

5a

### Read John 11:1–16

How would you describe Mary and Martha's relationship with Jesus?  
How would they have sent word?  
Do you think Jesus used this as a test?

### CHALLENGE

Research how far Jesus needed to travel to reach Lazarus. (You could use Googlemaps!)  
Where could you get to if you travelled this distance from your home?

5b

### Read John 11:17–43

Look at what each sister says to Jesus. Which do you think is most appropriate?  
What questions do you have?

### CHALLENGE

Make a timeline of the events of this story.  
Use emoticons to show how different people are feeling at different times.

This resource goes well with the **Longing** edition of the **Faith at home** mini-mag from GodVenture, which comes with a postcard, stickers and craft paper!

You can get individual copies for £4 or get a pack of 10 to share at:

[www.GodVenture.co.uk](http://www.GodVenture.co.uk)



# Explore Longing in the Bible

## An intergenerational resource

Read or listen to these stories of people in the Bible who must have experienced longing. Use the questions with your family or church community.

Each story is in two parts, giving an opportunity to explore how long God's people waited.

This resource works well with the creative activities in the **Longing** edition of **Faith at home**



1a

### Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13

What did you notice in this story?  
Imagine you are David's brothers.  
How do you feel?  
How about if you were Jesse?

### CHALLENGE

Find a way to retell this story in your own words.  
You might like to use play people or puppets.

1b

### Read 2 Samuel 2:1–7

Which part of this story do you think is most important?  
What was special about Hebron?  
Find a clue in Genesis 13:18.

### CHALLENGE

Use the stories between reading 1a and 1b to estimate how long David waited to become king.

2a

### Read Genesis 12:1–9

Which part of God's promise to Abraham do you like best and why?  
What might it mean to 'call on the name of the Lord' (v.8)?

#### CHALLENGE

Use a Bible Atlas (or search engine) to locate all the places mentioned in this passage. Do you find anything interesting?

2b

### Read Genesis 21:1–7

What is special in these verses?  
What isn't mentioned in these verses?  
Can you work out how long Abraham waited to have a son with Sarah?

#### CHALLENGE

Make a list of the emotions Abraham may have felt during the time he was waiting and longing for his son with Sarah.

3a

### Read 1 Samuel 1:1–14

How do the other people in the story relate to Hannah?  
How would you describe Hannah?

#### CHALLENGE

Make a plan to be kind to someone who finds it hard to join in because they are hurting in some way.

3b

### Read 1 Samuel 1:15–28

What jumped out at you in this story?  
How might Hannah's experience have affected Samuel's faith?

#### CHALLENGE

Make a diagram linking Hannah with Jesus!

4a

### Read Genesis 37:1–10

Did you notice anything new when you read/listened to this story?  
What sort of a man is Joseph?  
Why did God send Joseph dreams?

#### CHALLENGE

Do a quick recap of the story of Joseph from this point until he is 'Pharaoh's number two'. (You could use songs!)

4b

### Read Genesis 41:41–57

How do you imagine Joseph's experience in Egypt would have been?  
Are there clues as to how long Joseph waited for his dreams to come true?

#### CHALLENGE

Find one of the movies of this story and watch it. Share at least three questions it brings up for you!