



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.

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Thank you 



Sunday 6th December 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

Great news! Mark 1:1-8

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...

Have you ever been to a banquet or a very big meal with lots of guests? Organising and cooking the food takes a lot of skill especially making sure that everything is ready on time. The reading today introduces John the Baptist who had a very important role preparing the way for Jesus and his ministry...

Watch the story...

This great video by Crossroads Kids brilliantly explains who '[John the Baptist](#)' is?

Explore the story...

Before the days of printed newspapers, town criers walked the streets ringing a bell shouting "Hear ye, hear ye!" as they told passers by the news, times of town meetings and other items of interest to the people. Today, people get the news in many different ways; some people still read newspapers, others look it up on the internet, use an app on their phone, listen to the radio or watch the news on television.

No matter how people get the news, it is important to know what is going on in the world. Long before Jesus was born, God told the prophet Isaiah how He would spread the news of the coming of the Messiah, and many years later John the Baptist used Isaiah's words too; "I will send my messenger to prepare the way. He will be a voice of one crying in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!'" (Mark 1:3).

John the Baptist was the messenger that God chose to share His good news! John travelled around preaching that people should repent of their sins and turn to God. Repent means to tell God when you know you have done wrong and stop doing those wrong things. When people listening to John the Baptist confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

John the Baptist was very popular, but he always told the crowds about Jesus and that someone was coming soon who was greater than him. 2,000 years after God sent His Son, God still needs messengers to spread the news. This year, as you celebrate the Saviour's birth, will you be God's messenger and share the Good News with others?

End with a prayer...

Dear God, we thank You for this very special time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many who don't know about Jesus. Help us be Your messengers and share the good news. In Jesus' name, amen.



Sunday 6th December 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

Great news! Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative prayer: John baptized people in a river and for this prayer you will need a jug of water and cups...

Water can be really refreshing when we are thirsty, and it help things grow. God wants his people to be refreshed by him, and to grow well. As you drink the water, ask God to refresh you and a new love for Him. Amen.

5-11s...

Worship: Christmas is coming so "[Raise A Hallelujah!](#)"

Creative prayer: John baptized people in a river and for this prayer you will need a jug of water and cups...

Water can be really refreshing when we are thirsty, and it help things grow. God wants his people to be refreshed by him and to grow well. As you drink the water together, ask God to refresh you and a new love for Him. Amen.

Fun activities: If television or the internet could have been used to announce the coming of the Messiah, what might the announcement say? How would you get this message out to people?

Find a map of the ancient land of Judah and search for the Jordan River. Where might John the Baptist actually have done these baptisms?

If you like to draw, color and paint, take your favorite art materials and create a picture of what you think John the Baptist looked like. If you need help, there is a picture of John on the next page you can colour in.

11-18s...

- 1) When did you last hear some amazing news?
- 2) How did the people responnd to John's message?
- 3) Why did John think he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals?

+ Ask God for more confidence to share your faith with others.

> Read Deuteronomy 31:6 and Isaiah 41:13 each day this week.

"I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" - Mark 1:8

