



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 11th July 2021  
6th Sunday after Trinity

## Unashamed 2 Samuel 6: 12-21

### 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...

I am sure that all of you probably know the song and dance called "The Hokey Cokey." You start with your left hand, then you put your right hand in, then your right foot, then your left foot, then your head, until finally - and this is the best part - you put your whole self in. It is great fun to put your whole self in and shake with all your might. Just picture everyone in this room dancing with all their might and you will get a picture of what is happening in our Bible lesson today.

### Watch the story...

David dances before the Lord told by [LifeKids](#)...

### Explore the story...

In today's Bible reading, King David and a large group of young men are bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. Do you know what the Ark of the Covenant is? When you hear the word Ark, you usually think of the big boat that Noah built to save his family and the animals during the great flood, but this is a different kind of ark. The Ark of the Covenant was a large, beautiful box, which was covered in gold. Inside the Ark were the two pieces of stone with the 10 commandments on them, Aaron's staff, and some pieces of manna (a type of bread). The Ark and its contents were symbols of God's leadership and protection of Israel - God's chosen nation - and they carried it with them everywhere as they wandered in the wilderness.

During a battle against the Philistines, the decision was made to carry the Ark into battle for good luck. The Philistines won the battle and captured the Ark. Now, after many years, the Ark was finally being returned. As King David entered the city of Jerusalem with the Ark, he and all of Israel rejoiced and the Bible says that David was dancing before the Lord. He wasn't just dancing a little bit. He put his "whole self in" and danced with all his might.

When we come to worship, we should follow the example of David. I am not suggesting that we do the Hokey Cokey, but when we worship the Lord, we should put our whole self into it and worship with all our might.

### End in prayer...

Dear heavenly Father; we praise you, we adore you, we worship you with our whole heart. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Sunday 11th July 2021  
6th Sunday after Trinity

# Unashamed

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

**Family activity:** Have fun singing 'Hokey Cokey' together - why not join in with [Mr Tumble...](#)

What makes you so excited that you want to dance or jump for joy? In today's story, King David was so excited when he entered the gates of Jerusalem, God's presence inspired him to worship - so much so that David began to dance in front of everyone! He took off his royal robes and praised God! David didn't care what anyone thought of him - whether he looked silly or people made fun of him. None of that mattered! All David cared about was dancing before the Lord with all his might.

5-11s...

**Worship:** We have a lot to be grateful for... "[Grateful](#)"

**Fun Activities:** Can you remember what objects were kept in the Ark of the Covenant? Check out this fantastic worksheet from [BibleFun4Kids](#) that also guides you to all the scripture references for the answers.

Enjoy this wordsearch from [biblepathwayadventures](#) that will teach your children more about the Ark of the Covenant. Simply right-click the image, save to your computer and print.

Finally, make an Ark of the Covenant using this [template](#).



11-18s...

- 1) Why did King David dance before the Lord with all his might? (v.20-21)
- 2) Why might some Christians feel ashamed of what they believe?
- 3) What gives you confidence? What is it like to find confidence in God?

**+** Pray for the situations when you felt ashamed and embarrassed.

**>** The gospel is Good News! Don't be ashamed to be a follower of Jesus.

*"Then David danced with all his might before the Lord." - 2 Samuel 6:14*