

5. What are the ways you dispose of kitchen waste? If you don't already have a composting system then investigate ways to set one up. If you don't have room outside look into vermiculture (in-house worm composting) or give your kitchen waste to someone who has a compost pile already.
6. Bake loaves of bread together letting everyone do some kneading and some shaping of their own loaf. *(See recipe below.)*
7. Take an Earthwalk *(see below)*.

A Quick and Simple Bread Recipe

1 pkg. yeast (1 level tbsp./15 mL) 2 tsp./10 mL salt
 2 cups/500 mL warm water 1/4 cup/50 mL oil
 3 tbsp./45 mL sugar or honey 7 cups/1750 mL all-purpose flour

Start yeast in warm sugar water. Let stand 5 minutes. Add salt, oil, and flour (a little at a time) until you can work dough with your hands. If sticky add more flour. Knead. Let rise 10-20 minutes. Mold into symbolic shapes or loaves, and place on cookie sheet or in loaf pans. Bake at 350°F/180°C 20-30 minutes depending on size of loaves.

Try a Family Earthwalk

Whether you're living in the Northern or Southern hemisphere, September and October are transition months between two seasons. They are months when God's creation shows signs of adjusting from what has just been to what is soon to come. Go on an Earthwalk with this search list as a guide to your family.

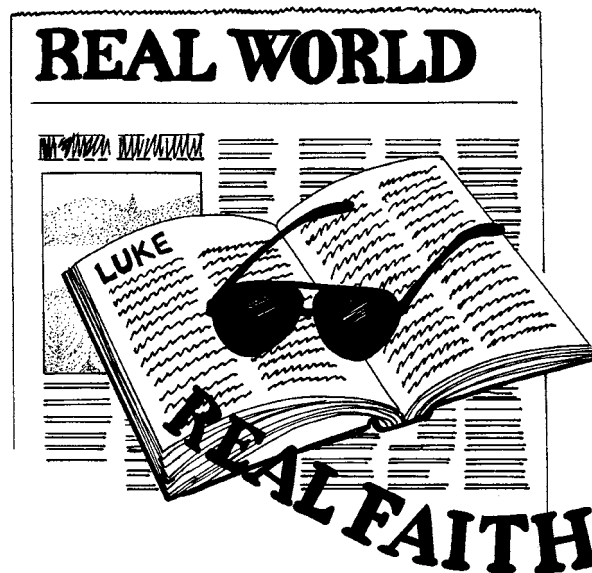
Find something that...

- looks well fed
- is fragile
- reaches out
- makes you want to sit and watch for a long time
- is unusual
- has an aroma
- is pointed
- makes you feel that you wouldn't want to disturb it
- comes from up high
- leans
- is tiny
- makes you sad
- has veins
- is round



A prayer to share after the walk:

Creator God,
 We thank you for the variety of your creation
 and for all the ways it speaks to us.
 We give you thanks for this time of being together,
 for our conversation and our companionship.
 Open our eyes and our ears to be attentive
 to all the wonders of your world. Amen.



The biblical passages in Unit I keep pushing the question, "What does it mean to be faithful in this situation?" The stories have many "real world" situations. We learn from the past, and we must also discern faithful actions for our day. What does "real faith" look like in our "real world"?

The background of the logo is a newspaper whose headline reads "Real World." A Bible, open at the Gospel of Luke, has been placed on the newspaper. The Bible guides and teaches us and helps us discern what God is asking of us in our time. "Real Faith" emerges from the Bible into the action of the present moment. Unlike the newspaper which is written new every day, the Bible has guided God's people over thousands of years. We believe that the Bible and newspaper belong together, hand in hand.

The "cool shades" (sunglasses) lying on the Bible remind us that in a faith community we each add the richness of our own viewpoints and personal experiences to our discussion of the Bible passages and what God wants of us. Our common focus on scripture and Christ's call will help us come together to learn and encourage one another, in order that we might go out to serve the world God loves.

September	1	Choosing to Love God and Neighbour
	8	It Ain't Easy <i>(Reconvenanting Sunday)</i>
	15	All Is Not Lost
	22	It's a Real World
	29	Close that Gap!
October	6	Faith Alive! <i>(Worldwide Communion)</i>
	13	Healing Moments <i>(World Food Sunday)</i>

A word about the At Home Leaflet...

