

BLAZINGGLORY
PRESENTS

A BIG EVENT FOR LITTLE PEOPLE



“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him. And he will eat with me.”

Revelation chapter 3 verse 20

International Children's Bible

Blazing Glory

Mad Hatter Tea Party

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Introduction

The 'Making Friends - Mad Hatter Party' event is a bridge for our mission platform to support churches in reaching out to families and then hosting the 'Friends of God' series of lessons for the children.

This document sets out an 'ideas guide' for you to use freely. There will also be a requirement to plan and manage the event within your organisation.



Event platform guide

Welcome to the Event Mission Platform.

Join the friends of Blazing Glory inside Hattie's Tea Shop at Gospel Street Station where we will share with you many suggestions for hosting this exciting themed event.

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A large, orange, hand-drawn number '1' with a slightly irregular, sketchy appearance.

Get ready to enlist a cast of enthusiastic Christian children's workers and dress up for a Mad Hatter-style tea party.

A large, orange, hand-drawn number '2' with a slightly irregular, sketchy appearance.

From this Event Mission Platform you can invite children and their families in your community for afternoon tea at your church building or facility where you meet.

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Big event venues (stations) may be able to facilitate many of the ideas suggested, whereas smaller event venues (stations) will need to adapt the ideas to suit their premises and staff accordingly.

But whether you are a large network or small network all arrive at the same destination, which is to lead children to Jesus. Look out for big station flags (#BigFlag) and small station flags (#SmallFlag) to support you in planning your event.



#BigFlag



#SmallFlag

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A large, stylized orange number '4' drawn with thick, expressive brushstrokes, positioned to the left of the first point.

Keep your station running on time by selecting the ideas that will best work for you. Remember to plan your event and timetable how long you estimate enjoying each fun activity. Leave enough time to get to know the children, for them to make friends and for everyone to enjoy a taste of worship before they depart.

A large, stylized orange number '5' drawn with thick, expressive brushstrokes, positioned to the left of the second point.

Accessibility considerations are important and the inclusion of any special need guests may have, so that they find a safe platform at your event station.

Event platform guide

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6

Organise running the Friends of God teaching series into your schedule as a follow up to the event, so that the children can return to your church fellowship with their Blazing Glory Travel Bags, which can be given at the event, and learn how to become a friend of God.



Resources available to support the event

TRAVEL BAG

If you don't have one already, order a free sample of the Blazing Glory Travel Bag, which includes the Friends of God Book where the characters from the event are introduced.

www.blazing-glory.com/travel-bag

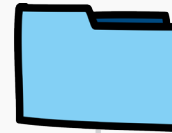


Resources available to support the event

FRIENDS OF GOD TEACHING

Look at the Friends of God Teaching Series, to be run after the event available for free download.

www.blazing-glory.com/teaching-resource



BG_FOG_Teaching_2015 (Zip File, 42MB)



Lesson 1: The Seed of Faith (PDF)



Lesson 2: Get on Track (PDF)



Lesson 3: Sticky Friends (PDF)



Lesson 4: Guiding Light (PDF)



Lesson 5: Prayer Line (PDF)



Lesson 6: Changing Station (PDF)



Lesson 7: Final Destination (PDF)

Resources available to support the event

EVENT POSTERS & FLYERS

Download and print a supply of our 'Making Friends Mad Hatter Party' and 'Friends of God Teaching' posters and flyers.

Fill in the template with your event details and extend the hand of friendship, reaching out with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ in your community.

www.blazing-glory.com/making-friends



Tea Party event poster



Friends of God event poster

Resources available to support the event

INVITATIONS

Ensure that you place any church information and have a 'Friends of God Teaching invitation' in each bag so that the children take home their special invite and want to return for the teaching and the families for church fellowship.

