



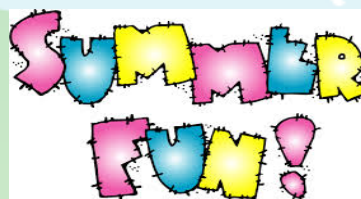
www.waltonparish.org.uk



learning and growing
as a Christian family

Summer Holiday Family Planner

This summer why not try out our family organiser? It has a week to view, with spaces for 4 family members to keep track of what you are all up to. There is a story to explore each week: look it up in your bible, discuss the questions, try out a prayer activity and other creative ideas together. There is also a puzzle each week and sometimes a challenge. You will need a few items some weeks so check out the 'shopping list' on some of the pages in advance.



It would be great if you could take some photos and send them in to mandy@waltonparish.org.uk or to the Parish Facebook page.

Have a wonderful summer!



Family planner - what are you doing this week?

Name				
Sunday 23rd July				
Monday 24th July				
Tuesday 25th July				
Wednesday 26th July				
Thursday 27th July				
Friday 28th July				
Saturday 29th July				



Prayer activity

Pull up some weeds in the garden. As you do, talk to God about the things that worry you, that 'choke' your faith, like the weeds choke the plants and stop them growing.

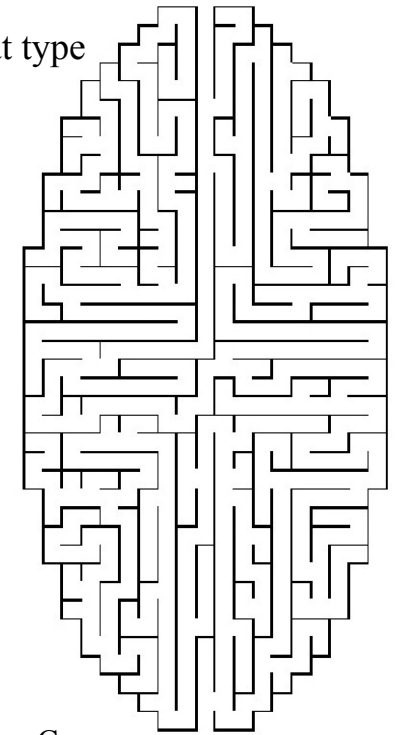
**Shopping list:
Forget-me-not seeds**

**Read the story:
The sower and the seed
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23**



Questions:

In the story we are the soil. What type of 'soil' are you? How do you prepare 'good soil'? How do you produce a 'good crop'?

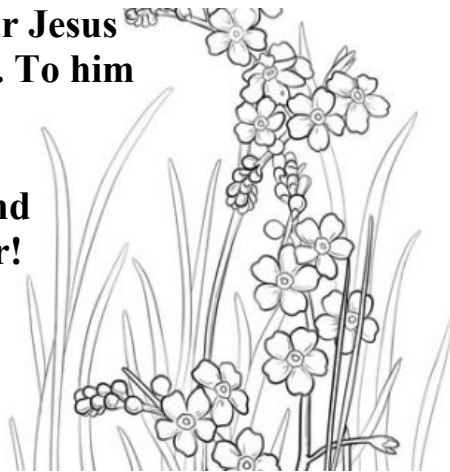


Can you help the seed get to the sun?



2 Peter 3:18

But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen.



Creative / gardening activity:

1st: make a picture / frame to help you remember to grow in faith. We need to remember God in our everyday life if our faith is to grow and for us to produce a good crop. Cut out the picture (left), colour and decorate (the forget-me-not flowers are blue) and stick onto a larger piece of card to give a border. Decorate as you like!

2nd: buy and plant some forget-me-not seeds. If you sow the seeds in July / August and tend them, they should flower next year. Our faith, like these seeds, need looking after in order to grow.

Would you rather?
work in the fields with Ruth or fish with James and John?
(look them up in the Bible:
Ruth 2: 1-23 / Luke 5: 1-11)



Family planner - what are you doing this week?

Name				
Sunday 30th July				
Monday 31st July				
Tuesday 1st August				
Wednesday 2nd August				
Thursday 3rd August				
Friday 4th August				
Saturday 5th August				

Read the story:
The mustard seed and
the yeast
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Shopping list:
yeast
sugar
balloons
bread

Would you rather?
be in the crowd listening to Jesus
or share the Last Supper with him?

Questions:
Do you ever feel you have a small amount of faith? God can use even the tiniest amount. How can you help your faith to grow?

Challenge:
How many words can you make out of the words 'mustard' and 'seed'?

