



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.

daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org

Thank you ❤️



Sunday 6th September 2020
14th Sunday after Pentecost

Law of Love

Romans 13:8-10

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...

Who do you love? There are lots of verses in the Bible about loving neighbours - check out Mark 12:28-34, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 7:12, Matthew 19:19, Matthew 22:36-40, Galatians 5:14 and Romans 13:8-10.

With so many verses about this, loving our neighbours must be important to God.

Watch the story...

An enjoyable explanation from "[Douglas Talks](#)" about loving your neighbour.

Explore the story...

One day Jesus was in a temple teaching to the people that had gathered there. A group of religious leaders began asking him tricky questions to try to embarrass him so that the people would stop listening to his teaching. One of the men asked Jesus about the Ten Commandments - a set of rules that God gave to the people of Israel to follow.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?" Which one do you think Jesus said was the most important? Jesus answered him, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,' this is the greatest commandment".

How do you think we might show our love to God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? Here are some ways that we might show our love to God. Worship, prayer, Bible study, singing praises, bringing our offerings, and giving thanks for all his blessings.

Do you know what Jesus said next? He said, "The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'" (Matthew 22:39). Well, how do you think we could love others? Here are some things you might not have thought of. We could treat them like we want to be treated, be kind to them, forgive them when they hurt our feelings, be helpful in times of trouble, be their friends.

Loving God and loving others are the commandments that Jesus thought were the most important. It isn't easy to follow them is it? Thankfully we can always ask for God's help each and every day. Let's pray and ask him to help us to love as he has commanded us.

End with a prayer...

Heavenly Father, help us to love you with all of our heart and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Sunday 6th September 2020
14th Sunday after Pentecost

Law of Love

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative prayer: You will need paints and paper. Children spread their colours of choice around the paper and lay their hands on the paper with thumbs and pointer fingers together to form a HEART. Use a cotton bud or craft stick to write at the top of their hand painting - LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, or other words of choice. Feel free to adapt this prayer according to art materials you have available :o)

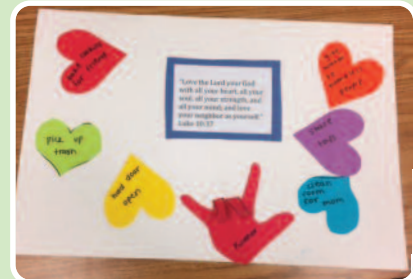
5-11s...

Worship: Enjoy listening to and learning "[My Best Friend](#)"

Various activities: Vineyard Churches have produced some great ideas and activities on 'loving your neighbour' [here](#).

Give a gift: Drop off a small gift or gift card to one of your neighbours. It can be a great way to encourage and get to know them.

Creative prayer: Create two large paper hearts on paper/card, one saying "Love God" and the other "Love Your Neighbour". On each heart write down ideas/ways you might be able to show your love to God/neighbour, and use them as a useful visual / focus point when you say the prayer at the end of exploring today's story.



11-18s...

- 1) Who or what do you love most in the world?
- 2) What does the reading teach you about the importance of love?
- 3) What are the biggest challenges in loving your neighbour as yourself?

+ Ask God to help you love others as He loves you.

> This week try to show love to someone in a practical way.

*"These and other such commandments are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbour as yourself." **Romans 13:9***