

## Church at Home Pack – 20<sup>th</sup> June 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 Jesus

Help us to learn from Paul, Silas and Timothy's example to the Thessalonians.

Help us to see how best to share our faith.

Help us to be gentle and authentic.

**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

### 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-16



#### International Children's Bible (ICB)

<sup>2</sup> Brothers, you know that our visit to you was not a failure. <sup>2</sup> Before we came to you, we suffered in Philippi. People there insulted us. You know about that. And when we came to you, many people were against us. But our God helped us to be brave and to tell you his Good News. <sup>3</sup> Our message was a message to encourage you. We were not trying to lie. We had no evil plan. We were not trying to trick you. <sup>4</sup> But we speak the Good News because God tested us and trusted us to do it. When we speak, we are not trying to please men. But we are trying to please God, who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> You know that we never tried to influence you by saying nice things about you. We were not trying to get your money. We had no selfishness to hide from you. God knows that this is true. <sup>6</sup> We were not looking for praise from you or anyone else. We are apostles of Christ. When we were with you, we could have used our authority to make you do things.

<sup>7</sup> But we were very gentle with you. We were like a mother caring for her little children. <sup>8</sup> Because we loved you, we were happy to share God's Good News with you. But not only that, we were also happy to share even our own lives with you. <sup>9</sup> Brothers, I know that you remember how hard we worked. We worked night and day so that we would not burden any of you while we preached God's Good News to you.

<sup>10</sup> When we were with you, we lived in a holy and right way, without fault. You know that this is true, and God knows that this is true. <sup>11</sup> You know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. <sup>12</sup> We strengthened you, we comforted you, and we told you to live good lives for God. It is God who calls you to his glorious kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Also, we always thank God because of the way you accepted his message. You heard his message from us, and you accepted it as the word of God, not the words of men. And it really is God's message. And that message works in you who believe. <sup>14</sup> Brothers, you have been like God's churches in Christ that are in Judea. God's people suffered bad things from the other Jews there. And you suffered the same bad things from the people of your own country. <sup>15</sup> Those Jews killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets. And they forced us to leave that country. They do not please God. They are against all people. <sup>16</sup> They try to stop us from teaching the non-Jews so that they may be saved. But those Jews are adding more and more sins to the sins they already have. The anger of God has come to them at last.

#### New International Version (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. <sup>2</sup> We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. <sup>3</sup> For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. <sup>4</sup> On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our

witness. <sup>6</sup>We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. <sup>7</sup>Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup>so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. <sup>9</sup>Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. <sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup>For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup>encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup>And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. <sup>14</sup>For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews <sup>15</sup>who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone <sup>16</sup>in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

## WATCH TOGETHER



**I can tell others about Jesus – Off the Rails Preschoolers:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qq47U3PP7\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qq47U3PP7_Y)



**All I know is... - Andy Gray, Bath and Wells Diocese:** <https://youtu.be/KsMevtU3ULY>



**Sharing our faith – Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIO-CA\\_RjOM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIO-CA_RjOM)



**What Jesus means to me – Church of England in Lancashire (Blackburn Diocese):**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4JTLzFvn\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4JTLzFvn_A)

## TALK TOGETHER

- What's your favourite advert on TV?
- What kind of "tricks" do advertisers use to get you to buy their product?
- If you were making an advert about Jesus, what would it look like? How would you do it?
- Is that the best way to tell people about Jesus or is there a better way?

## STUDY TOGETHER – Authentic Evangelism

### Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

- Why might Paul, Silas and Timothy have been nervous about telling people in Thessalonica the good news about Jesus (*see v.2 and think back to what we read in Acts 17 last week*)?
- What did they **not** do when speaking about Jesus (*v.3-6*)?
- How did they behave instead (*v.4-12*)?
- Why did they do this (*v.4 and 8*)?
- What do you think it means to “share our lives” as well as the gospel and how could we do that (*v.8*)?
- Paul, Silas and Timothy showed integrity. They practised what they preached – they lived what they believed. How can we do that as we go about our lives this week?
- What was the result of their ministry in Thessalonica (*v.13-14*)?
- Do we believe that sharing our lives and telling the gospel can bring about changed lives?