Science Activity

You will need: A packet of yeast, a small, clean, clear, plastic drink bottle (500 ml or smaller), 1 teaspoon of sugar, some warm water, a small balloon.

What to do:

1. Fill the bottle up with about 3 cm of warm water. (When yeast is cold or dry the micro organisms are resting.)
2. Add all of the yeast packet and gently swirl the bottle a few seconds. (As the yeast dissolves, it becomes active – it comes to life! Don't bother looking for movement, yeast is a microscopic fungus organism.)
3. Add the sugar and swirl it around some more. Like people, yeast needs energy (food) to be active, so we will give it sugar. Now the yeast is "eating!"
4. Blow up the balloon a few times to stretch it out then place the neck of the balloon over the neck of the bottle.
5. Let the bottle sit in a warm place for about 20 minutes. If all goes well the balloon will begin to inflate!



The Mustard-Seed

Help the bird get to the top of the tree.



Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, but when a man planted that seed in the ground it grew into a great tree. That mustard tree made a safe place for all the birds to come, rest and build nests. Let Jesus plant a seed of love in your heart which can grow and touch others.

Prayer activity:
Make some bread or buy a different type of bread. Maybe add some seeds.

Think about how bread is made and how the yeast grows. A small amount of yeast changes the whole batch.

As you eat the bread ask God to help your faith to grow.



Prayer activity:

Here's a fun way to thank God for your food each time you eat this week. Stand up for the words about God ('God' and 'you') and sit down for the words about us ('we' and 'us'). Dear God, we thank you for all the things you give us, especially this food. Amen

Family planner - what are you doing this week?

Name				
Sunday 6th August				
Monday 7th August				
Tuesday 8th August				
Wednesday 9th August				
Thursday 10th August				
Friday 11th August				
Saturday 12th August				



It's time to eat.

Jesus feeds everyone.



Read the story:
The feeding of the 5,000
Matthew 14: 13-21

Questions:
The boy was willing to share what he had so Jesus could perform this miracle. What could you share with Jesus to make a difference to other people? What miracle would you have liked to see Jesus do?

Shopping list:
1 item per Person for the foodbank

Would you rather?
have dinner with Noah on the ark or breakfast with Jesus on the beach?

Activity:
Many people in our world go hungry every day. As a family could you gather at least 1 item per person for the foodbank to help people in need?

Could you invite a neighbour to join you for a meal? Or bake them a cake or some biscuits to share with them?



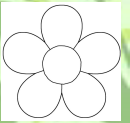
Can you find all the items hidden in the picture?

Read the story:
Jesus walks on water
Matthew 14: 22-33

Activity:
 Fill a bowl with water and each family member should gather some items.
 e.g. cork, feather, lego brick, stone, ball, toy car
 Take turns to guess whether they will float or sink! Then test it out to see if you were right.



Prayer activity: Floating prayers
 You will need: thin paper, coloured pencils, scissors, bowl of water
 Cut out flower shapes with some petals.
 Write your prayer / topic onto the middle of the shape. Colour in the petals.
 Fold your petals into the middle, crease well.
 Place carefully onto the water and watch as the petals unfold, opening up your prayer to God.



Questions:
 Put yourself into the story.
 What was it like inside the boat with the disciples?
 How did you feel when you saw Jesus walking on the water?
 If Jesus called you out of the boat to walk on the water, would you have?
 Coming back to your life, what distracts you from keeping your eyes on Jesus?



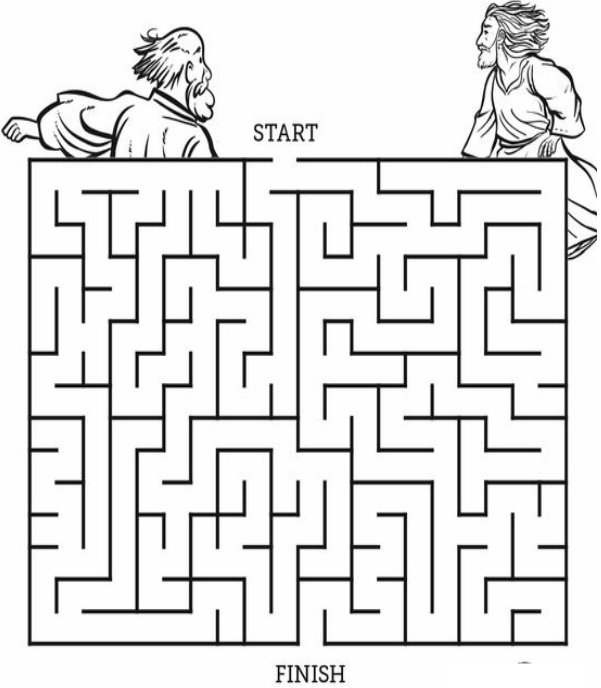
Challenge:
 Have a staring competition or how long can you not blink for? Can you keep your eyes fixed onto something or will you be distracted? Who is the best focussed in your family? What or who is the most distracting?



