

Church at Home Pack – 10th January 2021

Join us online for our 10:30am service on Sunday

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

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 or life group 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.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Make your presence felt in us and through us,
that lives will change
and faces will shine,
with the beauty and love
of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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 1:1-9



International Children's Bible (ICB)

1 To Theophilus.

The first book I wrote was about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up into heaven. Before this, with the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told the apostles he had chosen what they should do. ³ After his death, he showed himself to them and proved in many ways that he was alive. The apostles saw Jesus during the forty days after he was raised from the dead, and he spoke to them about the kingdom of God. ⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem. He said, "Wait here to receive the promise from the Father which I told you about. ⁵ John baptised people with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

Jesus Is Taken Up into Heaven

⁶ When the apostles were all together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, are you now going to give the kingdom back to Israel?" ⁷ Jesus said to them, "The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. ⁸ But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."

⁹ After he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

New International Version (NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with^a water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

WATCH TOGETHER



Lego Acts 1:1-11 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpjkrGd8oak>



Jesus' Ascension – Saddleback Kids:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo>

TALK TOGETHER

Tom challenged us to think what could happen if our lives were lived out *in Jesus' presence, in his strength and under his guidance.*

- Are you aware of Jesus being with you as you go about your day?
 - If not, what could you do at the start of the day to focus your mind on the fact that Jesus is with you?
- In what situations do you need Jesus' strength to help you?
- How do you know what Jesus is guiding you to do?

STUDY TOGETHER

- Jesus talked about the kingdom of God. The disciples talked about the kingdom of Israel. What do you think they had in mind when they asked if Jesus was going to restore it? (v.6)
- God's vision was much bigger than restoring just the nation of Israel. What is God's vision for his kingdom? *Read Revelation 5:9-10*
- The apostles had an important particular role to play in carrying on the ministry of Jesus and leading the new church. What help did Jesus give them to do this? (v.3, v.8)
- Our role isn't identical to the apostles but do we still have a part to play in God's kingdom? Think back to what Tom said in his sermon on Sunday.
- What help has Jesus given us to do this?
- Do you believe that you have the power of the Holy Spirit in you? Why/why not?
Read Ephesians 1:18-21
- How will it help you to live for Jesus knowing that you have this amazing power working in you?

PLAY TOGETHER



Set up an obstacle course in your home or garden (be careful not to make it too dangerous)

Take it in turns to go round the course with your eyes closed (you might like to use a blindfold to make sure nobody cheats). Then try again with someone guiding you. It should hopefully be easier 😊

Being with Jesus doesn't mean he'll remove all the obstacles and difficult things in our lives, but he will be with us, guiding us.

MAKE TOGETHER

Holding Crosses

These are a physical reminder that Jesus is with us every day. They are small enough to be held in your hand or fit in a pocket and you can make them as tactile as you like.

Go to your recycling box and find some card. Cut out some cross shapes – small enough to fit in your hand or pocket. Glue them together to make one thicker cross. Now using whatever you have available, cover your cross. You can wrap it in wool, or string or cover it in paper (wrapping paper, coloured paper or colour your own). You can add different textures – rough and smooth, to remind you that Jesus is with you in whatever you are going through.



SING TOGETHER

Acts 1:8 – Saddleback Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6oLVNWWqqQ>

Liturgy of the Hours – Stuart Townend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdXChDCY6xw>

Build your kingdom here – Rend Collective: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s43Adq5WcqM>

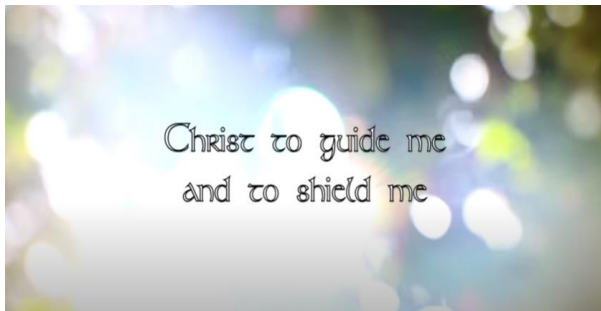
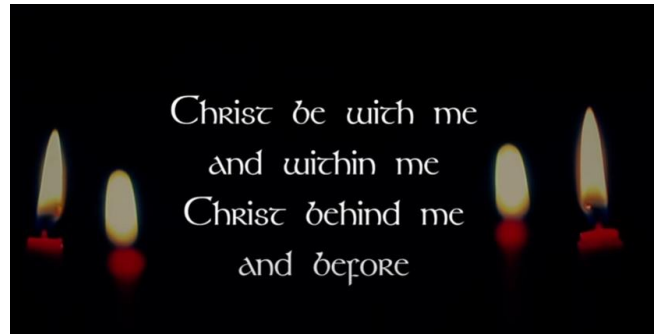
REFLECT TOGETHER

If it's safe to do so, light a candle. Listen to the Hymn of St Patrick adapted by Dwight Beal from a 5th century Celtic prayer (the lyrics are below to help you focus your thoughts).

Use this as a prayer asking for Jesus' presence, strength and guidance in your life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBnCjDcDMKo>

*Christ be with me and within me
Christ behind me and before
Christ beside me and to win me
Christ to comfort and restore
Christ beneath me and above me
Christ in quiet and in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger*



*Christ in every heart that's broken
Christ in every joy and pain
Christ in every word that's spoken
Christ in sun and moon and rain
Christ in resting and in rising
Christ the Lord of all my life
Christ to guide me and to shield me
Christ protecting me in strife*

How will this prayer change the way you think, speak and act this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

From the top of the mountain (*stretch as high as you can*)
to the bottom of a valley (*crouch down as low as you can*)
Jesus, you are with us.
When we're feeling sad (*look sad*)
or happy (*look happy*)
Jesus, you are with us.
When we do things right (*put two thumbs up*)
and when we make mistakes (*put two thumbs down*)
Jesus, you are with us.
Help us to know (*point to head*)
and love you better (*hand on heart*)
so we will always know
Jesus, you are with us.
Amen.



Lord, just as the disciples must have felt helpless, not knowing what was to come,
we too often feel inadequate for the tasks that face us.

Never let us forget that your hand is always on our shoulder,

to guide,

to protect,

to give us courage

and sometimes, to hold us back.

Remind us that we can rely on your strength in all that we do.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER



To remind us that we can still help build God's kingdom while we're in lockdown, when you go out for a walk or for exercise use this prayer to make a commitment to God and to ask for his strength.

Jesus, I will be your witness in [your street], in [the part of town where you live], in Weston-super-Mare. Holy Spirit, give me power to do this.

If you're unable to go out, perhaps stand in your front room window and make the commitment there each day.

Email: family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder and Prayers taken or adapted from

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