

Church at Home Family Pack – 5th July 2020

Join us for our 'café-style' online service, usual time of 10:30am on Sunday at www.ccwsm.org.uk –
"see" you there! Bring your own cake and drink!

If you like, join in with the discussion of Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start -

Lord Jesus, we come as your friends
to sing our songs, to study your Word, and to pray together.
Help us to be friends to one another,
and to show others that you want to be their friends, too.
Amen.



Action reminder –

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)

READ TOGETHER

John 15: 9-14



International Children's Bible (ICB)

⁹ I loved you as the Father loved me. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ I have obeyed my Father's commands, and I remain in his love. In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have. I want your joy to be the fullest joy.

¹² "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.

New International Version (NIV)

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

Jesus was speaking to his friends about love.
'Love makes people happy. God loves me. That makes me happy.
I love you. That makes you happy.
And so, I would like you to go and love other people in the same way as I have loved you.



That will make other people happy, too.
You are my friends. I love you so much I would die for you!
Now, go and pass on that love to others!

You are my friends. I have told you everything God the Father has told me.
Now, go and pass on that love to others!
You are my friends. I want you to do things that will last. Love lasts.
Now, go and pass on that love to others!



WATCH TOGETHER

Remember when making friends was child's play?....

<https://youtu.be/Pm12mTIUJss>

TALK TOGETHER

- How did Jesus show his great love for us?
- Is there anything you've given up for Jesus? How did it make you feel?
- Or, do you know anyone who has been called by God to sacrifice something/give something up? What happened?
- Jesus said that we show we're his friends by loving each other. How can we love others with the same kind of love Jesus has shown us? What might we have to give up for our friends?

STUDY TOGETHER

'The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends.' - (John 15:13)

- We are to love each other as Jesus loved us and he loved us enough to give his life for us.
- We may not have to die but think about what we may need to give up to show love to our friends?

Jesus' example of friendship

Jesus had friends and was a friend while He lived on earth. We can learn from his example by looking at his relationship with his friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Jesus called them friends and we are told that he loved them – Read:

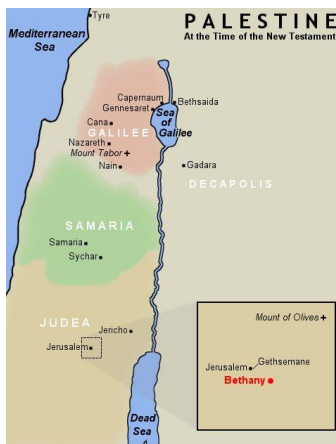
- **John 11: 3, 5, 35-36**

Friends interact

Jesus visited Mary, Martha and Lazarus several times.

Read:

- **Luke 10:38-42**
- **John 11**
- **John 12:1-8**



Travelling on foot, it was not a short trip from Jerusalem to Bethany (about 6 miles) and a **much** further trip from Jesus' home in Galilee. These visits were not chance, but purposeful visits to be with his friends. Face to face visits were one of the few ways to interact with friends. Today we have many more choices available to us. Although it is more difficult to meet in person at the moment we can still 'go out of our way' to connect with and be there for our friends.

- In what ways have you or could you have gone out of your way to connect with friends and family?

Friends learn from one another

Read:

- **Luke 10: 38-42**

We can't learn from Jesus in person as Mary and Martha could but we can have close Christian friendships. We can share our faith together and learn from each other.

- How have your Christian friendships helped you?

Friends support one another in times of need

Read:

- **John 11: 17-32**

Jesus made it a priority to be with Mary and Martha after their brother died. He went not only to bring Lazarus back to life but also to comfort Mary and Martha.

- Have you been supported by a friend in a time of need? How did it help? How important was that friendship to you?

Romans 12:15 – tells us to *'be sad with those who are sad'* (ICB) or *'mourn with those who mourn'* (NIV) or *'weep with those who weep'* (NLT).

Read:

- **John 11:33-35** to see Jesus' example to us.

Jesus shares in the pain and sorrow of his friends and cries with them.

Read:

- **2 Corinthians 1: 3-4**

Because we can receive comfort from God we can comfort others. Receiving comfort doesn't remove the difficult situation but means receiving strength, encouragement and hope to deal with it.

Mary, Martha and Lazarus had a unique opportunity to be friends with Jesus Christ while He walked the earth. But we can still be friends with Him today.

In **John 15:14**, He tells us: You are my friends if you do what I command you. Jesus wants to be our friend. He died for us before we were even born (**John 15:13**). He's already made the commitment. The rest is up to us.

PLAY TOGETHER

B	I	N	G	O
Vegetarian	Likes to/ can dance	Been to Africa	Has size 11 feet	Never Read Harry Potter
Plays a Musical instrument	Never been to Hospital	Dyes their hair	Wears Contact Lenses	Likes Cats over Dogs
Climbed a mountain	Has an Allergy	YOU	Doesn't like Chocolate	Touch nose with tongue
Has green socks on	Birthday in September	Enjoys Cooking	No middle name	Has a Phobia (what?)
Lived in 4+ places	Same Favourite Colour	Can speak another Language	Has caught a fish	Left Handed

Friendship Bingo

Use the ideas in the BINGO template to create your own friendship bingo. Can you think of a friend or family member who fits the description in each box?

