

How to journey with children

- ✓ This is an adventure, an exploration, a journey. The next five weeks are not another set of facts to memorise and learn.
- ✓ We're going to take a little time and space to connect with ourselves, each other, God and the world around us.
- ✓ It's about noticing, wondering and questioning. Not all the questions we give you will have factual answers that you will know the answer to. That's OK. Don't fear children's questions, instead explore them together by responding: 'That's a really good question, tell me what you think', or 'I wonder if...!', or 'I'm not sure, but I notice...'
- ✓ You can check with children if their questions are for wondering or if they need to know an answer. If they are 'need to know' and you don't know an answer, enjoy the opportunity of working together to find out the answer in the Bible or online.
- ✓ What we're asking you to try during Come and See takes practice and it needs your patience. Keep things short and sweet. Encourage quiet times but don't get cross if there isn't silence. Toys or objects to hold can help. Also, show how and then invite children to lead your time together, it doesn't matter how old they are! This is a together journey, so allow yourself to be led by them!

- ✓ Use the Bible version or translation that is most accessible to everyone present. Use the full Bible text if you can. A storybook bible can be ok, but it is worth checking if it has all the story that you need! Is the Dwelling story included in the book? Important things are often left out from simplified versions, or an aspect of the story is emphasised in an unhelpful way.

Finding the right words (or the Lego brick)

For a person of any age, finding the words to describe spiritual experiences and connections can be very difficult. This is doubly challenging for children who have less vocabulary to begin with. So try not to push them to describe or tell, unless they really want to.

You can suggest colouring, drawing, making, modelling (with Lego, wooden bricks, Playmobil, Minecraft or any natural materials) alongside using words to tell. And remember that silence is also an appropriate response.

Even when you are curious, allow the child to know that they can choose if and what they share. Assume they are wondering inside themselves. After all, we are inviting ourselves and the children to come close to the existential questions of life. These are big wonderings and can need a lot

(maybe even a lifetime) of reflection. So giving a verbal response quickly may not be possible for anyone! Keep coming back to it.



Your household might like to journal or scrapbook this journey together. Documenting your journey through the materials each week is a great thing to do.

