

# Family Box Of FUN



A gift for you from St John's Church, Hartford

All quotes from the Bible in this booklet have been taken from the New International Version or the International Children's Bible.

Welcome to your Family Box of Fun!  
We hope that you enjoy it over the  
summer holidays. We would love to  
see what you get up to—please send us  
lots of photos of what you make and  
do..... You can post these straight onto  
our church facebook page  
[facebook.com/stjohnshartford](https://facebook.com/stjohnshartford)  
or you can email me  
[teresa@stjohnshartford.org](mailto:teresa@stjohnshartford.org)



There are plenty of activities for you to do to keep you busy throughout the holidays. We have dated them, but feel free to do whichever ones you like and in whatever order you like.

Every Sunday, we would love you to join us for our virtual service, which you can find on our church home page at 10am.

[www.stjohnshartford.org](http://www.stjohnshartford.org)

If you don't want to watch the whole service, then you will be able to find the individual parts, including a children's talk and children's craft activity listed separately shortly after the end of the service.

Every Wednesday we will also have a children's talk and children's craft activity available here  
[www.stjohnshartford.org/teresa-on-youtube](http://www.stjohnshartford.org/teresa-on-youtube)



“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them’ ” Matthew ch19v14

## Saturday 1st August

Today, we would love you to visit our scarecrow in the church yard, just near the main doors into the church. Have a read of the signs that are up, to find out all about the true story from the Bible that the scarecrow represents.

Take the string with you from your box (you might like to take some scissors too) and have a look for some sticks that you could use to tie together to make a stick person. See if you can put your stick person with the 500 people that are already there!

If you can't make it out to the church, have a look at this video which tells the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6rj9cAJrWE&t=58s>

You could also read the story for yourself in the Bible, in the book of Matthew chapter 14 verses 13-21. If you don't have a children's Bible of your own, let us know and we would love to give you one.



“Jesus said, “Bring the bread and the fish to me.”  
Matthew Ch14v18

## Sunday 2nd August

Join us online from 10am to listen to a children's talk, song and craft activity based on the following Bible passage.

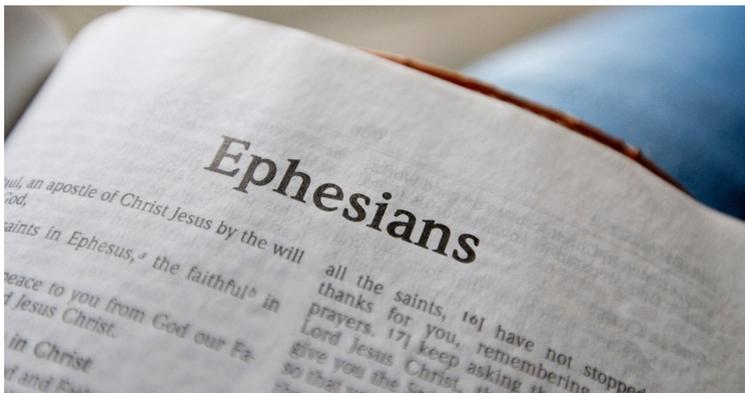
Ephesians chapter 4 verses 17-24

The talks will be available on

[www.stjohnshartford.org](http://www.stjohnshartford.org)

If you want to read this passage and don't have a Bible, please let us know and we can give you one, or have a look online at

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## Monday 3rd August

At the start of the recount of the Feeding of the 5000, Jesus went to a quiet place to be by Himself. The Bible tells us that it is good to take time to rest and to think about God.

Take some time to build a den in your bedroom or garden. Use blankets, sheets, cushions or groundsheets to make a cosy place just for you. Spend some time inside your den on your own, thinking about how Jesus might have felt that day and what He might have talked to God about whilst He rested.

You might like to listen to this together with your family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zcHHp0GTuc>



“Be still and know that I am God.”  
Psalm 46:10

## Tuesday 4th August

Although Jesus wanted some time to be quiet on His own, He welcomed His friends to join Him. Often called the Disciples, Jesus' friends went everywhere with Him.

Why not arrange to have a socially distanced picnic with your friends. If you can't do this yet, have a Teddy Bears' picnic at home—think about who you would have liked to have invited but couldn't. Why not take a photo of the picnic and let your friends know that you will see them again, just as soon as you can.



Challenge—Can you find out the names of all twelve of Jesus' disciples?

