



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a practical 'easy-to-use' resource to help and encourage church families enjoy a time of worship together, explore the Bible, pray 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 26 July 2020
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom

1 Kings 3: 5-12

Time to focus...

As you gather as a family, find a place on the floor, around a table or even in the garden. If possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of the worship time. Quietly stare at the flame as you pause and prepare for a time of worship as a family...

Set the scene...

If God came to you in a dream and told you that you could have anything that you want, what would you ask for? Today we are going to learn about a man that could have asked for anything he wanted. He was the king of a country. What do you think he asked for? Let's listen to the story and find out who he was and what he asked for....

Watch the story...

A lovely animation telling the story of "[Solomon asking for wisdom](#)".

Explore the story...

King David was very old. He had been good king of Israel who tried to serve God for forty years. Even when he made mistakes, David was always sorry and tried to do better. The Lord knew that David had a good heart. David's son Solomon was to be the new king. "Always follow the Lord, Solomon. Obey His commands," David told his son.

When Solomon became king, one night the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "Oh, Lord, I want to be a good king. I want to serve the people and help them. Please give me a wise heart so that I can always tell the difference between right and wrong. Help me to be a wise king for the people." God answered Solomon's prayer and he became known everywhere as a very wise ruler. People travelled from everywhere to tell Solomon their problems and he would give them wise advice.

Solomon recognised that to be king over God's people would require God's wisdom. Solomon's response to the question pleased God (1Kings 3:10). His focus was God-centered and not self-centered. What would Solomon's answer have been if he was focused on himself? He would have probably asked to be a powerful king conquering all the lands, to be liked, popular and rich with lots of money and possessions.

As Christians, we also need wisdom so that we can live lives that are pleasing God. Jesus says that believers can only do God's work with His power. (John 15:5). The same wisdom that God gave Solomon is available to anyone who asks. If we ask God for wisdom and we look for His answers in the Bible, we too can be wise like Solomon and make wise decisions and help others to see Jesus in our lives.

End with a prayer...

Thank you Jesus that you know us, love us, watch over us, and guide us whenever we ask for Your help when we have to make wise decisions in our lives. Amen!



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8th Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Teaching activity: To help younger children understand what wisdom is, watch the "[Parable of the two builders](#)" by Saddleback Kids. Afterwards, how 'foolish' would it be not to have some activity using building blocks? As you build houses or towers with your child(ren), try to build on different surfaces. Think and talk about which surfaces make good foundations.




Worship: And it would also be 'foolish' not to suggest that you all sing along to "[The wise man built his house upon the rock](#)".

5-11s...

Worship: Enjoy listening to "[You make me brave](#)"

Teaching game: "Good Idea or Bad Idea?" This game will explore the theme of wisdom and that there is a right (wise) decision for every wrong (unwise) decision. Print the set of the game cards on the next page, cut out the cards and shuffle them. Take it in turns picking one from the pack and answering whether the statement on the card is a good or bad idea?

11-18s...

-  1) What is wisdom?
When have you experienced wisdom?
- 2) Solomon could have asked God for anything.
Why do you think he asked for wisdom?
- 3) What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?
-  Ask God to help you to know the difference between right and wrong.
-  When faced with a challenge this week ask God for wisdom.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5

Good idea v Bad idea

GOOD IDEA	BAD IDEA
Be kind to someone who is mean to you.	Cheat to on a school test to get a top grade.
Be respectful to your teacher even though you're upset.	Get revenge on someone who is mean to you.
Clean up your room the first time you are asked.	Borrow your friend's video game when they aren't looking.
Complete your homework before going outside to play with your friends.	Take money from your mum or dad's wallet without asking.
Give away some of your clothes and toys to a good cause.	Take money from your mum or dad's wallet without asking.
Be kind to the new kid at school.	Make fun of the new kid at school.
Ask a friend if you can borrow their new video game.	Not helping mum and dad because you'd rather do something fun.
Invite a friend to church so they can learn more about God.	Ignore your friend when they are sad because you don't want to hear their problems.