



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a fantastic 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.

daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org

Thank you ❤️



Sunday 15 November 2020
2nd Sunday before Advent

Use it wisely

Matthew 25:14-30

Time to focus...

Find a place 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...

Do you watch Britain's Got Talent? Every year, contestants of all ages audition to go on the televised contest with whatever talent they wish to demonstrate. Many on the show are incredibly talented. It takes a huge amount of confidence and self-belief to perform in front of the judges and a huge live audience.

Watch the story...

Watch this illustrated retelling of the '[Parable of the Talents](#)'.

Explore the story...

Did you know that the word talent had more than one meaning? In Jesus's day, a talent was also a very large amount of money. In today's reading Jesus tells a story about a master going on a long journey. He gives his servants some money - this was something new for these servants, to be asked and trusted to take care of something so huge. But the master knew his servants had the skills to be trusted with his talents. So what did the servants do with these talents? The first two servants used their talents well and made a profit. However, the third servant was so scared that he might do something wrong, he buried the talent so no one could find it. The master was not impressed!

It's pretty clever how Jesus uses talents in this parable, because God gives us talents in the form of abilities; just like those talents we see in Britain's Got Talent. God made some people to be amazing singers, so they could worship and lead others in that same worship. And He made some people good listeners so they could listen to the needs and struggles of others and help them. And He made some people strong or good with tools, so they could lend a helping hand to those that needed it, just like Jesus did.

God gave all of us talents, but they aren't all the same. And even though they are different, they aren't better or worse than each other. God just wants to see us use them instead of hiding them. That's why He gave them to us! He wants us to use those talents to bring more people to him and to grow His kingdom. It can be as simple as reading someone else a story or helping them pick up something they dropped. Remember that it doesn't have to be big, it just has to be for God.

End with a prayer...

Dear God, help me to use one of my talents this week to grow God's kingdom. Amen.



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Use it wisely

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Fun activity: Wrap a gift or a nice treat up in paper several times - like 'pass-the-parcel'. Using oven gloves/mittens family members take it in turns rolling a dice, and if they get a '6' they can pop on the gloves and try to unwrap the gift. Everyone else continues to role the dice until a '6' is rolled and the next player takes the gloves.

5-11s...




Worship: Dance and sing along to "[Thankful](#)"

Creative prayer: Create a 'Thank you' prayer wall and write or draw things that God has given you. It doesnt even have to be a wall - how about creating a washing line and peg all of your words and pictures to the line.

Fun activities: Talent Contest or 'Show and Tell'. Encourage everyone in your family to show off some of their skills. You can pre-warn them or surprise them asking them to perform on the spot.

Wrap a gift or a nice treat up in paper several times - like 'pass-the-parcel'. Using oven gloves or mittens family members take it in turns rolling a dice, and if they get a '6' they can pop on the gloves and try to unwrap the gift. Everyone else continues to role the dice until a '6' is rolled and the next player takes the gloves.

11-18s...

-  1) Have you been given something valuable to look after? How did it make you feel?
- 2) What is going on in this parable? Is it fair?
- 3) How can you responsibly use the talents/gifts God has given to you?
-  Ask God to reveal a new talent/gift within you.
-  Make a card celebrating a friend's talent/gift and give it to them.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!" - Matthew 25:23

Parable jumble

Unscramble the words below from Matthew 25:14-20 and use the letters to create a word that completes the phrase at the bottom (and if you get stuck you can always get some help from: use www.wordunscrambler.me)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1) LATIFHUF | <input type="text"/> |
| 2) REMSAT | <input type="text"/> |
| 3) NOEMY | <input type="text"/> |
| 4) YZLA | <input type="text"/> |
| 5) SVATENR | <input type="text"/> |
| 6) ESARH | <input type="text"/> |
| 7) LODEBU | <input type="text"/> |

Don't bury your _____

extra stuff

- 1) Write a poem about the parable of the talents.
- 2) If this parable was a book, design the front cover.
- 3) If you were suddenly given five talents what would you do?
- 4) This parable teaches me...