



# Home Church Adventures!

## 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!*

*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!**



# Keep Praying!

## In this session you might need:

- Plain paper
- Colouring pens, pencils or crayons
- Child-friendly Glue stick or PVA glue
- Device to play Youtube videos
- Piece of plain, light, cotton fabric (e.g. an old pillowcase!)
- Bubblewrap
- Collage materials (e.g. old magazines, coloured paper etc.)
- A computer printer (to print off the activity & colouring sheets)



## PRAY: (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 only have good things for us. Would you please speak to us and help us to listen to what you say. Amen.



## WORSHIP:

You could...

>HAVE A FAMILY JAMMING SESSION: play instruments you have, or even make some from junk (like cardboard box drum, or gently tapping a mug!). Have fun being silly - God loves a 'cheerful giver'!

>PLAY MUSIC: clips from Youtube of worship songs, or music from Spotify or a CD, and sing along. Ideas:

*Faith as small as a mustard seed (Dougie Doug Doug)*

*Read your Bible, Pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow.*

*Our God is a great Big God*

>GO 'ON-LINE' WITH GOD!: Think about the things you want to say to God. Find a long piece of string or wool. Tie it along a wall or across the corner of a room (Careful not to be in the way, where it could be walked into or pulled down). Use washing line pegs to peg up prayers and praises written or drawn on pieces of paper - your prayers are going 'online'!!!! (Teehee!)



## THE STORY:

>READ the story from the Bible. (we recommend NIV or International Children's Bible):

**Matthew 6 v 5 - 15**

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

>or WATCH a story cartoon on Youtube.

On Youtube, search for '**Saddleback Kids Jesus Prays**' or '**God's Story: Prayer**' (Crossroads Kids' Club)

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

**Q:** What is prayer?

In order to get to know anyone who is important to us, we need to talk to them and listen to what they say. Just like with Father God we also need to talk to him too, and listen to what he has to say to us! The Bible says we should talk to God about anything! If we're worried about something, if we want to say thank you, or if we are sorry about something we have done wrong. God wants to talk with us, because he loves us. We don't need to use fancy words, because he knows what we mean.

When we pray, God's enemies are beaten! When we pray, God helps us to live the right way! When we pray, God does amazing things!



## ACTIVITIES with stuff:

- > **MAKE A PRAYER JAR:** Find an empty (and clean) jamjar or pot. You could use coloured paper or paint to decorate it, or tie a label round it saying 'PRAYER JAR'. Each time you pray, write or draw it on a small piece of paper and put it in the jar. Later in a few weeks, when the jar is full, read the pieces of paper and see how God has answered those prayers!
- > **MAKE BUBBLES:** In a large bowl, sink or bath, mix luke warm water with a small amount of washing up liquid or bath bubbles. Use your hands to mix the water and make bubbles. Have fun blowing the bubbles off your hands and making them fly! Just like our prayers 'rising' to God! (NB: this can be messy, yay!)
- > **DRAW A HAND SHAPED PRAYER:** On a piece of paper, draw round your hand. Write or draw on it a prayer for today. (Idea: you could peg it onto your prayer 'washing line' from earlier!)
- > **DRAW A BLESSING FOR YOUR STREET:** On a sheet of paper draw, paint or collage a rainbow or a heart, or even a happy face. You could even write an encouraging message on it to your neighbours. Stick the poster in your window for those walking past your house to see.



## ACTIVITY with printout:

- > **PRINT OFF** the fun sheet and/or colouring sheet and enjoy completing.



## PRAYER / RESPONSE:

### > **EACH PERSON SHARE :**

...one 'Thank you for...'

...one 'sorry for...'

...one 'Please can you...'

...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...

> **WRITE A SIMPLE ACROSTIC:** Think of a simple word (e.g. PUSH, FROG, JOY etc) and find words that make an acrostic (i.e. Each letter starts another word.)

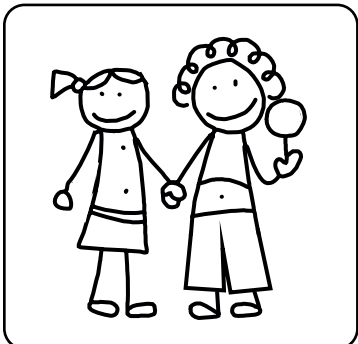
For example: **FROG:** Fully Rely On God, **PUSH:** Pray Until Something Happens

> **SHARING PRAYER:** Think about your neighbours, the people who live near you. Pray for them. Can you think of a way you can bless them today - maybe post a note through their door, or bake them something!

# Funsheet: Keep Praying!

## Spot the difference

Can you find 5 differences between the two pictures below?



## What can we do when we pray?

Write the first letter of the object in each picture to find the missing words.



P



(say thank you!)

\_\_\_\_\_

R



(say sorry)

\_\_\_\_\_

A



\_\_\_\_\_

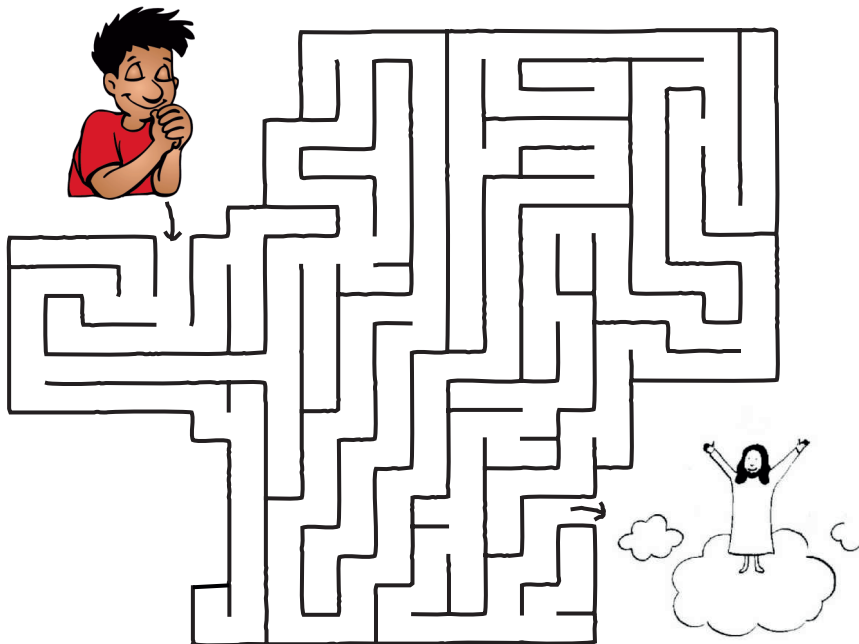
Y



(listen to God and do what he says)

\_\_\_\_\_

Zack is talking to God.  
Can you find a way for his prayer to reach God?!



Draw a picture of you praying here...



Keep Praying!

1 Thessalonians 5 v 16-18

