



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.

daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org

Thank you 



Sunday 3 January 2021
2nd Sunday of Christmas

Light of the world

John 1: 1-14

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...

Have you been in a very dark place? What did it feel like? Were you scared? Did you know that lots of people are scared of the dark? You can't see anything – not even your hand right in front of your nose! But, when a candle is lit or a torch is switched on, the light peaces through the darkness! Isn't it amazing that such a small light can drive away the darkness?

Watch the story...

Learn about [John the Baptist](#) and his mission from God from CrossRoads Kids.

Explore the story...

At this time of year, there are lots of festive lights on Christmas trees, in windows and hanging from houses, gardens and shopping centres - lights are everywhere! Have fun searching 'crazy Christmas lights' on the internet. Which are your favourites?

The Bible reading today tells the story of God sending a man called John the Baptist. John told everyone about the light, but John wasn't the light. John was telling others about Jesus the one true light that was coming into the world.

Jesus was born as a tiny baby but didn't stay that way. Jesus grew up in a carpenter shop, and learned how to work with his father Joseph. When Jesus was older he was baptised by John the Baptist and began to share all he knew about God with others. Jesus even told his disciples that they were also going to light up the world;

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)

An interesting thing about darkness and light is that light drives away the darkness. The Bible calls evil darkness. The Bible also says that Jesus is the "true light" that helps every person. Isn't it fantastic that we live in a world where Jesus shows us what is good and what is evil so we can know how live our lives in the right way. When we believe in Jesus, we no longer stay in that darkness of evil described in the Bible. No, Jesus is our Saviour and his light pushes back the darkness. Isn't it amazing that Jesus came to earth to bring light to a dark world?

End with a prayer...

Thank you Jesus for the light, hope, joy, love, and peace you bring us. Amen.



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2nd Sunday of Christmas

Light of the world

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Candle prayer: You will need a candle and a card circle for everyone. Invite your family to write or draw on their circle things they want to pray for. You might need to suggest events or someone who is ill etc. Then insert the candle in its card circle holder, light the candle, list and lift all your prayers to God in a moment of silence.

5-11s...

Worship: Praise Jesus the... "Light of the world"

Candle prayer: Materials: candle, pens and these words: sadness, darkness, bullying, sorrow, grief, pain, suffering, light, love, care, hope, joy, family, forgiveness, relief, happiness, healing, recovery, safety.

The light of Christ came into the world to shine in all dark places and sad situations. Light the candle. Ask the light of Jesus to shine in the sadness and pain that people face. Write/draw the words on paper and place around the candle. Close your time of prayer looking at the flame shining and bringing light.

Activity: Click [here](#) for the website with this fantastic and 'free' downloadable colouring-in sheet >>>



11-18s...

- 1) Why don't people recognise Jesus today?
 - 2) Why is Jesus 'becoming flesh' (v14) so important?
 - 3) How is Jesus the light of your life?
- ✚ Ask God to help Jesus shine brightly in your life today.
- Light a candle and take time reflecting on Jesus, Light of the world.

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" - John 1:9

Nativity Prayer

For this prayer you will need a nativity scene - it works best with 3D figurines but if you do not have any, this link to a [paper Nativity](#) the you can print and colour in will also work well. You will need: A stable, Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, wise men and baby Jesus.

Place the pieces of a 3D nativity scene randomly in the middle of your family and remind them that each piece plays a special part in the Christmas story. Each piece can also remind us of things to pray for today. As each piece of the nativity story is taken up to a table/shelf to create the Nativity it will offer a focus for you to pray (bring them up in this order).

- **The Stable:** Thank God for our homes and where we live. Pray for the homeless and those in need.
- **Mary & Joseph:** Thank God for parents, carers and those who look after us, pray for those who don't have parents or have lost them recently.
- **Angels:** Thank God for the angels who brought messages to help show the way to the baby Jesus. Pray for all those who help us to meet Jesus like parents, grandparents, the vicar, children's group leaders and teachers.
- **Shepherds:** Thank God for all those who look after animals and the land like farmers. Pray for farmers in other countries where farming is hard.
- **Animals:** Thank God for all animals, especially our pets and the joy they bring us.
- **Wise Men:** Thank God for the wise men who brought gifts to Jesus to help us understand who he was. Pray for all those who help us to learn and understand things especially teachers and people in education.
- **Baby Jesus:** Thank God for the special birth of Jesus, his life, his stories, teaching, miracles, his sacrifice and for helping us to know God more.

