



Diocese of Bristol

## Families growing faith at home

**Church@Home** is a simple, practical and 'easy-to-use' resource designed 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 24 May 2020  
7th Sunday of Easter

## Wait for the promised gift

### Acts 1:1-11

#### 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...

This week, (and next week too) explores the beginning of the Book of Acts. You will read about the amazing beginnings of the church and as you look and learn together, you will hear how you can live powerful lives like the disciples in the Book of Acts.

#### Watch the story...

Enjoy these videos - "[Jesus Ascension](#)" and "[Lego Ascension](#)"

#### Explore the story...

The Guinness Book of Records has some strange world records e.g. highest jump on a pogo stick; tallest hat; largest table tennis bat; most toothpicks in a beard; largest yo-yo; most number of t-shirts worn at once; these things are pretty incredible, aren't they? But is there anything more amazing to happen than Jesus' resurrection from the dead? This was something that had never happened before, and has not happened since.

- If you had seen Him alive with your own two eyes, what would have done?
- What are Jesus' disciples going to do with this news that Jesus is alive?
- What does Jesus want them to do?

Jesus wants the disciples to tell others the Good News about Him. That He is alive. That He is the Saviour of the World. How will they do this? "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8). Jesus says they needed two things: The disciples needed power. Jesus was going to give them His Holy Spirit to help them tell people about Him. But that wasn't all they needed. They also needed a plan to do this. Jesus tells his disciples to start telling people about Him in Jerusalem, and then once they've done that, to move out to Judea and Samaria, and then to keep moving on to next places until the ends of the earth have heard the good news about Him. The disciples had a job to do for Jesus. They had work to do, but first they needed to follow Jesus' instructions. He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit - find out next week what happened to the disciples as they waited in Jerusalem!

#### End with a prayer...

Thank you Jesus that you love me. Thank you for being with me in this very moment. Thank you Jesus for your amazing love. How wonderful you are! Amen.



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# Wait for the promised gift

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

**Creative prayer idea:** Drawing a large loopy design that covers the whole page leaving big spaces - see next page. Write God and/or Jesus in one of the central spaces. Then write names of other people you especially want to pray for today. Add words and or designs to each space as you pray for the person in it.

5-11s...

**Worship:** Enjoy [Acts 1:8](#) written as a funky action song.

**Creative prayer idea:** Draw round a CD/DVD and then draw a spiral inside it. Think about things you would like to pray to Jesus about - help, thanks, blessings for others etc. and write or draw them inside the spiral. Cut the spiral out and thread a piece of string through the top so that you can hold the thread and the spiral will dangle and spin slightly but when held over a source of heat, the spiral will spin much more because of the rising of hot air. Even though we can't see the hot air, it is still there, rising up. The movement of the spiral gives a 'rising' or 'ascending' visual for the written or drawn prayers and a reminder that, even though we can't see him, Jesus is always with us.



11-18s...

- 1) Have you ever witnessed something amazing?
  - 2) Imagine you are in the room that day... what emotions are you experiencing?
  - 3) How open are you to receiving God's gift of the Holy Spirit?
- +** Pray that God gently reveals himself to you through his Holy Spirit.
- >** Next time you are challenged, invite the Holy Spirit to help you.

*" But I promise you this - you will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and you will be my messengers to even to the remotest places on earth!" Acts 1:8*

Loopy Prayer examples:

