



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 18th July 2021
7th Sunday after Trinity

Compassion

Mark 6: 30-34

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...

Take out a snack and begin to eat it in front of your family. Wait and see if anyone asks for some, or ask if they can go and get a snack for themselves. Ask your family to think about how they would feel if there wasn't enough food for everyone, because in today's story, Jesus managed to feed 5,000 families out of one small snack!

Watch the story...

Jesus feeds the five thousand illustrated by [Saddleback Kids](#)...

Explore the story...

Can you remember a time when you were hungry? For example, have you ever been hungry on a trip but there was nowhere to buy food, or perhaps you forgot to put your lunchbox in your bag one time at school? In today's story, thousands of people had gone to hear Jesus teach, and they were all hungry. Look at what Jesus did in the story - how did Jesus respond; did He tell them to buy food? Did He tell them they were silly to have forgotten to bring food? Jesus was compassionate and decided to help the hungry people by feeding them. The disciples thought it would be impossible, but Jesus knew nothing is impossible for God.

Remember your snack at the beginning? If you shared your snack there might be enough for everyone to have a tiny bit. But when Jesus blessed the loaves and fish, the Bible says that everyone ate until they were full! Wait! That's not all! After they had eaten, they gathered up the leftovers and there were twelve baskets full. Can you imagine your snack feeding everyone and still having food left over? You couldn't do it, but God could.

What can we learn from this Bible lesson today? When we give what we have to God, He can take it, bless it, and do so much more than we could ever imagine. The young boy in today's story offered his lunch, and Jesus used it to feed many, many people. Even though we may not have very much, little becomes a lot when it is placed in God's hands. We should never think what we can do for Jesus is too small or unimportant. The boy gave God what He had. We also can do small things that God can use to do big things. As a family, make a list of small things you can do to serve God and others this week.

End in prayer...

Thank you God for this miracle that Jesus did. He truly is more wonderful than we can imagine. Jesus really is a wonderful Saviour. Amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Family activity: Jesus feeding the 5,000 is also referred to as the fishes and loaves miracle. This is a quick and easy family craft will help your children remember the Bible lesson:

Print this template from craftingthewordofgod.com and colour/cut out each piece. Glue the fish and loaves behind the basket in a random order. Glue the whole thing onto a piece of paper or card. Finally, cut out the whole figure. Help your children write the memory verse on the back. If you decide to use the small template, glue a magnet onto the back of the craft and place it on your fridge.




5-11s...

Worship: Praise God; He is **"Super Wonderful!"**

Fun Activities: If your children enjoy a wordsearch they will have great fun completing this one from sermons4kids.com. This great 'word scramble' from sundayschoolzone.com when completed reveals the word 'compassion'. Download this craft from ministrytochildren.com and on the next page is a colouring sheet from bibleappforkids.com >>



11-18s...

-  1) When have you felt compassion for others?
- 2) How do you think the disciples reacted when they saw the crowds?
- 3) What does Jesus' response teach you about how you should respond to others?
-  Ask God to help you to be more compassionate.
-  Think of three ways that you can show compassion to others this week.

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. " - Mark 6:34