www.blazing-glory.com/making-friends



Tea Party event invite



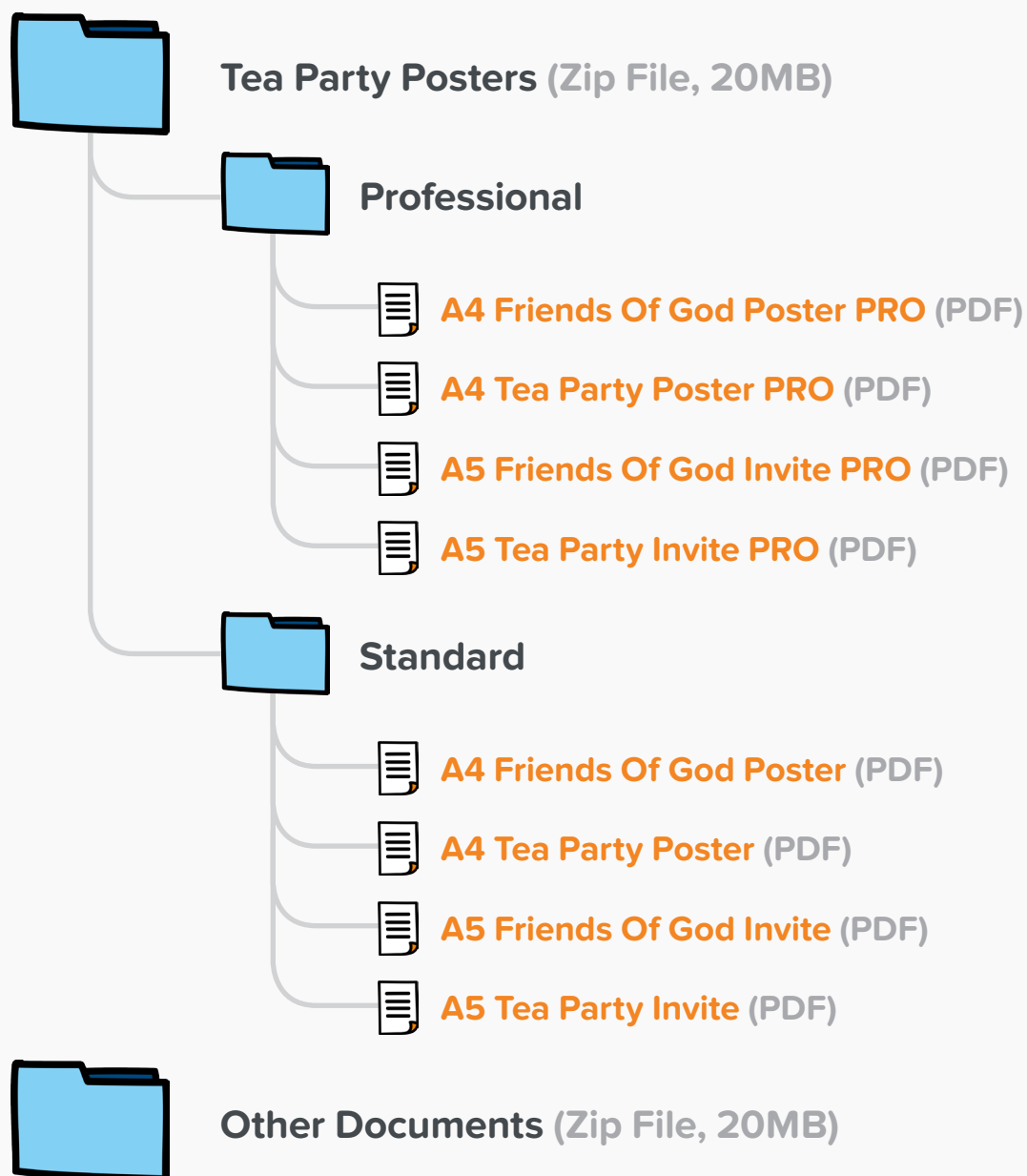
Friends of God event invite

Resources available to support the event

DOWNLOADABLE FILES

There are two versions available for the event posters and invitations, one that is ready for a professional printer including crop and bleed marks, or a standard version to be printed on any colour printer.

Any other supporting resources such as entry tickets are found in 'Other Documents'



Resources available to support the event

TRAVEL BAGS FOR THE EVENT

Once you know the event is happening then order our free Blazing Glory Travel Bags so that these can be given away to children that attend the event.

www.blazing-glory.com/travel-bag

BELONGING BAG

If you are reaching out to children under the age of 6 then also order a supply of Belonging Bags for this age range.

www.blazing-glory.com/belonging-bag



The cast

#OhGlory



FEMALE HELPERS

Select and dress up like one of the girl characters in the Friends of God line up – with plenty of floral decorations.



MALE HELPERS

Simply wear mad hats. For the brave hearts, why not dress as Hardy or Jock in kilts? Stir up the atmosphere by wearing some large foam friendship hands and command the fun!



DEVINE THE TICKET MASTER

Dress as dove character in book with Ticket Master's bag and a large stopwatch to ensure everything runs to time. An important character representing the Holy Spirit.

The cast

#OhGlory



CRAZY DAISY & SUNNY

Characters at the Registration desk that will also host some games.



HATTIE & PIDGE

Bird characters from the Friends of God book can also be there as hosts that judge the best mad hat worn in the Tea Shop.



THE 'WHAT DOCTORS'

New to line up, these are characters soon to appear in the 3rd book in the series: Search & Rescue. They are to be tropical plants with red poker heads that love to ask questions: #what? Create your own costume to enjoy these new characters yet to be released in our Friends of God cast of friends.

The cast

#OhGlory



HARDY & JOCK

They can be the Tea Shop security guards who ensure everyone plays fair and no cheating takes place! Cast to wear kilts and mad hats. Use plenty of hair gel to ensure spiky hair do! #ouch! Maybe some purple hair colour? #!



HEATHER

Lady characters also serving at the Tea Shop as well as ensuring security for the children when they visit the station's toilet facilities.



BUSKERS

To sing at train station – part of your worship team.

The cast

#OhGlory



Big People Zone

#MoreTeaVicar



PARENT'S LOUNGE

Transform your church building/facility into a train station with a crazy Hattie's Tea Shop facility. Zone a waiting lounge area for parents/carers to remain while event takes place. Serve them with tea, coffee and refreshments along with plenty of Jammy Dodgers! Friends in this zone need to be taken care of just as much as the children!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make announcements about how the event is going, if it's running on time etc. to make it feel like your guests are at a train station. Why not make announcements about the Friends of God journey coming soon at your church?

WHILE THEY WAIT

Think of things to do while they wait, e.g. design a coaster. Provide plain card coasters along with felt tip pens and stickers to inspire fun and creativity.

Why not design and print your own church newspaper especially for this event with some good news reports along with a crossword etc.?

Big People Zone

#MoreTeaVicar



BACKGROUND MUSIC

If your Big People Zone is in a separate room then why not play worship music in the background? What about some real life buskers worshipping!



CHECKING IT OUT

Make available, where possible, laptops that enable them to view the Friends of God teaching series, so they can check out what will be taught their children if they attend this follow up series of lessons.



BLAZING GLORY BAGS

Have on display, for parents to look at, the Blazing Glory bags that will be given to their children along with posters for the Friends of God sessions.

Big People Zone

#MoreTeaVicar



SOMETHING TO READ

Make available welcome literature from your church and invitations to the Friends of God seven-week special teaching series for children that you plan to host. If you do create a newspaper then this info could go in there. Be creative and present them in a magazine rack like those found in small kiosks at train stations.



GET THEM INVOLVED

For fun, involve the parents in some of the games when appropriate, if they are in the same room as the children, or announce on tannoy asking for any volunteers.



NICE TO MEET YOU

Spend time getting to know parents, and make them feel welcome with a cast of friendly volunteers from your church family dressed as Friends of God characters.