Wednesday 5th August

Join us online for our Tots Storytime and Tots craft activity. These can be found on our YouTube channel

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Or you can find them on our Tots facebook page

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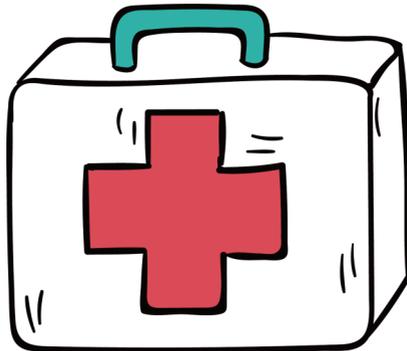
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Thursday 6th August

You might be wondering why so many people followed Jesus up the hillside. The Bible tells us it was because they knew He was able to make poorly people get better. What Jesus did was amazing—it showed how much He loved the people who were poorly.

Find the plaster in the box and write the name of someone that you know who is poorly onto it. Talk to your mum or dad about where you could stick the plaster where you will see it often. Then every time you see it, say a prayer to ask Jesus to help the poorly person to be well cared for and to get better.



“When Jesus arrived, he saw a large crowd. He felt sorry for them and healed those who were sick.”

Matthew 14:14

Friday 7th August

People kept following Jesus everywhere He went— but it wasn't just because He healed people. They realised He was someone really important. Some of them even started to realise that He was God's son!

The Bible says that we should follow Jesus too because He is the only way to be friends with God. Colour in the "Jesus" arrow and decorate the back of it too. Sellotape the flat end of the arrow to the bamboo skewer (be careful that you don't poke yourself!).

Take your arrow to the church yard and push it carefully into the grass on the other side of the path from the scarecrow.



Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No-one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

## Saturday 8th August

As we read on in the story of how Jesus fed 5000 people, we find that there was one boy who chose to share His picnic lunch with everyone. How do you think he felt as he gave up his lunch? It can be hard to share with others, but Jesus says that He can help us to share gladly.

Why not have a sort through your toys or books and find one that you no longer play with. Think who you could give it to, so that they can enjoy it.

Or you might like to bake some cakes and share them with your family or with a neighbour—even if that means getting less for yourself!



“Do not forget to do good to others. And share with them what you have. These are the sacrifices that please God.” Hebrews 13:16

Sunday 9th August

Join us online from 10am to listen to a children's talk, song and craft activity based on the following Bible passage.

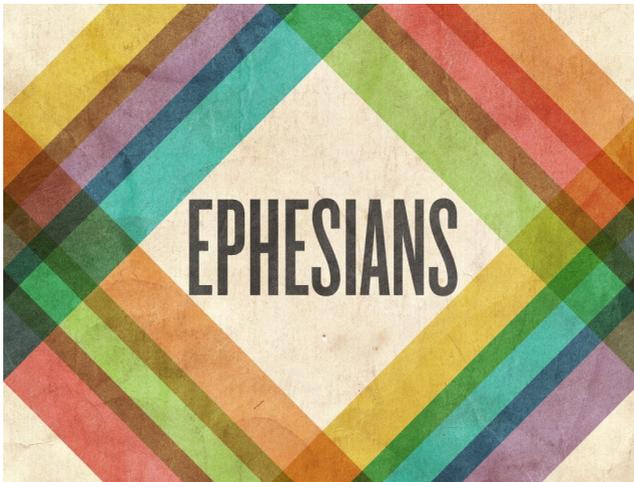
Ephesians chapter 4 verse 25 to  
chapter 5 verse 2

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## Monday 10th August

The boy who shared his food only had a very little—he might have thought it wasn't worth offering to Jesus. But even when we have a very little, Jesus can use it and multiply it in enormous ways to bless other people.

The Bible tells us that after everyone had eaten plenty, there were 12 basketfuls left over—even though they only started with 2 fish and 5 small loaves!

How did Jesus do that???

Baskets are woven together. Have a go at some paper weaving—the instructions are in the box.



“They had all had enough to eat. When they had finished, Jesus said to his followers, “Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything.” So they gathered up the pieces that were left. They filled 12 large baskets.” John 6:13

Tuesday 11th August

There were five loaves of bread in the boy's picnic lunch. Bread is a food that is eaten most days by people all over the world. But many countries have different styles of bread.

