

Top Tips on Family Worship at Home

Whilst our usual pattern of Sunday service and Junior Church is put on hold, 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.

- 1) Here are some top tips to get started
- 2) Find a time in the day that works for you
- 3) Don't expect it to be silent - it will be messy! Go with the flow
- 4) Encourage everyone to contribute, both adults and children
- 5) 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!
- 6) Use the events of the past few days to explore where you've each met God or seen him at work.
- 7) 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.

Church session for Sunday 16th May 2021

Big idea: The power of prayer



Bible story: John 17: 6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed, 'Father, I have made your name known to my friends. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and I have been glorified in them. Everything I have has come from you, and they believe that you sent me. I have protected them, I have guarded them, but now I am leaving and coming to you. Holy Father protect them in your name.

I have told them many things so they would be filled with my joy. Holy Father, protect them in your name. I have given them your word, and the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Holy Father protect them in your name.

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. Holy Father, protect them in your name.

As you sent me into the world, so I send them into the world. Make them holy by your truth. Holy Father, protect them in your name.'



I wonder?...

- What things do you notice about Jesus' prayer for his friends?
- Where is Jesus leaving and where is he going to?

- Jesus keeps asking for protection for the disciples. Why do you think they need this protection?
- The disciples were facing a very uncertain future. How do you think they felt about the prayer Jesus prayed for them?
- What does it feel like when you don't know how things will turn out? How can praying help us feel less worried?
- Think/talk about the different ways to pray, e.g. formal words such as The Lord's Prayer, praying in your head, singing a chant, ringing bells, lighting candles, meditating



Creative Activity

Make a fort: create a symbol of the prayer of protection

Use cardboard boxes to make a fort as Jesus' prayer is about protection for his friends. Encourage the children to decorate the fort with crosses and other symbols.

Or use building blocks or lego

Build while you pray for God's help in uncertain times

You will need: as many bricks and blocks as possible.

- Put the bricks and blocks in the centre of the room. Together you are going to create something that looks like a castle with the selection of bricks and blocks available.
- Think about how it is built to protect the people inside facing uncertain times. Think about Jesus praying for protection for his disciples.
- As you build, pray for anything you are uncertain about

For older children

How to pray: The Lord's Prayer (Our Father) is how Jesus told his disciples to pray

- Take a large piece of card
- Write each line of the Lord's prayer in your own words in your neatest writing
- Create a nice border round the outside of the card with paint, pens or collage, think about what the words really mean as you do it
- Use it when you pray



Prayer chant

Use this call and response chant to pray with your family. Everyone says the 'Pray, pray, pray' refrain after every line with one person reading all the other lines. You can make up your own three note tune if you like!

If you're lonely, if you're sad:

Pray, pray, pray.

If you've been good or if you've been bad:

Pray, pray, pray.

If you need help or if you're ok:

Pray, pray, pray.

If it's sunny or a rainy day:

Pray, pray, pray.

If it's a holiday or a weekend:

Pray, pray, pray.

If you've just had a fight with a friend:

Pray, pray, pray.

If you're feel anxious, starting to worry:

Pray, pray, pray.

If you need something done in a hurry:

Pray, pray, pray.

If there's something happening, a special day:

Pray, pray, pray.

If there's nothing going on, it's normal in every way:

Pray, pray, pray.

If you just want to talk to the Lord:

Pray, pray, pray.

Be sure he listens to your every word so:

Pray, pray, pray.



For the week

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Explore the website for ideas on how to pray

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>