Family planner - what are you doing this week?

Name				
Sunday 13th August				
Monday 14th August				
Tuesday 15th August				
Wednesday 16th August				
Thursday 17th August				
Friday 18th August				
Saturday 19th August				

Lead Peter across the water to Jesus.



Would you rather?
 have seen the Red Sea being parted
 or Jesus walking on water?

Read the story:
The Narrow door
Matthew 19: 16-30

Questions:

Imagine your camel was real! How big would your needle need to be? What do we value and is it more valuable to us than God? What might we be asked to give up for God? What is impossible for God to do? (answer in verse 26)

Family planner - what are you doing this week?

Name				
Sunday 20th August				
Monday 21st August				
Tuesday 22nd August				
Wednesday 23rd August				
Thursday 24th August				
Friday 25th August				
Saturday 26th August				



Jesus is the door to enter heaven.
 Here are some knock knock jokes about entering and doors!

Knock, Knock. (Who's there?) Ben. (Ben who?)
 Ben knocking for ten minutes. Please let me in.

Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Doris. (Doris who?)
 Doris locked, that's why I'm knocking.

Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Adore. (Adore who?)
 Adore is between us, please open up!

Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Lettuce. (Lettuce who?)
 Lettuce in, it's cold out here!

Activity:

Can you lick your elbow?
 What other impossible things can you think of?
 Challenge your family to try them together.



Would you rather?
 be rich and have a short life or
 be poor and have a long life?

Colour by numbers.

1. Brown 2. Blue 3. Yellow
 4. Orange 5. Grey

Prayer activity:

Find a stone.
Make a cross out of two twigs and some wool / string.
Think about the riches, burdens, worries you carry around.
The things that come between you and God. Place the stone by the cross. Give him those things and then ask God to come into your life, to help and to guide you.



Activity:

Could you have a look at all your things and see if you are keeping anything which you no longer need but someone else could benefit from?

As a family, discuss the difference between 'need' and 'want'. If there is anything you are holding onto but no longer need - would it bless someone else? Maybe you could donate it to a charity shop?

Or, is there someone you know who needs some help? We can store up treasure in heaven by showing God's love to people. Do you have a gift / skill which you could use to bless someone you know?

Read the story:
The Rich farmer
Luke 12:16-21

Questions:

- What are our favourite possessions?
- Why are we tempted to build bigger barns?
- Why shouldn't we build up stores on earth?
- How do we build up riches in heaven?

Prayer activity:

Make a blessing jar. Find an empty jar (clear if possible so you can see the jar getting filled). Cut up some strips of paper. On each one write something which is a blessing to you or your family.

A blessing is something from God, something or someone that brings joy or encouragement to your day. Continue adding to your jar until the end of the year. As you approach New Year's Eve, find a time as a family to sit together and read through your blessings. Remember to thank God for all the blessings you receive each day and throughout the year.



Would you rather?
 have £1,000 to spend on yourself
 or £10,000 to spend on other people?

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."
 Luke 12:15 (NLT)

Based on Luke 12:13-21

Can you find all the words from the box in this word search?



C T G O O D T G R O U N D Z A
 O Y Y Z R D R I N K I Z Z P L
 T D N A G H I W U X A E O R I
 W O U T A F I E L Y G P I L F
 W G G N T M Y S J D I R S E E
 F F R E E A T E U S V N D A Y
 V F I K U K L J B S R I D E S
 Q O C M E R R Y D A V E I G T
 V O H S Z D T W B I E S N Z Q
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 L K T T J N X C E B R S Q V W

JUDGE	CROWD	THINGS	BARN	GUARD
STORE	EAT	BIGGER	LIFE	GREED
RICH	FOOL	DIVIDE	GROUND	DRINK
GOOD	CROP	WATCH	GRAIN	MERRY

Family planner - what are you doing this week?

Name				
Sunday 27th August				
Monday 28th August				
Tuesday 29th August				
Wednesday 30th August				
Thursday 31st August				
Friday 1st September				
Saturday 2nd September				