When God created us, He delighted in giving us the ability to create different things—and He loves to see how we can use our imagination to come up with different ideas, including different styles of bread.

Have a go at the bread game in the box, matching the name of each country to their flag and to their particular style of bread.



Challenge: how many of these different types of bread have you tried eating? Next time you go shopping, why not see if you can find one you haven't tried before?

Or why not visit one of our local flour mills at Stretton, Bunbury, Nether Alderly or Walk Mill.

Wednesday 12th August

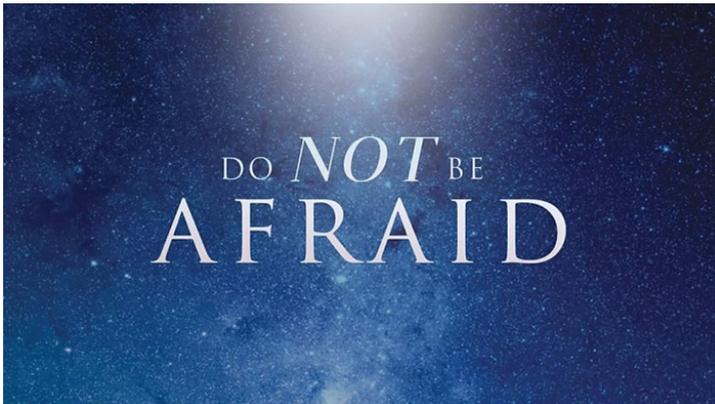
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Or you can find them on our Tots facebook page

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You might like to have a look back at some of our previous Tots talks and crafts too— although they are aimed at preschoolers, we know that many families have been using them during lockdown whilst home schooling and have adapted the crafts for children of primary school age too.



Challenge: Can you memorise the verses in this song, taken from the Bible?

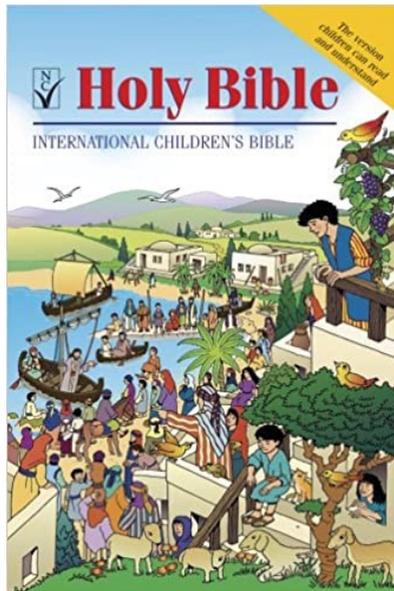
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd35-M-xLX4&t=34s>

Thursday 13th August

Although bread is a basic necessity, it would be boring if we only ate bread all the time. Jesus said “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

Jesus wasn't talking about bread to eat. He was talking about “feeding” on God's word—that is the Bible. For Christians, reading the Bible every day is as important as eating every day.

Challenge: can you make a sandwich and fill it with your favourite fillings? As you eat your sandwiches together, why not chat about whether you would like to read the Bible every day too? If you don't have a Bible of your own, remember you can get in touch with us and we will be happy to give you one.



## Friday 14th August

In the recount of the feeding of the 5000, we hear that the boy had two small fish in his picnic lunch. This event was taking place in a region near the Sea of Galilee, which is actually a really large lake in what is now modern day Israel.

Two of the types of fish that live in the Sea of Galilee and are still caught by fishermen there today are sardines and tilapia, both of which are very tasty to eat!

Use the playdough to make a whole variety of different shaped fish.

Challenge: how many types of fish can you name? How many of these have you tried eating? Maybe next time you can go shopping, you could try some new fish from the fishmongers.



“God said, “Let the water be filled with living things.... So God created the large sea animals. He created every living thing that moves in the sea. “ Genesis 1:20-21

## Saturday 15th August

Some of Jesus' friends, the disciples, were fishermen. Jesus asked them to stop fishing for fish and to fish for people instead. What do you think He meant by that?

Cut out and colour in the fish in your box. Bend the top flap over and take it, with the peg from your box and peg it onto our fishing line outside church.



“Jesus said, “Come and follow me. I will make you fishermen for men.” Matthew 4:19

Sunday 16th August

Join us online from 10am to listen to a children's talk, song and craft activity based on the following Bible passage.

