

# GOING BACK TO CHURCH in a building!

This belongs to the

NAME:  
- . - . - . - . - .

family

# Notes for parents

## Some ideas to help you use these pages

So we're going back to church in a building! Maybe you're back already, maybe you're still getting ready to go back. But whatever your situation, going back to church like this is something new, and it's hard sometimes to work out how we feel about it - and how to coach our kids to go back well.

Recently, we hosted a Facebook Live on our Parenting for Faith Facebook page called 'How to help your kids love church again' and we thought we'd do a follow on pack which people might find useful. If you haven't listened in already, a great starting point might be to take a look at the Facebook Live before exploring this pack. There are three episodes: one for parents and carers of 0s to 5s, one for parents and carers of primary ages and one for parents and carers of preteens and teens. You can see them on our website here: [parentingforfaith.org/post/love-church-again](https://parentingforfaith.org/post/love-church-again).

These pages are for you to use with your family as you transition back to church. There's no right or wrong way to use them - they may just give you some ideas to try or questions to ask, and a place to record how your family is feeling and what you do.

We've included a sheet of conversation starters to get your family talking. You can do them during a meal, throw them in the car for a journey, put them in a jar when conversation gets stuck - whatever works for you. They are for the whole family to answer and when you answer, you show your child that it's okay to have a variety of feelings and thoughts, and to help them feel free to share theirs. There are also some sheets designed for families to work through side by side, thinking about why God designed and loves church, what it's for and how everybody has a place and a role in it, based on the five biblical values of church we love at Parenting for Faith (you can find out more about these in [session 8](#) of our free Parenting for Faith course). And then right at the end, there's a page to record your family's journey as you 'go back'.

Our hope and prayer is that this pack is a springboard to help you transition well back into the church, and that you and your children gain insight into the beauty and purpose of this great family we are part of.

With love from the Parenting for Faith team.

# Conversation starters

If you can remember that far back, what did you like about church the way it used to be before the pandemic?

Singing is often part of church. At home what did we do when it was the singing part?  
When we go to in person church, what do you want to do when it's the singing part?

What's your biggest worry about going back to church in person?

What is the one thing you are excited about going back to church in person with other people again?

What are three reasons that you think people gather together in one building for church? Why is it so important to them?

When something new comes along do you like to (a) be the first one to try it (b) watch a few people first and then go, or (c) wait until you are absolutely sure it is safe and comfortable, and then try it a little bit.

What's something we can do at in person church that we couldn't do at home?

Why did God invent church? What was so important about it to him?

Who encouraged you during lockdown? Who might need encouraging when you go back to church?

How would you describe what happens at church to someone who's never been to one?

Do you like when things change? Why or why not?

Do you think church should be the same as before or should it change? What bits should change?

What's the most exciting or interesting job at church?

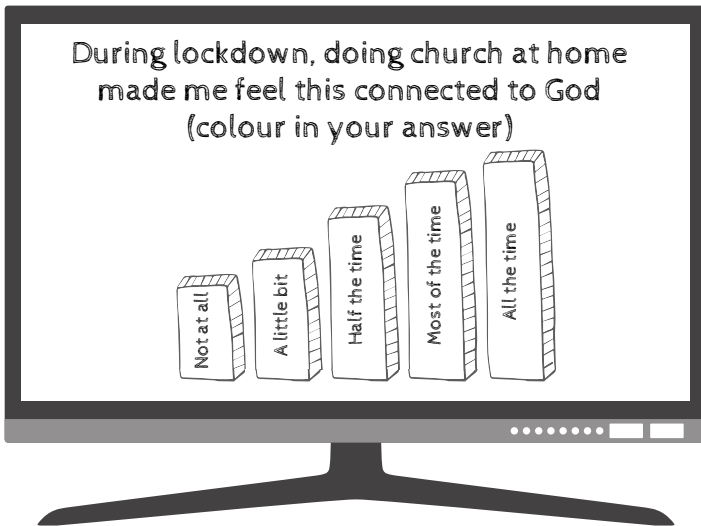
What's something we can do at in person church that we couldn't do at home?

