and then underneath that write it out backwards from Z-A



As you begin to climb a mountain, a number of your team get hurt and require first-aid.

Can you match up the injury to the remedy below, by drawing a line between them?

Head bump



Cut



Splinter



Dehydration



Broken arm



Water



Bandage



Sling



Tweezers



Ice pack

House mountaineers

One day Jesus was teaching in a packed house. A group of friends wanted to bring their injured buddy to Jesus, but the room was completely jammed with people. Do you know this story? Can you remember what they did? Find a Bible and read Mark 2:1–5 to see if you were right.

Once you've read the story, draw the scene below. What would it have looked like? What would people's expressions have been? How do you think Jesus reacted?

Being part of the remedy

How do you think the injured man felt when his friends went to such efforts in helping him get to Jesus? How would you have felt?

God wants us to pray for our friends. And sometimes he asks us to be part of the answer to that prayer (see James 2:15–17). Sometimes we can be used as 'first-aid' - to allow God to use us in the situation we're praying about.

RADIO BASE CAMP



Think about your 5 people, or other situations you know where there is need. Is there one thing you could do which would help someone? It might be small, but it could make a big difference (remember the boy with the loaves and fish on day 5).

One way to reflect on this is to have a minute of silence. Listen to hear if God gives you nudges or ideas of how you might help someone. After the minute, talk about anything which came to your mind. Write it down below, and then pray and ask God to help you to do it. Of course, you can extend this to pray for other people too!



