



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 10th January 2021
1st Sunday of Epiphany

Inside out Acts 19:1-7

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...

Today's story delves into one of Paul's many exciting adventures in the book of Acts. Paul is in the city of Ephesus preaching the good news of Jesus. However, the story begins with Paul talking about baptism, so let's find out what it means...

Watch the story...

Crossroads Kids explaining the meaning of [baptism](#) in this lovely video.

Explore the story...

Have you seen someone be baptised? Perhaps you have been baptised yourself. When a baby is baptised, the baby's parents promise to raise their child as a Christian. It is a way of showing others that they are serious about teaching their child about God and living as a family, as followers of Jesus. Baptism is also a time when other members of the church and the child's family pledge to help and support the parents raise their child. When adults and older children are baptised they are the ones that make the public declaration of their faith. It is like someone asking, "who is your hero?" and you answering, "Jesus is my hero, the person I follow and will try my best to be like him." In today's Bible story Paul is meeting with some disciples. Paul is asking them about their baptism and he finds out that they do not know about the Holy Spirit (19:2). Paul decides to baptise them all in name of the Lord Jesus, and when he places his hands on them, everyone receives the Holy Spirit (19:6). God's Spirit entered their lives in a very profound and powerful way!

"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other languages and prophesied" (19:6)

It is good to have heroes, but Jesus is much more than a hero - Jesus is the Son of God! When we accept Jesus into our lives, we are baptised in his name and the power of his Holy Spirit becomes a part of who we are. It is God's Holy Spirit that helps us to follow Jesus's example and live our lives more like Jesus.

End with a prayer...

Dear God, thank you for the gift of baptism as a way to show that we are connected to Christ. We also thank you for sending your son Jesus to die for our sins so we could be united with Him and be welcomed into Your kingdom. Amen.



Sunday 10th January 2021
1st Sunday of Epiphany

Inside out

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative prayer: Everyone writes and decorates the word 'sorry' on a piece of paper using water soluble pens.

Sprinkle a few drops of water onto the paper and watch the water dissolve the ink. Next, use kitchen towel or a toilet paper to absorb the water/ink to illustrate that when we say sorry to God, he forgives us of our wrongdoings and we have the opportunity to make a fresh, clean start.

5-11s...


Worship: Enjoy this great song called "[Walk on water](#)"


Creative prayer: Make a list of things that make God feel sad using water soluble pens. Once the list is complete, weave all the suggestions into a prayer. Sprinkle a few drops of water onto the paper and watch the water dissolve the ink. Next, use kitchen towel or toilet paper to absorb the water/ink to illustrate that when we say sorry to God he forgives us and we have the opportunity to make a fresh, clean start.


Fun activities: Play a few rounds of Hangman using words or phrases from today's passage (e.g. Baptism, receive, Holy Spirit, hearts and lives).

The book of Acts tells of Paul's travels meeting up with followers of Jesus and preaching the Good News. Check out this [map](#) showing all the places Paul visited on his 3rd journey. Can you find Ephesus - the location for today's reading?

11-18s...

-  1) What do you know about baptism?
- 2) Baptism is about being transformed. In what ways can Christians be transformed?
- 3) How can the Holy spirit transform you?

 Ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit.

 Think of one part of your life that needs transforming and pray about it.

"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other languages and prophesied" - Acts 19:6