



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a practical resource that has been created to encourage and help church 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 28 June 2020
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Righteousness

Romans 6:1-18

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...

Find a small LEGO model, puzzle or some other toy (e.g. a Rubiks Cube) that comes apart or needs to be solved. What is great about all of these toys is that they can be broken up and completed again and again and again...

Watch the story...

Watch '[What is sin?](#)' a simple explanation of sin for children.

Explore the story...

Do you know what is meant by the word sin? Sin is a very important word in the Christian faith. Sin is anything that is said, thought or done that is against what God wants. When someone disobeys God, they are pretending that God is not important to them.

Sin is powerful because after a while the temptation is to really want to do these things instead of obeying God! After a while sin takes charge. Paul describes this as being 'slaves to sin'. What do you think Paul means? Thankfully Jesus can help and rescue us and free us from our sins. Jesus is stronger than the power of sin. He is the winner over sin because of His sacrifice on the cross.

The Bible tells us in 1 John 1:7-10 that if we're sorry for the things we do, we can confess our sins and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from those sins and He will be our Helper in God's presence. Isn't that great!

"You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." (v18).

- Righteousness is doing what is right in God's sight.
- Righteousness is in part reflected by our attitude.
- Righteousness comes from the heart.

Paul reminds us of our human limitations (v19) and that every time we sin/mess up we can make us feel broken/ in pieces/useless/messed up - a bit like a puzzle / Rubik's Cube. But when we ask Jesus for forgiveness, God sets us free from our sin and shame. God restores us and makes us right again with Him. We are righteous people of God!

End with a prayer...

Thank you Heavenly Father for being faithful to forgive us of our sins. Thank you for sending Jesus to his world to be the sacrifice for our sins and to be our Helper. Amen.



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Righteousness

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Activity: This easy game simulates 'throwing away your sins'. You will need paper and tape. Crumple the paper into balls and find a target (like a bin) to aim for. The aim is to get as many into the bin as possible

Creative prayer idea: Make the activity above into a creative prayer by writing down 'sin's (things that you have done recently that you know make God unhappy), and as you throw them into the bin, thank God that He forgives all that ask say sorry to Him.



5-11s...

Worship: Enjoy bopping along to '[You are good](#)'.

Activity: As above, have fun adapting this game to suit your children's ages and competitive spirit. Simulating 'throwing away your sins', crumple pieces of paper into balls and find a target (like a bin) to aim for. The aim is to get as many into the bin as possible. Split into teams or create a time limit and see who sets the highest record.

Creative prayer idea: See above on how to turn this activity into a prayer time.

11-18s...

- 1) Why is the word 'sin' so important to the Christian faith?
 - 2) What do you think Paul means when he says we are 'slaves to sin'?
 - 3) Read Romans 6:11-14. What frees us from sin and leads us to righteousness?
-  Thank God that by His grace you have been set free from sin.
-  Scan through your contacts - who needs to hear that God loves them?

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **2 Corinthians 5:21**