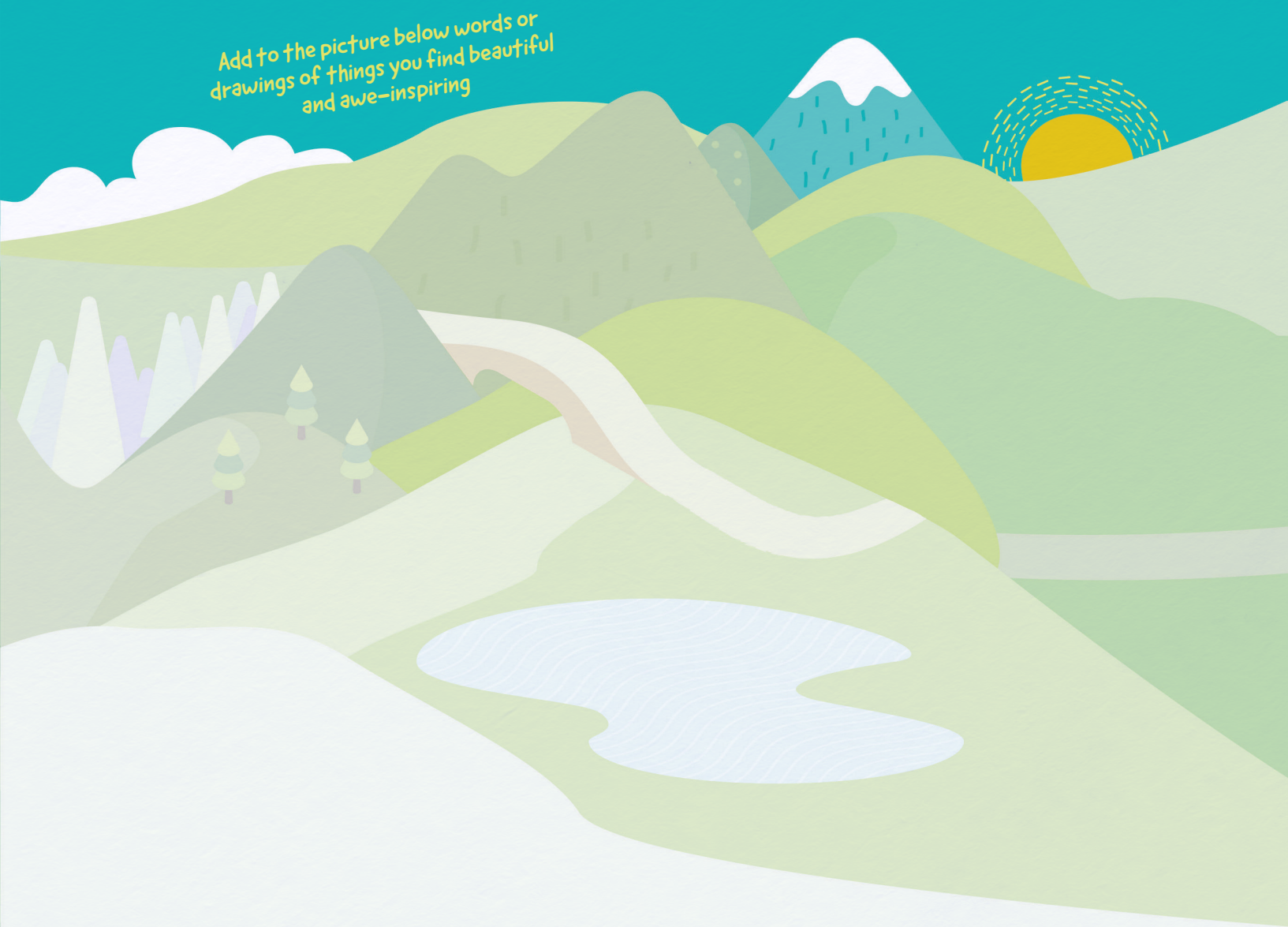


Adore



After a tough climb up the mountain, you turn a corner and are met with the most astounding view. There are trees, mountains and lakes all stretching out in front of you. The scene takes your breath away. You stop walking and stand in awe of this beauty.

Add to the picture below words or drawings of things you find beautiful and awe-inspiring



Thousands of years ago, someone wrote a song to God where they related God's love to an amazing view of the sky, the mountains and the depths of the sea (Psalm 36:5–7, New Life Version):

**"O Lord, your loving-kindness goes to the heavens.
You are as faithful as the sky is high.
You are as right and good as mountains are big.
You are as fair when you judge as a sea is deep.
O Lord, you keep safe both man and animal.
Of what great worth is your loving-kindness, O God!
The children... come and are safe in the shadow of your wings"**

The power of God's love made the universe, it keeps the earth spinning, it provides for every living thing, and yet God also loves and delights in you personally. The Bible says that God "rejoices over us with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17). God sings a love song over you. That is worth taking a moment to drink in!

When we encounter God's love it is right to respond in a similar way we do to an amazing view - be still, be quiet, and take the time to be amazed. We can't help but adore God back!

Love song

As you gather around your campfire again, spend some time adoring God.

Find a song which talks about God's love - you can use today's Podcast if you have it, or find another song to listen to.

Take a moment to listen to the song, to receive God's love, and to express to God how you love him.

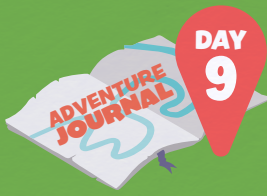
RADIO BASE CAMP

Pray for your 5 people, that they might know God's love afresh too. You could do this by wrapping your arms around yourself in a hug as you say:

"God, surround with your love."

Repeat for your 5 people, and anyone else you know who might need God's love right now.





Celebrate



After all the challenges of your adventure, you reach a meadow and decide it is time to pause and celebrate with a picnic.

Sometimes Jesus was serious or sad, but he also took the time to party with his friends. We have so much to celebrate, and he has given us so many good things to enjoy.

Add to the picnic blanket things which you are thankful to God for. Draw other decorations on the picture, such as streamers, balloons, and pictures of you celebrating!

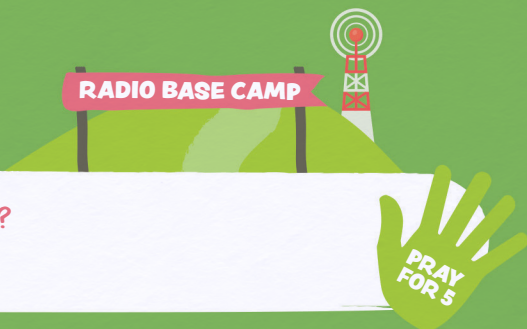
The ultimate destination of our life adventure with God is... a party!

The Bible tells us that at the end of time, God promises to throw the most amazing feast, like a wedding banquet. Look up these Bible verses below, and then write and draw on the picnic blanket some of the things that God says will happen. Who will be invited? What will this party be like?



Celebrate good times, come on!

Have your own little worship celebration together - you could put some music on and have a sing and dance. Or find some party poppers and say one thing that you are thankful to God for, before letting off a popper. Then blow up some balloons. Write things you want to praise God for on the balloons, and then bounce them around the room. Have fun celebrating God together!



What is something you can celebrate about each of your 5 people?
Add those things to the party blanket.



You enter a thick jungle with all kinds of strange noises. You get very quiet, listening out for dangers, strange creatures and other interesting things.

