



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 27 September 2020
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Imitating Christ Philippians 2:1-11

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...

What is a role model? A role model is a person that you respect, admire and want to be like in some way. A role model can be a famous person or someone you know personally like your favourite teacher - it could even be your mum or dad! Whether we realize it or not, we will all have role models that will influence who we are...

Watch the story...

A lovely message on imitating Christ from "[Douglas talks](#)".

Explore the story...

Do you know what it means to imitate someone? Imitate means doing the same things that another person is doing. Most people will imitate someone for one of two reasons: either to make fun of them, or because they really want to be like them. Did you know that the word Christian came from some unkind people in the town of Antioch; they wanted to mock people who actually believed in Jesus Christ, so they called them "Christians" and the name stuck!

What does imitation have to do with being a Christian? The answer is a lot! In today's Bible reading, Paul tells Christians that they should do their best to imitate Jesus Christ - we should do what we can to live the same way Jesus did! Paul also said to the people in the church at Ephesus, "Imitate God in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ."

Jesus is the ultimate role model! One of the most important things about Jesus was that he showed love to people. Even though he was God's son and was a King, he spent his time serving others. Jesus would even help and serve people that were very poor or were considered by others to be unimportant.

What are some of the ways you can imitate Jesus? You can be kind, loving, forgiving, patient, respectful and obedient. What's the best way to live as a Christian? Imitation... imitate Jesus! Paul said, "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love" (Ephesians 5:1-2). Being a Christian means believing in, belonging to, and being like Jesus Christ!

End with a prayer...

Dear God, thank you for the many ways Jesus loved and served others. Help us to imitate him by showing love and kindness to others. In Jesus' name - Amen!



Sunday 27 September 2020
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Imitating Christ

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Worship: Enjoy dancing along to "[I want to be like Jesus](#)"

Family activity: Play a game (or two) of the classic 'follow the leader'. Select a leader and everyone follows them around imitating every move and sound they make. Change the leaders so that everybody has a chance at being the leader.

5-11s...

Worship: Enjoy "[Jesus you are my best friend](#)"

Activity: Have a go condensing today's passage down to twenty words from the scripture. The words don't have to form complete sentences and words can also be substituted for others if the children would like to choose their own. When the task is completed have a go at condensing down to ten words?

Family activity: This game called [copycat](#) involves someone identifying the leader who begins an action that everyone else in the youth group imitates - the rules will need to be adapted slightly, but will be a great fun for all the family.

11-18s...



- 1) When have you looked out for the interests of others?
- 2) What does the writer say about Jesus in these verses?
- 3) What could you do to imitate Christ more in your daily life?



Ask God to help you become more like Jesus every day.



Ask someone to support you in your quest to be more like Jesus.

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus." [Philippians 2:5](#)