



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 23rd May 2021
8th Sunday of Easter

I will pour out my spirit

Acts 2:14-21

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...

Acts 2 tells the amazing story of Pentecost and Jesus's promise fulfilled when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. The Holy Spirit helped them to do things that they'd never been able to do before like speak other languages and have the courage to speak in front of large crowds of people. At Pentecost 3000 people became Christians when Peter (filled with the Holy Spirit) talked to the crowds!

Watch the story...

Enjoy this Lego retelling of Pentecost in [Acts 2](#) and then watch [CCC KIDS](#) lovely explanation to hear more about who the Holy Spirit is.

Explore the story...

On a hot summer day, an electric fan can really help to keep you cool. The fan helps to keep you cool by blowing air, but can you see any air coming out of the fan? If you can't see the air, how do you know the fan is working? One way is tying some bright streamers on the front of the fan. Even though you can't see the air, you can see the air blowing those streamers. Another way is by feeling the air from the fan blowing against your face. Finally, you know that the fan is working because you can hear the sound of the air and the rattling sound of the streamers as they blow.

In today's Bible story the disciples couldn't see the Holy Spirit, so how did they know the Holy Spirit was there? The Bible says that they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind coming from heaven. Then the Bible says that they saw what seemed to be flaming tongues of fire that came and rested on their heads. Finally, the Bible says that they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could feel his power. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, he gave them the ability to speak in languages that they didn't even know, so that they could tell everyone about Jesus. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit, but they could feel his power in their life just as we can feel the air from this fan. The Holy Spirit is still with us today. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can hear God's spirit speaking to our hearts, we can see the Holy Spirit moving in our lives, and we can feel the power of God's presence as He guides us through each day.

End in prayer...

Dear Father, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit. Help us to be brave like Peter and be able to tell others about Jesus. Amen.



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8th Sunday of Easter

I will pour out my spirit

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Craft activity: have fun creating paint blowing pictures... Mix some water into the paints to make it runny. Put a blob of the paint mixture in the middle of the paper. Blow the paint using straws to make a spiky pattern (or use a hair dryer for extreme paintings!). Whilst painting, remind the family of the wind at Pentecost, say a big 'Amen' and everybody blows paint through their straws as hard as they can.




5-11s...

Worship: A song to sing with a smile... "[Fruits of the Spirit](#)"

Craft activity: This craft is a great reminder of the Holy Spirit appearing as wind and fire. Make a pencil windmill following the instructions on the next page. Think about when the wind is mentioned in the story and brainstorm any words to do with wind. These words could be written on the windmill. When the loud wind came, the people saw what looked like tongues of fire rest on the disciples, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Wow! On that very day the people witnessed God's promise that He made so many years ago come true - God kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit. Also, click on this link for a great colouring-in sheet from [Illustrated Ministry](#).



11-18s...

-  1) Can you think of a time when you've seen the Holy Spirit at work?
- 2) Who does the reading say the Spirit is poured out upon?
- 3) In what ways can the Holy Spirit help you to love and serve God?
-  Sit quietly in prayer and ask to receive the Holy Spirit.
-  Each day ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit as you serve him.

"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." - Acts 2:21

How to make a windmill...

To make a paper windmill, you need: 2 small sheets of square paper, sticky tape, flat-ended drawing pin and a pencil.

1. Start out by cutting two identical squares from paper or card stock.
2. You can leave the squares plain or colour and draw some patterns or designs.
3. Cut out both paper squares.
4. Glue the undecorated sides of the squares together. Remember to apply glue not just along the edges, but on the entire back area of the squares.
5. Cut along the 4 diagonal lines. Cut the square halfway to the centre.
6. Gather the four corners towards the centre without creasing the paper. You may glue the ends in place or just hold them together with your hand as you do the next step.
7. Insert a push pin at the centre. If you did not glue the ends of the paper in Step 6, the push pin should hold all four ends together. Wiggle the push pin around to make the hole a bit larger.
8. Push the pin onto a pencil's eraser. Don't push on too tight to allow the pinwheel to spin more freely. *As an option, you may put a bead or small button between the paper and the eraser. This helps the pinwheel rotate better and prevents the pin's point from going through the other side of the eraser.
9. Finally, try blowing at the edges of the pinwheel to make it spin. Loosen the pin a bit if the blades do not rotate well.