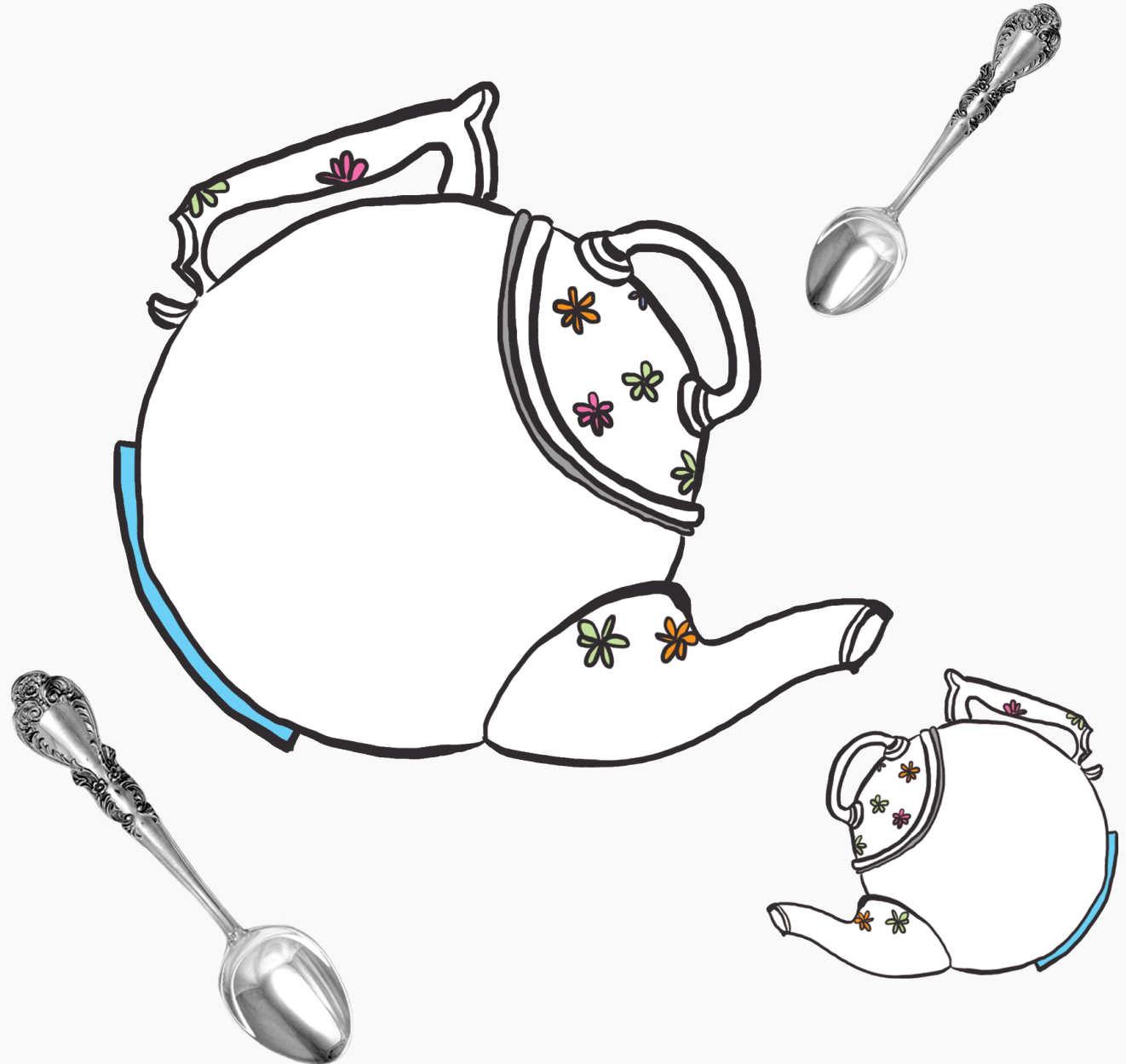
Little People Zone

Setting up Hattie's Tea Shop

#PlasticCups

Set up enough Tea Party tables and chairs for the number of children, who will be grouped in teams, anticipated around the outer perimeter of the room. Cover tables with coordinated plastic tablecloths.

Be creative with how you theme the zones, e.g. large card tea cups hanging from ceiling as mobiles with #welcome messages. What about large mobile tea spoons too? Make your Tea Shop zones colourful and fun.



Little People Zone

Setting up Hattie's Tea Shop

#Blend

Zone a floor area for each team and mark up with a platform number to direct the children to their team leaders.

Colour code this floor zone area for each team, to be identified by sticky coloured spots used at registration and applied to their tickets.

Name each team a different blend of tea, e.g. Earl Grey, Tetley, PG Tips, Yorkshire Brew, English Breakfast, etc.



Registration & entrance zone

#MyTrainTicket



ENTERING THE STATION

Theme your Registration area like a ticket office at King's Cross Station which is where the journey begins in the Friends of God book. Space permitting, have a 'Waiting Area' where guests wait to be escorted by your cast of helpers to their relevant team zone. Ticket Master (Devine) to punch a hole in their ticket, checking the time ready for your event to begin.

FRIENDLY FACES

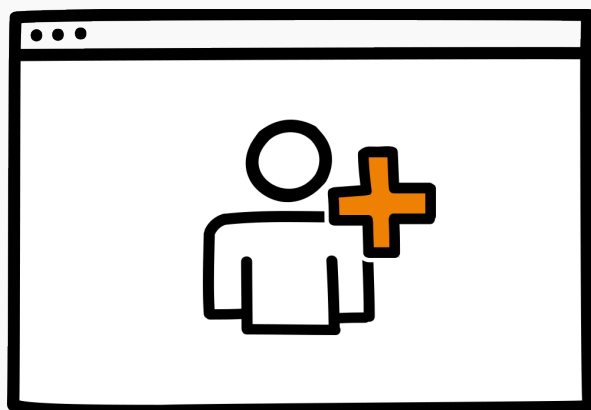
Registration staff to be Crazy Daisy, Sunny and other Friends of God characters. Dress table with a cake stand filled with jam tarts, which they love to eat but not share! Naughty but nice! Have a Blazing Glory Bible on the desk with a magnifying glass placed on top. This is our looking glass into the things of God.

PASSENGER INFORMATION

Prepare your own general sign in sheets to register names, mobile numbers and addresses for follow up. Ask for email addresses if they wish to be contacted regarding future events. Mark up any special health or dietary needs, and communicate this with their team leader.

