

## Church at Home Pack – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<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 –***

Lord, we are your people called by your name.

Together we place our trust in you and bring our lives to you:

our hopes and our joys,

our worries and our fears,

for we know that we are safely held in the circle of your love.

**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



We heard some background to the Bible passage in the sermon today – Here is an overview of **Acts 1-7** from **The Bible Project**:  
<https://youtu.be/JQhkWmFJKnA>

Keith told us about two stories in the book of Acts:



**The Apostles and the High Council** – Saddleback Kids:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKjWIETMYxc>



**Seven chosen to serve** – Trueway Kids: <https://youtu.be/VjeU74WVzOE>

## TALK TOGETHER

- Has there ever been a time when you have wondered what God was doing in your life?

## STUDY TOGETHER

We're going to consider a few passages in Acts in this week's study.

### **Read Acts 4:4**

- How many believers were there in Jerusalem?

### **Read Acts 5:12-29**

- What happened as a result of the apostles' miracles and preaching (v.14)?
- What was the response of the high priest and his associates (v.17-18)?
- If hundreds of people became Christians in Weston and suddenly the church leaders were taken away, what would we think? What would we say to God?
- Did the apostles stay in jail?
- When the high priest told them to stop telling people about Jesus, what was the apostles' response (v.29)?

### **Read Acts 5:40-42**

- What happened to the apostles?
- What was the apostles' response?
- If this was you, would you wonder what God was doing?

### **Now read Acts 6:1-7**

- In the middle of all this, the apostles also had to manage church life and business. What was the issue that arose?  
How did they deal with it?
- Why was it important to hand over the choice of the men to God and to the people?
- Have you ever felt that there are too many difficult things going on for you to handle?  
How did you deal with it?
- When times like this come up in our lives, how can we trust God and find his guidance?

### **PLAY TOGETHER**

We learned that the Apostles had one difficult thing to deal with after another, but they kept trusting God.

Just for fun why don't you see how many things you can do at once. Maybe you can hula hoop and say the alphabet or maybe you can balance something on your head whilst completing an obstacle course. Make sure whatever you attempt is safe though!



### **MAKE TOGETHER**

#### ***Eggshell Mosaic***

Sometimes we feel broken by all the difficult stuff. Sometimes it can feel like cracks are appearing in our lives. No matter what we are going through or how hard it gets, we can always turn to God for help. Have a go at making an Eggshell Mosaic as a reminder of this truth.



If you are cooking eggs or baking a cake, save the eggshells. Give them a good wash in hot soapy water and leave them to dry on kitchen paper.



If you want to add colour to your shells, you can soak them in a bowl of hot water mixed with food colouring and a splash of vinegar. Once they have taken on the colour, take them out and leave them on kitchen paper to dry.

Next, cut out a simple cross shape using cardboard from your recycling box (cereal boxes are great for this). Cover your cross shape with glue. Crush the eggshells into small pieces and place them onto the cross to make a mosaic. If you have some PVA or runny craft glue, you can carefully paint some over the top of the eggshells to seal them. Leave it to dry.



Once the mosaic is dry you can hang it up or use it as a way into prayer: Run your fingers over the cracked surface as you ask God to help you with the difficult things in your life.

## SING TOGETHER

**I'm all in** – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD-ch5s6mNY>

**I'm trusting you** – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVDpHibftHs&t=63s>

**I trust you** – Jonathan Traylor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVqLqCy-C3E>

**Spirit, lead me** – Influence Music & Michael Ketterer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ko4yroBPOA>

## REFLECT TOGETHER

Keith talked about not giving in to fearful “What ifs?” One way to do that is to turn fearful “What ifs?” on their head and instead imagine “What if we let God take first place in our lives?”

Here’s a meditation by Julian Hamilton to help us do that.

What if ...?

What if the wild, roaring sea, tempestuous and torturous, wild and raging, was nothing to be afraid of?

What if the most dreaded illness to roam the face of the earth was something you could smile at and exclaim, 'do your worst', to?

Or what about if the authorities that held you down, silenced your voice, destroyed your reputation and diminished your cause, were nothing except a pitiful power-play of annoying persistence?

What if pain didn't have to be permanent?

Despair didn't have to be draining?

Sadness didn't have to silence us?

And depression didn't have to deaden our spirit?

What if ...?

What if death was not the end?

What if the things that make us cry,  
all the things that get us uptight,  
all the small battles, all the small fights,  
all the misunderstandings,  
could all turn out right?

What if all we see, is not all there is?

But in every second, another breath lives?

The breath of life, first breathed into man,

is now breathed through this earth in divine master-plan?

If that was the case, then we would not be surprised,  
astonished or ashamed,  
that we have no answers when the wildness is tamed.  
The kingdom would breed life,  
God-life in all.  
It would be upside down, inside out, topsy-turvy, and continually on a roll.

Seas can be quieted.  
Death can be banished,  
Suffering endured and oppressive authority ended.

For the 'what if' is God's mighty kingdom.  
The dream of what can be,  
the vision of what should be,  
the hope of what will be.

It's wild, adventurous, untamed and free  
And in it God places you and me.  
To live in his moment,  
is to chase the divine  
And to continually ask,  
'what if God's will becomes mine?'

Go and live,  
in the pleasure and power,  
patience and love,  
of the God of divine mystery and holy dreams.  
Let it be.

### ***What was God doing?***



Take a piece of paper and as you sit quietly, write on one side all the difficult things you have experienced over this last year. Then, ask God to help you see what he was doing in those difficult circumstances and write those down on the other side of the paper.

### **For example:**

COVID 19 – God gave scientists the skill and knowledge to create a vaccine

Isolation – God showed me just how much I value my friends and family

Church services stopped – God gave some of our church family the skill to bring us online and live streamed worship

## PRAY TOGETHER

### Praying into the cracks?

When lots of difficulties come along all at once it can feel like we cannot hold everything together and cracks are appearing in our lives. The phrase 'papering over the cracks' means to cover up problems and difficulties and pretend they aren't there. When we do this, often the cracks appear again, sometimes bigger than they were before. Instead of papering over the cracks in our lives, try to pray into them instead.



In the City of Jerusalem, people come to place written prayers into the cracks in the Western Wall.

Perhaps you have a suitable wall in your garden or if not, you could collect some pebbles and build a wall indoors.

Think about the things that you need help and guidance from God with right now and write it on a piece of paper. Fold or roll it up and place it into a crack in the wall. As you do this, ask God to help you and trust that he will.



*If you pray this prayer with your family, you might like to encourage younger ones to do the following actions:*

- *When you say "I praise you", put your thumbs up*
- *When you say "I talk to you", put your hands together as if you're praying*
- *When you say "I am safe with you", give yourself a hug*

God our Father,  
when I am happy, I praise you;  
when I am sad, I talk to you;  
happy or sad, I know that I am safe with you.

When things are peaceful, I praise you;  
when things change, I talk to you;  
peaceful or changing, I know that things are safe with you.

When I hear good news, I praise you;  
when I hear bad news, I talk to you;  
good news or bad news, I know the future's safe with you.

Today and tomorrow, I know that I am safe with you.

**Amen.**

## DO TOGETHER

Everyone has been suffering in some way this past year and we could all have had times when we have felt like asking, 'What are you doing, God?!'



Like the early church, who shared everything, could you think of someone who is or has been struggling and think of a way you could help. Could you share God's love with them? It could be someone known to you personally or more generally. In which case, helping with or donating to a charity might be what you choose to do.

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*Gathering Prayer, Action Reminder and "I praise you" prayer, adapted or taken from  
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