

## Church at Home Family Pack – 28<sup>th</sup> June 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 of Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to the people in your home 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 and your family.

### GATHER TOGETHER

#### A prayer to start –

We imagine our Father in heaven,  
and we gather before his throne.

We know that you are greater than anything we can imagine  
but we use these thoughts and these words  
because they are all that we have.

**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

### 2 Corinthians 5: 1-9

International Children's Bible (ICB)



**5** We know that our body—the tent we live in here on earth—will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a house for us to live in. It will not be a house made by men. It will be a home in heaven that will last forever. **2** But now we are tired of this body. We want God to give us our heavenly home. **3** It will clothe us, and we will not be naked. **4** While we live in this body, we have burdens, and we complain. We do not want to be naked. We want to be clothed with our heavenly home. Then this body that dies will be fully covered with life. **5** This is what God made us for. And he has given us the Spirit to be a guarantee for this new life.

**6** So we always have courage. We know that while we live in this body, we are away from the Lord. **7** We live by what we believe, not by what we can see. **8** So I say that we have courage. And we really want to be away from this body and be at home with the Lord. **9** Our only goal is to please God. We want to please him whether we live here or there.

### New International Version (NIV)

**5** For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. **2** Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, **3** because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. **4** For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. **5** Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.



**6** Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. **7** For we live by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **9** So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

### Useful Articles

Explaining death and heaven to your children can be really difficult. Here are some useful articles that can help.

<https://growingfaith.com.au/parenting/death-and-heaven>

<https://www.gominno.com/blog/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-heaven>

<https://parentingforfaith.org/post/death-grief-and-coronavirus>

## WATCH TOGETHER

What will Heaven be Like? - by Parkview Kids <https://youtu.be/mYknoOBi0pE>

## TALK TOGETHER



Think about the difference between a tent and a permanent home (a home that lasts forever). What do you think Paul (who wrote the letter to the Corinthian church) is trying to say?



Sometimes when you're ordering something to buy you have to pay a deposit as a guarantee that you will carry through on your promise to buy it. How do we know that God is going to carry through on his promise to give us a heavenly home?

Knowing that God has a heavenly home waiting for us, how should we live now?

Terry said that death is like falling asleep and then waking up to our new life in eternity. What do you think of that idea?

## PLAY TOGETHER

### ***Pass the parcel***

Wrap up some sweets or other treats in newspaper or pages from a magazine (make sure any articles are appropriate for the age of the people in your home). You'll need one parcel for each person.

Sit in a circle and, as the music plays, pass all the presents round at once. When the music stops everyone can unwrap their parcel and eat their sweets/treats. Encourage sharing if the treats aren't the same.

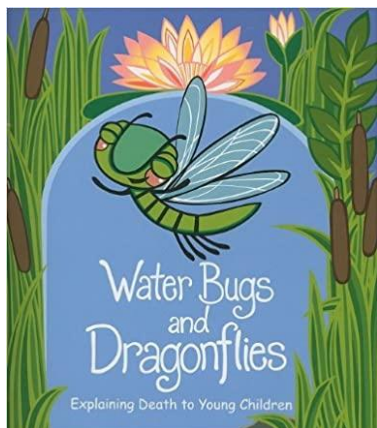
Chat about what you think happens when we die. Our bodies stop working either because they're ill or because they get tired out because we've lived a long time. When we die our body gets buried, but if we're friends with Jesus our spirit – the invisible bit inside us - goes to be with God in heaven.

It's a bit like the presents we've just been playing with. When we unwrap them we don't need the wrapping anymore. We can throw it away. It's the present that's special. Our bodies are like the wrapping paper – when we die we don't need them anymore, but our spirits live on.

God says that eventually we'll have new bodies that won't get tired or old; bodies which will live forever.

Read these verses from Revelation 21:3-4

*"Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."*



If your child has questions about death or has been bereaved this book - **Water Bugs and Dragonflies by Doris Stickney (explaining death to young children)** – is a good one to try to get hold of.

You can download a few of the pages from the colouring book version here <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/copy-of-water-bugs-and-dragonflies-explaining-death-to-young-children-stickney-coloring-book?s=recomatic>

Jo Wetherall, Children and Families Officer for the Diocese of Gloucester created a story sack based on the book – this could be a useful exercise [https://youtu.be/\\_jJ3vEqIk2M](https://youtu.be/_jJ3vEqIk2M)

## MAKE TOGETHER

### ***A Heaven Collage***

Using whatever resources you have available (paper, fabric, ribbons, string, stickers, glue, pictures from magazines, crayons, felt-tips, etc) make a collage of what you think heaven is like. Chat about it as you make it.



