



Week 1: Rainbow Challenge (w.b. 23rd March 2020)



Lots of people are painting rainbows and putting them in their windows so when children go for a walk or look out at the other windows in the street they can see them. Rainbows are a symbol of hope and covenant in the Bible:

¹² And God said, "I am making an agreement between me and you and every living creature that is with you. It will continue from now on. This is the sign: ¹³ I am putting my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of the agreement between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth, a rainbow appears in the clouds. ¹⁵ Then I will remember my agreement. It is between me and you and every living thing. [Genesis 9:12-15]

Draw/paint a rainbow and stick it in your front window. Spend some time talking about promises. What promises can you make to each other at this time? How can you encourage hopefulness? Draw some smaller rainbows and write your hopes on them.

Week 2: Crosses (w.b. 30th March 2020)



Begin by talking about crosses you have seen in the world you live in. For example:

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- In maths to mean 'add'
- A kiss on a birthday card
- On a poster for an event that is sadly cancelled
- A crossroads sign on the road
- A vote indicated on a ballot paper
- X marks the spot on a treasure map

Talk about the cross being an important symbol for Christians. Why is it such an important symbol? Use the images at: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/resources/the-resource-centre/world-crosses> to look at different crosses from around the world. Can you create your own family cross? What would you put on it? What is special about your family? What are you grateful for?

Week 3: Eggs (w.b. 6th April 2020)



Eggs are an important Christian tradition in the celebrating of Easter. The egg represents new life and the miracle of the Resurrection. Use the websites below to read about Christian egg traditions:

<https://buildfaith.org/why-eggs-on-easter/>

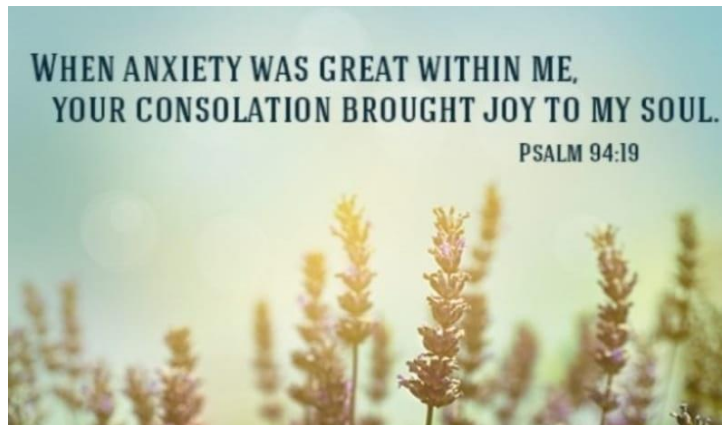
<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/kids/bring-christian-history-alive-through-easter-egg-traditions.html>

Can you create your own eggs using natural dyes? Alternatively, make paper eggs and decorate those. You can write your own 'egg prayers', giving thanks for life in all



its many forms and expressing gratitude for the life we do have even during these difficult times.

Week 4: Joy (w.b. 13th April 2020)



Read Psalm 94:19 together. What are your worries/anxieties? If you have the time and resources, cut out a heart for everyone in the family and write your worries on to them in pencil. Now talk about how God is with us, especially in these hard and difficult times. Knowing we are not alone and God cares for us so much brings us joy. Talk about the things that bring you joy right now. If you can, use coloured pencils or felt tip pens to write/draw these things so that they cover up the anxieties and worries written in pencil.

Week 5: Earth Day (w.b. 20th April 2020)



Wednesday 22nd April 2020 is Earth Day. You can read more about it here: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/> This is a good opportunity for you to re-read the Creation story in Genesis together. What is your favourite day of creation?



If you want to make this exciting, you could set this up like a treasure hunt so the children have to hunt for the next day. Finish by drawing the days of creation. If you have a big roll of paper you can use that.

Even though we are inside a lot more than normal and the Earth is being given some time to recover due to less pollution as cities have been in lock down, there are still things we can do to help. Talk about climate change. What can your family continue to do to help with healing the Earth?

