



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 30th May 2021  
9th Sunday of Easter | Trinity Sunday

## Born again John 3:1-17

### 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 know any famous celebrities? Who are some people that you can think of who might be famous, or very well-known? If you met someone famous, would you want to ask them questions? What would you ask them? Have a go at this fun [baby quiz](#) of famous people - can you identify who they might be?

### Watch the story...

'[Kids on the Move](#)' retell Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus...

### Explore the story...

In today's Gospel story, a man is confused when Jesus tells him that he should be "born again." This man was called Nicodemus. Nicodemus worked for the church and was probably a very important man. Nicodemus had heard about Jesus, and wanted to ask Jesus some questions about who He was and what He was doing. One night Nicodemus managed to find Jesus and started asking Him about his ministry.

This is when Jesus tells Nicodemus that he needs to be born again. Nicodemus had a hard time understanding what Jesus meant - was he supposed to shrink down and become a tiny baby all over again? Jesus explained that this was a different kind of birth. We have physical bodies and physical birth, but being born again happens through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that faith can give us new life. Do you know what you have to do to receive this? Nothing! All you have to do is believe it, and trust in God.

It is so easy to accept this free gift of salvation and receive eternal life. Jesus told Nicodemus that God loves us so much He gave up His son - what an amazing gift! Another amazing gift is that the message wasn't just for Nicodemus. It's for us, too! All you have to do is believe and receive that new life. You too can be "born again"!

### End in prayer...

Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Thank you that we can have new life, and be born again. Help us remember that every day. Thank you for your love. We love you, God! In Jesus name, Amen!



Sunday 30th May 2021  
9th Sunday of Easter | Trinity Sunday

## Born again

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

**Creative prayer:** This popular prayer involves play dough. If you don't have any at home, there are lots of simple recipes online like this [one](#). Have fun shaping things that the family want to say thank you to God for, say 'thank you' aloud or in their heads and then either leave it on the table for others to see or they put the play dough back for the next person. You can use this in the context saying thanks for a part of the story of Nicodemus, or just as thanks for anything that springs to mind!

5-11s...




**Worship:** We The Kingdom sing... "[God so loved](#)"

**Activity:** Have a go at the wordsearch on the next page - find the words from John 3:16 that are hidden in the puzzle.

**Creative prayer:** Find a jam or coffee jar and decorate it. Cut up some paper and put them by the jar with some pens or pencils. Put the jar somewhere accessible (e.g kitchen table) and when something good happens or someone has been kind to you, write it on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. Open the jar next Sunday and read out the slips together and saying thank you to God for His blessings!



11-18s...

-  1) Why do you think Nicodemus saw Jesus after dark?
- 2) What do you think Jesus means when he says; 'you must be born again'?
- 3) How would you explain John 3:16-17 in your own words?
-  Thank God that he loves the world so much he sent Jesus.
-  Memorise Jesus' words in John 3:16-17.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16*

# John 3:16 Wordsearch...

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally:

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son"** (John 3:16)

A	N	D	T	B	E	T	H	E	F	M	O	T
T	I	O	N	O	E	U	G	I	A	S	V	H
L	A	I	W	U	N	O	N	F	O	R	T	A
T	U	H	E	O	R	L	D	E	L	I	B	T
Z	R	I	T	F	E	U	Y	A	I	T	V	U
L	A	O	R	S	L	O	R	S	E	H	E	R
S	U	M	L	O	V	E	D	T	A	T	I	E
L	I	S	I	T	N	U	A	F	A	C	O	S
U	J	T	A	L	U	A	T	U	E	R	I	T
S	O	N	E	E	G	A	V	E	D	I	T	O
N	H	L	L	C	O	N	S	E	Q	U	I	N
W	N	P	S	E	D	S	C	I	L	L	A	E
D	R	E	V	E	K	E	W	O	R	L	D	R

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