

## Church at Home Pack – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 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. It’s “Café style” church today so bring your own drink and doughnut!

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

This pack is full of suggestions under various categories. Not all of these will be appropriate for you or the people in your home (although you’re welcome to do them all). The idea is that you choose the ones which are of most interest and help to you. We would, however, encourage you to try new ways of learning and reflecting on today’s Bible passage and message. Remember that even if you live on your own you are doing these things ‘together’ with the rest of our church family.

### GATHER TOGETHER

Lord, we are your disciples today. Show us how to serve you.  
Teach us your compassion, and bless each one of us. **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

Acts 6:1-7



#### *International Children’s Bible (ICB)*

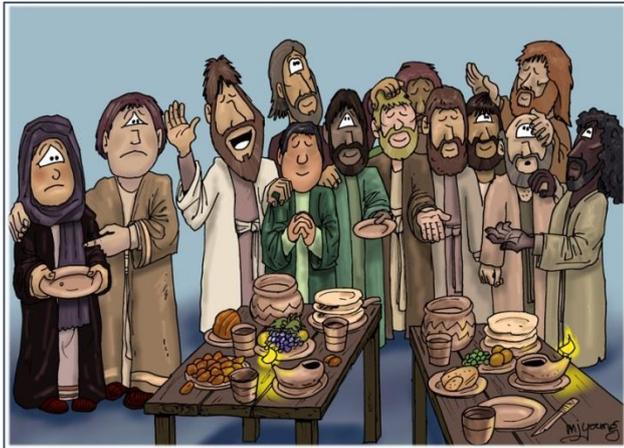
**6** More and more people were becoming followers of Jesus. But during this same time, the Greek-speaking followers had an argument with the other Jewish followers. The Greek-speaking Jews said that their widows were not getting their share of the food that was given out every day. <sup>2</sup>The 12 apostles called the whole group of followers together. They said, “It is not right for us to stop our work of teaching God’s word in order to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>So, brothers, choose seven of your own men. They must be men who are good. They must be full of wisdom and full of the Spirit. We will put them in charge of this work. <sup>4</sup>Then we can use all our time to pray and to teach the word of God.”

<sup>5</sup>The whole group liked the idea. So they chose these seven men: Stephen (a man with great faith and full of the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (a man from Antioch who had become a Jew). <sup>6</sup>Then they put these men before the apostles. The apostles prayed and laid their hands on the men.

<sup>7</sup>The word of God was reaching more and more people. The group of followers in Jerusalem became larger and larger. A great number of the Jewish priests believed and obeyed.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

**6** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'



<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

### **WATCH TOGETHER**

Watch this simple animated version of today's story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90XRThtSbby>

### **TALK TOGETHER**

*This week our 'Talk Together' section stresses the importance of listening to each other. You'll need a stop watch or clock to time 1 minute.*

One person should talk for a minute about themselves. Here are some suggested things to talk about:

- *Did God speak to you about something during today's service?*
- *What do you think you are good at?*
- *What is the hardest thing about having to stay at home?*
- *What are you enjoying about staying at home?*
- *What was the best thing about today or yesterday?*
- *What was the worst thing about today or yesterday?*

Everyone else should listen without speaking or taking notes. When the minute is up, choose someone else who has to try and remember what they said. Take it in turns to have a go at being the person speaking and the person who reports back what they said. *(Very young children might need someone else to help them answer some of these questions)*

When you've finished, pray for each person, thanking God for the good things and asking for God's help with the things they find difficult or help to do what they think God is telling them to do. If you have someone in your home who is too young to talk, don't forget to pray for them as well.



*If you know someone who lives on their own, why not give them a ring and do this over the phone with them? You could also ring up friends and family members who aren't living with you so that you can listen and pray with them.*

### **PLAY TOGETHER - Teamwork**

#### **String Shapes** (for homes with 4 or more people in)

*You'll need a long piece of string or wool tied at the ends to form a circle.*

Terry said that church is teamwork. How good are you at working together?

Stand in a circle holding the string. Keeping hold of the string, can you make these shapes?

- A square
- A triangle
- A rectangle
- A figure of 8

Now do it again, but this time with your eyes closed!

#### **Blind Drawing** (for homes with 2 or more people in)

*You'll need paper, pens/pencils and something to lean on*

Two people should sit back to back. The first person draws a picture of an object without the other person seeing. The other person then has to draw the same thing (without knowing what it is!) by following the first person's instructions. You can't use any words which are part of the object – e.g. if it was a picture of a flower you can't say, "Draw some petals".

This will test how good the first person is at communicating and how good the second person is at listening!

*You could play this game over the phone, WhatsApp or Zoom with a friend.*

### **MAKE TOGETHER**

#### **Send a 'hug' in the post! –**



If you have some old wallpaper that would be ideal but if not stick several pieces of paper together until you have a long strip (long enough to put your head and outstretched arms on – like in the picture)

Ask someone in your house to draw around your head and arms, decorate it, write a message on it, cut it out and put it in the post to someone who you think needs a hug or cheering up today.

#### **Make a treat to leave on a neighbour's doorstep –**

Here's a simple biscuit recipe that you might like to try –

#### **Fork Biscuits -**

##### **Ingredients**

100g (4oz) Butter – softened

50g (2oz) Caster sugar

150g (5oz) Self Raising Flour



## Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Fan 160°C/Gas 4.

Lightly butter two baking trays.