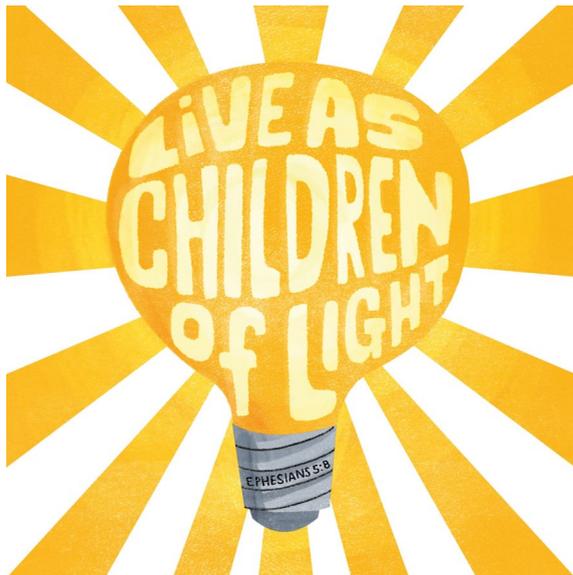
Ephesians chapter 5 verses 3-14

The talks will be available on

[www.stjohnshartford.org](http://www.stjohnshartford.org)

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## Monday 17th August

As Jesus took the bread and fish from the small boy, He held it up to God and thanked God for providing it.

Make a Gratitude Jar

Find an empty jam jar and each day everyone in your family can write something that you are grateful for onto pieces of paper and put them in the jar. You can decorate the jar if you would like to.

When you are feeling that life is hard, take some of the pieces of paper out of the jar to read them and remind yourself of how good God has been to you.



“Every good action and every perfect gift is from God.”

James 1:17

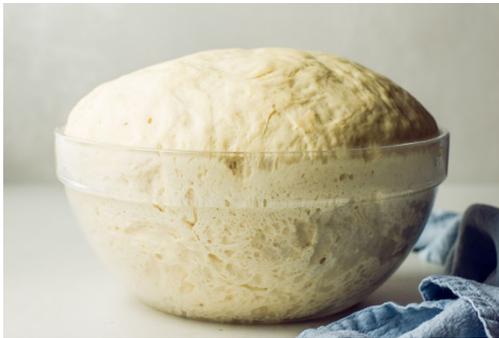
Tuesday 18th August

Some people think that Jesus just shared out the food the boy had given him. But the Bible says that it was a miracle – something that we can't explain with our human understanding. Jesus could "create" more food out of nothing because He is God's son – and the Bible says that Jesus was with God at the beginning when He made everything. It would have been impossible to break the bread and fish up into so many tiny pieces and have so much left over.

Use the enclosed yeast and bread recipe to make some bread for you and your family to enjoy. As you watch the bread rising, think about the amazing way that Jesus was able to multiply the food provided.

Have a listen to this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyqW7cGxdpg>



“He gave them as much as they wanted. They all had enough to eat.”

John 6:11-12

Wednesday 19th August

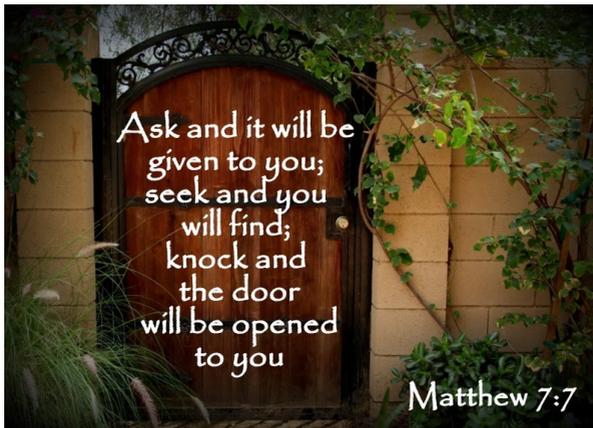
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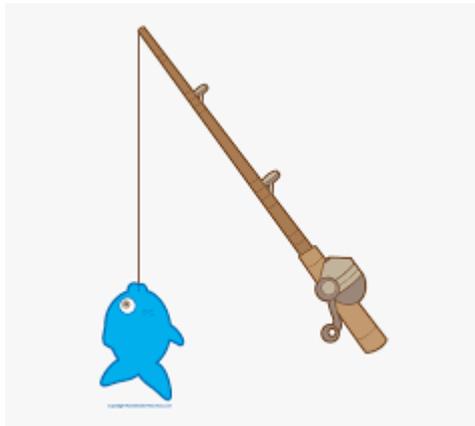
Challenge: How many knock, knock jokes can you tell your family and friends?

