

Church at Home Pack – 25th July 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 –

Father God

As we come together,

teach us how to be the Church Family you want us to be.

Send your Holy Spirit to help us live that out in our daily lives.

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 5: 12-28



International Children's Bible (ICB)

¹² Now, brothers, we ask you to respect those people who work hard with you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you. ¹³ Respect them with a very special love because of the work they do with you. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ We ask you, brothers, to warn those who do not work. Encourage the people who are afraid. Help those who are weak. Be patient with every person. ¹⁵ Be sure that no one pays back wrong for wrong. But always try to do what is good for each other and for all people.



¹⁶ Always be happy. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not stop the work of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecy as if it were not important. ²¹ But test everything. Keep what is good. ²² And stay away from everything that is evil.

²³ We pray that God himself, the God of peace, will make you pure, belonging only to him. We pray that your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—will be kept safe and be without wrong when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. ²⁴ The One who calls you will do that for you. You can trust him.

²⁵ Brothers, please pray for us.

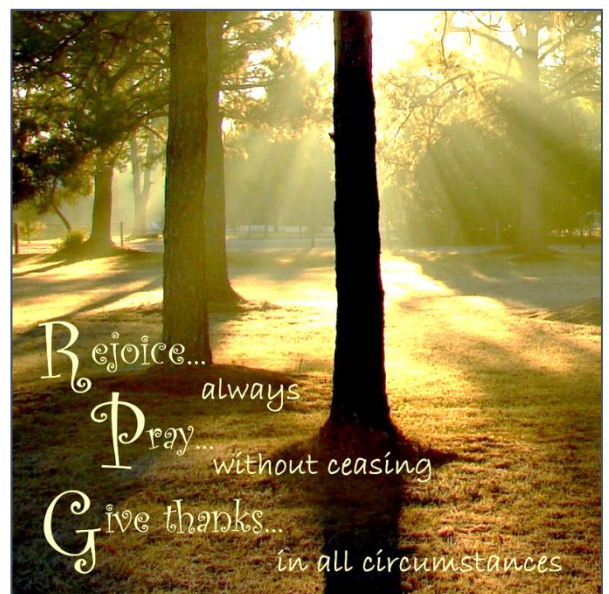
²⁶ Give all the brothers a holy kiss when you meet. ²⁷ I tell you by the authority of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

New International Version (NIV)

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

WATCH TOGETHER



1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28 – Wenty Anglican:

<https://youtu.be/Inz00i8KDX0>



As we finish our journey through 1 Thessalonians, it might be useful to re-watch a video that we've shared before. The part that particularly relates to today's Bible passage starts at 6.22 minutes.

1 Thessalonians 'An Overview' – The Bible Project:

<https://youtu.be/No7Nq6IX23c>

TALK TOGETHER

- What should our Church Family look like? How should we act and why?

STUDY TOGETHER

Paul gives the Thessalonian church some final instructions on how to be a church family. The same instructions apply to us today:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-15

- Why do you think it's important to show respect and love to our leaders? How can we do that?
- What can we learn about how to treat others from this passage?
- How can you help the weak?
- Are there times when it's hard to be patient with others? What can you do to make this easier?
- How should we react when others are unkind to us? How can we control our reactions?

Read 5: 16-22

- What does it mean to rejoice always/always be happy? How can we do that when things are difficult in our lives?

- What does it mean to pray continually? How can we?
- Paul isn't asking us to give thanks *for* everything. How can we give thanks *in* everything? How does our knowledge of God's promises and faith in him help?
- What does it mean to quench the Spirit? Are there times when we get in the way of the Spirit's work in our church?
- How does reading and learning from the Bible help us to 'test everything' (v21)
- We all make mistakes and we all sin. How easy is it to identify and stay away from everything that is evil? What can we do to help ourselves?

Read 5: 23 - 24

- How does this verse make you feel?
- What encourages you?

If you are studying with others you may like to finish as Paul does in verse 28:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen

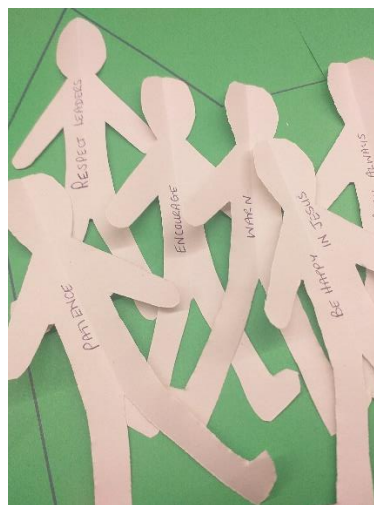
PLAY TOGETHER

Cut out lots of paper people and write the instructions from today's Bible passage on them.

