



Sand, 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.

This week, please note that the resources for Pebbles and Rocks are separate.

These sessions will follow a similar pattern to that you 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.

GATHERING ACTIVITY

A quiet way to begin your session.

Help children imagine Jesus holding them in his arms. This will help them see God in a very personal way. Most children will readily love those who show love to them. Help them see Jesus' great love for them. Get a favourite Teddy or doll and ask the children how they show their love to them, explain that is how Jesus loves them too.

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 together 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.

ACTIVE PRAYER (*encourage everyone to stand up and join in!*)

From the top of my head
to the tips of my toes;
from the lobes of my ears
to the end of my nose;
from my back, to my front
to my wiggly fingers,
God loves me!

Touch head

Touch toes

Touch ear lobes

Touch nose

Turn round

Stretch out arms, wiggle fingers

Jump up and down

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 Sand age Children)*

The children could use their teddies or dolls to help act out the story. Or they could show the emotions of the different people in the story.

Lay out a cloth and use figures (*see italics*) to create a story scene.

Jesus travelled to the region of Judea. (*Jesus walking*)

People brought their children to Jesus, so he could touch and bless them. (*parents and children to join Jesus*)

But the disciples were angry and told them not to bother Jesus.

(*disciples try to move the children away*)

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me. (*move the children to Jesus*)

Don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.'

(*move the disciples away*)

Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them. (*Jesus to hug the children*)

Ideas to explore the story further...

- Invite the children to build the kingdom of God out of building bricks and decorate it with bright things you have around the house, a colourful scarf, pebbles or tinsel.
- Invite each child to decorate a child figure (*template below*) to represent themselves, then stick it on the picture of Jesus (*template below*) welcoming children.

- 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.

Pray

Offer to bless the children. Take their hands within yours, or touch their head and say, 'May the Lord bless you and keep you.' Invite them to bless you, each other, or some soft toys. Ask them to say after you:

God bless you, (*point*)
and God bless me. (*point*)
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 children put their faith into action.

Notice the different ways in which you experience love this week - through sight, sound, touch, smell and taste.



