



# God's Story Our Story

## Family Activities

These family activities are part of the Church of England's 2021 #LiveLent campaign.

The family activities have been written by Mary Hawes. The #LiveLent – God's Story, Our Story booklet was written by Stephen Hance, based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021 Living His Story by Hannah Steele (SPCK). This material (which is copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2021) may be reproduced freely for non-commercial purposes.



# Start of Lent: The Greatest Story

Ash Wednesday 17 February	<b>Beautiful Feet</b>	Romans 10.13-16	Lent is like a journey. We walk towards Holy Week and Easter and remember what it means to follow Jesus. Draw round your foot. Inside the shape write "Thank you, God, for..." Add the names of the people who help you follow Jesus. Place your footprint where you will see it and it will remind you to pray for those people.
Thursday 18 February	<b>God's Story</b>	John 20.1-18	The Bible tells us the story of God and God's love for the world. Count the number of Bibles and Bible story books in your home. Choose a story from one of them to read together. What does it help us know about God?
Friday 19 February	<b>Living God's Story</b>	Matthew 4.18-20	The first people Jesus called to follow him were fishermen. Do an image search for "He Qi Calling Disciples". What can you see in the picture? I wonder why they left everything to follow Jesus? I wonder what their families thought? I wonder if there's anything we need to leave behind to follow Jesus? Maybe you could chat about the picture while eating a fishy-themed meal (perhaps fish fingers or fish-shaped sandwiches).
Weekend 20-21 February	<b>Come and See</b>	John 1.45-47	"Come and see!" Philip was so excited to have met Jesus that he wanted his friend Nathanael to "Come and see!" Create a poster or a short video to tell people how they could "Come and see" Jesus at your church.



# Week 1: Catching Up with God

Monday 22 February	<b>Jesus the Storyteller</b>	Matthew 13.34-35	Jesus was a great storyteller! We call his stories “parables” – stories to help people learn more about God and God’s Kingdom. Set a timer for one minute. How many of Jesus’ parables can you and your family call out in that time? Which is your favourite?
Tuesday 23 February	<b>The Banquet</b>	Luke 14.16-24	Tell the parable of the great banquet using emojis. As you decide which ones to use, wonder together about why Jesus says God’s kingdom is like a huge banquet with invitations for everyone. When you’re happy with your emoji parable, send it to one of your church leaders. Can they guess which parable it is?
Wednesday 24 February	<b>The Lost Sheep</b>	Luke 15.3-7	Get everyone in your family to draw and cut out one or more sheep (use an internet search if you need a template). Have each person hide their sheep somewhere in your home. Gather back together and on the word “Go”, hunt down the “lost” sheep that aren’t yours. Read the story of the Lost Sheep together.
Thursday 25 February	<b>The Lost Coin</b>	Luke 15.8-10	Think of someone you haven’t seen for a long time. Imagine you saw them walking down the road – and they are coming to your house! Design a poster (on paper or online) with the things you’d like to do and the food you’d like to share.
Friday 26 February	<b>The Lost Son</b>	Luke 15.11-32	Go on a hunt round your home. Look under chairs and beds, down the back of the sofa, behind cupboards and in drawers. Did you manage to find any lost “treasures” (apart from dust!)? Think of a way to celebrate. (If you didn’t find anything, celebrate anyway because God loves you.)
Weekend 27-28 February	<b>Compelled by Love</b>	2 Corinthians 5.14-15	Cut out seven hearts from paper or thin card. On each heart, write the name of a person that you don’t see very often – it might be someone you used to see at church, or friends and family who live far away. Fold the hearts in half and put them in a clean jar or bowl. Each day this week, pick one heart out of the jar or bowl. Think of a way to show Jesus’ love to that person – maybe pray for them, or surprise them with a phone call, letter or small gift.



