



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a practical 'easy-to-use' resource to help and encourage church families 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.

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Thank you ❤️



Sunday 30 August 2020
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy ground Exodus 3:1-6

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...

Shoes come in all types, shapes and sizes. There are special shoes for special occasions, shoes for different sports, shoes for different wintery conditions and sandals or flip-flops for the summer. Find out who has the most pairs of shoes in your family?

Watch the story...

[God speaks to Moses](#) animated beautifully from the film 'The Prince of Egypt' and Saddleback Kids adaptation of the '[burning bush](#)'.

Explore the story...

Why are shoes the topic today? God told a man named Moses to take off his shoes. Shoes protect your feet but they can also serve another purpose. Do you wear shoes inside your house or you take your shoes off when inside? People might take off their shoes to stop dirt getting trampled around inside. And in some places, people take off their shoes when they enter a building as a sign of respect. Respect means to show someone you think that person or place is important.

In today's story, God had an important job for Moses. God called Moses from a burning bush and told him to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. At first, Moses was confused and wasn't sure if God was really speaking to him. God had chosen Moses to lead His people, but Moses wasn't sure he was the right person for the job. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God is so big and so powerful that He doesn't have an ordinary name. When God says that His name is I AM, God is saying that He has no beginning and no end. He is telling Moses, and us, that He is the one true God, and we can trust Him! It was hard for Moses at first, but he finally obeyed God's call to return to Egypt to rescue the Israelites from slavery. Sometimes God asks people to do things that might be hard for them, but in the end they bring Him the most glory. It might be something like being kind to someone. Sometimes it's hard to obey God, but He always gives us the strength to do what He's asked us to do!

End with a prayer...

God, thank You for speaking to Moses. Thank you that you speaking to us and give us instructions. Help us remember to listen to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Holy ground

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative prayer: Make your own prayer sandals using paper and write / decorate them with your prayers to God...



5-11s...

Worship: Enjoy listening along to "[More than Conquerors](#)" by Seeds Family Worship.

Creative prayer: Make your own prayer sandals (see above).

Activity: God commanded Moses to take off his shoes and this game involves shoes. Everyone chooses a pair of shoes and places them against the wall on the far side of the room (or in another room). Each person / team then races to grab and put on their shoes in a quicker time than their opponents.

11-18s...

- 1) God called Moses from a bush. Can you list other examples of God speaking in the Bible?
- 2) Why did Moses' mood change from fascination (v3) to frightened (v6)?
- 3) How do Christians know when God is speaking to them?

+ Pray God speaks to you through words, images, senses and emotions.

> Note down every moment when you feel God is speaking to you.

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" **Exodus 3:5**