Registration & entrance zone

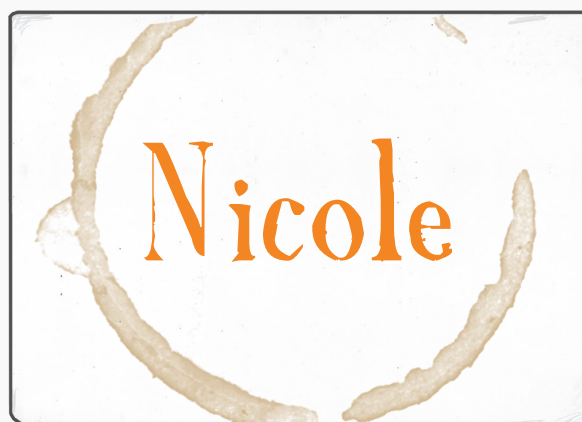
#MyTrainTicket



DIGITALLY SAVVY?

Consider running an on-line booking system for the event so that likely numbers can be anticipated. Prepare a separate general sign in sheet for those who pre-book to help avoid long queues.

Small event stations could consider asking all guests to RSVP, and pre-book their free ticket before the event so that you can manage things safely and more efficiently, leaving room for a number of passengers that just turn up on the day.



REMEMBERING NAMES

Issue tea-stained name sticky labels so everyone, including adults, knows each other's names ready to make friends. Also, mark their name label if the child has any food allergies so their team leader is fully aware.



GET A TICKET

Print multiples of the Blazing Glory train ticket template.



Other Documents



Tickets x8 (PDF)

Registration & entrance zone

#MyTrainTicket



PAIRING TICKETS

Number each paired ticket accordingly. Outgoing ticket (1) and return ticket number (1) is to be the same to identify each child. Inform them of their team platform and colour-spot each ticket with the colour code for their assigned team. Teams to be up to x12 children x2 leaders. If possible, try to balance the age ranges of the teams so that the competition is fair and younger children are supported.

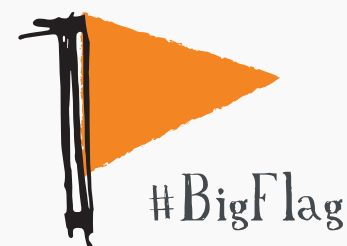


RETURNING TICKETS

Outgoing ticket to be given to group leader with the child's name on the back. The parent/carer keeps the return ticket with the same number and gives to the group leader when they collect their child/children.

MAKE TIME

Ensure you state a Registration time frame on your invitations to ensure that the event flows well. Depending on technology available at your venue,



Display event countdown time and display up and coming events, such as Friends of God sessions as departure times similar to those inside a train station.



Old fashioned chalk boards displaying this information would work well if this technology isn't available to you.

Registration & entrance zone

#MyTrainTicket



BE EFFICIENT

Also, display approximate planned times on your station display board for each selected activity so that the cast can work together efficiently keeping event timetable working like clockwork.

Ticket shop starter activities

#BrewingUp

WELCOME TEAM

#OhGlory cast of friends.

Buskers to sing to create friendly atmosphere – mix in some familiar fun worship songs.



Ticket shop starter activities

#BrewingUp

WHERE TO BEGIN

Select some of the starter activities to assemble, settle and get to know the children while Registration takes place.



#1

Prepare a large drawing on art paper of a Team Teapot. Sit team around this on the floor and help children to colour/decorate the teapot with their names.

Brand it with your team name and colour. If possible also decorate poster with some pictures of the Friends of God cast as a way of introducing who they are to the team.

#2

Select and run some 'Get to know you games'.

See page 36

#3

Flying Saucers Quiz (Friendship Questions)

Short Quiz hosted by the **#WhatDoctors**

See page 40

Ticket shop starter activities

#BrewingUp

WHERE TO BEGIN

Select some of the starter activities to assemble, settle and get to know the children while Registration takes place.

#4

Large clear jar of flying saucer sweets for teams to guess how many in jar.

Sweets shared at the end of event with bonus prize for team that wins, maybe a jam tart or Jammy Dodger biscuits from Crazy Daisy and Sunny who are continuing the lesson of learning to share?

#5

Keep score of team points throughout session. Maybe have a plastic teacup and saucer stack pile as scoreboard?

Or if you have the technology run electronically as a train announcement board.

See page 42



Enter the tea shop room

#WarmedUp

#OptionOne

Buskers to come in and sing while the craft events 1 & 2 take place.

#MugsToShare

Hosts: Hardy & Jock



Step 1

Purchase enough plain white porcelain mugs to decorate using felt tip pens. (Baker Ross – 6 mugs @ £3.96, Porcelain paint pens £9.99, Kidzcraft @ £1.50 each).

Step 2

Prepare small tie-on labels to fix onto the finished mug. Each child to label it: From: (their name).

Step 3

Teams to assemble around allocated teashop tables to decorate their mugs.

Step 4

At the end of the event, as a friend-making exercise, each child to be asked to swap their mug with a child they don't know.

This will encourage them to make friends and remember that they can find friends in God's house. If they are not keen to swap then don't make an issue of it!

Enter the tea shop room

#WarmedUp
#OptionTwo

Buskers to come in and sing while the craft events 1 & 2 take place.

#BoringBiscuits

Hosts: Poppy & Sweetpea



Step 1

You will require x2 Rich Tea biscuits per child. Most Christian events normally give away this boring biscuit but at this party you are to make them tasty.

Step 2

Have wipes available for children to work with clean hands and clean up the surface of your teashop table ready for biscuit decorations.

Step 3

Decorate biscuits using icing sugar ready to pipe, edible spreads and small sweets such as small flowers as this is a garden party. (Be allergy aware).

Step 4

Each child is to be given a small paper plate with their name written on it, so that the decorated biscuits can be displayed and identified once finished. No eating until Devine the Ticket Master calls: **"#TimeForBiscuits"**.

Enter the tea shop room

#WarmedUp
#OptionTwo

Buskers to come in and sing while the craft events 1 & 2 take place.

Step 5

After these two activities serve the children with a drink. Allow them to share one of their biscuits with someone else, encouraging them to make friends.

Have plastic sandwich bags ready with labels so that they can take home their biscuit if they prefer to?

Step 6

Prepare and share a selection of healthy options such as fruit and some mini cucumber sandwiches, which are a must at tea parties.

