



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 9th May 2021  
6th Sunday of Easter

## Sing a new song Psalm 98

### 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 do you think the word 'worship' means? Worship is more than singing or simply being present at church: Today's reading is a psalm of praise that invites worshippers to make a joyful noise to the Lord...

### Watch the story...

Learn how to sign [Psalm 98:4](#) - "Make a joyful noise to the Lord" with Ethos Kids.

### Explore the story...

Look up Psalm 98 in your Bible or online. There is one command in this psalm - can you find it? This command can be found right at the beginning of the first verse: "Oh sing to the Lord a new song!" Psalm 98 begins in with a command addressed to God's people to sing a new song to the Lord!" God is so good and deserves our praise!

*Sing a new song to the Lord for he has done wonderful things (v1)*

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy! (v4)*

*Make a joyful symphony before the Lord (v6)*

Have you ever thought about creation worshipping and praising God? All those things listed in Psalm 98 are His creation and so are you. So praise, clap, and sing your songs of joy to God for all He has done, all He is doing and all that He will do!

Psalm 100 says, "Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God!" God made you, and you are His. You are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise; "Give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation".

Sing a song that you know from church or the radio, you can sing it if you know it by heart or play it and sing along with it. If you want to, make one up. Think of all the things you have to be thankful for and just start singing them out. I am positive it will bring a smile to God's face.

### End in prayer...

Thank you Jesus that we can praise and worship you - our Lord and Saviour. Amen!



Sunday 9th May 2021  
6th Sunday of Easter

## Sing a new song

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

**Worship:** Praise the Lord dancing to; "[So many ways!](#)"

**Worship ideas:** There are so many fun ways to worship as a family. These ideas will bring the Bible alive for your children: Dress up and act out a Bible story by creating your own costumes from stuff you have around the house - a sheet, bathrobe and props. Find a book like '[The ABCs of Bible Characters](#)' which has stories about many different Bible characters and written in a way that is easy for young children to engage with. Create a thanksgiving jar and add to it every day.



5-11s...

**Worship:** Praise the Lord dancing along to; "[Praise Him!](#)"

**Activities:** Do you know what Jesus said when asked about the most important commandment? Worship is one of many ways we can tell God we love him. Find your way through this [maze](#) that explores Jesus' answer in Matthew 22. Also, this colouring sheet is a great reminder that [God is worthy of praise](#). Finally, have a go adapting the worship ideas above for children aged 0-5yrs for your own family context.



11-18s...

- 1) Do you find it easy or hard to praise God?
  - 2) Psalm 98 is full of praise. What verses do you particularly like?
  - 3) How can this psalm encourage you to praise God? speak to the Ethiopian?
-  List all the things you are thankful for and pray for each one.
  -  Rewrite Psalm 98 as your own song of praise to God.

*"Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy" - Psalm 98:4*