

Church at Home Pack – 27th 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 –

Jesus our Saviour, as we come to worship you, we think about the cross.

Remind us how costly your ministry was and how great your love is.

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 2:13-20



International Children's Bible (ICB)

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.



¹⁷ Brothers, we were separated from you for a short time, but our thoughts were still with you. We wanted very much to see you and tried very hard to do so. ¹⁸ I, Paul, tried to come many times, but Satan stopped us. ¹⁹ For you are our hope, our joy, and the crown we will be proud of when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. ²⁰ Truly you are our glory and our joy.

New International Version (NIV)

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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 ¹⁵ who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. ¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. ¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

WATCH TOGETHER



Secret Smuggler – Open Doors UK & Ireland:

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

Watch this family friendly video to find out how the organisation Open Doors began to help Christians who are treated badly around the world.



Here's one we've shared with you before but it's a good reminder of what Authentic Love looks like.

Love in Action - Lifekids:

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

TALK TOGETHER

- Have you ever experienced hostility because of your faith in Jesus?
- How can we show love in these situations?

STUDY TOGETHER – Authentic Love

It is interesting to read Paul's prayers for believers in the letters he wrote. Some of them had faced persecution or were concerned about the persecution Paul was facing. He often prays that they would understand Jesus' love for them and be guided by love themselves.

Read Ephesians 3:14-19

- What does Paul say about the love of Jesus Christ?
- What does he pray about the Ephesians' love?
- What will be the result of them knowing the love of Jesus?

Read Philippians 1:3-10

- How does Paul show his love in this prayer for the Philippian believers?
- What does he pray about their love?
- What will be the result of their love increasing?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

- How might thinking about Jesus' death, encourage us to stand firm in our faith and keep showing love?
- How else does Paul encourage the Thessalonian believers (v17-20)?

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

- What does Paul pray for the Thessalonian believers?
- What strikes you from this prayer?

Do we ever pray for people to have a greater understanding of the love of Jesus and that they would overflow with love for others? Do we ever pray this for ourselves?

PLAY TOGETHER

Jesus loves you Tag

This can be played as a family or with friends in a garden or park...

One person is 'it'. They need to get from one side of the garden or area to the other, but the rest of the players have to try to get in their way (*persecute them!*) and tag them – just a tap on the shoulder will do! Each time the person who is 'it' is tagged they have to freeze and tell the 'tagger' - 'Jesus loves you!' then they can carry on.



MAKE TOGETHER

Twig Heart



Gather up some twigs from your garden or whilst out on a walk. On a piece of paper or card (something from the recycling box would be good), draw a heart shape in the middle. Use your twigs to fill in the heart. You will need lots of glue. It doesn't need to be neat and tidy. You may need to snap some so that they fit. Once it's dry you can display it on the wall or cut around the heart shape and add some string to the back and hang it up.

Each time you look at it, run your fingers over the rough twigs and think of the persecution that the Thessalonians faced. Remember that they kept on sharing the love of Jesus and ask God to help you do the same.

SING TOGETHER

L-O-V-E, Love – Jana Alayra: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Su_GsP5A788

How far love goes – Lifeway Kids: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Su_GsP5A788

Stand strong – Lifeway Kids: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52GHF_8v-kw

Real love - Hillsong Young and Free: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0kmvXIDBYI>

Even when it hurts (Praise Song) – Hillsong UNITED: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrSJwO5dJXg>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Collect some pebbles, a bowl, a glass and a jug of water. Place the glass inside the bowl and pour water into the glass as you imagine Jesus filling you with his love. Keep filling it. As it overflows into the bowl, imagine the love you have for others overflowing from the love Jesus has for you.



The Thessalonians faced hostility and persecution. The pebbles represent these difficult times. Add the pebbles one at a time to the water in the glass. As the water continues to overflow remember that even when facing hostility and persecution our faith and love can increase and flow out to those around us.



PRAY TOGETHER

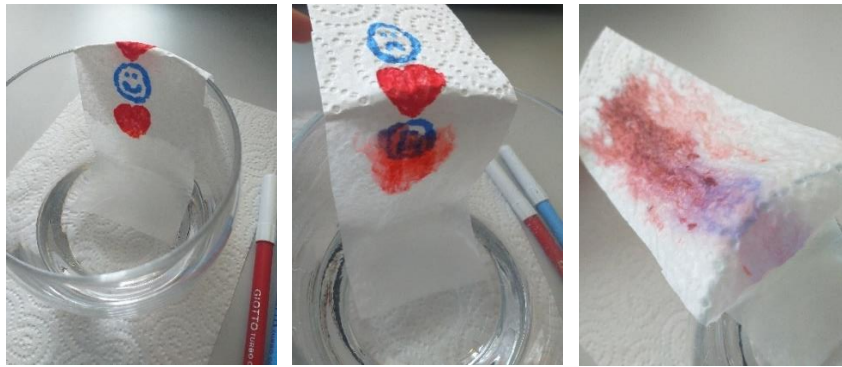
'Love flows' - Prayer Activity



You will need a glass with a small amount of water in it. A strip of kitchen paper and two felt pens.

- Just below the middle of the kitchen paper draw a heart – *Jesus loves you so much that he died for you. His love overflows into you.*
- Close to the heart, draw a smiley face – *That's you!*
- Next draw another heart – *That's the love you have because of Jesus.*
- Then finally draw a sad face – *That's the difficult times, the hostility or persecution that we might face.*

Dip the end of the kitchen paper into the water and rest it over the rim of the glass. Watch as the love of Jesus flows into you and out no matter what difficulties you face.



Thank you, Jesus.
Because your love is so huge
it overflows through me and out to others.
Help me to show love even when I face difficult times.
Amen

Dear Jesus, sometimes it's fun following you and we have a wonderful time.
Sometimes it's hard following you especially when people are unkind to us.
Please help us to be brave and to tell you all about it.
Amen.

You can do this as a family, with friends or in a Life Group.
Think about difficulties (hostility) you might face or have faced because of your faith in Jesus. Share those with each other if you feel able.

Pray together the following prayer, adapted from **1 Thessalonians 3:12**

May the Lord make our love increase and overflow,
for each other and for everyone else.
No matter what we face.
Amen

DO TOGETHER

Just as Paul wrote to encourage the Thessalonians you too could write to Christians who are persecuted for their faith.



Open Doors share some stories of Christians who need your encouragement and hope. <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/letter/>

Some of the stories are upsetting so it would be wise to explain them carefully to children. There are guidelines about what you can and can't include in your letter under each person's story. Letters, greetings cards and children's drawings are welcome and some can be sent by email.

family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder and some of the prayers adapted or taken from

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 Reproduced with permission