Get to know you games

#BrewingUp
#OptionOne

#MyNameIs

Ask the children in your team the following questions as an icebreaker. Write down their responses so you can refer to them and have fun when chatting as a group.

#1

What's your name?

#2

Do you have a special nickname/pet name?

#3

When is your birthday?

#4

What is your favourite colour?

#5

What is your favourite biscuit?

#6

Do you drink tea?

#7

Name one thing you are good at.

Get to know you games

#BrewingUp

#OptionTwo

#LineUp



Step 1

#GamePlan

Race to see how quickly your team can line up in age order or height order.

Step 2

This can be staged at a later point by game hosts to see which team can complete the quickest. A good way to settle teams and get them to listen, especially when racing for points.

Step 3

At this stage why not line up and introduce the #OhGlory cast of characters from the books as a line up race?

Get to know you games

#BrewingUp
#OptionThree



#SmileAWhile

CHECK OUT SUNNY'S SMILE!

Step 1

#GamePlan

Nominate a person wearing the biggest smile.

Step 2

The rest of the group to then be asked to keep a straight face.
“Give your face a rest!”

Step 3

The nominated smiler is to then go around the group and try to make them smile without speaking, just smiling.

Step 4

Repeat using a new smiler, depending on time.

Get to know you games

#BrewingUp

#OptionFour

#MadName

Step 1

#GamePlan

Go around the group and ask each child to state his/her name and attach an adjective that not only describes a dominant characteristic, but also starts with the same letter of their name, e.g. nice Nicole, jolly James, barmy Ben, smart Sam. (Adjective to be positive and fun.)

Step 2

The rest of the group to then be asked to keep a straight face. "Give your face a rest!"

#OptionFive

#FlyingSaucer

Step 1

#GamePlan

Guess how many flying saucer sweets are in the sweet jar.

Team challenge.

Quiz time

#BrewingUp

#FlyingSaucerQuiz

Hosts: #WhatDoctors

Step 1

Compile a list of friendship questions, both biblical and general as well as some regarding some of the Friends of God characters.

[See some examples on the next page](#)

Step 2

Have answers written on small paper plates, which represent saucers. Ensure there are multiples of answers, enough for however many teams that will take part.

Step 3

Display each team's teapot poster on a wall using white tack and again, using white tack, stick a set of answers onto each team's poster. Display at a level the children will be able to reach.

Step 4

Each team is to nominate a runner, who is to stand at a fair measured distance from their poster.

Step 5

Game hosts to ask a friendship question and when Devine calls time, they are to run and retrieve the correct saucer and hand it to What Doctor hosts.

Quiz time

#BrewingUp

Step 6

If the answer is wrong, then ensure you put it back onto their teapot poster to continue the game.

Step 7

Continue with questions depending on time, awarding team points as you go.

Example Questions

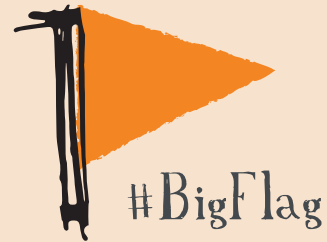
- 1** People say, “A man’s best friend is his...?”
- 2** Reverse the word ‘dog’ and find out who really is a man’s best friend
- 3** Name a friend of God in the Bible
- 4** Who is the Bible friend that sticks closer than a brother?
- 5** What famous Disney film features the song, “You’ve got a friend in me”?
- 6** Which character in the Friends of God book becomes a friend of God?

Answers**Dog****God****Abraham, Enoch, Noah, etc.****Jesus****Toy Story****Poppy**

Quiz time

#BrewingUp

Idea for a scoreboard



Electronic scoreboard like those found at a large train station.



A cup and saucer tower, which is to be added to, each time a team scores a point.

Tips

For safety use a simple plastic cup and a card coaster or playing cards to build the tower. Build the tower like a pyramid so that it remains steady throughout the event.

Have fun with any tower that falls.

Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionOne

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Rosie to carry sugar lumps in her big bag & Sweetpea who loves sugar, to sample a few for fun!

#SugarLumps

Hosts: Poppy & Sweetpea



Step 1

Zone a central space for team games that is safe for children to take part.

Step 2

Purchase or create some very large teacups and saucers for props.

Step 3

#GamePlan

Teams are to compete against each other, tossing as many sugar lumps into the large teacup over a set period of time.

You can take it in turns using one large cup and saucer, or if you have plenty of space then run as a race with each team having their own teacup and saucer. Stir up the fun as you go.

Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionOne

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Rosie to carry sugar lumps in her big bag & Sweetpea who loves sugar, to sample a few for fun!

Step 4

#PlayFair

Mark the floor with coloured tape and place each team cup and saucer at a fair tossing distance from this point for the challenge.

Make the tossing distance the same for each group but the distance shorter for younger friends.

Award points for winning team.

Step 5

#BigKids

Challenge a couple of parents or cast to compete, but this time change to very small teacups!



- 1 Stand nominated players in a group circle around the large teacup and saucer, taking same numbered strides from the saucers edge.
- 2 Commence the race to see how many sugar lumps they can land safely in the same teacup, over a set period of time.
- 3 A cast member will need to count successful hits for each team player. Repeat using new volunteers from each team depending on time.

Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionTwo

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Host to have fun demonstrating how to spin a plate #dizzy

Or

Crazy Daisy running around circle, which is something she does well in the new book Our Father in Heaven.

#InASpin

Hosts: Crazy Daisy & Sunny



Option 1

#GamePlan

Spinning plastic plates on sticks, allowing volunteers from each team to see how long they can spin the plate. Four colourful plates and sticks can be purchased on [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) for £9.69.

Option 2

#GamePlan

Children to sit in a large circle. Number each child. Spin the plastic or tin plate in the centre of the group on the floor.

Ensure plate is spun on its edge as you twist it with your fingers. (Plenty of practice before event!)

Step 3

#PlayFair

Call out a number and the child who has been given that number must race to catch the plate before it stops spinning. Repeat and stir up the fun. You could just call out their names, instead of calling numbers.

Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionThree

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Hattie to carry in x7 large hatboxes containing a hat for each day of the week explaining how she is undecided which one to wear.

In the next book, Our Father in Heaven, this pigeon even tries to pile all seven on her head at once. Pidge is her devoted friend who tries to help her decide – waddle, waddle!

#MadHat

Hosts: Hattie & Pidge



Step 1

Sit whole group on the floor in a large circle.

Step 2

Make a large top hat for the game or borrow some of Hattie's mad hats. Write on a sticky label the name of a famous character out of the Bible or a celebrity that will be familiar to the children.

Step 3

#GamePlan

Nominate a player to stand in the centre of the circle and place the game hat on their head; stick the label on the hat without them reading it.

Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionThree

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

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In the next book, Our Father in Heaven, this pigeon even tries to pile all seven on her head at once. Pidge is her devoted friend who tries to help her decide – waddle, waddle!

Step 4

#PlayFair

The player wearing the mad hat is to ask the group members a series of questions in order to determine who they are. Yes or no answers only.

Step 5

The winner of the competition is the one who guesses who they are, with the fewest questions asked. They win bonus points for their team.

Step 6

Run a few times, depending on time available. Maybe challenge a parent to play!

Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionFour

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Heather could introduce whilst sipping a nice cup of lemon tea!

Maybe have a few lemon sucking challenges to see the fun faces that volunteers pull.

#LemonTea

Hosts: Heather

Step 1

Stage a few lemon spoon races as a team competition. Same idea as an egg and spoon race but with a lemon.

Step 2

#GamePlan

Line up nominated players, one from each team who are a similar age. Using coloured tape, mark your start and finish line. Each player is to be given a desert spoon and a lemon, which they must place on their desert spoon.

Step 3

#PlayFair

Positioned on the start line they must put one hand behind their back and race to the finish line without dropping the lemon. No holding the lemon. If they drop it on route they have to start again. Winner to be awarded points for their team.

Step 4

Repeat, depending on time, with a different selection of players.



Team competition time

#GamePlan

#OptionFive

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Have prepared a large supply of plain round sponge cakes. Perhaps Hardy & Jock could use some over-baked sponges and play frisbee.

Devine to be counting down time to stir up fun. Crazy Daisy and Sunny to run around eating/stealing the jam that the teams are using.

#CryingCake

Hosts: Rosie

Step 1

Station in team teashops.

Step 2

#GamePlan

Each team is to create the tallest tiered cake, on their team table, in a set period of time.

Step 3

#PlayFair

Working as a team, spread a supply of jam and cream onto each layer and build the tier. Lots of fun and lots of mess! Be ready with the wipes!

Step 4

Team points awarded for the tallest cake and also points for the most creative cake.



Team competition time

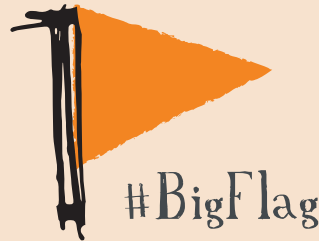
#GamePlan

#OptionFive

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Have prepared a large supply of plain round sponge cakes. Perhaps Hardy & Jock could use some over-baked sponges and play frisbee.

Devine to be counting down time to stir up fun. Crazy Daisy and Sunny to run around eating/stealing the jam that the teams are using.



- 1 To ensure mess control at big events, prepare two teashop tables at the front of your assembled group.
- 2 Run a timed tiered cake challenge between two different teams with a player and team leader from each team.
- 3 When the train whistle is blown each team must swap in a new player so that more children are involved in the game.
- 4 When complete, stage again with different teams and continue until all teams have participated.
- 5 Time permitting, have a bake-off between the two winning teams, but remember to include good behaviour into the reason for your winning cake selection.

Worship

#BuskerBand

Once all of the games are finished bring the teams together for a short time of worship.

This is to be a sip of worship, to taste what it is like should they decide to come along to the Friends of God event to be run by your church/organisation.

Expect God to pour out blessing on all the children.



Prayer time

#BeAFriendOfGod

PRAYER TIME HOST:

Poppy



Step 1

To introduce the children to Jesus and how great it is to talk to Him in prayer, make a Facebook wall/freeze ready.

Step 2

Using post-it notes, assist the children to write on their name and a short prayer request. If they wish to accept the offer of friendship then they are to post their prayer note onto the pretend Friends of God Facebook wall.

Step 3

Pray together and let the children know that your church family will be praying for them and their family. Let them know that Jesus wants to be their friend.

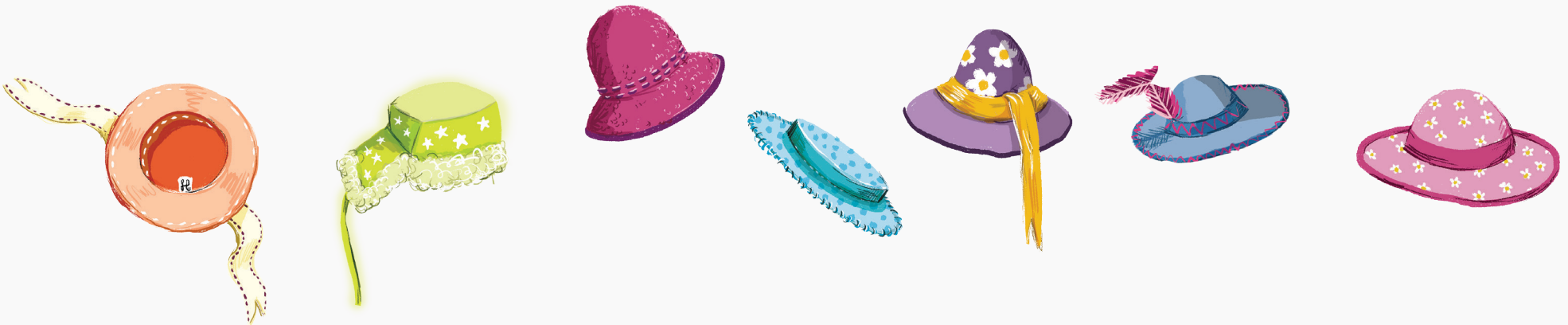


A Gift

#EveryonesAWinner

ROLE-PLAY LINK IDEA

Let the excited **#OhGlory** cast show the children the books and resources inside the Travel Bags, which will be given to them as they leave.



