



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 14th February 2021
1st Sunday before Lent

Be transformed

Mark 9:2-10

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...

Can you think of anything that transforms into something different? Today's story is called the transfiguration of Jesus. Transfiguration means a complete change of form or appearance of something (or someone!).

Watch the story...

A lovely video from PursueGod Kids explaining the [transfiguration](#).

Explore the story...

Today's bible reading from Mark's gospel is called the Transfiguration. Peter, James and John are going up a mountain with Jesus to pray and something amazing happens when they reach the top. Two other great leaders, Elijah and Moses, miraculously appear beside Jesus and all three of them glow like dazzling white lights! It is quite an experience and Peter doesn't know what to do. He starts running around not knowing what to do or say. Then a voice from heaven says; "This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him." God is telling Peter that he needs to slow down and listen to Jesus.

Have you ever tried to have a conversation with someone in a crowded place and everyone is speaking at the same time? It is really hard to hear and concentrate on what they are saying. It is very easy to lose focus and begin hearing other conversations. God's words to the disciples are a great reminder of something very important. There are many people telling us what to do and how to live our lives. Sometimes it can get very confusing listening to advice especially if everyone has different ideas of what we should do or not do. Remember what the Heavenly Father said to Peter up on the mountain of transfiguration when he was confused; "This is my Son whom I have chosen. Listen to Him!" Listening to God's Son Jesus is very important. Getting ideas and suggestions from other people is important, but what is most important is that we listen to Jesus. We can do this by reading about the life of Jesus in the bible. We can read what he said and taught and we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand too.

End with a prayer...

Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding Peter to listen to your son Jesus. Life can get pretty confusing trying to listen to everybody's advice. Through your Holy Spirit help us to hear and know your son Jesus more and more each day. Amen.



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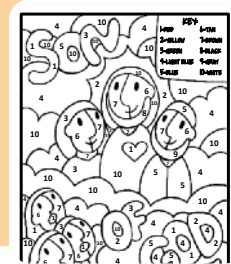
Be transformed

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative prayer: Draw or write prayers on A4 paper. When everyone is finished write the word GOD on a large sheet of card or paper and place it on the floor. Explain that when you pray, God hears each one of them. Now transform the prayers into a paper aeroplanes and try to land it on the card. Have a few goes, emphasizing that the planes might miss the mark but prayers don't – prayers always reach God.

Fun activity: This [colour-by-numbers](#) sheet is great fun >>>



5-11s...

Worship: Enjoy this song called "[Who You say I am](#)"

Family activity: Did you know that the transfiguration is also recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke? Yes, three different men wrote about it in their gospel. Read Matthew 17:1-13 and Luke 9:28-36 and write down all the findings from the three different authors. Isn't it amazing that the authors all told the same story from their own perspective and they didn't confuse or divert from the truth of the transfiguration.

Fun activity: A fun colouring sheet is on the next page >>>



11-18s...

- 1) What can you think of that transforms into something different?
- 2) If you had been with Jesus, how would you have felt?
- 3) Why did Jesus tell his friends to keep quiet about what they saw?

+ Ask God to help you transform the lives of others.

> Read Romans 12:2 each day this week.

*"Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud:
"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" - Mark 9:7*