## SING TOGETHER

I Can Only Imagine – (*Mercy Me*) from the children's Easter musical "I Can Only Imagine" created by *Susie Williams, Luke Gambill, and Brian Green*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUYj\\_duHMoA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUYj_duHMoA)

Heaven is our Home – *Hillsong Kids*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdb\\_cttBKBO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdb_cttBKBO)

One Day (When we all get to heaven) – *Matt Redman*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGAdaGbmffs>

New Jerusalem – *Michael Card*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l52aHuoldNI>

## REFLECT TOGETHER



***This is a true story, told with the permission of a girl called Sarah...***

**One night, when she was about six, Sarah had a dream. She described it like this:**

A friendly old man came to take me to heaven, and we flew on white horses with golden manes. The horses flew into a black hole and stopped. They wanted us to walk in, because we're not like kings. We walked silently through the tunnel, side by side, and I was scared.

When we stepped out of the tunnel, suddenly we were in heaven! It was all golden and pretty. A big palace appeared in front of us. We went inside through a big gate, made of a golden arch, and then an arch of pearls inside that, and the centre was golden and shimmery. Holding hands, we walked through the golden, sparkling part of the gate. God was on the other side of the gate. There were lots of other people meeting him as well. He said, 'Hello, Sarah' and greeted everyone else by name too.

Then he went off somewhere and came back with a present for each of us. It wasn't very expensive! It was his love wrapped up in a box. When you opened it, there were lots of hearts coming up out of it. People who complained that the present wasn't expensive enough were put in a big cannon and fired into the sky. Only one group at a time could go into the palace. All my friends were there with me. We didn't complain.



We walked back out through the shimmery gate and found our horses waiting for us. We got on our horses and flew into a big crowd of angels, who were singing 'Glory to God in the highest. Glory to God the Father, glory to God the Son, glory to God the Spirit.' They were dancing while they sang, skipping and galloping, holding hands. There are child angels and big angels, about the same size as people. They glow like glow-worms and they wear white, with sparkly wings.

We went out, still on our horses and the old man led me to a little glow inside a big star. The little glow grew bigger and bigger until it turned into a bright light and woke me up!

*Do you have any ideas about what heaven might be like?*

*How did Sarah's story make you feel?*

*Is your idea of heaven different from Sarah's? That's OK as we don't know what it will be like.*

The Bible does give us some pictures of what the new heaven and earth will be like, but it can still be hard to imagine. Here's something that might help:

- Think of the most beautiful thing you've ever seen
  - o Our home with God will be even more beautiful
- Think of a time when you were really happy
  - o Our home with God will make you even happier than that
- Think of something you really enjoy doing
  - o Our home with God will be even more wonderful to enjoy



## **PRAY TOGETHER**

### ***The Last Awakening***

John Donne was an English poet who lived at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup>/beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Terry read his prayer poem, 'The Last Awakening' at the end of his sermon. We've put the words below for you to use as your own prayer:

*Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven.*

*To enter that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;*

*no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitation of thy glory and dominion, world without end.  
Amen.*

### **Action Prayer**

*Hold hands out, palms down, and look at your fingers and the backs of your hands.*

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of life. We thank you that you created us, and that you are with us through our whole lives, from the beginning to the end. As we grow older, may we discover more about your love in our lives.

*Hold hands together.*

We thank you for the people who hold our hands during our journey through life: the people you give us to love, and be loved by.

*Place hands over hearts.*

We pray for those who have died and had to leave us and for people who we haven't seen for a long time. Thank you that they held our hands for a time, and that their love remains in our hearts.

*Hold hands up with palms facing upwards*

And we thank you, Jesus, that you have promised us a heavenly home with you forever.

Amen.

### **DO IT TOGETHER**

Jesus is preparing a heavenly home for us and that should make us want to live God's way now.

Our Bible reading today finished with these words:

*Our only goal is to please God. We want to please him whether we live here or there. (2 Cor.5:9)*

Write this verse on a piece of paper and decorate it. Put it up somewhere in your home where everyone will see it. Agree as a family (or make an agreement with God if you live on your own) that your home is going to be a place where people please God. Ask God for his help with that.

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

*Action Reminder and Sarah's Dream taken from, prayers adapted from  
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