

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.

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.

A Toddler Junior Church session for Sunday 29th March

Big Idea: [Jesus is with us all the time](#)

Play materials: simple jigsaw puzzles

Gathering prayers: *Young children love repetition. Using the same prayer to start your session each time you meet will create a sense of familiarity and expectation.*

God loves me

From the top of my head

(*Touch head*)

to the tips of my toes;

(*Touch toes*)

from the lobes of my ears

(*Touch ear lobes*)

to the end of my nose;

(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front

(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,

(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!

(jump up and down)



Bible Story: [John 11.1-45](#)

Before reading: Lay out a cloth and place objects/pictures (in italics) on it as you tell the story.

Jesus' friend Lazarus was ill (*toy stethoscope*) but Jesus did not go to visit him straight away.

Eventually, when he realised that Lazarus had died, Jesus decided to go to Lazarus' home. (*house*)

Lazarus' sisters Martha and Mary came to meet Jesus. (*play figures*) They said, 'If only you had been here, you could have saved Lazarus.' (*cross*)

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me you will live. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' said Martha, 'I believe you are the Son of God.'

Jesus wept with Mary. (*tear drop*) Then he asked, 'Where is his tomb?' (*large stone*)

Outside the tomb, Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!' and Lazarus walked straight out of the tomb, alive again. (*white cloth*)



Creative Prayer Activity:

Jesus is always with us

A visual reminder that Jesus is always with us

You will need: Print off one [create water template](#) per child.

Cut out one teardrop, one smiley face (both on page one of template) and one *Jesus is always with us* circle (page two of template) for each child. Invite the children to decorate their teardrop and smiley-face shapes and then stick one of each to each side of their *Jesus is always with us* circle



Prayer:

Father God

As a group, slowly put a simple jigsaw back together, as you pray:

When we feel far away from you,
help us to know you are with us
and you will bring us back again.

Amen.



For the week:

If you haven't done already, create a Rainbow to put in your window, a sign of Hope and Joy for all who see it.

If you like, light a candle in the evening at 7pm and place it in the window