



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 2nd May 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

Divine encounter

Acts 8: 26-40

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...

The book of Acts is full of stories about the very first Christians. Unfortunately, they were not treated well and were forced out of Jerusalem - look at Acts 1. However, this did not stop them from sharing the good news of Jesus. In today's Bible reading, the Holy Spirit tells one disciple to go for a walk and talk to a random man about Jesus on a dusty road...

Watch the story...

Saddleback Kids are back! Here's their quirky version of '[Philip and the Ethiopian](#)'.

Explore the story...

Philip was a devoted follower of Jesus. While in Samaria an angel of the Lord appears to Philip telling him to head south along the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip doesn't ask questions or argue with God. He leaves immediately and heads to the road. Before too long he hears the rumbling of horses pulling a chariot. Sitting in the chariot is a man all the way from Ethiopia - a very important man - a treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia. Philip overhears the Ethiopian reading Isaiah out loud. Philip can see that the man is looking for answers, and the Holy Spirit tells Philip to walk alongside the carriage. Philip asks; "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian invites Philip onto the chariot for a chat and asks him who the prophet Isaiah is talking about. The Ethiopian is amazed at Philip's answer. Philip then asks the man; "If you believe with all your heart, you can be baptized." The Ethiopian orders the chariot to stop and they head over to some water and Philip baptizes the Ethiopian man - how amazing!

Imagine for a minute what might have happened if Philip didn't obey the angel and walk along that road. Perhaps the Ethiopian man would have returned to his country never hearing the Good News about Jesus. Thankfully, Philip did follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and met the random stranger - the Ethiopian - who turns out needed help understanding the Bible. The man was so excited to hear about Jesus that he asked Philip to be baptized right away! What an amazing story! Philip's example shows the importance of recognising and obeying Jesus' voice. It is not easy knowing how God is working in the lives of those around you, so this week, pray that each day you will listen carefully for God's instructions and be quick to obey what He tells you to do.

End in prayer...

Dear God, help us to be more talkative about Jesus and share his love with others. Amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Worship: Have fun learning the moves to "Jump around"

Fun activity: What is your favourite food and drink? Why is it easy to talk about your favourite things with others? Similarly, it should be easy to talk about Jesus with others too.

5-11s...

Worship: Bop along to this song called; "Brighter"

Activities: Write down on a large piece of paper everyone's favourite things from this list; TV show/movie, colour, sport/activity, song, food, drink. Take it in turns selecting one and then that person has to explain why that thing is their favourite. It is easy to share with others our favourite things. Similarly, when we experience God's love, grace and forgiveness it should be easy to share his message with others too. All we have to do is rely on God's guidance. Trust that He'll show us when and how to share the message of Jesus with others.

Can you find all the hidden items on this activity sheet from [SundaySchoolZone](#)? If you have a printer, print it out and enjoy colouring in the illustration...



11-18s...

- 1) When have you helped someone understand something about Jesus??
- 2) How did Philip share Jesus' love with the Ethiopian?
- 3) What can you learn from Philip and the way God used him to speak to the Ethiopian?

 Pray for your friends who don't know Jesus.

 Ask the Holy spirit to prompt you to share Jesus with someone this week.

"Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" - Acts 8: 30