Invitation to Friends of God teaching series

#EveryoneIsInvited

Show them their invitation to the Friends of God sessions and the date when it will be held. Let them know that this is where they can learn how to become a friend of God themselves.

You may plan on staging each chapter of the book as a drama or mini stage show at your Friends of God sessions. So have the opportunity here to present a trailer to the children at your Mad Hatter Party

Or share something fun about the teaching series you plan on doing.

We're launching **#BGbloggers** later this year which can help you tell the 'Friends of God' story interactively. There's more information on page 66.



Invitation to Friends of God
teaching series

#EveryoneIsInvited

#WaddleWaddle

Write a musical jingle for Pidge to waddle around to.

You could have lots of fun at the tea party event with Pidge following the characters hoping to eat up their seeds. Or you could produce a trailer of this with some fun out-takes and screen it for the children to view to encourage them to attend.



Ending the Event

#FinalDestination



Step 1

Hattie is to announce which mad hat, worn by one of your team, is her favourite.

Step 2

Announce winning teams, etc., exchange mugs and send them on their way with their Blazing Glory Travel Bag.

Step 3

Coming soon – display or announce the ‘Our Father in Heaven’ book and comic which is next in the Travel Bag series to be released.

Ending the Event

#FinalDestination



Step 4

If you are planning another outreach event then announce they can 'Get on board' the bus at the next Blazing Glory Event: 'Coming Home Party'.

This is linked to the Our Father in Heaven Book and can be staged after the Friends of God Teaching Series is complete.

Step 5

Buskers – why not sing them on their way with a song?

Step 6

Follow the Registration return ticket idea (or your own procedures) to ensure safe return of each child to correct parent or carer.

Mission Strategy for 'Friends of God'

#preparerevell

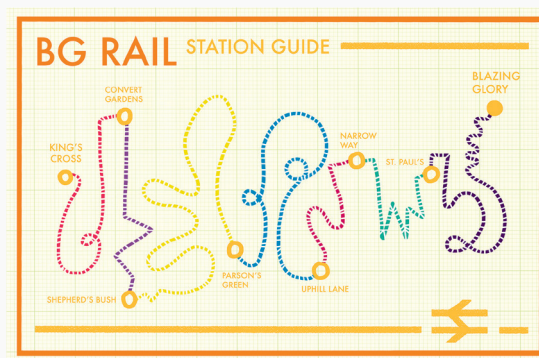
Plan Your Journey

#StartWithPrayer



WHAT TO PRAY FOR

Pray for wisdom, timing and the power to do God's will when hosting an event. Be clear in terms of your own Holy Spirit guided approach, which will be unique to each Tea Shop.



PLAN THOROUGHLY

Whether your venue works as a quaint station teashop or a main line busy platform, all will require thorough planning so that everything runs on time and all of your little passengers are safe.



#TRAINSAFETYTIPS

Set up a 'Friends of God' core friendship team from within your children's work to plan and project manage your event. Ensure that you implement all of your child protection and health & safety aspects when planning an event of this size and nature.

Plan Your Journey

#StartWithPrayer



#TEASTRAINER

Strain out and avoid risks and problems. Train stations can be very busy places, especially at peak times! Be thoughtful as you plan and manage your own process.



MISSION POSSIBLE

The strategy below simply presents thoughts and ideas that will help you formulate a good working plan for your event and then mission.

Traveller Information

#ChildrenComingHome

Inspire Vision

Step 1

Present the Making Friends – Mad Hatter Party mission to your church congregation and passionately inspire vision. Do this at least a couple of months in advance of the planned event. Ring the mission bell and sound the call for prayer and supporters to participate in whatever way they can.

Prayer

Step 2

Why not theme it up by wearing costumes to make your presentation as per the Tea Party?

Relationships/Community

Show and display some Blazing Glory Travel Bags that will be given to each of the children who attend – along with Belonging Bags if you are using them for younger children.

Purposeful Communication

Ensure you order a good supply in plenty of time for the planned event. Check our stock availability.

Traveller Information

#JesusIsComingAgainSoon

Inspire Vision

Step 3

Using church screens, display some of the relevant information as departure times used in train stations, as you speak.

e.g. timetable of events leading up to departure of train that is a countdown to the date of your event; amount of helpers required on each platform, etc.

Prayer

Step 4

Present the Friends of God follow-on Teaching sessions. This can be done in many ways (see next page for **#BGbloggers** idea).

Relationships/Community

If you are planning on staging each chapter of the book as a mini stage show or drama, then why not show this as a trailer as per **#WaddleWaddle** in the event notes, or screen your fun out-takes that occur at rehearsals?

Purposeful Communication

Step 5

Set up train platforms where people need to go to at the end of your presentation to sign up for various tasks. Be organised and clear about commitments required for each task, and have ready a timetable of events leading up to the Tea Party and Friends of God sessions taking place.

Why not try...

#BGBloggers



1

FILM THEM READING

To make the telling of Friends of God more interactive, you could involve members of your church and film them reading a chapter.

2

DRESS THEM UP

It might take a bit of gentle persuasion but adding some character outfits from the book will help children's imaginations. You can add as many special effects and pigeon splats as you like.

3

ON LOCATION

Push it even further and film the readings on a train journey. This can be done easily with a smartphone.

4

USE OUR VERSION

We're planning on creating a set of 7 videos for you to use. Look out for it on the website and Facebook page, or sign up for the Blazing Glory newsletter for more information.

Traveller Information

#PrayThemHome

Prayer strategy is vital. It is what will pour out God's success onto the mission.

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Step 1

Engage and enlist your church family with a request to set up small prayer groups/prayer networks to pray. Each is to pray firstly for their own children in their family and then their friends they are going to invite. Also pray for children already in the church family and then pray home the lost children that your mission will reach.

Relationships/Community

Step 2

Ask them to sign up to this prayer network and commit to praying on a regular basis leading up to the event, and even after the event to keep the home fire burning and mission covered with prayer, for the teaching series and next event.