What difference did churches make during lockdown?  
How can they keep doing that now?

# Church is for ... coming close to God together

Acts 2 and Hebrews 10:19-24

Because God loves us, he wants us to feel connected to him, so we can know his love, his wisdom and his guidance. When we are together as God's people in church there are many things that help us connect with him differently to when we connect with him at home.



I connected to God at online church when

👍

CONNECTING TO GOD BEFORE

I didn't connect to God at online church when

👎

When we go back to church I don't want to lose this way of connecting with God ...

Church in person will help me connect with God when ...

We can connect to God in lots of different ways. Circle ways you like to connect to God at church online or in person and add any we haven't got.

- chatting and catching
- dancing
- hanging out with God
- being peaceful
- being with other people who love God
- singing
- talking about God
- being outside
- reading the Bible



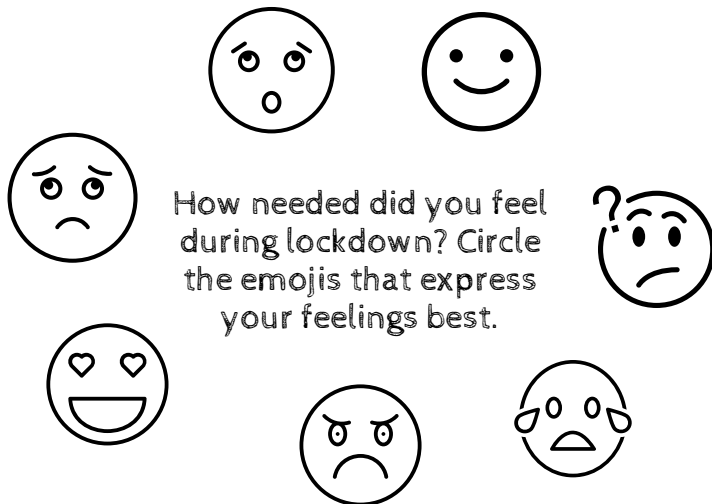
Next week, I want to try ...



# Church is for ... being the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

God has designed the church so that everyone has their own part to play, no matter how young or how old. Each one of us is valuable, unique and useful and needed by our church as it pursues the purposes God has for it and for our community.

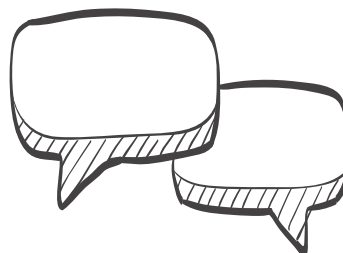


How needed did you feel during lockdown? Circle the emojis that express your feelings best.

There are so many ways we can play our part in church! Circle the ones you have seen at your church, and add any we've missed!

- Making time to listen
- Encouraging people
- Helping others worship
- Praying for people
- Listening to God for others
- Explaining the Bible
- Setting out or clearing up
- Organising things
- Being welcoming
- Looking after someone

- Would you rather ...
- Be in the worship band or welcome people?
  - Be on the tech team or the prayer team?
  - Teach from the Bible or set up the room?
  - Listen to someone's worries or run an errand for them?
  - Keep the church's social media updated or serve on the kids team?
  - Make the drinks for after the service or help the church pray?
  - Be a leader or a helper?
  - Why not make up your own questions?



As we go back to church, God needs us to play our part - and that might not be the same as it was before. Chat and catch with God and ask him what jobs he has for you and your family.



Who might need you at church?



Next week, I want to try ...

# Church is for ... spurring each other on

Hebrews 10:19-25

Church exists to enable Christians to challenge and sharpen each other; to wrestle with scripture together and share tough questions, and to encourage and equip each other to live a life that honours God and his purposes for us.

What did you miss?

During lockdown, what did you miss about church? What are you looking forward to when you go back?

What are you looking forward to?



