



## **Sand, worship session 05/04/2020**

**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 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).

Palm Sunday 05/4/2020

**Matthew 21.1-11** Jesus enters Jerusalem as a Passover pilgrim for the last time, demonstrating how he brings in God's kingdom and setting the stage for the showdown with those he sees as God's real enemies.

### **GATHERING ACTIVITY**

A quiet way to begin your session.

Invite everyone to sit quietly and listen to the sounds in the room for a few minutes.

Encourage them to imagine that this is the quiet moment before everyone arrives for a party or big event. Ask if they feel excited or a little anxious as they wait.

An active way to begin your session.

Encourage everyone to stand up and think of one thing they would like to thank God for. After everyone has said their short prayer, they all turn around on the spot and shout 'Hosanna!'

Repeat the activity by inviting everyone to think of someone they want to pray for, e.g. someone who is ill or lonely.

Finally, invite everyone to pray for themselves.

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Jesus the Messiah, welcome!

We have come together to hear from you,  
we have come together to learn from you,  
we have come together to offer you our praise.

Welcome, Jesus, welcome!

**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	<i>Touch head</i>
to the tips of my toes;	<i>Touch toes</i>
from the lobes of my ears	<i>Touch ear lobes</i>
to the end of my nose;	<i>Touch nose</i>
from my back, to my front	<i>Turn round</i>
to my wiggly fingers,	<i>Stretch out arms, wiggle fingers</i>
God loves me!	<i>Jump up and down</i>

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.

### **CRAFT**

First of all you need to set the scene.

**Find** · some dolls, teddies or soft toys and a donkey (*or substitute*). Choose one of the figures to be Jesus. The rest will be the crowd.

- Some small pieces of cloth to put down on the pathway.
- A4 piece of paper, sellotape and a pair of scissors to make a palm for everyone.

*To make the palm: -*

1. Hold your paper in the landscape orientation and roll it up fairly tight.



2. Secure it with two pieces of sellotape- one at the bottom and the other halfway up.



3. Make cuts .5cm apart down from top of scroll to middle piece of sellotape.



4. Fold the Branches out to make it look like a tree.



*Now you are ready. Invite the children to move the characters to help you tell the story. Set the scene. A pathway (you could use a scarf) with crowds on either side. Jesus and the donkey at one end of the pathway.*

### **STORY**

Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds were shouting, "Hosanna!!!!" and waving their branches. They were very excited because they knew a king was going to come and save them. They knew that the king would come riding on a donkey. And here he was... a king riding on a donkey!

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" they shouted. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" They put their coats down on the road in front of the donkey and Jesus.

Some people were wondering who this man was but others knew he was Jesus the son of God and there and then decided to follow him.

What would you shout if you saw Jesus in the street?

*Ideas to explore the story further...*

Create an abstract picture of the Passover festival

**You will need:** newspaper, one sheet of A4 paper per person or one large piece, pots of different coloured paint with several brushes in each, wipes or damp flannels.

- Spread the newspaper over the surfaces. Give out paper to everyone or use one large piece of paper.

- Ask the children to think about the noise and colour of the festival.
- Invite them to create an abstract image of what they can imagine using splashes of colour and shapes.

Decorate leaves (*template below*) and join them all together on a large sheet of paper to make a praise banner.

**You will need:** play figures and bricks.

- Talk about the key points of the story that the children remember.
- Arrange for individual children to make Jesus and the donkey so there is just one representation of each.
- Prompt the rest of the group to make the scene, including: the disciples, the crowds and the trees as well as buildings. Encourage them to consider the atmosphere of celebration and make it a busy scene.
- Once the construction is complete, invite everyone to imagine where they are in the scene.
- Remind the children that the festival was a turning point for some people in the crowd, as they decided to either follow Jesus or not. Say that we have the same opportunity, too.

**SONG Little donkey** (To the tune of: Little Donkey )

Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road, Little donkey, carry Jesus to Jerusalem.

See branches waving near, Jesus is here, Jesus is here! See faces full of cheer, Jesus is here, Jesus is here!

Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road, Little donkey, carry Jesus to Jerusalem.

Leaders are frowning there, they do not care, they do not care. Jesus brings love to share, to everywhere, to everywhere!

Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road, Little donkey, carry Jesus to Jerusalem.

## **PRAYERS**

Loving God,  
we pray for all who get left behind  
and all the people rejected by the crowd.  
We pray they will see the humble king  
riding his donkey beside them.  
**Amen.**

Jesus, our King,  
we offer you the praise of our hands,  
*(wave hands)*  
we offer you the praise of our voices,  
*(shout 'Hosanna!')*  
we offer you the praise of our feet,  
*(stamp feet)*  
we offer you the praise of  
our minds and our hearts.  
*(place hands on hearts)*  
Hosanna to the Son of David!  
**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.  
Make Some Easter cards for friends or family you are not able to be with at the moment.

