

Top Tips on Family Worship at Home

- 1) Find a time in the day that works for you.
- 2) Don't expect it to be silent - it will be messy! Go with the flow.
- 3) Encourage everyone to contribute, both adults and children.
- 4) Be flexible on timing and ready to adapt or shorten the session if your children get restless - there's no point in making this a battle!
- 5) Use the events of the past few days to explore where you've each met God or seen him at work.
- 6) Involve your children and young people with what the church is doing during this CV-19 crisis – suggestions can be found in the **Action** section.

Junior Church at-home session for 29th November: Advent Sunday



Big Idea: Waiting for Light

Advent is about waiting but also preparing to welcome Jesus, our light in the darkness. The first Advent candle will be lit at church today, symbolising Hope. Why not light a candle at home too and keep it alight throughout the day to remind you of the hope we have in Jesus?



Bible story: [Mark 13.24-37](#)

'Keep watching,' said Jesus. **'Nobody knows** when the Son of Man will come back to earth. Not even the angels, or the Son. The Father knows, though, and he will send clues.

'Keep watching. There will be days of suffering; after that the sun will be darkened; the moon will stop shining; **stars will fall** and the powers in heaven will be shaken. Then the Son of Man will come in the clouds. **He'll gather his chosen people** from everywhere on earth.

'Keep watching,' Jesus said. 'I'm telling you all this so you'll be ready. When you see **new shoots growing on the trees**, you know summer is coming. When you see the things I've described, you'll know that the Son of Man is coming. Heaven and earth will come to an end, **but my words will last for ever.**

'Keep watching. Be ready. **Imagine a man going on a trip** and leaving his servants in charge of his house. **They don't know when he's coming back**, but they know when he gets home he'll want something to eat and expect the house to be in order. The doorkeeper will have to **stay awake** because the man may return in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows in the morning. If the servants **doze off**, he'll come home and find them asleep.

'That's why I say **keep watching,**' Jesus repeated. **'Keep awake.'**

- Can you think of some actions for the words in bold? Now read the passage again and use those actions.
- Jesus was talking to his disciples. How do you think they felt when they heard Jesus' warning?
- Have you ever had to stay awake when you were really tired? What did you do?



I wonder?

- What do the words 'keep watching' and 'keep awake' mean for us as Christians here and now?
- How can we prepare for welcoming Jesus amongst all the busyness of Christmas preparations?



Activity

Clapping game: Be on the lookout!

- Hold out your hands. Tell your child/children to watch your hands and clap when you clap. Clap at random times to catch them out!
- Take it in turns to be the lead clapper
- Talk about the importance of watching and waiting

Make your own Advent Wreath

You will need five candles and some greenery from the garden or the park and then whatever else you can find around the house or garden shed. Get creative! You can put the candles in holders on a large plate or tray and decorate with holly and ivy, or maybe use a wire hanger to make a wreath shape, then wrap in greenery and Christmas lights.



Prayer

Lord of the light, Lord of the darkness,
 Lord of the day, Lord of the night,
 Call us to you,
 Whether we are happy or sad,
 Whether we are ready or not,
 Call us to you. **Amen.**



Foodbank Christmas Cracker

Decorate your box this week then fill with Christmas goodies to donate to the Norwood & Brixton Foodbank. If you don't have a box already they can be collected from church weekdays 2-4pm and Sundays 11.15-12.15