

## Church at Home Pack – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Join us for our online service, usual time of 10:30am on Sunday at [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)  
“see” you there!

If you like, join in with the discussion on 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 –*



We are not just once a week friends.  
We are the family of God.  
We are not a cosy club.  
We are the body of Christ.  
We are not here by accident.  
We have been chosen by God  
We are His holy people.  
**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



### International Children's Bible (ICB)

**1** From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am an apostle because that is what God wanted.  
To God's holy people living in Ephesus, believers in Christ Jesus.

**2** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in heaven. **4** In Christ, he chose us before the world was made. In his love he chose us to be his holy people—people without blame before him. **5** And before the world was made, God decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him. **6** This brings praise to God because of his wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely, in Christ, the One he loves. **7** In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death. And so we have forgiveness of sins because of God's rich grace. **8** God gave us that grace fully and freely. God, with full wisdom and understanding, **9** let us know his secret purpose. This was what God wanted, and he planned to do it through Christ. **10** His goal was to carry out his plan when the right time came. He planned that all things in heaven and on earth would be joined together in Christ as the head.

### New International Version (NIV)

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

**2** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, **9** he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10** to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

## WATCH TOGETHER

**Douglas has some encouragement for us all this week!**



God loves you!

<https://youtu.be/LXH4YIbO4Ls>

## TALK TOGETHER

Paul wrote this letter to strengthen and encourage the church in Ephesus. He had spent over 3 years there and was very close to them. He begins this letter to the Ephesians by greeting them as God's holy people or saints.

*To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus (ESV Bible)*

- How do you think the Ephesians felt as they read the opening of their letter?
- How would you feel about being called a saint?
- When do you feel most encouraged?
- How can we encourage each other?

## STUDY TOGETHER

- All Saints Day is a celebration of all the saints, living on earth and alive in heaven. Of course, one problem we have is that we've often been taught to think of saints as ancient, dead, very holy, special people. However, the biblical understanding of a saint is someone chosen by God to be holy, set apart for him.
- Throughout the Bible we read of a chosen people, initially centred round one nation - the Jews - but always intended to come from all the world. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are brought into this family of God.
- In his sermon, Tom said the Ephesians might have asked Paul, "What do you mean when you call us saints?" The answer lies in not WHO they are but WHOSE they are.

Read the passages below and discuss:

- What do they say about being part of God's chosen people/family?
- What should family life be like in God's household?
- How does it make you feel knowing that you are chosen and loved by God, and adopted into a family that stretches far back in time?
- Are you encouraged by these verses? Why? Why not?
- How does knowing WHOSE you are affect how you feel about being a saint?

- Deuteronomy 7:6
- Jeremiah 31:33
- John 1:9-13
- Romans 8:14-17
- Galatians 3:26-29
- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- 1 John 3: 1-3
- Revelation 21:1-4

## PLAY TOGETHER

### **Encouragement Catch**

Play a simple game of catch together but each time you throw the ball you have to say something encouraging to the person you are throwing to!



### **Encourage and be Encouraged**



Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen. Write your own name at the bottom of the piece of paper.

Everyone sits in a circle or around a table. Pass your piece of paper to the person on your left who writes down a positive (but true) comment or a word of encouragement about the person whose name is on the bottom of the piece of paper. They then fold their paper over to cover their comment and pass it to the next person on the left.

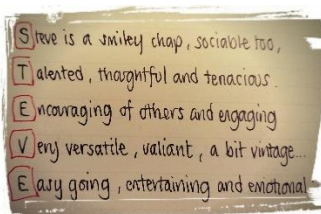
When your paper comes back to you, you will have encouraged everyone in your house and received encouragement from them!

## MAKE TOGETHER

### **Encouraging Names**

Tom said that when we become part of God's family, it's like we get a new name to show who we belong to.

Choose someone (a saint from your church family) that you want to encourage. Write their name down the side of a piece of card and then think of some encouraging words about that person, that begin with each letter of their name.



**Decorate the card with pens/pencils/stickers etc. and give it to the person you wrote about – to encourage them!**

### **We belong to God's family – Picture**

Create a picture to remind you of what you've learned today. Maybe you could make a chain of paper people to represent God's family. You could give them all 'halos' to remind you that we are God's holy people – we are saints. Use what ever you have available – paper, pens/pencils/paint, stickers...



## SING TOGETHER

**Big Family of God** – Nick and Becky Drake <https://youtu.be/UEvJzOxm6zs>

**We are all family – (songs of some silliness)** Hillsong Kids <https://youtu.be/beV-hnr122w>

**God's great family** – Sovereign Grace Music

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2K5eLjDulZ4&list=RD2K5eLjDulZ4&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2K5eLjDulZ4&list=RD2K5eLjDulZ4&start_radio=1)

**Build your Kingdom here** – Rend Collective <https://youtu.be/sbdJXKqVgtg>

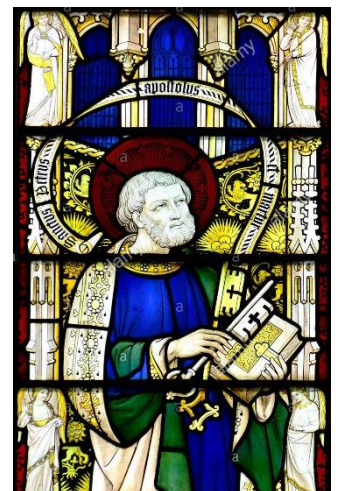
**Come all you saints** – Life Worship <https://youtu.be/qIGBCOjlpaw>

## REFLECT TOGETHER

### Stained-glass Saints

In some churches there are beautiful stained-glass windows. Sometimes those windows picture particular saints – especially if the church is named after them! The saints are often pictured holding things that are symbols of their particular story and show the way that they were friends with Jesus and told other people about him.

Like in these windows:



If we are **all** living saints, God's chosen holy people, then what symbols might be in our stained-glass picture? How do we use our gifts, encourage others and share our faith?

Think about the saints in our church family – what symbols might they have? A Lawnmower, a tea towel, a laptop, a screwdriver, a box of toys, a glue stick?!

*You might like to draw and colour your own window*

## PRAY TOGETHER

No one is perfect. Every saint is a work in progress. But God has promised to complete that work one day as we work with him and he works in us. This is why we need to be kind to each other and understanding, as well as stand in awe of each other - individually we are each his workmanship!

Pray a prayer of blessing for each person in your home or ring a friend from your church family and pray for them over the phone.

**Father God, we pray your blessing on your saint (name). May she/he know that you are with her/him today and may she/he show your love to others. Amen**

**End by saying together: We are the saints of God... God is at work in us.**

## DO IT TOGETHER

### *Research saints*

Look up and find out more about the story of a saint who shares your name. It might be someone famous, someone in the Bible, or just another Christian who has the same name as you. What do you like best about them? What part of their story would you like to see in your own life?

Courage? Wisdom? Standing up for your faith, even when it's hard?



### *Encouraging saints*



We are encouraged by saints in the Bible and saints throughout history. We are **all** saints and so can be encouraged by each other. Tom gave us a great image of the **Encouragement Arch** that he experienced at Spring Harvest. Doug also shared with us some of the encouragements that he has been thankful for over the years.

Imagine someone passing through your part of the Encouragement Arch – What would you say?

**Is there someone in our church family that you could encourage?  
In person, over the phone, by text message or in a card in the post  
- How might you be an encouraging saint this week?**

Email: [family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

*Action Reminder taken from*

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