



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 4th April 2021
Easter Sunday - 1st Sunday of Easter

There is hope

John 20:1-18

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 language of Easter uses interesting sounding words. The word 'resurrection' means "Jesus is alive again!" or "Jesus is not dead anymore!". The phrase "Jesus is risen!" can also be confusing - it sounds like Jesus got out of bed rather than risen from the grave. "Alleluia!" and "Hallelujah!" also sound a lot alike and both mean "Hurray for God!" or "Look what God has done!" If you are watching an online service today have fun counting all the 'hallelujah's' said and sung in the service.

Watch the story...

Saddleback Kids again this week with their animation of the [Easter Story](#)

Explore the story...

Today's story begins early one morning with Mary Magdalene going to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She discovers the stone is rolled away from the entrance. She runs off to find Peter and John telling them; "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put Him!"

Peter and John head off to the tomb. John reaches the tomb first noticing that the linen wrappings are lying there, but he doesn't go in. Then Peter arrives and goes inside. He notices the cloth that covered Jesus' head is folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. They return home but Mary stayed at the tomb. As Mary knelt down she looked inside and saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. Mary told them she didn't know where they had taken Jesus. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus! But Mary thought Jesus was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when Mary heard His voice, she recognised Him. Mary quickly ran to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Easter is a very sad experience but also a very happy occasion, because although Jesus died, Jesus came back to life again! God brought Jesus back from the dead and Jesus is still with us today, tomorrow - and always - just as he promised! People all over the world celebrate Easter for this reason, and Easter is a great reminder of the hope we have in God - He is our refuge and strength, and He faithfully fulfills His promises. So have lots of fun - and chocolate ;o) - celebrating Easter today; Jesus is risen! Hallelujah!

End in prayer...

Dear God, we thank You that Jesus, our Saviour, is not in a grave. He is alive! We follow and worship the risen Saviour! Hallelujah! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

Worship: Jesus is alive... ["It's a happy day!"](#)

Craft activities: Enjoy making salt dough together and creating these wonderful [salt dough Easter eggs](#). This link takes you to lots of great [colouring-in sheets](#). Finally, make an Easter garden - a great opportunity to forage in your garden or out on your daily walk. Search Pinterest for inspiration >>>

0-5s...



Worship: Jesus is risen! Sing along to ["Happy day!"](#)

Craft activities: Here are a few Easter craft ideas... Click on this link for a simple template and instructions for making a [Easter cross](#). For this [empty tomb](#) craft you will need a paper plate. This much simpler [version](#) of the empty tomb craft requires less materials. Have fun making a '[Jesus is alive!](#)' banner for your window. And finally, click [here](#) for the Easter Sunday 'Chat Mat' - a great interactive colouring activity that encourages all the family to discuss and explore Easter together.

5-11s...



-  1) What do you think is the most significant event in the entire Bible and why?
- 2) How did Jesus' resurrection change his disciples?
- 3) How could you follow Jesus with that same boldness and faith?

 Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to die for you.

 Recommit your life to Jesus using the words from Jeremiah 29:11.

11-18s...

"Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher")" - John 20 :16