Well hello to you!

Sundays stuck at home as a family don't have to mean no church! Jesus said "where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." (Matthew 18:20) - and this means at home too! This resource has been created to encourage you and your children to worship and engage with God even when you can't make it to a service. After all, church is the PEOPLE not the PLACE!

Home Church Adventures!

Gather the family together, maybe round the dining table or in your livingroom. Turn off all your electronic devices (tv, gaming, mobiles, - although you might want to use them for some of the video or music clips). Don't worry if you start the session and being prompted to change direction - go with it and enjoy where the Holy Spirit takes you together! Have fun!

How to use Home Church Adventures...

Included are a range of different ideas - pick and choose what suits your family and the resources you have. Some involve watching something online, some using physical stuff you might have around the house, some might involve printing off the activity sheet (if you can). However, don't let it stop you from getting creative and coming up with your own ideas, games, ways of telling the story, ways of having fun together.

 Always pray before you start and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and lead your conversations.

'Home Church' doesn't need to be long, and it doesn't need to be done all in one session (why not split it over a day into several parts?).

REMEMBER:

Each family is different! God made each of you in your family unique in their giftings from oldest to youngest. Listen to each other, involve each other and build each other up.

And DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN!

(Pentecost)



In this session you might need:

- Plain paper, tissue paper, ribbon, paper strips
- Colouring pens, pencils or crayons
- Child-friendly Glue stick or PVA glue
- Device to play Youtube videos

- A computer printer (to print off the activity & colouring sheets)
- Props from around the house (soft toys, bedsheets etc)
- Bottle of cola, mentos mint sweets
 A hand torch
- Plastic containers, egg cups and water

PRANE (why not ask for a volunteer to pray! Asking God to bless and speak to you today)

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for today. Thank you that you love each of us and you teach us the best way to live! Would you please speak to us, fill us, and help us to listen to what you say. Amen.



You could....

><u>MAKE A 'FLAME'</u> TORCH: Attach long strips of flame coloured (yellow, red and orange) tissue paper to the light end of a small torch with sticky tape. Switch on the light and wave your 'flame'! (NB: Be careful not to cover any thing that might get hot, if it does get warm turn torch off or remove the tissue paper)

><u>PLAY MUSIC</u>: clips from Youtube of worship songs, or music from Spotify or a CD, and sing along. Ideas: 'Shine from the inside out' My God is so BIG so strong and so mighty 'Brave' (Saddleback kids)

><u>HAVE A FAMILY JAMMING SESSION</u>: play instruments you have, or make some from junk (like a box guitar - stretch elastic bands over a box and...twang!!!). Have fun being silly - God loves a 'cheerful giver'!

THE STORY:

><u>READ</u> the story of Pentecost, from the Bible. (we recommend NIV or International Children's Bible): Acts 2 v 1 -41

(OR read the story from a Bible picture book you already have.)

><u>or WATCH</u> a story cartoon on Youtube.

On Youtube, search for **'Saddleback Kids : God sends the Holy Spirit'**, or **'God's Story: Peter Preaches'** (Crossroad Kid's Club)

Q: Which is your favourite part of the story? Why?

Before he went back to his Father in heaven, Jesus gave his followers a special job to do. He said "Go into all the world and make followers. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have told you." (Matthew 28 v 19-20) He knew that the followers would not be able to do that alone. So Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. It was when the Holy Spirit filled them up with his gifts and abilities that they could overflow with confidence God's truth to those around them. If we are his followers now, its true for us too! When we hear the Good News of Jesus, repent and choose to follow him we are his disciples too. So just like Jesus' first followers he asks us too to tell others the Good News that we know – it's too good to hide away! In a similar way the only way we can effectively live how God wants us to is with the Holy Spirit living in us, filling us, helping us and overflowing to those around us.



ACTIVITIES with stuff:

> <u>FILL-UP RACE!</u>: (You will need to do this outside!). Put two matching plastic containers at one end of your garden. At the opposite end put a large bucket or container with water. Place 2 eggcups (or little containers) either side of the bucket. In 2 teams, race to see who can be the first to carry water in the eggcups and fill up their container to over flow!

> <u>GET DRAMATIC!</u>: Act out the story of Pentecost. Use props from your house. You could even FILM your story and share it with your family and friends! (WARNING: <u>NEVER</u>, <u>EVER</u> use real fire!)

> <u>MAKE A OVERFLOW PAINTING</u>: On a plain piece of paper dribble some drops of coloured paint. Lift up the paper and move it around to make the paint flow over the page. You could also use a straw and blow at the paint blobs to help them flow too!

> <u>MAKE A COLA OVERFLOWING FOUNTAIN</u>: WARNING: This gets very messy and sticky - you will need to do this outside! You will need a 1 litre (approx.) bottle of diet cola (cheap stuff is great), Mentos mint sweets. Put your cola bottle on a lawn or in a space which is not going to matter getting messy. Release the cap carefully, then screw back on lightly. Hold 3/4 Mentos in your hand. Quickly, take off the bottle top, drop in the mints and step back! Cola fountain!!!!! Alternatively look up vinegar and baking soda volcanoes online!



ACTIVITY with printout:

> **<u>PRINT OFF</u>** the funsheet & colouring sheet, enjoy completing!

PRAYER / RESPONSE:

Q: How did the Holy Spirit help the disciples? **Q:** How could the Holy Spirit help you?

> EACH PERSON SHARE :

...if there was a time that the Holy Spirit helped you with something (Maybe helped you make a wise choice, resolved a problem, or even used you to bless someone)

...Talk to God and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you, and help you to overflow with his love.

...then 'Please speak to me. Help me to listen and do what you say.' Why not take a moment to be quiet and listen to what God might say.

Remember: Every answer is important to God, so listen to each other and encourage each other.

You could also...

><u>MAKE A HOLY SPIRIT FLAME HEADBAND</u>: Cut a long strip of paper, big enough to go round your forehead. Attach the two ends with glue or stickytape to make a headband. Attach strips of flame coloured (yellow, red and orange) paper, ribbon or tissue paper to make a hat!



DON'T FORGET! You can share photos of your family doing the Home Church Adventures on our Facebook page - to bless and encourage others! FB: Adventuresincolouring









Spiritual gifts are special abilities given to Christians, by the Holy Spirit, to help with the work of the Church.

Can you use the code below to discover some examples of spiritual gifts?

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to notice people's needs and try to meet them