



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 29/3/2020**

**Welcome** to Junior Church! we pray the following helps you to worship as a family at home, on a regular basis.

These sessions will follow a similar pattern to that the children experience on a Sunday morning. Maybe different members of the family can lead your service? (All words in bold, we encourage you to say together).

### **Jesus Blesses the Children 29/3/2020**

**Luke 18.15-17 & Mark 10.13-16** This is a story about Jesus demonstrating his great love for children by blessing them and telling his disciples to let them come to him. This story can help us see Jesus' love for us all. When the disciples try to stop people bringing children to Jesus, he says that the kingdom of God involves childlike acceptance.

### **An active way to begin your session.**

Display two paper hearts: (**Templates below**) one intact and one torn in half. Invite the children to look at and think about both images. If appropriate, ask everyone to share a time when they have felt loved, and a time when they have felt very sad.

Or sit in a circle and challenge each person to walk across to someone else and tell them, without laughing, that they love them. Can they manage it? Now ask them to approach the same person and say what it is about them that they love, e.g. smiling face, kindness to others. Giving such encouragement is like blessing one another.

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Jesus said,  
'Let the children come to me.'  
So we come, Lord,  
with our hopes and fears,  
with our joy and sadness,  
to pray and play,  
to listen and sing.  
**Amen.**

The lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Lord you want us to be with you,  
**Thank you for inviting us**

Lord you chose each one of us to be your friend,  
**Thank you for inviting us**

Lord we love being with you  
**Thank you for inviting us**  
**Amen**

## **WE SAY SORRY TO GOD (can you remember the actions?)**

**We're happy when we're close to God, since that's where we belong, (hug yourself)**

**But sometimes we go far from God and everything feels wrong. (turn away and hands by your sides)**

**But if we say we're sorry then, God's love is sure and strong, And he will draw us back to him and that's where we belong.**

**(turn back around and hug yourself again).**

Dear God, we want to follow you  
When we let you down,  
**Forgive us and fill us with your love.**

When we are selfish,  
**Forgive us and fill us with your love.**  
When we are greedy,  
**Forgive us and fill us with your love.**  
When we want to do things our way instead of yours,  
**Forgive us and fill us with your love.**  
Dear God, we want to follow you,  
**Forgive us and fill us with your love.**

### **WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in His image. To the praise and glory of His name. Amen

### **SONG *My God is so Big***

My God is so big so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he can not do! Repeat  
The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handywork too!  
My God is so big so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he can not do! For me, and you and you.

### **STORY (for pebbles and Rocks age children)**

Mark 10.2-16 - Jesus says that to enter the kingdom of God, we must become like children.

#### **Boo and cheer**

Identify 'baddies' and 'goodies' from the following: Jesus, disciples, Pharisees, children. Tell the story and invite the children to cheer for the goodies and boo for the baddies. When the disciples stop the children coming to Jesus, ask them if they want to reconsider. Things are not always 'black and white' - life can be complicated.



One day, Jesus and his disciples were on a journey. But wherever they went, people seemed to follow them, crowding around to hear Jesus talk. There were some Pharisees in the crowd that day. They wanted to test Jesus, so they asked lots of difficult questions.

In the crowd, there were also lots of small children. People were bringing them to Jesus and asking him to bless them. The disciples were not happy - they thought it was a waste of Jesus' time. They tried to stop the people bringing the children. This made Jesus really cross. 'No, don't push these children away! Let them come to me,' he said. 'You must not keep them away. These children are at the centre of God's kingdom. You need to be more like them; to have complete faith and trust in me, just as they do.' Then Jesus gathered the children up in his arms and he blessed them.

### Glossary

**Pharisees** a group who kept the Jewish Law very strictly. Most of them felt that Jesus was not strict enough;

**to be blessed** to receive and be assured of God's favour.

Give everyone a heart template (*below*) to cut out and to write on the names of family and/or friends, who need to feel God's love at the moment. The heart represents God's **big** love.



What is your favourite image of love?

Love is a word. What does it mean in practice?

When is it hard to love?

### **For older children - Read Mark 10.2-16**

The difficult questions the Pharisees asked Jesus was about divorce, is this something you have experienced in your family or have you ever fallen out with your close friends?

Talk about different types of relationship difficulties. Write examples on small pieces of paper and lay them in the centre of the group. One by one, lift each paper up as a prayer of intercession. Invite suggestions for how healing might happen, then pray for each situation using the words:

Loving God,  
bless all those affected  
with your healing love.  
**Amen.**

### **SONG Jesus love is very wonderful**

Jesus' love is very wonderful, Jesus' love is very wonderful,  
Jesus' love is very wonderful, Oh, wonderful love!  
It's so high you can't get over it, So low you can't get under it,  
So wide you can't get round it, Oh, wonderful love!

### **PRAYERS**

I am.....(*each person names themselves*)

God loves me!

We are known

We are loved.

We are children of God

**Amen.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever, **Amen.**

## **JUNIOR CHURCH PRAYER**

Thank you for each other.

Thank you that we can learn together, play, laugh and pray together. Bless us Lord, as we remember how much you love us.

Amen

## **LIVE YOUR FAITH**

Encourage the young people to put their faith into action.

Reflect at the end of each day by mentally listing all the difficulties and setbacks. Then go through the day again, physically listing all the blessings. Count all your blessings at the end of the week.