*Whilst courage is often required and integrity essential, the sharing of the gospel is most fruitful when it is within the context of deep, open relationships when those sharing really do love their neighbours as themselves. Most people come to commitment in Christian faith because a trusted and loved friend or family member demonstrated the gospel to them by the way they lived and loved. A preacher may have been speaking at the point of commitment but the journey of discovery would never have begun without the witness of a shared life. Perhaps Paul’s threefold example should be reversed. We start by sharing our lives through which we demonstrate integrity and then we pray for the courage to share the gospel that has made us who we are in God. (Taken from rootsontheweb.com)*

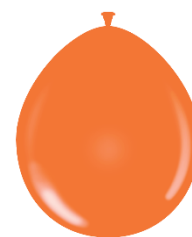
## PLAY TOGETHER

### **Gently does it!**

Blow up some balloons, not inflating them too much, and tie the end.

Do you think it’s possible to put a skewer through a balloon without popping it?

Have a go and see how you get on. If you can’t do it, follow the instructions below.



### *Here’s how!*

Coat the skewer in washing-up liquid. Starting at the top of the balloon (where the colour is darkest), slowly spin the skewer as you gently push into the balloon. Carefully push the skewer to the opposite side, next to the knot. The skewer should go through but won’t pop the balloon.

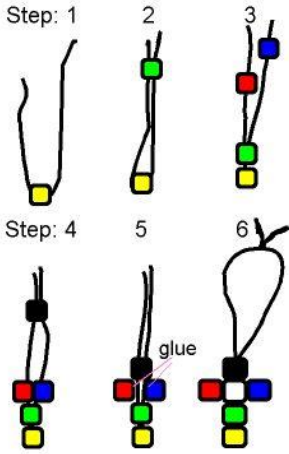
If you had jabbed the skewer into the balloon, it would have been a very different story. When Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, he reminded them that he and his friends came to them gently when they told them about Jesus. They weren’t forceful or pushy but showed them love and care and that spoke to the Thessalonians.

# MAKE TOGETHER

## Crosses

One way to gently 'advertise' that we belong to Jesus and may give us an opportunity to share that good news is to wear a cross or have one on display in our homes.

There are lots of creative ways to make crosses. You can use whatever you have to hand. Here are some ideas:



Thread a bead cross to wear or hang from your bag or a keyring:



Hama Beads:



Wood, nails and string:



Lolly Sticks:



Paper Plates:

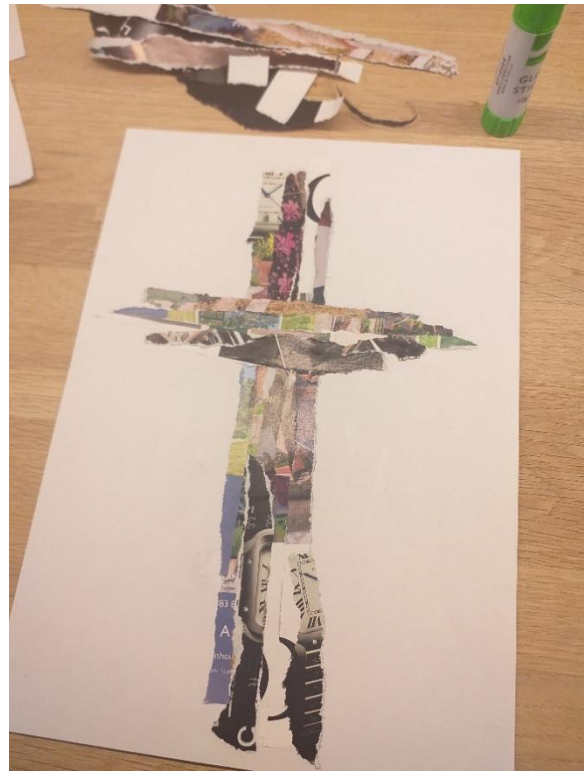
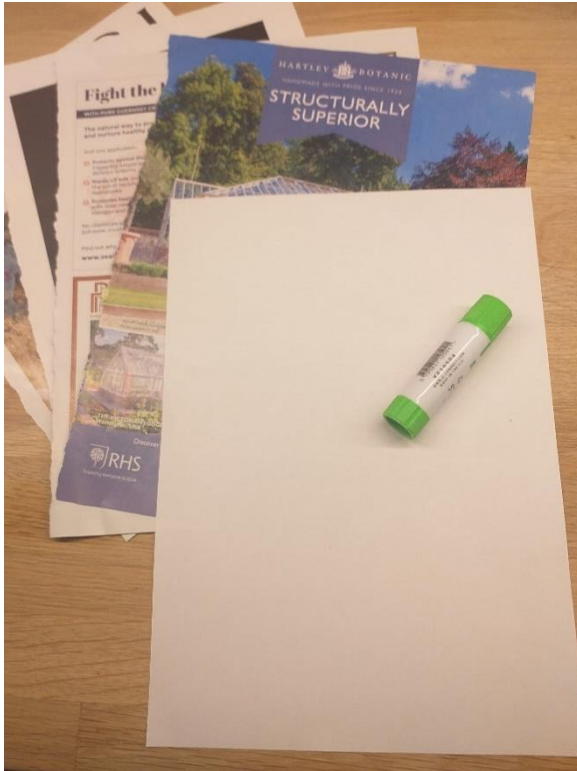


