



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 23 August 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Be transformed

Romans 12:1-2

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...

Can you think of anything that transforms from one thing to another? Transformer toys, seeds that transform into vegetables, trees etc. What do caterpillars transform into? There are lots of things that go through transformations but what about us? Today's reading talks about God transforming our minds...

Watch the story...

Hillsong Kids perform '[Romans 12:2](#)' and ShareFaith explore "[Be transformed](#)".

Explore the story...

What does it mean to conform and be transformed? In Romans 12:2, Paul used the word 'conform' to tell God's followers that they should not to be influenced or shaped by the world around them. However it is all too easy to be influenced and changed by the world. For example, by the friends we hang around with, the TV shows and YouTube channels we watch, or by what we listen to or read. In fact, if we don't stay close to Jesus, then it is likely that we'll be shaped or 'conformed' by the world in the wrong ways. We can feel pressured to go along with the crowd, rather than follow Jesus.

Paul is explaining that there are two options for our lives. One option is to conform and be squeezed - like a tube of toothpaste. We can allow our lives, our values, our attitudes and our relationships to be squeezed and shaped by the forces of the world around us. The other option is to be transformed. A deflated balloon is empty with little or no shape at all. But inflated, it takes a new shape, and will hold that shape as long as there is air inside. Our lives can be reshaped, redesigned - by the breath of the Spirit of God.

The Bible says when we trust in Jesus as our Saviour and friend, we too are transformed! We're changed into new people, because God rearranges our hearts and minds to begin to look like him. And as we read and study God's Word, we grow in our faith, and become more and more like Jesus in the way we think, behave, and treat others. We are conformed to look like Jesus, and this is pleasing to God!

End with prayer...

Heavenly Father, we want to feel the transforming power of Jesus in our lives. In his name we pray. Amen.



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Be transformed

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Prayer activity: The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly is an incredible display of God's ability to transform his creations. He can turn a little bug into something so beautiful and give it new abilities like flying! How exciting is that? If God is willing to do that for such a tiny one of his creatures, just imagine what God is willing to do for all of us.

Create your own butterfly - plenty of templates can be found [here](#) - and write on the wings anything you want to thank and praise God for.



Worship: "[Maker of all things](#)" by Little Worship Company.

Prayer activity: Everyone draws a self-portrait (or draw another family member if preferred). When all of the portraits are finished, stick them all up on a wall. If you have post-it notes hand them out - two or three per person (if you don't you can just write around the drawings). Encourage everyone to write a positive things about the person (caring, fun, responsible, good at sport etc.). At the end everyone holds their picture and say a simple prayer thanking God for every member of your family.

5-11s...

- 1) Who are the top five people that influence you?
2) Read verse 2. How is this a challenge for Christians today?
3) What does it take to be a good influencer to others?

Ask for God's help fighting the influences that lead you away from Him.

Consider this week what you are doing and why you are doing it?

11-18s...

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" - Romans 12:2