



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 21st February 2021  
1st Sunday of Lent

## A promise is a promise

### Genesis 9:8-17

#### 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...

What is the biggest thing you have made? A Lego model? A birthday cake or maybe you helped make a bed or a wardrobe? There is one thing that helps - instructions! What if you were asked to make a boat but not just any boat... a huge boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Do you think you could do it?

#### Watch the story...

Saddleback Kids are back this week telling the story of [Noah and the great flood](#).

#### Explore the story...

Have you ever made a promise? Did you keep your promise? Did you know that God made a promise? Yes, God did make a promise a long time ago....

Today's story takes place a very long time ago in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. During this time, the people on earth were very wicked and selfish. They had forgotten about God except for one man, Noah. God decided to destroy everything that was on the earth - all of the animals and people. But God knew that Noah was a good man. God told Noah to build a big boat, gather animals from the earth and wait.

Noah did what God told him. He built the boat, he collected the animals and when they were all inside, rain began to fall. It rained, and rained, and rained for 40 days. Soon, no tree tops could be seen, and before long, all the mountains were covered by water. And then the rain stopped. The only people left alive were Noah, his wife and their family.

Days went by and the waters went down and finally the boat rested on the ground. That was when God made a promise. God said he would never again destroy every living thing as he had done with the water. I'm sure Noah was very relieved to hear that. God went on to say, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth". A rainbow happens when light shines through rain or droplets of water. It is made up of seven colours, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. God created the beautiful rainbow-promise in such an amazing way that we know we can depend on God to never break his promise.

#### End with a prayer...

Thank you, God for the rainbow. Every time we see a rainbow may it be a helpful reminder that when we put our trust in you, anything is possible. Amen.



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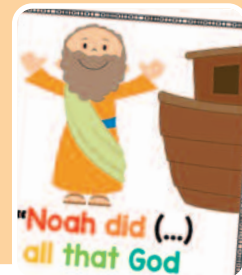
## A promise is a promise

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

**Creative prayer:** Play the 'Promise ball' - form a circle on the floor and begin rolling a ball to one another. When someone catches the ball, pause and shout out a promise to God, and then roll the ball into the circle again. Change the idea of the game a little bit, shouting out a promise from God to us.

**Fun activity:** There are so many free Noah/rainbow-themed crafts and activity sheets online. Have a look and see what you can find. Or click [here](#) for this fun colouring-in sheet >>>

0-5s...



**Worship:** Sing along to "[Looking to the rainbow](#)"

**Family activity:** A fun game to play at lunchtime. Everyone chooses a word (or agree on one word) and the aim of the game is to not say this word during lunch. If someone messes up, they get a point get a clothes peg stuck on them as a "mark". The person with the lowest points/pegs wins. The game will get everyone thinking about words, promises and keeping their word.

**Fun activity:** Have fun cracking the code on the next page >>>

5-11s...



- 1) Have you ever made a promise to someone - what was it, and did you keep your promise?
- 2) Why do you think God made a new promise with Noah and his family?
- 3) How has God given you help, encouragement and direction?



Pray that God reveal more about his promises to you.



Next time you see a rainbow remember God's promises to you.

11-18s...

*"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth" - Genesis 9:13*

# Rainbows

God put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant He made to the world.  
Use the code to discover the covenant God made with us in Genesis 9:8-15:

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

	J	
K		L
	M	

N	O	P
Q	R	S
T	U	V

	W	
X		Y
	Z	

