

## Top Tips on Family Worship at Home

Whilst some families might not be attending services, we hope to resource households to continue to worship and pray together and be a place of Christ's light in our world during these uncertain days.

Here are some top tips to get started:

- 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 crises – suggestions can be found in the **Action** section.

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### A Junior Church session for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Big Idea:** Do something different

#### Starter activity:

- Ask the child/ren to draw a picture map of their week including school, online learning, leisure time, family time, walks out
- Ask the child/ren if there were any times in the week when they had to quickly change what they were doing, or leave things suddenly to go and do something else. Ask: How does it feel when our plans change?



#### **Bible Story:** [Mark 1.14-20](#)

John the Baptist was in prison, so now it was up to Jesus to tell people the good news of God. He came to Galilee, saying, 'The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.' As Jesus walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen. They were brothers, Simon and Andrew. He watched as they cast a net into the lake and waited. After a while, the net seemed to get heavy; it was full of fish, wriggling and jumping. The two men began to drag the net ashore. As they did so, they looked up and saw a man standing watching them. 'Who is that?' Andrew asked Simon, puzzled. Jesus drew nearer and looked straight at them. 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people,' he said. Immediately, they left their nets and followed Jesus. As they walked along the shore together, Jesus saw two more fishermen in a boat, mending their nets. They were James and his brother John, working with their father, Zebedee. Immediately Jesus

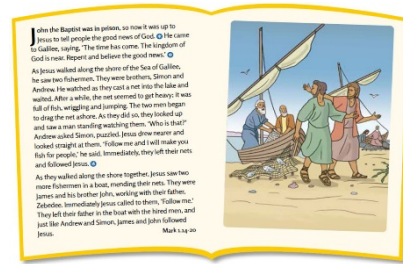
called to them, 'Follow me.' They left their father in the boat with the hired men, and just like Andrew and Simon, James and John followed Jesus.



### I wonder...?

Why do you think that the fishermen got up, left their work and followed Jesus?

How do you think Zebedee felt when his sons left him working alone and followed Jesus?



### Creative Prayer Activity: **Make an invitation**

**You will need:** folded sheets of A5 coloured card, pens, craft materials, stickers, and glue

- Give each child a folded A5 piece of card. Ask them to write 'You are invited to follow Jesus. Will you respond?' on the outside, and on the inside, write 'R.S.V.P.' leaving space for people to write (pre-prepare for younger children).
- Provide pens, stickers and craft materials. Ask child/ren to make the card look like an invitation to the greatest party.
- Encourage children to use their invitation to invite the whole family to write their names under the R.S.V.P. if they want to respond to Jesus.



### Prayers:

Jesus, we want to respond when we hear you call our names.  
We want to live our lives with you.  
We want you to be with us.

**Amen.**

When opportunity beckons: be bold.

When Jesus calls: be ready.

When we are asked to do something different: be prepared.

In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**



**For the week: Questions for reflection**

What could you do differently to show you are following Jesus? Decide on one thing and respond by making a change.

How can following Jesus help you cope with the lockdown?