During lockdown, did you have any big questions about God? What were they? Who helped you answer them?

What questions do you have now? Who can help you answer them?

How do people learn about the Bible at your church? What helps them answer big questions about God? Does it help you? Colour in the traffic lights for each idea - red for no, amber for maybe and green for yes.



Watching videos



Chatting to others



Sermons



Small groups



Kids groups



Talking to wise people



Doing courses



Reading books



Next week, I want to try...

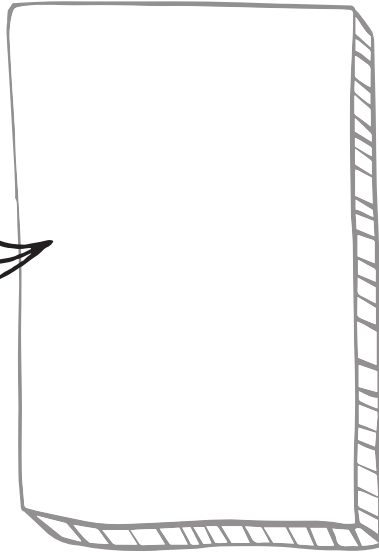


# Church is for ... being transformed by the Spirit

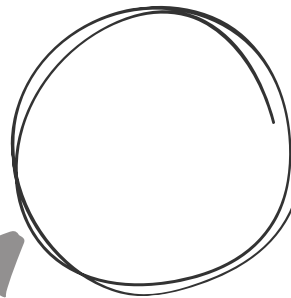
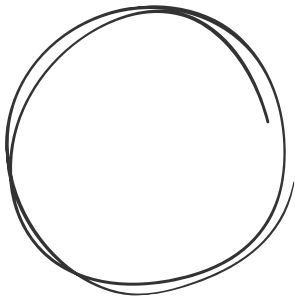
Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 12

God wants to keep on changing us so we become more and more like Jesus. Church helps us do that so we can join in with God's work in the world.

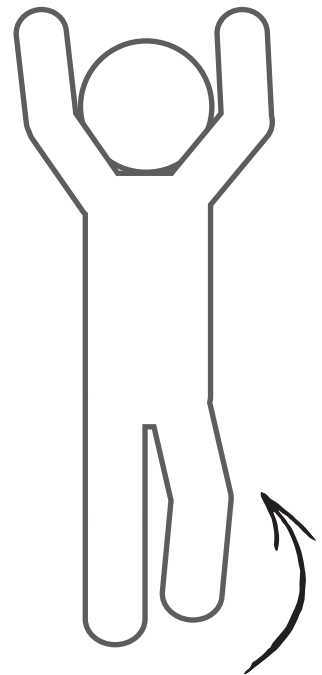
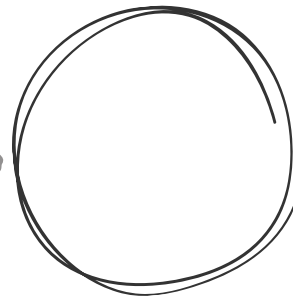
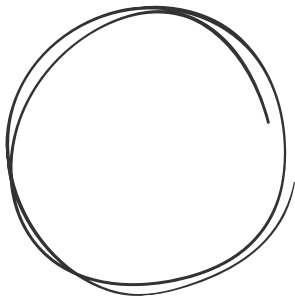
What did God grow in you during lockdown?  
What did he grow in your family?



If you had £50,000 to use to help your community, what would you do?



Where is your church transforming the world?  
Tick the one you'd most like to join in with.



Who in the Bible did God change?  
What did he do?  
Does he help you change like that?



Next week, I want to try ...

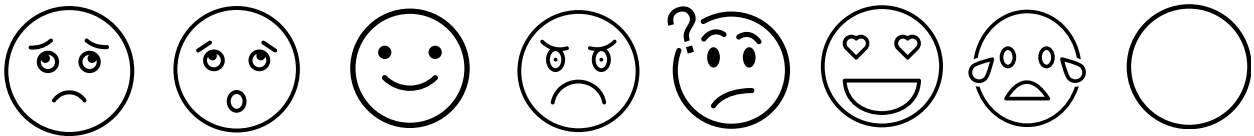


# Our progress

We're all on a journey of going back to church, and it might take time before we feel comfortable or at home in church again. This is just a page for your family to use in the first few weeks to help you process your journey back.

