



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 16 August 2020
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Living in unity

Psalm 133

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...

What does the word 'unity' mean to you? Can you think of times when your family were united? Or, when your family were not and couldn't agree on something e.g. what to eat for tea? Today's Bible reading is a very short psalm that celebrates unity and when God's followers are united they can show God's love to the world.

Watch the story...

A fun talk exploring the theme of unity from "[Psalm 133](#)"

Explore the story...

Jigsaw puzzles can be a lot of fun. If you look at one piece of a jigsaw, you don't get very much of the picture, but when they are all joined together and become one, they show the total picture. A jigsaw puzzle can teach an important lesson about unity, especially unity in the church.

Churches are made up of many people. Like the pieces of a jigsaw, people are different too - sizes, shapes, and colours. Psalm 133 expresses how great it is when God's people live together in unity! Jesus himself prayed that the church would be a place that the world would see God's love in us (John 17:20-23). Jesus wants his followers to love, help and serve one another. We are all important pieces in God's amazing jigsaw.

Unfortunately, just as it is sometimes difficult to put all of the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together, the church sometimes finds it difficult to get along with one other. People might say things like "I don't like the songs we sing" or "The talk was too long." When people say things like that and concentrate on their own likes and dislikes, they are no longer being one. They are like the individual pieces of the puzzle. The world cannot see God's love in us. They don't get the whole picture.

If you ever find yourself thinking about yourself, rather than being united your family or with others in the church, remember that Jesus prayed that we should be one. When we are one, bound together by Christ's love, the world will see God's love through us.

End with prayer...

Dear heavenly Father, help us to be more united as one so that the world may see your love in us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



Sunday 16 August 2020
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Living in unity

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Activity: Jigsaw puzzles can be a lot of fun. Find a jigsaw to do as a family and as you make it, hold a piece and think of someone from your family that you would like to pray for. Thank God for that person and ask God to bless and help them.

Creative prayer: Draw a picture of your family together and help them write on the page "Our family". Talk with your child about how as a family you live, work, and play together and enjoy each others company. Give thanks for your family and pray for the different roles everyone plays, but that you are all important.


5-11s...


Worship: Enjoy "[Build Your Kingdom](#)" by Rend Collective.

Creative Prayer: If you look at the people in your school / Church / community, you will see that everyone looks different. Eyes, noses, skin colour, even clothes make people unique. Everyone is beautiful in their own way and together we are like a garden of many different flowers. Draw a picture of your school / church / community that celebrates unity and diversity. It may be a natural time to also discuss the various countries your friends come from as well. Write a short prayer around the drawings thanking God for creating everyone and loving them all equally.

11-18s...

- 1) How many different churches can you name?
What makes them different?
- 2) What does Psalm 133 say about unity?
- 3) How can churches better live and work together?

 Pray for Christians in other local churches

 Find out about churches in your local area. Visit their buildings or arrange a joint event.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"
- **Psalm 133:1**