Week 6: Europe (w.b. 27th April 2020)



All the countries in Europe have been struggling with the impact of Coronavirus. We hear similar stories from each nation and we know how other people are feeling because we feel it too. Use a map (real or online) or a globe to find the UK and then Europe. Which countries are in Europe?

Read 1 Timothy 2: 1-2: *First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to him. ²You should pray for kings and for all who have authority. Pray for the leaders so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives—lives full of worship and respect for God.* [International Children's Bible]

Choose a country to pray for. If you want to, you can do some finding out about each country before you do your prayers. Remember to pray for the leaders of those countries, who are making very difficult decisions every day. Stick your prayers on the map if you have one.

Week 7: VE Day (w.b. 4th May 2020)

Friday 8th May is a Bank Holiday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Victory in Europe day was the beginning of peace and the end of



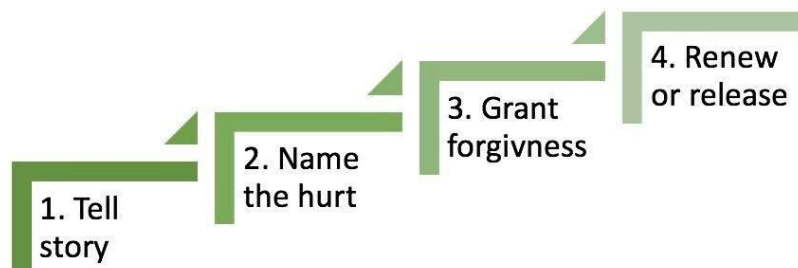
conflict. It is important that we celebrate peace at this time and be thankful that we are all facing a global threat together. Talk about how, through Jesus, we can overcome hard things. Read John 16: 33: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

If you are having trouble keeping the peace in your family, try using Archbishop Desmond Tutu's 4-Fold Path of Forgiveness when there are conflicts:

1. Tell the story (both people say what they perceive happened)
2. Name the hurt (both people share their hurt/harm because of what happened)
3. Grant forgiveness (choosing to forgive, not the same as just forgetting/pretending it didn't happen)
4. Renew or release the relationship (straight back to being friends or perhaps a 'cooling off period'/releasing the person to continue without the same closeness for a while)

Part of Step 3 is 'making it right'- making amends for the hurt/harm caused that was named in step 2. This can be done in different ways appropriate to the situation.

Forgiveness Cycle Fourfold Path





Week 8: Christian Aid Week (w.b. 11th May 2020)



May 10th-16th is Christian Aid Week. You can read about it as a family here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> and there is specific guidance on celebrating this during the Coronavirus Pandemic which will be shared here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid-week/coronavirus-guidance> You will still be able to donate online and you can order prayer booklets, posters, etc here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/resources> Now is a good time to talk about caring for your neighbours and showing them the love of Jesus. What can you do to bring a smile, meet a need, offer hope this week? Make a family list and try to do one each day.

Week 9: Local and Community History Month (w.b. 18th May 2020)



May is Local and Community History Month. You can read about it here: <https://www.history.org.uk/ha-news/categories/455/news/3563/may-is-local-and-community-history-month> This is a good opportunity to think about your local area.

Make a map of your area. Are there businesses that need prayer? What about schools and the teachers and other staff working there? Is there a GP surgery and a doctor that needs your prayers today? Write prayers on post-its if you have them and stick them onto your local map.



Week 10: Pentecost (w.b. 25th May 2020)



Pentecost this year will be celebrated on Sunday 31st May. Read the Biblical account of Pentecost together. How would it have felt to be in the upper room scared and thinking the whole world had gone wrong because Jesus was dead? We can likely better imagine that right now than at any other time in our lives. What happened when the Holy Spirit came? How did it change people? Look at images of Pentecost using Google and use art materials to create your own Pentecost pictures.

The symbol of the Holy Spirit is fire. Light a candle each and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you during these challenging times.