## Week 1

Circle the one that is most like how you felt about church today - or add your own emoji



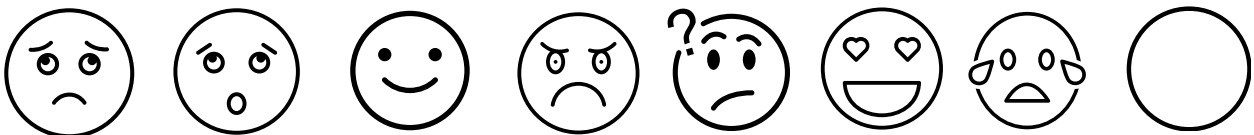
Good things:

Bad things:

Things to try:

## Week 2

Circle the one that is most like how you felt about church today - or add your own emoji



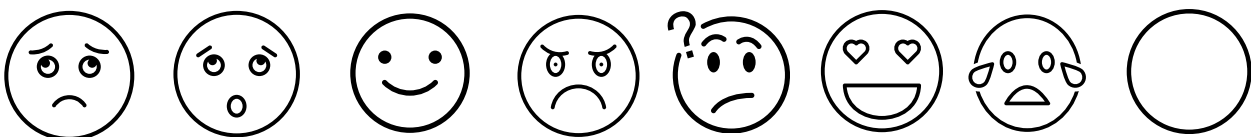
Good things:

Bad things:

Things to try:

## Week 3

Circle the one that is most like how you felt about church today - or add your own emoji



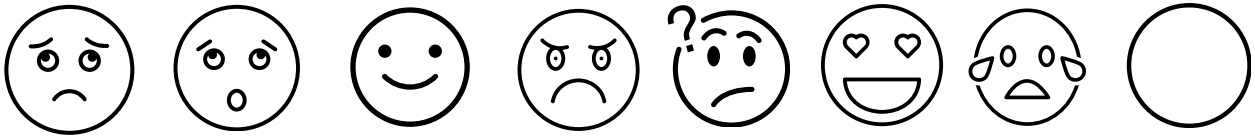
Good things:

Bad things:

Things to try:

#### Week 4

Circle the one that is most like how you felt about church today - or add your own emoji



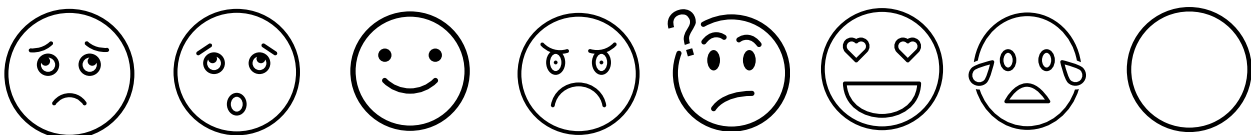
Good things:

Bad things:

Things to try:

#### Week 5

Circle the one that is most like how you felt about church today - or add your own emoji



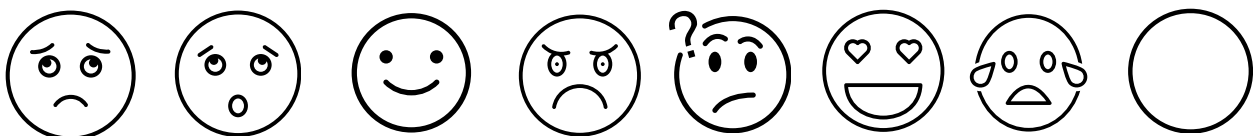
Good things:

Bad things:

Things to try:

#### Week 6

Circle the one that is most like how you felt about church today - or add your own emoji



Good things:

Bad things:

Things to try: