**All part of the big family of God! (Ephesians 5-6)**

This week at church we are thinking about what it means to be part of God’s family, and the example Jesus gives us of how to look after each other and show the world what he is like.

Family tree:

The Bible talks about us as God’s family, and says that the church is like Jesus’ “body”, all connected to him and to each other.

Have a go at drawing part of God’s church family tree... put Jesus at the top, then write his disciples’ names underneath (check who they are in Matthew 10:2), then add the names and pictures of people in your family and our churches.

Think about how many names would be in the family tree if we included everyone who has ever followed Jesus - there are currently over 2 billion Christians in the world!

Living generously:

This part of the Bible talks about “submitting” to each other - thinking about them before we think about ourselves, and being happy to put them first. It reminds us that Jesus “gave himself up for us” (Ephesians 5:25), and helps us follow his example.

Why not come up with some “lockdown gift vouchers” for the people in your family? Make them some little cards promising them something that you know will help them out and make a difference to them - you could give a voucher to make them a nice cup of tea, to tidy up someone else’s toys, to wash the car, water the plants, wash up after dinner... or whatever would help out someone in your family.

Family foot-wash:

In Jesus’ time, people’s feet got very dirty in their sandals, walking around on dusty, unpaved roads. The job of washing visitors’ feet was for the least important servants to do. When Jesus chose to wash his friends’ feet (see John 13) he showed them that he was serious about serving them, and would do anything for them. He told them to follow his example in the way they treated each other.

Get a bowl of warm, soapy water, and sit down together (you might want to do this outside!).

Take turns to wash each other’s feet. Whose are the cheesiest?

You could say a simple prayer together: “Thank you Jesus for being generous to us. Please help us to be generous and look after each other in our family”.

Others in front:

Play a game to remind you about putting other people first, like Jesus. Why not try a “slow bicycle race”, where the aim is to finish last? Or a slow walking race?

Or you could find a card game where the aim is to lose all of your cards.

As you play, talk about the way that Jesus gave up everything for us by dying on the cross, so that we could have life forever and be close to God always. What looked like “losing” was actually “winning”.