



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](mailto:daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org)

Thank you 



Sunday 29 November 2020  
1st Sunday of Advent

## Attitude of gratitude

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

#### 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...

Today's reading is the beginning of a letter to the church in Corinth. In the first century, the city of Corinth was very important to the Roman Empire. The city was full of people with various cultural backgrounds and religious beliefs. Paul the Apostle helped start the church in Corinth. But Paul heard that the church was struggling and wrote letters to help and guide the Christians in the church.

#### Watch the story...

Paul, the writer of today's reading was an amazing guy - did you know that almost a third of the New Testament is written by Paul? This fantastic clip tells the [Story of Paul](#) how he became a follower of Jesus and why became a formidable letter writer!

#### Explore the story...

Reading books can be lots of fun. Think about all the things that might happen when you read... you're taken on great adventures, you visit new places, you learn about people who live in different countries and have different customs and habits from your own, you find new friends and discover fantasy creatures like dragons, fairies, and strange animals, you are taken away to magical places, sail the seas or become an astronaut travelling through space. Reading enriches our lives with new words, facts, imagery, questions and ideas.

In today's reading, the apostle Paul uses the word 'enrich' saying that God enriches our lives in every way. Paul gives thanks to God for the Christians living in Corinth because "For in him you have been enriched in every way - with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge"(1:5). To enrich something means to make it richer - to make it better. Books enrich us, make us better, teach us new things, and give us pleasure. The same can be said about the Bible. God's Word is full of amazing stuff; insights into human behaviour, it tells us the background story of God and his love for his creation, the start of the Christian Church and most importantly, the life, teaching and purpose of Jesus. Paul goes on explaining that same thing can be said for our faith in Jesus. Accepting God's love enriches our lives in every way. Therefore, our attitude must be one of gratitude - Jesus Christ makes our lives better and as Christians we learn new ways of living that help us every day. Hallelujah!

#### End with a prayer...

May God's unfailing love be with us as we put our hope in Him. Amen (Psalm 33:22)



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

**Creative prayer:** Make a gift of praise for God. Gift wrap a small cardboard box so that it looks like a present. Give out small pieces of paper or sticky labels and everyone draws or writes something that they want to thank God for. Play some quiet music as all the prayers are placed or stuck on to the present.

5-11s...

**Worship:** Did you know God thinks you are a "**Superstar**"

**Fun activity:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 is the beginning Paul's letter to the Corinthians which sets the focus for the entire letter.

As a family, make up a story by saying one sentence each until the story finishes. Choose words that everyone must include in a sentence at some point (e.g. yellow, football, carrots). How did the word affect the story?

**Extra activity:** Brainstorm on a large sheet of paper everything that you can learn about Jesus from this passage.

**Creative prayer:** In verse 7, Paul mentions spiritual gifts. Search online for a list of spiritual gifts and then list people you know with these spiritual gifts. Pray for them and that others you know will be blessed by God today.

11-18s...

- 1) When have you been in conflict with others?
- 2) Paul praises God for the Corinthian church. How must you talk about and treat other churches?
- 3) Why should you be thankful amid chaos, misery and trials?

**+** Ask God to help you to be thankful at all times.

**>** Work on any areas of your life where you lack thankfulness.

*"I am thankful to God all the time for you. I am thankful for the loving favour God has given to you because you belong to Christ Jesus." - 1 Corinthians 1:4*