



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 25th October 2020  
21st Sunday after Pentecost

## God is number 1 Matthew 22:34-40

### 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...

As a family, create a list of your Top Ten favourite things in a particular category e.g. top movies, meals, sweets, places, holiday destinations, etc. Have fun compiling two/three lists together. Was it easy or difficult agreeing on your number 1 answers?

### Watch the story...

A short retelling of Matthew 22: "[The Greatest Commandment](#)" by Victory Kids.

### Explore the story...

Check out the Ten Commandments on page 4. Can anyone remember why God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament? Imagine what might have happened if God did not remind His people what was most important to God.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day liked to sit around and discuss the Jewish laws. Like the Top Ten lists activity, debating what the most important commandments were was something they did a lot. In today's reading a Pharisee tries to trick Jesus into saying something that would cause people to turn against him. The Pharisees were a group of people who went to church a lot, but they were not very loving. When the Pharisee asked Jesus which was the most important commandment, Jesus's reply must have sparked a heated response!

Jesus said that the most important law was to love God with all your heart. Jesus added that the next most important thing was to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Jesus doesn't tell us to love ourselves, he knows that we can do that without being told. But he knows that the only way we can love others as we love ourselves is when our greatest love is for God. When we love God more than we love ourselves, then we are able to love others as much as we love ourselves.

All of the Commandments are based on loving God and loving others. If we really do love God, we will naturally follow all Ten Commandments. Hold out your ten fingers and thumbs. They stand for the Ten Commandments. Now turn your palms so that they're facing you and cross your hands on your chest. This is the symbol for love.

### End with a prayer...

Dear Father, help us to love you with all our hearts and help us to love others as we love ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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# God is number 1

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

**Creative Prayer:** Give everyone a simple outline of a person (a gingerbread person shape is ideal). Personalize them and thread a piece of wool through a hole in the top of each figure. Tie them together and send a moment in quiet thanking God and say: "Let us love one another because love comes from God - 1 John 4:7"

5-11s...

**Worship:** Bop and smile along to "[Praise Party](#)"

**Activity sheet:** Work out the scripture on the next page...

**Creative prayer idea:** You will need paper, pens and scissors. Draw a basic outline of a human (like a gingerbread person cut-out) and write "Loving God" on the first one, and "Loving Others" on the second one. Take it in turns drawing/colouring each of the following body parts while you come up with ways that you can use them to show love...

**Ears** (example: listening when others are talking, listening in church)

**Eyes** (example: paying attention to others needs, reading the Bible)

**Nose & Mouth** (example: singing hymns and praise music, speaking kind words)

**Mind** (example: learning about Jesus, thinking of new ways to help)

**Heart** (example: praying to God, telling your parents you love them)

**Hands** (example: holding the door, cleaning up the sanctuary)

**Feet** (example: going on mission trips, walking with someone to their car)

11-18s...



1) What is easier: loving God or loving your neighbour?

2) Jesus also said, 'love your enemies'. Are there examples when Jesus did this?

3) Who do you need to love first, yourself or your neighbour? Why?



Who do you struggle with? Pray God changes your attitude towards them.



Read Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 - how so these verses link to today's reading.

*"Forget about the wrong things people do to you, and do not try to get even. Love your neighbour as you love yourself. I am the Lord." - Leviticus 19:18*

# The greatest Commandment

Here is a reminder of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses...

1. I am God. You should not have any other gods that are more important than me.
2. You shouldn't worship anything or anyone other than the true God.
3. Respect God's name; it is special. Don't use it as a curse.
4. Remember the day of worship and keep it holy.
5. Respect and honor your father and your mother.
6. Don't kill anyone.
7. Husbands and wives, keep your special love only for each other.
8. Don't steal from anyone.
9. Don't tell lies about your neighbour.
10. Don't be jealous. Don't want for yourself anything that belongs to your neighbour.

To find the greatest commandment write the previous letter of the alphabet...

L O							
M P W F	U I F	M P S E	Z P V S				

H P E	X J U I	B M M	Z P V S				

I F B S U	B O E	X J U I	B M M				

Z P V S	T P V M	B O E	X J U I				

B M M	Z P V S	N J O E					

Matthew 22:37