Use small toys, buttons or beads to cover each square as you think of a person. Or, write their name in the box.

Friend Pairs (a matching game)



Friends often have something in common...

- Cut out lots of paper people
- Put them into pairs and mark each pair with a colour, picture or symbol.
- Hide one of each pair around the house
- Take it in turns to choose a paper person and go on a hunt for the matching 'friend'.

MAKE TOGETHER

Friendship Paper Chain



Cut out lots of long, thin rectangles of paper. Decorate each strip with the names of friends and what make them good friends. Hang it up to remind you of your friendships. You could use it to remind you to thank God for giving you such good friends!

Or

You could make one using heart shapes like this!...



'Good Friend' cards

Make a card to send to a friend to tell them all the amazing things you think they are!



SING TOGETHER

Jesus is my friend – Wesley's Wuppets: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyP2zLsuCh0>

I will be your friend – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GD9CkOstIjg>

We got a friend (big it up for Jesus) – Spring Harvest (Jon Bonner): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGnJKfNqhAg>

What a friend I've found – Delirious (performing with Hillsong): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPOLcrQzkfo>

Cast Your Cares - Guvna B ft. The Kingdom Choir: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKj6xjjhQvE>

REFLECT TOGETHER



Find a comfortable, quiet place to sit.

Close your eyes and think of your favourite place to go to meet your best friend for a good chat.

Imagine that you are sitting there right now. What's around you, what can you see, smell and feel? Remember why you like to go there.

Imagine that someone is walking towards you. You can't make out who it is, but you know that it is not the friend that you normally meet there...but who else would know about this special place?

As the figure comes closer, you realise that it is Jesus – He has come for a chat with His friend... You!

Spend some time in silence thinking about what you would talk to Jesus – your friend - about.

You may like to play some music quietly in the background as you do this.



Word Wall

- ✚ Write the word 'Friend' in large letters in the middle of a large sheet of paper or card. Then draw or write things that you think of when you think of what being a friend means.
- ✚ Look at the words you've written and underline in one colour the ones which Jesus has done for you. Are there other things that Jesus has done for you that you haven't written down yet?
- ✚ Then draw circles in a different colour around the ones which you do for Jesus. Think about what Jesus said in today's Bible passage: "You are my friends if you do what I command?" What did Jesus tell his friends to do (*look back at v.12*). Look again at the words you've written or the pictures you've drawn. How could you do some of these things to show love to others this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

Prayer buddies

A great thing about good friends is that you can go to them to share the highs and lows in your life, just like we can talk to Jesus about anything in our lives. Share with your family or your friends, whoever you feel most comfortable with, the things you want to pray about and let them share theirs with you too.

You could share in person or over a group chat, in a text or over the phone. It could be something you want to say thank you for, something that is a worry for you, or for anything else!

When you've shared your prayers why not make a note to remember to talk to Jesus for your friend(s) every day.



My Friends!

It's always great to remind ourselves of who our good friends are to make sure we remember to be good friends to them. Grab a piece of paper and draw around your hand (or, for a messy play activity you can make hand prints!) Draw little faces (and accessories!) on the tips of your fingers to make little drawings of your friends.

When you've finished look at your friends and pray about the things in their lives that you know they want to say thank you for, the sad or scary things, and anything else. When you've done this or instead of praying for each one you could say the prayer below.

Thank you, Jesus, for being our friend.

Thank you for showing us how to be good friends to other people.

Help us to be good friends to the people in front of us.

Amen.



Prayer Pictionary



One of the simplest ways to live out Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loves us is to pray for one another. Here is a non-threatening, easy way to do that. Take it in turns to draw something you want prayer for. It doesn't matter if you're not a great artist. It's not a competition. What is important is praying for the other. If the person who has drawn the picture wants to explain what it is, they can do. If they don't, that's okay. To pray, everyone should touch the picture and pray quietly in their minds. If you're not sure what someone has drawn, God knows so you can just ask God to help them with whatever it is they need help with.

DO IT TOGETHER

Jesus says we show that we're his friends by loving each other.

“This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

We need to live out this love in our daily lives.

Our Church Vision at Christ Church and Emmanuel is to be a people who are ‘Living God’s Love’ –



- “Living” – that we are actually seeking to follow Christ in our daily lives as well as Sundays!
- “God’s” – that our strength and encouragement stems from Christ’s limitless love and the wisdom and experience of His presence in our lives.
- “Love” – that we are a people of kindness, compassion and welcome to all.

Start each day by thinking how you might Live God’s Love.... Think about who you might show Christian Love and Friendship to during the day ahead. This might be a simple response to a shop assistant or delivery person or a more generous act of love towards friends, family members, or someone who lives alone or is on the edge of society.... Then do it!

Email: family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder taken from

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