Respect leaders; live in peace; encourage; warn; be happy; pray always etc.

Hide them around the house. Draw an outline of a church building on another piece of paper. See how quickly you can find the people and fill the church with all the ways we can be a great Christian family!

You could play this with one set of people and one church outline, or you could have a set for each player and race to see who can fill their church the fastest. You might need to use coloured paper or mark them with coloured dots so each player knows which people to collect!



MAKE TOGETHER

'Pray continually' Prayer Chain

Make a prayer chain that you add a link to each time you pray. Imagine how long it could become!

You can simply add a link each time you pray or write/draw your prayer on the strip of paper before adding it to the chain. Keep a supply of paper strips nearby in a jar, with a pen and a glue stick.



SING TOGETHER

Love one another – Kidspring Worship (Yancy/Body Worship):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbVGRUB1qNk>

Love one another – Newsboys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAFMGRMhFsM>

Come right now – Planetshakers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX9mIDgqul1M>

Come, Holy Spirit – Soul Survivor: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtEwhW52_rU

Oh, how good it is – Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, and Stuart Townend:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV_hNTpKO-E

REFLECT TOGETHER

In Steve Aisthorpe's book, 'Rewilding the Church' he applies the ecological concept of rewilding, an approach to the environment that allows nature to break free from the dulling effects of strategic control and bring wonder back into our lives. Applying this thinking to the Church, he imagines what might happen if we put less faith in our strategies and plans, which inevitably depend on our own capabilities and resources, and allow the Spirit to lead us beyond our capacity to imagine.



He says:

“At the heart of the natural world there is a powerful capacity for regeneration and growth and at the core of the Christian community is an ‘incomparably great power...the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead’ [Eph.1:19-20]

Sit in your garden or go to a beautiful wild place in nature. Imagine what might happen if you opened yourself up to the power of the Holy Spirit. What might the Church look like if we let the Holy Spirit lead us to places beyond what we can think or imagine? How might we impact the world around us?

PRAY TOGETHER

Never stop praying

How do we do that? Here's some ideas to help:

- *Prayer is an attitude*
 - It's a constant awareness of God's presence; that he is with you
- *Prayer is a routine*
 - Our prayer attitude can be shaped by regular times with God
- *Prayer is a first response*
 - When faced with a crisis or tough decision, we can turn to God before trying anything else
- *Prayer involves the Bible*
 - The more we know our Bible, the better we will understand God's will for our lives and this world
- *Prayer is listening to God*
 - It's a conversation, not just a one-way speech. We need to give times to listen to what God is saying to us
- *Prayer is for others*
 - We can pray for people we know and love but we can also pray for people we see when we're out walking, driving, shopping – wherever

'Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God, and can take many forms: personal and private, corporate, intercession, thanksgiving ... and the list goes on!'

There are some really good articles here: <https://parentingforfaith.org/topics/prayer>

May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

Amen

(1 Thess.5:23-24 – The Message)

DO TOGETHER

Here are some practical ways in which we can follow the instructions in the last part of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians:

5:12	Respect leaders	~	Look for ways to co-operate and support.
5:13	Live in peace	~	Search for ways to get along with others.
5:14	Warn the lazy	~	Challenge someone to join you in a project.
	Encourage the fearful/timid	~	Remind them of God's promises.
	Help the weak	~	Love them and pray for them.
	Be patient	~	Think of a situation that tries your patience and plan ahead of time, how to stay calm.
5: 15	Don't pay back wrong with wrong	~	Do good to those who mistreat you.
5:17	Pray always	~	Talk to God throughout the day, in every situation.
5: 18	Give thanks	~	Make a list of all the gifts God has given you and thank him for each one.
5:19	Don't stop the work of the Holy Spirit	~	Ask the Holy Spirit to work through you.

family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder taken from

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Never Stop Praying idea taken from <https://childrensministry.com/teach-kids-to-pray/>

Do Together ideas taken from the NLT Life Application Study Bible