



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 25th July 2021
8th Sunday after Trinity

What can I give? John 6: 1-15

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...

Do you ever have leftovers at your house? Quite often people cook more food than they can eat at one meal, so they have leftovers again the next night, and the next, and maybe even the next! Sometimes it can get very tiring eating leftovers before they are all gone.

Watch the story...

Jesus feeds the five thousand illustrated by [The Salvation Army](#)...

Explore the story...

In today's story Jesus and his disciples are left with some leftovers. It is a well-known story and a slightly different account from last week's version of Jesus feeding 5000 people from Mark's gospel. You can probably remember that Jesus had been teaching a large crowd of people. It was getting close to dinner time, and Jesus turned Philip, one of his disciples, and asked him, "Where are we going to buy the bread for these people to eat?" Philip replied, "You've got to be kidding!" Actually, Philip didn't really say that, but he probably thought it. What Philip said to Jesus was, "Even eight month's wages would not buy enough bread for each of these people to have one bite!" Andrew, another of Jesus' disciples spoke up, "There is a small boy over here who has five small pieces of bread and two small fish, but that is not enough to feed all of these people." "Bring it to me," Jesus said. Then he gave thanks, blessed it, and began breaking it into pieces to pass around to the people. When they had all had enough to eat, Jesus said, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." They gathered up twelve baskets full! We can all learn a lesson from the little boy. He didn't have very much - only five pieces of bread and two small fish - but he was willing to share what he had and Jesus used it to feed a huge crowd of people. Also, Jesus told the disciples to gather up the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. God often blesses us with much more than we need. The Bible doesn't tell us what they did with the leftovers, but my guess is that they probably used them to feed more hungry people. Some of us may only have a little. Some of us have been blessed with much more than we need. Either way, God is pleased when we share with others.

End in prayer...

Dear Father, we thank you for all of your blessings. Help us to be generous in sharing with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Sunday 25th July 2021
8th Sunday after Trinity

What can I give?

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Family prayer activity: Today's theme is 'what can I give'. As a family give more time this week to praying to God...

Sit in a circle and start by praying for something beginning with the letter 'A', then ask each child, in turn, to pray for something beginning with the next letter of the alphabet. Alternatively use the letters of SPOON can be used as a framework for your family prayer time: S = saying sorry. P = praise. O = others. O = ourselves. N = needs.

5-11s...

Worship: What can I give? "**Give a little kindness**"

Family prayer idea: Today's theme is 'what can I give' so make a gift of praise for God. Gift wrap a small cardboard box and tie a bright ribbon around it, or paste a large square of gift wrap onto backing paper and add ribbons so that it looks like a present. Then, give out small pieces of paper or sticky labels and ask everyone in the family to draw or write something that they want to thank God for: "Now, our God, we give you thanks, and we praise your glorious name." (1 Chronicles 29:13).

Activities: Click [here](#) for a great colour-in jigsaw from [craftingtheword.com](#) and on the next page is a colouring sheet from [www.religiousdoodles.com](#)

11-18s...



- 1) Have you ever done something simple that made a big difference?
- 2) Which part of this story is most surprising to you?
- 3) What does the story teach you about giving and trusting?



Thank God that he accepts the little we offer and uses it in amazing ways.



Ask God to use your gifts in a miraculous way!

"When everyone in the crowds had enough to eat, Jesus said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." - John 6:12

JESUS Feeds 5000

