



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a new resource that has been created to encourage and help church families enjoy a time of worship, explore the Bible, pray and grow in their faith together in the comfort of their own homes.

Every Sunday **Church@Home** provides a fun, engaging and easy-to-follow session 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 has also been 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. Why not 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 29th March 2020
5th Sunday in Lent

Mission impossible

Ezekiel 37v1-14

Time to focus...

Find a place where you can all sit comfortably – on the floor, around a table or even in the garden if the weather is nice. Light a candle to mark the beginning of the worship time. Begin by staring at the flame spending a moment in quiet watching the flames. Pause and prepare your hearts and minds for a time of reflection together as a family...

Question time...

- Have you or someone you know ever faced an impossible task?
- What was it that made the task particularly impossible?

Storytime...

Ezekiel was a Jewish priest who was captured and taken to Babylon a few years after Daniel. God chose him to prophesy about all of the things that were happening back in Jerusalem. After Jerusalem was destroyed, Ezekiel began prophesying about the hope that God would restore the Jews to their land some day. God showed Ezekiel how he could bring a bunch of old dry bones to life. In the same way God could bring his people back to life if they would turn to him.

Watch the story...

Here is a great retelling of the story of Ezekiel and the 'Valley of dry bones'

Explore the story...

You will need some dry pasta. Hand the pasta around - it is dry and not very tasty at all. It looks like nothing can help it - nothing good can come of it. But we know that if we boil it for ten minutes and add some sauce, it will be very good indeed.

When we face something that is very hard in our lives, sometimes it is hard to think that anything good can happen - like in the valley of dry bones. But just as we know that this pasta, we know that the hard things in our life can become a lot better. Just as God brought life to the valley of dry bones with the breath of his Holy Spirit, God can make bad things better in our lives too. And he will - when we trust him for it. That is what the gospel of Jesus Christ is all about.

End with a prayer...

Heavenly Father, sometimes we face hard things and life seems hopeless. If you can make dry bones live again, you can make something good out of the hard things in our life. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Worship: a fun song to join along with... **"So will I"**

Craft: click on the link below, depending on the age adults or older children can help your toddler make the **cross**.
Scroll down for another teaching activity making finger butterflies >>>

Themed game: the theme is 'mission impossible' and this simple family game involves picking up a range of household items your feet. They can try basic tasks such as picking things up and hold things. They'll definitely enjoy trying!

5-11s...

Themed game: Tape your children's thumbs to the side of their hands and challenge them to do basic tasks such as opening a door or using a phone. Be sure that the tape is not too tight as you don't want to hurt them. If they get through the basic tasks, try something more challenging such as writing or tying shoelaces or adapt the game for 0-5s (above) using feet to pick up objects, draw, paint and open doors.

Craft: this **cross** activity is great fun to do with all ages or why not slice a piece of toast into long strips and make a tasty cross by laying the pieces across one another. Taste and see that the Lord is good :o)

11-18s...



- 1) Have you faced, or do you know someone who has faced an impossible task?
- 2) God have brought the bones to life himself so why do you think God used Ezekiel?
- 3) How can God revive you in a personal situation when hope is lost?



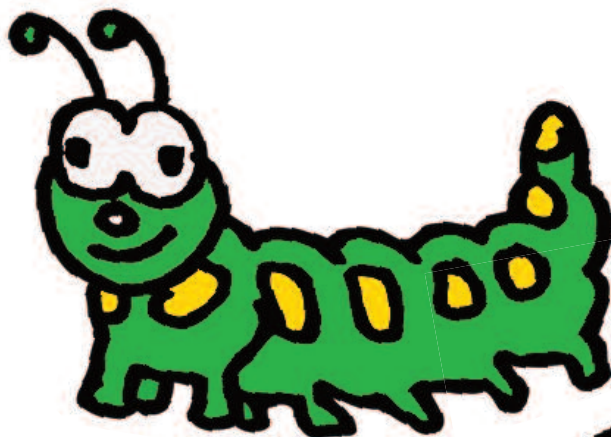
Pray for people you know that are facing an impossible situation.



Remember that no matter how dried up and useless you may feel, God can restore you to life.

"I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." Isaiah 44:22

0-5s...



Did you know that caterpillars turn into chrysalises which then turn into butterflies?

It seems like a 'mission impossible' that something beautiful and alive could come out of a dried up, drab chrysalis. God makes something good come out of something which looks quite bad. God gives life.

Let's make a butterfly.

Draw around your hands to make a butterfly shape and then decorate it with felt tip pens and/or things you find around your house.

Or, if you have playdoh or paints in the house, have fun creating your own versions of this butterfly >>>

