



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 27th June 2021
4th Sunday after Trinity

Faithful God

Lamentations 3:22-26

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 are you like first thing in the morning? Did you know that people have a natural tendency to be either a morning person or night person. This is called your chronotype. Sometimes people refer to chronotypes in animal terms - early bird, night owl etc. but there is no real scientific connection between these labels and human behaviour.

Watch the story...

Today's reading talks about God's faithfulness. Watch this video by [Saddleback Kids](#) about some amazing 'faithful' people and how they obeyed God...

Explore the story...

Gather a variety of items around your home that are the same - make sure that one is old and one new; examples can be; toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, bars of soap, socks, pencils, bottles (one empty, one full). Look at the objects and discuss how you can tell the difference between the old and new items. The Bible talks often of things that are new. In today's reading verse 23 says that God's mercies are new every morning;

"His love for us never fails - it is new every morning. Great is his faithfulness."
- Lamentations 3:23

New things aren't always better than old things, but the great thing about a new day, a new job, a new school year, is that you start again - you get another chance. Another chance to love others, another chance to forgive, another chance to learn and grow. If God gives us something every morning - a new day and his love - how about making a commitment today - a 'promise' - to give God something each morning as well.

Are you up for a challenge? Before you get out of bed tomorrow morning, before your foot touches the floor, start the day in conversation with God thanking him for the new day. It can be short. Something like; "Good morning God. Thank you for being with me!" Start your day in God's company. Let this be your commitment every morning. Remember - God is faithful. Be faithful to your commitment and remember God.

End in prayer...

Dear God: Thank you for each new day. Your love and forgiveness is new every day. Help us to start each day with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Sunday 27th June 2021
4th Sunday after Trinity

Faithful God

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Family activity: Play a game of 'Peek-a-boo' using a large blanket. SAY: I will always be under this blanket-I promise. Look for me! When they lift the blanket SAY: Peek-a-boo! I am here, just like I promised. Repeat, saying: I am still here. Here I am again! God promised he is always here. We know he really is here because God is faithful; he always keeps his promises!

5-11s...

Worship: Isn't it amazing that God is... "**Faithful**"

Family activity: Go for a walk around your neighbourhood, or why not go on a family outing to the park or visit a local beauty spot. While you're walking around, look out for things in nature that you think are dependable and faithful e.g. leaves fall in the autumn and come out in the spring; birds make nests; ants gather food; waves crash on the beach; the stars come out at night; the sun shines even when there are clouds. See who can find the most examples of faithfulness.

Talk about what you saw and why it is a reminder of faithfulness. God is completely faithful in every way. We can depend on Him to always do what He says He'll do. The world He created reflects God's faithfulness in many ways, and it reminds of His faithfulness wherever we go. Choose one thing you saw today to be your reminder of God's faithfulness to you and share it with everyone.

11-18s...

- 1) What challenging times have you experienced?
- 2) Which verse speaks most powerfully to you? Why?
- 3) What difference does it make knowing that God is a faithful God?

+ Ask God to help you remember his faithfulness.

> Read verses 22 and 23 every morning this week.

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning." - **Lamentations 3:22-23**