The *Whole People of God* curriculum is based on the 3-year cycle of scripture readings from the *Revised Common Lectionary*. Four scripture passages are read in worship each Sunday. The *At Home Leaflets* are designed to give some background to each week's theme and to help facilitate continued discussion and activity in the home. Users of the Leaflet are encouraged to **choose those activities that best suit them** and add others of their own.

It is hoped that all members of the congregation will use the Leaflet to gain some background in the lectionary passages, be informed on what the children in their congregation are studying, and explore for themselves the ideas and activities which are an extension of each Sunday's scripture readings. The leaflet is also useful for doing some initial reading and preparing for upcoming worship and adult study sessions. The passage on which the children's lesson is based is marked with an asterisk (*).

Week 1—September 1, 2013

Choosing to Love God and Neighbour

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14*



Aim: To explore how we can show our love for God by loving others.

Background: In this week's readings, we see Jeremiah confronting the people of Israel with an indictment that they no longer love God. They have turned to worship other gods. The Psalm reminds us that God gives us the freedom to choose. Disastrous times come, not because God has abandoned us, but because we have turned away from God. The Hebrews passage makes clear in very practical terms, what it means to live in God's way. The gospel reminds us that being close to God is intimately interwoven with our relationship to others. At a dinner party, Jesus watches the guests jostling for position, all wanting the most privileged spot. He says to those who are there: "Don't grab the best seat, perhaps the host will move you." He says to hosts, "Think about your motivation! Extend your hospitality not to those who can repay you or do you good, but to those who can't: the poor, the lame, and the blind." We are reminded once again that those who are so often excluded have an important place within God's reign. In God's reign, we are all guests, not by right or by worthiness, but by invitation.

Faith Sharing:

1. Since this is Labour Day weekend, at dinner name all those who have laboured so that you can enjoy this meal—farmers, butchers, transport workers, grocery clerks, cannery workers, those who cooked and set the table and will do the clean up. Give thanks for the jobs that your family members have that allow the surroundings that you enjoy. Pray for those who are unemployed and struggling.
2. Consider who your family might invite to enjoy a meal with you. Plan how you all might help to prepare for their coming and welcome them.

2. Have a "mustard seed" meal together—salad with honey-mustard dressing or chicken fingers with mustard dip—and notice what a difference in flavor that little seed makes! What difference will our faith make?
3. In prayer time this week give thanks for one another and the small things that make a difference in your lives (e.g. someone's smile, help with homework, a bouquet of fall leaves, etc.).
4. Luke wrote earlier in his gospel about "Mustard Seed" faith. Read Luke 13:18-21 or read together "Stories About God's Shalom" pg 197-201 in *The Family Story Bible*. Talk about what the "yeast" and "mustard seed" parables say to you regarding Real Faith in a Real World.
5. Talk about your experience of receiving Communion together, and how that small bit of bread and wine, transforms and strengthens us to live in God's way. Think about all the followers of Jesus, around the world, who also received the gift of Communion today.

Week 7—October 13, 2013

Healing Moments (World Food Sunday)

Jeremiah 29:1,4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19*



Aim: To imagine ourselves and our world healed.

Background: Today's readings revolve around the themes of healing and liberation. In the parable of the ten lepers, we learn that although all ten were healed, it was the one who returned to thank Jesus that was truly made well—made whole. Gratitude is an important part of wholeness. On this World Food Sunday we also reflect on the healing and wholeness that our world seeks.

Faith Sharing:

1. Read together Luke 17:11-19. Talk about times when you were sick. What was it like? What helped you to get well? Talk about what Jesus might have meant when he said to the leper who had been healed, "Your faith has made you well!"
2. What is gratitude? Together make a list of people to whom you could say thank you for something they have done or are now doing. How could you say thank you individually or as a family? A card? Some garden vegetables? A visit? A phone call? A meal invitation? A loaf of home-baked bread? Follow through on your ideas.
3. How do we express gratitude to God? What would life be like if we lived daily with an "attitude of gratitude." Post this phrase on your fridge door. Check in during the week on how each is living this out.
4. Sit outside in your backyard, balcony or deck and imagine all the creatures of creation who have used this very piece of land in some way over the millions of years of history. Talk about our connectedness to all of creation. What healing does our world need? How can we help? Look for the book: *The Backyard* by John Collier (Viking) at your Library. Read it together.