Look at the picture below and circle all the things which would make sounds.



Being Still

Being quiet can help us pause to be with God. He says in the Psalms

"be silent, and know that I am God"
(Psalm 46:10).

Spend a minute in silence.

Get comfortable, close your eyes and just rest in God's presence.

Be aware that God just loves to be with you!

Listening to Base Camp

We have talked about prayer as a radio to communicate with Jesus, our team leader. But sometimes we might forget that radios are two-way. We need to listen as well as talk!

Silence can help us with that.

Jesus talked about himself as our shepherd, and said: “My sheep hear my voice” (John 10:27). So an important part of praying is making space to hear the voice of Jesus.



RADIO BASE CAMP

Choose one of your 5 people. Ask God:

“What should we pray for today, God?”

Then sit in silence for 30 seconds, listening for if God gives you any answer to that question. Discuss what you think you heard, and then pray using anything you think is right. You can repeat this for the other 4 people.





On this, the last day of our “Thy Kingdom Come” adventure, you come out of the wilderness and back into a town – a place where normal people go to school, work in jobs, eat, sleep and play.

The place where you live might not have jungles, castles, mountains and wild animals, but everyday life can continue to be an adventure when you live it with God as King.

Jesus had prayed to Father God: *“your Kingdom come, your will be done – on earth as it is in heaven”* (see *Matthew 6:10*). God’s ‘Kingdom’ means the place where God rules. It is not limited to any building, town or country - it is anywhere that people live God’s way.

What would it look like in your lives to live God’s way? Perhaps think about the way you treat each other at home, school or work; what you do with your money and things you own; how you spend your free time; or anything else you can think of. Draw yourselves living God’s way in the house shape below.



Receiving the Spirit

Jesus promised to leave us his Holy Spirit so that we could join him in making his Kingdom come.

He described the Spirit using a word which can be translated as “helper,” “comforter,” “companion” and “strengthener” (see John 15:26). The Holy Spirit made Jesus’ friends brave, and helped them to speak out for him and pray for people.

What do you need God’s Holy Spirit to do for you? Give you courage? Help you pray? Understand the Bible more? Be more loving? Talk about what you would like from God’s Spirit, and then pray this prayer:

Holy Spirit, please help me with
Let your Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.
Use me for your Kingdom. Amen.



Talk about your experiences of praying for your 5 people. Have you found it easy, or hard?
Have there been opportunities to bless them or show the love of Jesus to them?
Pray for them again, and talk about how you might continue to pray
for them beyond this season.



Embark on the prayer adventure of a lifetime!

This journal is ideal for families and other mixed-age groups. Explore what it means to talk and listen to God in fun, creative and accessible ways. There are Bible stories, games, prayer ideas and lots of spaces to doodle, write and make the book your own.

Each double page follows the themes of Thy Kingdom Come, the 11 day season of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. You can also dip into this book at any time of the year.

We recommend that adults read ahead, giving you time to prepare any simple items needed and adapt the activities and discussions to suit your group. Where you are invited to read a Bible passage you may want to encourage children to find this for themselves, or use an app or website such as biblegateway.com.

Podcast

Listen to our family-friendly episodes for every day of Thy Kingdom Come. Hear from children and adults about how they pray, and enjoy Bible stories from people like Bob Hartman.

Each episode will tie in with the Journal and Map, and will give you space to pray together.

Find out all the places you can access this by going to www.engageworship.org/TKC

The journal is accompanied by our A2-sized

"FAMILY PRAYER ADVENTURE MAP"

Filled with stickers, activities and prayer ideas that compliment the journal and engage children further. Order your maps from www.thykingdomcome.global



For more copies of this journal visit www.engageworship.org/TKC

On our website you will also find lots more creative resources for prayer and worship.



**engage
worship**



This journal has been created by Sara and Sam Hargreaves for engageworship, a ministry of the Music and Worship Foundation CIO (mwf.org.uk).
Text by Sara and Sam Hargreaves, design by Becca Smith (www.beccasmith.net).

This resource ©2019 engageworship/Music and Worship Foundation.
Registered office: 8a Horley Close, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7HS.
MWF CIO is a registered charity, number 1175280. ISBN: 978-0-9935799-6-7.
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.
Unauthorised photocopying and digital distribution prohibited.

Unless stated otherwise, Bible quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright ©1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

ISBN 978-0-9935799-6-7



9 780993 579967