



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 27 December 2020
1st Sunday of Christmas

Praise God

Psalm 148

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...

As Christians, we celebrate our love for God every week in worship with others in church or through church online, and we can celebrate our love for God on other days, too! When we celebrate God's love for us, we praise God in our worship. How do you think God feels when we praise him? How do you feel when you praise God?

Watch the story...

Enjoy this children's song that uses the words from [Psalm 148](#)

Explore the story...

When we think about worship, we generally think of music and singing, but there are lots of different ways to express how great God is. Read Psalm 148 together and think about all the great things that the psalmist lists about God. One way of praising someone is to talk about something good that the person has done. Has someone ever praised you? What had you done that made someone praise you? How did it make you feel when you were praised?

Receiving praise can make you really feel good. Someone noticed something you did well and told you how happy it made them feel. When someone praises you, it often makes you want to do more of the thing that was praise worthy. For example, if someone praises you for your school work, piano playing for instance, that encourages you to play do even better next time more. People who do not receive praise or compliments miss out on feeling good about themselves. They don't feel like working harder. In fact, they don't feel like working at all.

In Psalm 148, the word "praise" appears twelve times! And all that praise is for God! The psalm is a great reminder of the many of the wonderful things God has done - the sun, the moon, and the stars, the seas, the mountains and the hills, the trees, the wild animals, the sea monsters, the "creeping things" and the birds are praising God for making them so amazing! At the end of the psalm, the writer tells all people - kings, rulers, old men, girls and boys, young men and women, old, young, and in between, to get up and sing about all the wonderful, marvelous things God has done - including making you! Listen to [Psalm 148](#) again as a time of closing worship praising God!

End with a prayer...

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You because You are amazing! Amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Craft activity: This is great fun to do (and eat!) to express the colourful, joyful nature of worship. You will need biscuits, icing sugar, water, food colouring and spreading implements.

Make up a bowl of thick white icing with the icing sugar and some water. Then make up some individual bowls of different coloured icing, slightly more runny in consistency than the white icing.

Spread a biscuit with white icing. Use a cocktail stick (or something similar) to make swirls in the icing, expressing the colourful, imaginative, amazing nature of God. Add a heart to the top of the swirls as a reminder of God's love for us and our love for God. Finally, eat the biscuits and thank God again for how Good he is!



5-11s...

Worship: Sing and jump along to "[What a glorious night](#)"

Creative prayer: Make a gift of praise for God by wrapping a small cardboard box so that it looks like a present. Give out some paper or sticky labels and draw or write something you want to thank God for. Play some quiet music whilst everyone sticks their prayers on to the box.

11-18s...

- 1) What do you think the word 'praise' means?
- 2) Has anyone ever given you praise for something you have done?
- 3) What five things would you most praise the Lord for?

 Praise God for creation and everything that you are grateful for.

 Praise someone who does something really well this week.

"Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted" - Psalm 148:13