Beat the butter in a bowl to soften, gradually beat in the sugar and then the flour. Bring the mixture together with your hands to form a dough. Divide the dough into 16 ball shapes and place them on the baking trays (well apart). Dip a fork into a little water and use this to flatten the biscuits.

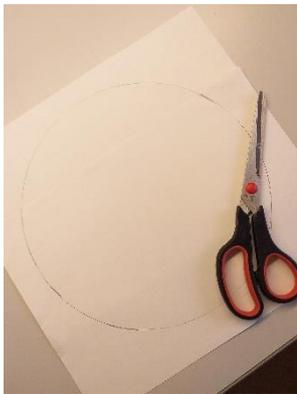
Bake in the pre heated oven for 15-20 minutes until very pale, golden brown.

Lift off the baking tray and leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

Package them up and deliver them to the doorstep of a neighbour!

## Make an "I can show God's Love in Lockdown" picture -

Follow the picture steps to make a paper people circle. Turn it into a picture to remind yourself that we are still connected and we can still show God's Love in Lockdown!



1 - Draw a circle on a piece of paper and cut it out



2 - Fold the circle in half, then into quarters, then into eighths.



3 - Draw two half people on to one 'eighth' and cut them out.

4 - Unfold them and stick them to a coloured piece of paper (or paint a background) and decorate with the words "I can show God's Love in Lockdown"



## SING TOGETHER

Shine - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Btbzli8sR1o>

What a mighty God we serve - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lijsESdEnZg&t=42s>

Unique - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIVBrnfliAo>

Before you I kneel (A worker's prayer) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdgY9sdCUbQ>

## STUDY TOGETHER

- Throughout the Bible God makes clear to his people that we have a responsibility to care for those who are less well-off and in need of our help. Look up the passages below and answer these questions:
  - o What do these verses say?
  - o What did they mean to the original readers/hearers?
  - o How might they be applied to us today?

*We don't live in the same situation but there are principles which we can take away and put into practice. Think about:*

  - *Why were God's people asked to take care of those in need of help?*
  - *Who are the people in our community and church family who might be in need of help?*

*Exodus 22:21-27*

*Deuteronomy 14:28-29*

*Deuteronomy 24:14-15, 17-22*

*Isaiah 10:1-3*

*1 Timothy 5:3-5, 16*

*James 1:27*

- The 'Hebraic Jews' probably spoke Aramaic and were immersed in the Hebrew culture. The 'Hellenistic Jews' may have come from outside Palestine. They were strongly influenced by the Greek culture and language. What do you think might have happened if the complaint by the Hellenistic Jews hadn't been taken seriously by the Apostles?
- Does the way the Apostles dealt with it teach us anything about how to handle disputes in church/at work/amongst family and friends?
- In this passage both 'teaching the Word of God' and 'serving food' are seen as ministries. One is not more important than the other but each person is called to a different ministry and must focus their time on that. What clues do these verses give us that 'serving at tables' was an important role?
- We are all called by God to ministry. As Terry said, that ministry may change throughout our lives but we are all called to serve. What ministry is God calling you to at this time?

## REFLECT TOGETHER

If you have a jigsaw in your home, take a jigsaw piece and look at it. If you don't have one, draw and cut out a piece of paper or card that looks like a jigsaw piece. Think about how each piece of jigsaw has an important part to play in making the finished picture.

The picture wouldn't be the same if one piece was missing. It's like that in church. We each need to play our part in serving God and each other.

Pray and ask God if there's something you could do, even now while we're not able to meet together?

Terry gave some suggestions:



- Give to our local Foodbank
- Shop for other people who can't get out
- Cook a meal for someone
- Leave a treat on someone's doorstep (don't forget to tell them it's there!)
- Send a card to someone to cheer them up. Maybe you could make one to send.
- Email, WhatsApp or call someone
- Smile at people and say "Hello" when you're out for your daily exercise
- Pray for people
- Encourage friends/family to watch our services, daily prayers, JaM Club videos or Toddler Facebook Live

It might be something completely different that you're able to do because of the gifts and skills you have. Whatever it is, set yourself a challenge to do it this week.

### **PRAY TOGETHER**

During the service you were asked to think/chat about what you are good at. Write down or draw a picture of each thing you're good at. Then wrap up the things you've written/drawn or put them in a gift bag. Hold up the present as if you're giving it to God and pray:

*Father God, I offer this to you to be used to serve others. Help me to think of ways I can use the things I'm good at so that more and more people will hear about Jesus and put their trust in you. **Amen***

**The Lord's Prayer** – in a different way (taken from a book called 'Loved' (The Jesus Story Book Bible) by Sally Lloyd-Jones)  
Hello Daddy!

We want to know you. And be close to you. Please show us how.

Make everything in the world right again and in our hearts too.

Do what is best - just like you do in heaven and please do it down here too.

Please give us everything we need today.

Forgive us for doing wrong, for hurting you.

Forgive us just as we forgive other people when they hurt us.

Rescue us! We need you. We don't want to keep running away and hiding from you.

Keep us safe from our enemies.

You're strong, God. You can do whatever you want. You are in charge.

Now and forever and always!

We think you're great!

Amen!

Yes we do!

### **DO IT TOGETHER**

If you live with others, take it in turns this week to serve each other at mealtimes. Do it with a smile!

Earlier we reflected on how we could use the things we're good at to serve others. Try and do at least one thing this week to serve someone else.

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