



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.

[daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:daniel.jones@bristoldiocese.org)

Thank you 



Sunday 11th April 2021  
2nd Sunday of Easter

## In the light

### 1 John 1:5-2:2

#### 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...

How many lights do you have around your home? There will be lights in the ceiling but what about lights in unexpected places e.g. inside the fridge, the oven and even some doorbells have lights too! Have a guess how many lights you have and then walk around counting them up in every room - you might be surprised with the total number!

#### Watch the story...

Learn this memory verse from today's reading using this helpful video - [1 John 1:9](#)

#### Explore the story...

Are you afraid of the dark? If you are, do not be embarrassed because a lot of people are scared of the dark. Having a bedside lamp or the landing light on helps people feel safe when they are in bed at night. Suppose you wake up in the night and need a drink of water - if it is dark, you might stub your toe or bump your shin. Ouch! If you go for a walk outside at night, it is a good idea to carry a torch or lantern. Even if you are not afraid of the dark, you might step in a hole and sprain your ankle. A torch or lantern helps you avoid those things that could harm you. If you have the choice of walking in the dark or walking in the light, which would you choose?

In the Bible readings today, John writes about God being the light in our lives (v5). In another book in the Bible, the gospel written by John, Jesus describes himself as the light of the world - "whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

You might be surprised to know that some people actually choose to walk in darkness rather than in the light. Can you imagine that? Why would they do that? The Bible calls evil darkness and Jesus tells us, "Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their evil deeds will be exposed."

Every day we make choices. As followers of Jesus, you walk in the light and shine brightly so that others can see. As Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

What choice will you make? Will you walk in the light or in the darkness?

#### End in prayer...

Dear Lord, thank you that you are always there to help us to walk in your light and make the right choices that please you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Sunday 11th April 2021  
2nd Sunday of Easter

## In the light

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

**Worship:** Sing along to this classic... "[This little light](#)"

0-5s...

**Craft activity:** How to make a light switch cover - measure the dimensions of a single switch light switch in your home. Draw a rectangle of the same dimensions on a piece of blank white paper. Draw a smaller rectangle in the centre that will be cut out by the children to fit over the actual switch. Have fun decorating template with designs linked to today's theme of 'God is light'.

**Worship:** Sing and dance along to "[Shine a light](#)"

5-11s...

**Activities:** here are lots of fantastic 'free' colouring-in sheets on [religiousdoodles.com](http://religiousdoodles.com) including this great one - 'Ye are light of the world'. Also check out the next page for another great colouring-in sheet >>>

**Creative prayer:** You will need tealights or a candle... Take it in turns lighting a tealight saying one thing that brings light to your life (e.g. something a friend says or does). End the family quiet time in prayer together.



1) Would you rather go for a walk on a summer's day or on a dark night?

2) What advantages does the writer say there are to living in the light?

3) How can the light of Jesus change the whole world?



Use verse 5 as you pray; "God is light, there is no darkness in him at all".



Ask God to shine his light on your life and receive his forgiveness.

11-18s...

*" This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you:  
God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all" - 1 John 1:5*



Matthew 5:15-16