## Week 2: Stories of Transformation

Monday 1 March	<b>Go Home and Tell</b>	Mark 5.1-20	“Go tell it on the mountain” is a song about telling the good news of Jesus. Either sing it together or do an internet search and listen to it together. Try making up some extra verses to tell more of the story of Jesus.
Tuesday 2 March	<b>The Power of a Personal Story</b>	Acts 4.1-22	Ask one of your church leaders (or youth group leader) to tell you the story of how they knew God wanted them to do what they are doing.
Wednesday 3 March	<b>Sharing Our Story</b>	John 4.1-42	A cross reminds Christians of Jesus. Have a “Cross hunt” around your home. How many can you find? If there aren’t any, make or draw one and place it where everyone can see. You could use twigs, pipe-cleaners, construction toys or tear one out of paper.
Thursday 4 March	<b>Attentive Listening</b>	Acts 17.16-34	St Paul loved telling people about Jesus. Who tells you the stories of Jesus? (It might be someone at church, or school, a member of your family or a friend.) Send them a card or text to say “Thank you”.
Friday 5 March	<b>Be Prepared</b>	1 Peter 3.13-16	Find the hymn “Amazing Grace” in a hymn book or online. John Newton wrote it to tell people about the difference being a Christian made to him. What difference does following Jesus make for you and your family?
Weekend 6-7 March	<b>Living Your Story</b>	1 Thessalonians 2.4-8	Do something loving or kind for someone this weekend as a way of sharing Jesus’ love.



## Week 3: Communicating like Jesus

Monday 8 March	<b>All Sorts of People</b>	Matthew 11.16-19	Look at your phone. Who were the last five people to send you messages? Write their names on a sheet of paper. Pin it to your fridge or door and pray for one of them each day this week. Put a tick by their name after you have prayed.
Tuesday 9 March	<b>Different People, Different Approach</b>	Mark 5.21-43	Our fingerprints are unique – no one else has the same fingerprints as you! Use some paint to turn your fingerprints into people and creatures. Underneath your pictures write “God makes each of us unique”.
Wednesday 10 March	<b>Allowing Interruptions</b>	Mark 5.21-43	Make a listening cube. Do an online search for a template and print it off. Before you assemble the cube, write something different on each face (e.g. your day, something you want to pray about, something good that happened, someone you met, your favourite Bible story, something you would like to do). Take it in turns to throw the cube and say “Tell me about...”. Make sure everyone gets a turn.
Thursday 11 March	<b>A Place of Love</b>	Matthew 9.35-38	Have a family huddle with your favourite hot drinks. As your drinks cool, see how many Bible stories about shepherds or sheep you can remember.
Friday 12 March	<b>Being Vulnerable</b>	John 4.1-42	Find somewhere comfortable to sit. Close your eyes and imagine Jesus is sitting beside you. What might you say to each other?
Weekend 13-14 March	<b>Good Questions</b>	Mark 10.46-52	Create a family “Good Question” box from an old cereal packet or tissue box. Cut a hole in the box and stick a label to it that says “Good Questions”. When you have a question about God or Jesus or church, write it down and post it in the box. Next weekend, have a family huddle and talk about one or two of the questions.



## Week 4: Sharing the Story

Monday 15 March	<b>God's Story Our Story</b>	Matthew 1.1-17	People can be baptised when they are babies or children or grown up. Find out what happens at a baptism at your church. If you have been baptised, remember together what happened on that day.
Tuesday 16 March	<b>Many Tongues</b>	Acts 2.1-2, 4-6	God's family can be found all over the world. Does your family or your church have links with Christians overseas? Find or download a map and mark where they live. Find out a little about the country they are in and then pray for them and the people of that country.
Wednesday 17 March	<b>Telling the Story</b>	Acts 8.26-39	Imagine someone came to your home and they had never heard about Jesus. What would you tell them? What stories would you share? What would you tell them about followers of Jesus? Create a poster (on paper or online) with your ideas and call it "Meet Jesus".
Thursday 18 March	<b>Good News for Everyone</b>	Acts 10.1-48	Blow some bubbles to help you pray. As you chase them, call out "God's love is for..." and name someone you know before you burst the bubble. Finish by calling out "God's love is for everyone. Amen."
Friday 19 March	<b>Out There</b>	Acts 19.8-10	Cut some cards to the size of a bank card. On one side write "God is with me". On the other side write, "Everywhere, all the time". Decorate the cards. Give one to each member of your family to keep in their wallet or phone.
Weekend 20-21 March	<b>Never Alone</b>	Matthew 28.16-20	Draw round your hand. On the palm write "Jesus said". On the fingers write "I am with you always" – one word on each finger. Keep the hand by your bed as a reminder that whatever happens or however you feel, Jesus is always with you.