Gaps speak of absence and distance where something is missing and where bridges need to be built. Families know only too well the gaps that have become wider through misunderstanding, jealousy and envy, lack of communication, aggravating behavior, and indifference. A house may truly become a home when gaps are closed with bridges of respect, understanding, and generosity. Children learn these qualities when they exist within their home. They learn when their family chooses to reach out to bridge the gaps to other community members such as those with mental illness and those in need of the basic staples of life.

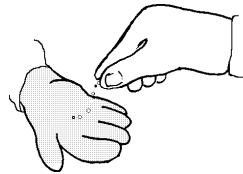
Faith Sharing:

1. Find a story in today's newspaper which is about a gap between people, groups or nations. What do you know about that gap? What do you think is feeding the gap? What would it take to close it?
2. Gaps are often created by lack of communication. Identify some part of your house as a symbolic distance that can be bridged (e.g. livingroom carpet, the length of the hallway, etc.). Create stepping stones out of cardboard and write on each stone one thing that helps to bridge the communication gap. (e.g. listening, family meetings, spending time together, etc.) Keep creating stepping stones until everyone can move freely from one side to the other.
3. Prayer is a key way that we stay close to God. Do you pray together at meal times? At bedtime? If not, close the gap by making an effort to begin this week.

Week 6—October 6, 2013

Faith Alive! (Worldwide Communion)

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
 Psalm 101
 2 Timothy 1:1-14 ✓
 Luke 17:5-10*



Aim: To recognize the power of faith.

Background: Sometimes our faith seems too small to make a difference in the real world. Today's biblical passages remind us of what an alive faith can do. Amos challenges his corrupt society to consider faithfulness that results in justice rather than prosperity for the elite. The author of 2 Timothy urges him to rekindle the faith which he learned from his mother and grandmother. Jesus' disciples ask him to "make our faith greater" only to be told that the faith they have, "mustard seed" small as it is, is still able to accomplish great things. Real faith is not always a matter of great and glorious things but meeting life's daily challenges faithfully.

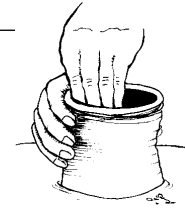
Faith Sharing:

1. Talk together about who—neighbors, friends, grandparents—helps you have a faith that is alive to God's amazing possibilities for the world. Call that person (if possible) and say thank you for what they have given you.

Week 2—September 8, 2013

It Ain't Easy (Reconvening Sunday)

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Philemon 1-21
 Luke 14:25-33



Aim: To explore together, what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Background: The community of faith gathers again and asks 3 questions of each member:

1. Are you ready to renew your journey of faith with this whole community even though it has risks and costs?
2. Are you willing to bring your gifts, experience, and knowledge, to the life of this community of the whole people of God?
3. Are you willing to be supported by this community as we each struggle to live a real faith in a real world?

To answer "yes" means being open to a reshaping in the hands of God "the potter" as described by Jeremiah. To answer "yes" means being open to new understandings about relationships like Philemon. The reading from Luke reminds us that to answer "yes" to this journey "ain't easy" but it's real. Are you ready?

Faith Sharing:

1. Make a batch of play dough (2 cups flour, 1 cup water, 1 cup salt. Mix flour and salt together and gradually add water until all is moistened. Remove from bowl and knead for several minutes.) Give each member a ball of play dough to work with while one member reads "The story of Jeremiah" pages 141-142 in *Family Story Bible*. What image of God does Jeremiah have? Shape your clay (play dough) into something symbolic (e.g. a cross symbol of our Christian faith, a candle holder to hold a candle you light at Faith Sharing times, etc.).
2. Look together at the logo on the front of this Leaflet. Talk about what you see and the logo's symbolic meaning. Tape newspaper clippings of concern on your fridge and use them as prayer reminders.
3. During the week agree together to use the phrase, "It ain't easy but it's real" whenever a situation comes along which fits. (e.g. Someone is groaning about taking the garbage out and you say, "It ain't easy, but it's real.")
4. Inflate a strong balloon. Cover it with several layers of newspaper torn into strips and dipped in a mixture of white glue and water (or flour and water). Let the newspaper dry so the ball remains rigid without the support of the balloon. With colored felt pens draw a very rough map of the world on the globe. Push colored pins into places you hear about on the news. What are some of the real issues being lived by children in those places? Remember these real world issues in your prayers at mealtime each day.

All is Not Lost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
 Psalm 14
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10*



Aim: To celebrate belonging in God's community.

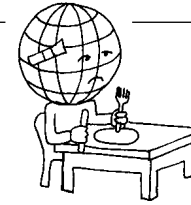
Background: Today's passages remind us how much God cares for us. The Jeremiah passage speaks of a time of devastation because the nation has turned from God's way but also of a new beginning. The gospel reading contains 2 parables. One speaks of God as a caring shepherd who searches for the sheep that has gotten lost. The other speaks of God as a persistent woman who sweeps and sweeps until she uncovers the coin that is lost. God persistently seeks a close relationship with us and tenderly cares for us when we have become lost or discouraged. Because God loves us so much, our response should be one of love and reaching out to others. What could you do this week that would help someone else to feel the kind of belonging that God desires? What could you do this week that would help others to know your need to belong?

Faith Sharing:

1. This was likely the first day of church school classes. Affirm the importance of this new beginning and ask the children to share what they have experienced. Invite them to share any activity sheet or project they may have created. Share with them how worship was for you.
2. Sometime during the week have a real honest-to-goodness game of hide-and-seek with family or friends. Make sure everyone gets a chance to do the seeking as well as the hiding. Imagine a God who is seeking each of us as actively as you sought one another in that game! Read the story "The lost sheep," pages 216-217 in *The Family Story Bible*.
3. Read the story of "The Lost Coin" in the Bible (Luke 15:8-10). Talk together about recent experiences you have had of finding something that was lost. How did you feel?
4. Print each word from the following verse on a separate piece of paper. "Rejoice with me for I have found the coin that I had lost." (Luke 15:9b) Tape one word on each of 13 coins. Hide the coins in a room. Send everyone to search for them. When all 13 are found use them to form the verse. Say it together. Think of a way to celebrate that God loves each of us.
5. Gather with family or friends at the end of a day around a lighted candle. Play some quiet music. Whenever the candle flame flickers, see it as the breath of God reminding us of God's effort in searching for us. Feel God's presence with you.

It's a Real World

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
 Psalm 79:1-9
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13*



Aim: To consider the ways we use our power and resources.

Background: What does faithful living in the real world look like? What difference does it make when a person chooses to face the real decisions, conflicts, choices and relationships of each day in God's way? The lessons and theme conversation in Church lead us to think about shrewdness, and about the wise and effective uses of our power and resources for Christ's sake. Jesus is a model for us. What talents, gifts and influence do we have? How can we use these to serve God's purpose for our world?

Faith Sharing:

1. For each of the following items that you own, talk together about how you could use them more effectively in being faithful in the real world: car, computer, garden, pen, football, flour, T.V., phone.
2. Find a story or comic strip in today's newspaper which is about someone being clever and resourceful with what they have. Does this story suggest a way for you to be more effective and faithful?
3. Trace each person's hand on heavy paper and cut out. Pass the hands around and write on the fingers (or say out loud) something which tells how that person uses their power or is resourceful. (e.g. speaks well, studies hard, watches for specials, plans ahead, cleans up, goes by bus, listens carefully, etc.) When the hands are full, read them aloud. Post them on the fridge for a week or two.
4. Use your family ingenuity to create a meal together using no more than 8 basic ingredients (e.g. water, tomato, zucchini, banana, honey, flour, salt, cheese). Agree together what the ingredients will be. Make a grace of thanksgiving for the items and for your creativity and resourcefulness.

Close That Gap!

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31*



Aim: To name what brings us closer to one another and God.

Background: The gospel story of the rich man and Lazarus reminds us of the gaps that exist in our own community, and that love of our neighbor and love of God cannot be separated. Gaps are different than boundaries. Healthy boundaries lead to clarity in relationships and to respect for individuals within families and communities.