



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a simple all-age resource that has been created to encourage and help families enjoy a time of worship, explore the Bible, pray together and grow in their faith in the comfort of their own homes.

Church@Home provides a fun, engaging and easy-to-follow session every Sunday using a Bible reading selected from the Church of England Lectionary. Each session lasts approximately twenty minutes and provides age-related material for toddlers to teenagers to accommodate everyone in the family. Thought-provoking questions, fun activities and crafts bring the Bible story to life as well as creative prayer ideas to help families focus, learn and grow in their faith together. Additional teaching and craft suggestions are also provided for families with very young children.

Church@Home can also be used as a fun way to help families connect with other families on Sunday mornings too during this time of distancing. Invite everyone to begin **Church@Home** at the same time and perhaps set up a WhatsApp group where families can share what they have done, or discuss the topic further together.

If your family or families in your church are using **Church@Home** please let us know. We would like to keep in contact, find out how you are doing as well as hear how **Church@Home** is helping families grow in their faith, so that we can share and inspire others during this time of distancing.

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Thank you 



Sunday 21 June 2020
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Tough times

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Time to focus...

Find a place in your home where the family can all sit comfortably - around the table, on the lounge floor etc. As you gather, if possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of your worship time. Quietly stare at the candle watching the flames flicker and glow.

Set the scene...

Sometimes God asks people to do challenging things as a part of His plan. Jeremiah was a prophet in the Old Testament who bravely obeyed God and shared a message that wasn't popular. Even though Jeremiah faced tough times, his obedience and prophecies affected the entire nation of Israel. Read the beginning of Jeremiah 1 (4-8) and discuss what the passage tells you about God and Jeremiah's response.

Watch the story...

An animated retelling of '[God's first encounter with Jeremiah](#)'.

Explore the story...

"I just can't do it!" I'm sure you have all said that at one time or another. Maybe you said it when your teacher asked you to do a difficult task like give a book report in front of the whole class.

One day, God spoke to Jeremiah and said, "Before you were even born, I chose you to be my prophet to all the nations." Jeremiah answered, "I can't! I'm not a good speaker, and besides, I'm too young."

"Don't say 'I can't!'" the Lord answered Jeremiah. "If I tell you to go and speak to someone, then go! And when I tell you what to say, don't leave out a word!" Then the Lord reached out his hand, and touched Jeremiah's mouth and said, "I am giving you the words to say, and I am sending you with authority to speak to the nations for me."

In Jeremiah 20, Jeremiah has encountered a lot and is really struggling. He is not only questioning his mission but questioning God's promise that was made to him in Jeremiah 1. But Jeremiah then says these words, "But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior, so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail." (20:11). There will be times in your life when God will come to you, as he did to Jeremiah, and ask you to do something special for him. Whenever you experience tough times, remember Jeremiah's response. "Don't say, 'I can't!'" If God calls you to do something, he will reach out his hand and touch your life to give you the ability to do it.

End with prayer...

Dear Father, there may be some things that we cannot do. But we know that if you ask us to do something, you will give us the ability to do it if we will just trust in you. Amen.



Sunday 21 June 2020
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Tough times

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Activity: Select someone in your family to close their eyes as you hide the Bible in the house. Be sure the Bible can be seen but is not in too obvious a place. As they begin to move around, lead them by clapping faster and louder as they get closer to the Bible. Repeat a few times so that everyone has a go.

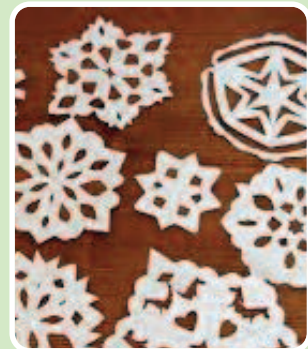
Creative Prayer: Have a go making snowflakes - see below for instructions...

5-11s...

Worship: Listen to "[Make me Brave](#)" by Bethel Kids

Word shapes: check out the next page for a great word shape challenge exploring on Jeremiah 1:5...

Creative Prayer: Cut out snowflake designs (here's a great [tutorial](#)) and write 'I CAN' in as many places as you can fit the words. Every snowflake that falls from the sky has a different pattern - each one is uniquely formed like we are all different. No two of us are exactly the same, but God has a special plan for each of us and, with his help, we can be anything he wants us to be! Snowflakes can be stuck on a window or the fridge as a reminder of today's lesson.



11-18s...

- 1) How does it feel when you are misunderstood?
- 2) What different emotions and feelings does Jeremiah speak about?
- 3) Can you identify with any of the things Jeremiah says?

+ Pray for Christians in the world who suffer because of their faith.

> Watch the news and pray for each situation.

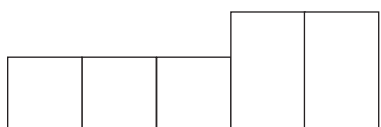
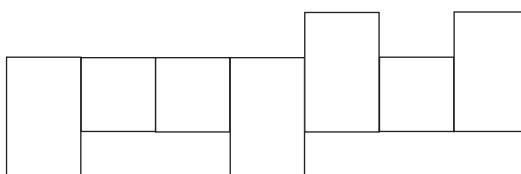
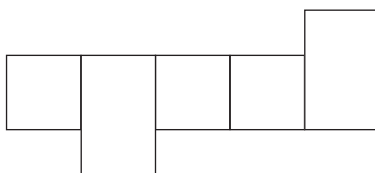
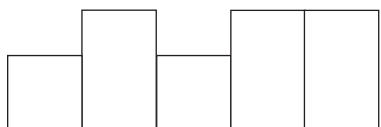
"But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior." - Jeremiah 20:11

The call of Jeremiah - Word shapes

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shapes of the letters...



born

child

afraid

word

speak

prophet

mouth

rescue