Purposeful Communication

Traveller Information

#PromiseKeepers

Remember to keep your church promise to pray for all of the children after the event.

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Step 3

Light up the prayer network fire by registering the prayer groups using social media and sending email newsletters.

Step 4

Set dates for all workers participating in the event to meet for prayer before the Mission date, along with relevant training sessions.

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication

Traveller Information

#SendThemOut

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication

‘Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”’ (NKJV)

Matthew 9 v 37 & 38

#1

Call for committed workers to come into the children’s work to be part of the mission event and also for the running of the Friends of God teaching programme. Be ready for the harvest.

#2

They will need to be inspired by vision for both of these events, signed up, interviewed, trained and DBS checked beforehand.

#3

Following the Tea Party, the Friends of God seven-lesson teaching special could firstly be staged at your regular children’s work programme and/or be set up as a special mid-week event. This could be repeated at set times during the year, running another Tea Party and then hosting the Friends of God sessions for another group of new children. Objective is to settle and establish the children and their families into the life of the church.

Traveller Information

#4

Church members can support in the following ways:

#BuyAMug

Consider asking for each member of the congregation to buy a mug at £1 to help raise money for your event. Or donate some lemons or sugar lumps, etc. Why not take an offering using mugs and teacups?

#BakeACake

Sign up enough cooks to commit to baking some plain round sponges for the cake tier game.

#CreativeHands

Enlist the help of creative people who can help build the themed set and create costumes, etc. Also get on board those who will prepare crafts and visuals for the Friends of God sessions that follow.

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication

Traveller Information



Church members can support in the following ways:

#TeaPots

Enlist enough volunteers to help host the event, e.g. serving drinks, getting to know parents and generally helping and supporting the team on the day.

These volunteers do not necessarily need to be people who will be part of the children's work, and do not need to be DBS checked whilst parents remain on site. Every good train station has a team of good cleaners!

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication

#LoveToShop

Find a team leader who will draw up your shopping list, to organize the giving in or buying in of items needed to run both your events efficiently.

Traveller Information



Church members can support in the following ways:

#BuskingBand

Worship teams to be part of both events, rehearsed and ready to lead worship with the children.

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication

#FriendsUnited

Connect with other Christian children's leaders you are in relationship with. Invite these leaders to come and be part of serving at your event.

This will enable them to catch the vision and then go on and repeat an event at their church. Also, this would also bring in strength and support to your work and inspire churches to work together to spread the gospel.

Traveller Information

#Loudspeakers

Inspire Vision

#1

Prepare your own communications strategy and determine your audience so that you can target your approach effectively.

Prayer

#2

Decide whether you run a **#BigFlag** or **#SmallFlag** event as this will shape your approach when sending out your invitations.

Relationships/Community

#3

Ensure you have ready a pre-booking/RSVP system in place that allows for those who just turn up on the day, so that you send out a simple but clear message of instruction. If you plan on friends booking on line at your church website, then ensure it is ready and tested before invitations go out.

Purposeful Communication

Traveller Information

#WaysToCommunicate

Inspire Vision

Posters & Flyers

Deploy a team to be pioneering how to get the word out about the event. Print a required supply of posters and flyers that are freely available from our website.

Prayer

Friendship Evangelism

Ask the church family and especially the children invite their friends and relatives.

Relationships/Community

Social Media

Use Facebook or Twitter or whatever is already being used by your church to advertise when these events will take place.

Purposeful Communication

Traveller Information

Advertising

Advertise in local free newspapers.

Inspire Vision

Engage with schools in your area

Especially the ones you are already in relationship with, to see whether you can take assemblies and invite children through your local school connections.

Prayer

More Posters

Display posters in local shops, libraries, community venues, etc.

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication

Contact local radio stations

Some may be willing to give airtime to promote your event.

Traveller Information

Be Inventive

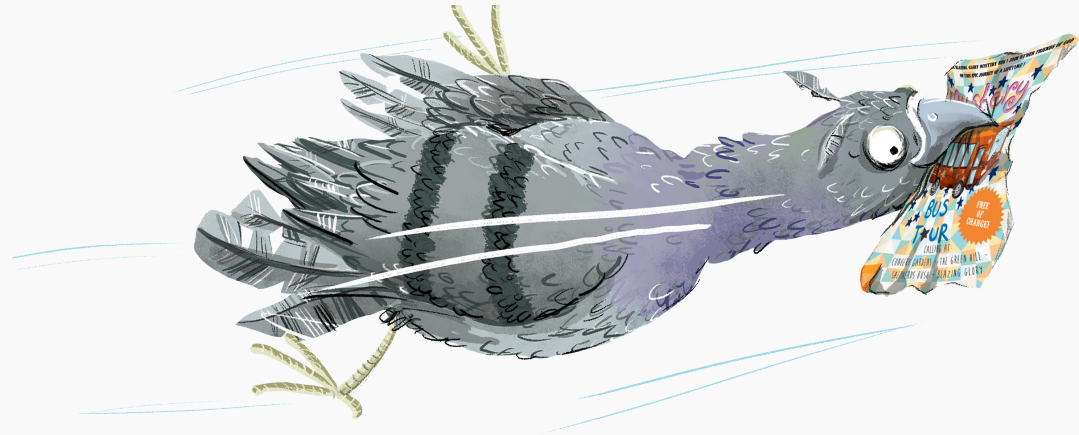
Pray and be inventive in what you do. Why not share your ideas on our Blazing Glory Facebook to inspire and encourage other churches?

Inspire Vision

Prayer

Relationships/Community

Purposeful Communication



The communication made will be full of purpose as it extends the hand of friendship to children and their families outside the walls of the church.

As children take the hand of friendship and attend the Friends of God teaching sessions they will be given the opportunity to be a friend of God.

Plan Your Journey

#RailConnections



LET'S BE FRIENDS

Will you engage in friendship with Blazing Glory so that we can use your friendship platform on Facebook to spread the word?



SHARE WITH US

Can we feature your event on our Facebook?



ANY QUESTIONS?

Please contact the team via our website.