Thursday 20th August

Some of Jesus' friends were fishermen, but they gave that up to become followers of Jesus. How do you think they felt when they gave everything up?

Have you ever had to give something up that you would have liked to continue? Maybe you knew that the end result would be worth it. Jesus' friends realised that following Jesus really was worth giving up everything for.

Try the fishing magnet game. Tie some string through the magnet and tie the other end to a stick or pencil. Cut out the coloured fish, put a paper clip on each one and see if you can catch them with your magnetic fishing rod.



**Challenge:** If you are lucky enough to be able to spend a day at the seaside, have a go at Crabbing, or look for tiny fish in rock pools.

## Friday 21st August

As well as Jesus describing Himself as being “the bread of life” and “the way, the truth and the life”, Jesus also said;

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.” John 10:9

The Bible says that if we choose to follow Jesus it is like us opening a gate that allows us into His world and gives us the promise of eternal life.

Did you know that we have three main gates into our churchyard. The one in the photograph is used for funerals, the opposite one on Chester Road is used for weddings, and the third is by the War Memorial at the very corner of the church yard. See if you can find some pieces of ribbon or lengths of fabric and take them to decorate our church gate as a way of reminding people what Jesus said.



Challenge: There are 7 “I am” sayings of Jesus—Can you find out what they all are?

## Saturday 22nd August

Jesus wanted to heal people and to feed them, because He loved them. The Bible tells us that Jesus' love is huge – and that there is enough to go around for everyone to share in it.

Blow up the balloon in your box..... how big can you get it to be? As you see it growing bigger and bigger, think about how Jesus' love is bigger than we could possibly imagine it to be.

If you haven't already seen it, you might like to watch this short video talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5szLpfWfWo&t=15s>

And try this simple craft activity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONFErFlfdpA&t=13s>



“And I pray that you and all God’s holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is.” Ephesians 3:18

Sunday 23rd August

Join us online from 10am to listen to a children's talk, song and craft activity based on the following Bible passage.

Ephesians chapter 5 verses 15-21

The talks will be available on

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**Giving Thanks Always for  
All Things**  
Ephesians 5:15-20

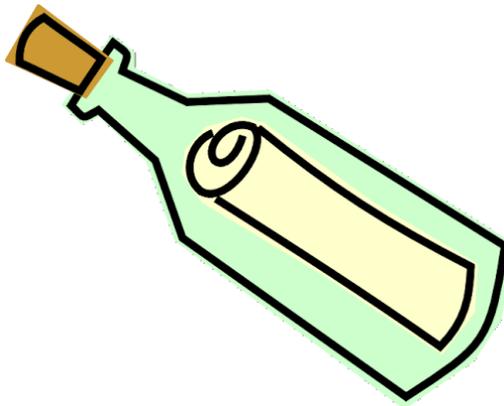
Monday 24th August

Jesus lived on earth to teach us all about His Father – God. He tells us that we can talk to God by praying to Him – just as we talk to our own parents. We can tell them when we are happy or sad, we can say sorry to them when we have done something wrong and we can ask them for help and thank them for the help they have given us. We can do all this when we talk to God as our Father too.

What would you like to say to God today?  
Use the picture of the bottle in the box to write God a message.

As a family, have a listen to this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUjLd6k6uXk&t=152s>



“So when you pray, you should pray like this:

“Our Father in heaven.....”

Matthew 6:9

Tuesday 25th August

Jesus came, not just to heal people and to feed them, but to give them a chance to be forgiven. We all do, say or think bad things. This separates us from God. But when we choose to say sorry to God, we can trust that by Jesus dying on the cross in our place, we can be forgiven. Then we can ask God to help us to not make the same mistakes again.

As you hold the wooden cross that you can find in the box in your hand, have a think whether there is anything that you would like to say sorry to God for.

Have a listen to this song;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YwU5uFqFe0>



“Forgive the sins we have done, just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.” Matthew 6:12

Wednesday 26th August

Join us online for our Tots Storytime and Tots craft activity. These can be found on our YouTube channel

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**Challenge:** How many of the activities in this booklet have you started but not yet finished? Why not go back and see what you would like to finish today?

