



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is an incredibly practical and 'easy-to-use' resource that encourages church families to enjoy a time of worship together, explore the Bible, pray 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 9 August 2020
10th Sunday after Pentecost

When focus is lost

Matthew 14:22-33

Time to focus...

As you gather as a family, find a place on the floor, around a table or even in the garden. If possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of the worship time. Quietly stare at the flame as you pause and prepare for a time of worship as a family...

Set the scene...

Gather a few pictures or objects of things that children and adults are afraid of (e.g. a fake spider, a rubber snake). Ask the children, "What do all these things have in common?" The answer is that they can be scary. Share one or two things that frighten you.

What do you do when you're afraid? It's normal to be afraid of some things. Grown-ups can be afraid of things too. There was a time when Jesus' friends - the disciples - were afraid. Jesus showed them what to do when they got scared.

Watch the story...

Saddleback Kids tells the story of "[Jesus and Peter walking on the water](#)".

Explore the story...

Today's Bible story begins with Jesus praying in the mountains. Peter and the disciples are in a boat in a storm and they are getting tossed about quite a bit. Then they see Jesus walking toward them on the water!

Peter wanted to go out to meet Jesus on the water. "Come." Jesus said with His hand reaching out to him. The disciples watched as Peter carefully got out of the boat and began to walk on water towards Jesus. Peter focused on Jesus at first, but then he started noticing the wind and the small waves on the water and looked around with worry.

As soon as Peter started to feel scared he started to sink, and he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter before he was totally covered with water. The Bible tells us that Jesus and Peter then got into the boat and Peter and the other disciples began to worship Jesus (v33).

Peter helped the other disciples see that Jesus is God's son who loves us, helps us and is always with us, even in stormy seas. It doesn't mean that we sometimes aren't afraid but that Jesus is with us in our fear. Jesus promises to be with us always and to catch us when we fall.

End with a prayer...

Jesus, you are with us in good times and in hard times. We know that your hand will catch us when we are falling, just like you caught Peter. May we also help each other and offer a hand to catch someone else when they need it. Amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Worship: Enjoy "[Oceans](#)" by Little Worship Company.

Teaching activity: Float vs Sink. Put a bowl/bucket of water on the floor. Select items/objects around the house (fruit and vegetables are good - and waterproof!) and vote, as each item is put into the bucket of water, if it will float or sink? Take turns putting the items into the water to see if they will float.

Explore these questions: Can we float on the water? What about walking on water? Can we do it? Why or why not? Jesus walked on water - He didn't float on water but that's the closest thing we can emulate... how amazing is Jesus!


5-11s...


Worship: Enjoy "[Oceans](#)" by Little Worship Company or this lovely choreographed dance from "[Movement in Christ](#)".

Creative Prayer: Create a large prayer board using a cross on a table with magazines, newspapers, scissors, glue and markers. Cut out of the newspapers/magazines words, pictures, headlines that you would like to pray for and people to know that Jesus is with them. You can draw or write prayers as well. Leave the prayer board up during the next week as a family reminder to pray for the world to know Jesus' love and presence.

11-18s...

- 1) Have you been on a boat? What was it like?
- 2) Do you think Peter was courageous or crazy to get out of the boat? Why?
- 3) What can you learn about Jesus from this passage?

 Thank God that when life gets scary. He is always in control.

 Be courageous this week - step out in faith!

"Then all the disciples crouched down before him and worshipped Jesus. They said in adoration, "You are truly the Son of God!" **Matthew 14:33**