



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

Thank you 



Sunday 16th May 2021
7th Sunday of Easter

Power of prayer

John 17: 6-15

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...

Can you think of five different ways people communicate with each other? Phone, letters newspaper, emails, radio etc. Prayer is the main way people communicate with God and in today's reading, Jesus happens to be praying for his disciples...

Watch the story...

Jesus praying for his disciples in [John 17](#) illustrated by Saddleback Kids.

Explore the story...

Why should we pray? Because it makes our relationship with God stronger. Could you imagine trying to have a best friend without communicating with them? Prayer is seeking God and His direction for your life. Praying also helps keep us out of trouble - read James 5:13-16 (The Prayer of Faith):

- What is prayer? (Prayer is spiritual communication between ourselves and God)
- Can you pray when you are in trouble? (Yes)
- Can you pray when you are happy? (Yes)
- What is another name for happy prayers? (Praises)
- What are some of the examples of why to pray mentioned in James 5:13-16? (When you are in trouble, when you are happy, when you are sick, to show faith, for confession of sin, and to pray for others)
- What else can we pray for? (Guidance, Protection, Strength, Wisdom)
- Is praying effective? (Yes the Bible tells us in James 5:16 that the prayers of the righteous are both powerful and effective)

Why pray? It's simple, to talk with God and to get His direction for our lives. God is so good and will help us when we are happy, sad, sick or even when we're in trouble. God will give us wisdom, strength and understanding if we only ask Him. In fact God is willing to give us many good things as long as we ask for them in accordance to His Will. God answers our prayers with signs, the Holy Spirit and His Word, the Bible. When we pray our relationship with God grows!

End in prayer...

Heavenly Father, help us as a family to spend more time with You in prayer. Amen.



Sunday 16th May 2021
7th Sunday of Easter

Power of prayer

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative prayer: Prayer doesn't have to use words. This idea uses construction toys to build a prayer - as you add each piece to your creation, think about something, or somebody that you want to pray for. There are lots of possibilities including: those you love and care for (like family and friends), people who don't have enough food or somewhere to live, places where life is hard, things you find hard to do, people who are poorly or are finding life difficult. Once you've finished your creation look at it and think about what your prayer looks like, or even take a photograph of it.

5-11s...

Worship: Praise His name singing; "[The Lord's Prayer](#)"

Creative prayer: There are many ways of using resources and modern technology to pray in new ways. Here are just a few: Use images to stimulate prayer, e.g. postcards, or images from magazines can be scattered around a room. Or create a presentation on PowerPoint combining music and images to lead your family into prayer. Use images that reflect the news and the world around us. Have a time of quiet to pray about issues that the images bring up and then invite your family to talk about the experience.

11-18s...

-  1) When you pray, are you usually thinking more about yourself or about God?
- 2) Do you believe prayer is powerful? why or why not?
- 3) How can you make the power of prayer a part of your daily life?
-  List all the things you are thankful for and pray for each one.
-  Rewrite Psalm 98 as your own song of praise to God.

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one" - John 17:15