## Thursday 27th August

John, who wrote one of the gospel recounts of the feeding of the 5000, says that he wrote it down so that everyone can have the chance to believe in God. When our church was built, not everyone would have had the chance to learn to read, so they couldn't read these stories in the Bible.

So the most important parts of the Bible were turned into pictures in our stained glass windows. We would love you to come and see them one day, but for now, why not take your chalk to the church yard and draw a stained glass window of your favourite Bible story on the path near the War Memorial.



“These miracles are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name.” John 20:31

## Friday 28th August

Even if we are too little to read the Bible for ourselves, or even if it is a long time until we can go to church to see the stained glass windows, God has chosen to show us Himself through the beauty and wonder of creation.

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

Go on a walk with your family and stop to marvel at the amazing things that God has created – from the tiny little insects, to the beautiful flowers, the majestic trees and the vast expanse of the sky.

Some favourite places to walk—up in the hills, as Jesus did on the day He fed 5000 people; Old Pale, Mow Cop, The Cloud, Shutlingsloe, Moel Famau, Cadar Idris, Snowdon and Catbells.



**Challenge:** Take a photograph of your family on your walk and send it to us with a note of where you went.

## Saturday 29th August

When Jesus was with His friends, they often asked Him questions – like “where will we get enough bread to feed everyone”? But sometimes their questions were bigger than this, like why did He keep saying He would have to die, where was He going and how could they come with Him?

If Jesus was stood in front of you now, what questions would you want to ask Him?

Open up the bottle of bubbles in your box and as you ask your question, blow a bubble and imagine it carrying your question to Jesus.

Then wait for Jesus to answer you—because He promises He will—even if you have to be patient as you wait. It’s wonderful that even though we can’t see Jesus now, we can always hear his words in the Bible.



“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.”

2 Peter 3:8-9

Sunday 30th August

Join us online from 10am to listen to a children's talk, song and craft activity based on the following Bible passage.

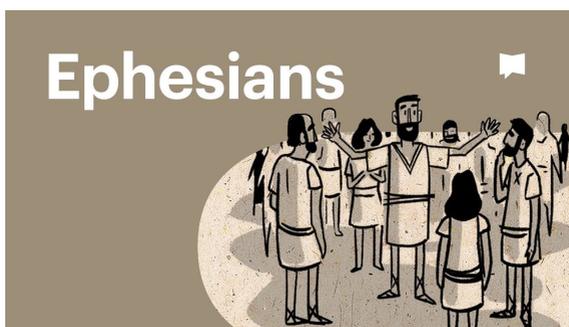
Ephesians chapter 5 verses 21-33

The talks will be available on

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If you want to read this passage and don't have a Bible, please let us know and we can give you one, or have a look online at

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**Challenge:** listen to this song and see if you can memorise the verse. This is a Challenge that we as a church have all been set as we've been reading the book of Ephesians together.

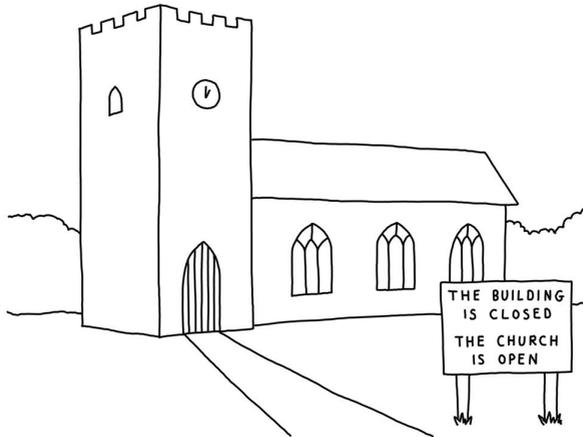
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ku99SX\\_sX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ku99SX_sX8)

Monday 31st August

This is the last day of our Family Box of Fun....  
but we hope that the fun doesn't stop here!

The Bible tells us that an important part of being a Christian is joining together to worship as part of God's family. We normally do this in our church building and we hope to be back open again very soon, when we would love to welcome you and your family.

In the meantime, get to know our church better with the treasure hunt that is in your box.



CartoonChurch.com

**“In Christ, you, too, are being built together .... You are being built into a place where God lives through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:22**



Teresa Nixon

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01606 872255

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