## Week 5: Listening for Echoes

Monday 22 March	<b>In Athens (Part One)</b>	Acts 17.16-18	Find Athens on a map. (If you haven't got a map, do an online search.) St Paul wanted the people who lived there to know about Jesus. He went to the busiest places to find people to tell. Do an online search for Street Pastors. They go to busy places to show people God's love and tell them about Jesus. Pray for them and the people they will meet tonight.
Tuesday 23 March	<b>Who Are We?</b>	Luke 7.36-50	Count the number of mirrors in your home. Make a banner that says, "Made in God's image". Put it over one of the mirrors. Each time you look in the mirror, remember that you are made in God's image and loved by God – just as you are.
Wednesday 24 March	<b>What's Wrong?</b>	Romans 8.19, 22-23	Think about some of the things that are wrong with the world. Use some chalk to write them either on a blackboard or outside on the path. Think of one thing you could do to help change the world. Pray "Gracious God, help us to work for your kingdom of justice and peace. Amen."
Thursday 25 March	<b>What's the Solution?</b>	John 12.31-33	We can show our love for God's world and begin to help change it by working with other Christians. Do an internet search for Christian charities that work for justice or environmental issues. How could you and your family get involved?
Friday 26 March	<b>What's the Future?</b>	1 Corinthians 15.21-24	Sing (or find online) your favourite Easter songs or hymns. Listen out for the words which remind us that God is stronger even than death.
Weekend 27-28 March	<b>In Athens (Part Two)</b>	Acts 17.32-34	This weekend go for a walk. Take photos of things which are signs of hope (like spring flowers, baby animals, a beautiful sunset). Create a slide show or montage from them. Choose a title for it which talks about the hope God gives us. Share it with someone from church.



## Week 6: Being found by Jesus

Monday 29 March	<b>Long or Short</b>	Acts 26.1-32	St Paul didn't just tell people about Jesus. He prayed for them to become Christians. Get a bag of snack pretzels. They are meant to look like arms folded in prayer. As you eat the pretzels, pray for people you know who aren't yet Christians.
Tuesday 30 March	<b>The Road to Damascus</b>	Acts 26.12-16	Read the story of how St Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). It was very dramatic! Retell it in five sentences or five pictures.
Wednesday 31 March	<b>The Road Emmaus</b>	Luke 24.13-35	Do an internet search for an easy flat bread recipe. Have a go at making it. When the disciples on the Emmaus road saw Jesus breaking the bread, they recognised who he really was. As you make and eat your bread, talk together about ways we recognise and remember Jesus.
Maundy Thursday 1 April	<b>Proclamation</b>	1 Corinthians 1.21-25	St Paul wanted everyone to hear the good news of Jesus. Who could you invite to join you at church (it might still be online!) this Easter Sunday? Design a text or video invitation with all the details and press "Send".
Good Friday 2 April	<b>Witness</b>	Acts 1.7-9	Make a garden to remind you of the story of Good Friday. It will need three crosses and a cave covered by a stone. You could make it out of building blocks, material from your recycling or using twigs, stones and soil from your garden. Do an image search for Easter Garden if you need some ideas.
Easter Eve 3 April	<b>The Pearl of Great Price</b>	Matthew 13.44-46	Get ready to celebrate Easter tomorrow with Resurrection Rolls. Do an internet search to find an easy recipe and gather the ingredients.
Easter Day 4 April	<b>"I Have Seen the Lord"</b>	John 20.1-29	"Decorate a banner that says "Alleluia – Christ is risen!" Put it in your window so that people can see it. Sing or listen to your favourite Easter song or hymn. Bake Resurrection Rolls (if you have the ingredients) to celebrate. And if you made garden on Friday, remember to move the stone today.