'Stained Glass' crosses made with tissue paper:





Or, take some adverts from magazines, newspapers or flyers and tear them up to make a cross like this one:



## SING TOGETHER

**Speak up** – Lifeway Kids: <https://youtu.be/esUsHmkRliA>

**Your friend** – Lifetree Kids: <https://youtu.be/GD9CkOstIjg>

**Lemme tellya** – planetboom: <https://youtu.be/FGSqcOJJho>

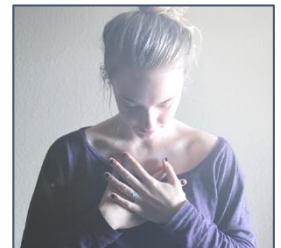
**My Jesus** – Anne Wilson: <https://youtu.be/FW5o2uBeMWQ>

## REFLECT TOGETHER

### ***Heartbeat***

Find somewhere quiet and calm to sit. Close your eyes and focus on your breathing. Place your hand over your heart so you can feel your heartbeat. Say these words from 1 Thess.2:4 to yourself:

*“We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.”*



Think about opportunities God gives you to tell others about Jesus or to show his love. Make a commitment to God that in those moments, you will think of what pleases him and not worry about what people might think.

## PRAY TOGETHER

We give thanks, Lord God, for the gentle caring people in the world whose love of you radiates from their lives.

For their gentleness of voice and touch,  
for their gentle smile, their listening ear,  
their quiet reassurance and understanding,  
their patience and perseverance with us.

We thank you, Lord God, that you have touched the lives of these people and helped them to touch our lives, bringing us to faith and deepening our knowledge of you.

**Amen.**

Gentle Jesus, we go out now to care for those around us with strength  
With your help, we will do it (*punch the air*)

To share our lives, especially with those who need you most  
With your help, we will do it (*punch the air*)

To know when to be strong and when to be gentle  
With your help, we will do it (*punch the air*)

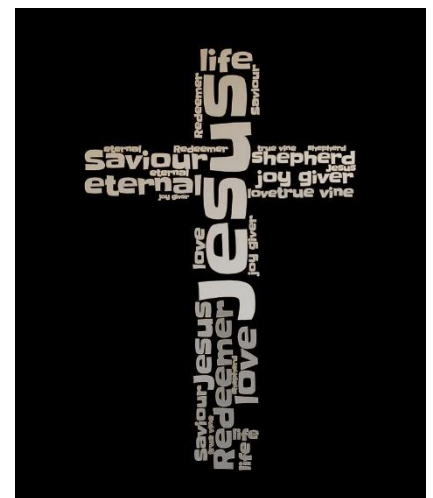
**Amen**

## DO TOGETHER

### ***Create a Word Cloud.... What's a Word Cloud?***

A word cloud is a collection, or cluster, of words depicted in different sizes. The bigger and bolder the word appears, the more often it's mentioned and the more important it is.

If you live with other people you can do this together or you can do it individually.



Sometimes we can find it hard to share our faith and tell people about Jesus. We might worry that we don't know enough or won't be able to answer hard questions. (You might like to watch the 'All I know is...' video in the **Watch Together** section.) Think about what you know about Jesus. Write these things down in words on a piece of paper. They can go in any direction, be in any colour and they don't need to fit in any particular shape. Young children might like to use pictures instead of words and there is no reason why you can't include both words and pictures.

Once you've completed your word cloud, put it up somewhere near your front door. As you leave your home, look at your word cloud and let it remind you to think about what you might say if you meet someone you can share the good news of Jesus with.

### ***Stand up for Jesus!***

Sing or read these alternative words to the hymn 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus' and think about how you can authentically share Jesus' gospel of forgiveness this week and be his presence among the people you meet.

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, be counted as his own  
His gospel of forgiveness he cannot spread alone  
The love which draws us to him, he calls us out to share  
He calls us to the margins to be his presence there*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, give courage to the weak  
Be unashamed to praise him, be bold his name to speak  
Confront the cross unflinching, Christ's love has set us free  
He conquered death for ever and lives eternally*

*(Jean Holloway, © 1976 Kevin Mayhew Ltd)*

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

*Action Reminder, Play Together, Reflect Together and Pray Together taken or adapted from  
© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 Reproduced with permission*