



Sand, worship session 12/04/2020

HAPPY EASTER!

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).

Easter day 12/4/2020

Matthew 28.1-10

Two women, disciples of Jesus, visit his tomb once the sabbath is over. They find the tomb empty, and experience both fear and joy. They are sent by an angel to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus is raised.

GATHERING ACTIVITY

A quiet way to begin your session.

Make a cross using two large branches or pieces of wood tied together with string. Encourage the everyone to decorate the cross with fresh flowers, or other things you can find (buttons, scraps of material, bits of coloured paper) giving it colour and new life. Talk about the difference between the bare cross and how it looks now you have decorated it.

An active way to begin your session.

Make a pass-the-parcel package (*you could use newspaper for wrapping!*) with sweets and/or Easter greetings in between each layer, but nothing in the centre (prepare a prize to share but keep it out of sight).

When you get to the centre, discuss how our Easter Day celebrations begin with the emptiness of the tomb. Reveal and share the prize together.

GATHERING PRAYER

Father God,
we come to you
because you turn doubt into hope,
tears into laughter
and fear into fearlessness.

We come to you
because on Easter Sunday
and on every other day,
we can say, 'Jesus is alive!'

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.

STORY

Lay out a dark cloth (you will also need a light coloured cloth) and place objects/or pictures (*see below*) on it as you tell the story.

It was still dark, as two women walked together to Jesus' tomb. (*dark cloth*)

An angel appeared like a bolt of lightning (*lightning bolt*), and then the earth shook. (*small globe*) It was very scary, but the angel told the women not to be afraid and that Jesus had risen. (*angel*)

Now the two women were scared and excited. But once they had seen the empty tomb (*white cloth*) they ran off, filled with joy, to tell the disciples. (*smiling face*) Before long they met Jesus himself, and they fell down and worshipped him. (*praying hands*) Jesus told them not to be afraid and to go and tell his friends.

CRAFT

Cross bunting

Make bunting from the crosses. (*see below*).

If you can't print, then cut some cross shapes, decorate and string them together to put up in the window.

Ideas to explore the story further... Everyone to move around the room freely to express joy. If you have instruments, then use them if not make some! Rice or pasta in an empty tub or plastic bottle makes an excellent shaker!

SONG (you can find this music on you tube)

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

Where?

Down in my heart!

Where?

Down in my heart!

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

Down in my heart to stay

And I'm so happy

So very happy

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

Down in my heart

And I'm so happy

So very happy

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus

Down in my heart

Where?

Down in my heart!

Where?

Down in my heart!

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus

Down in my heart

Where?

Down in my heart to stay.

And I'm so happy

So very happy

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

Down in my heart

And I'm so happy

So very happy

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

PRAYERS

Holy Spirit, light up our faces,
to pass the Easter joy to others;
give us the words,
to tell Jesus' story to others;
make us the loving embrace
that tells others they belong;
fill us with courage
to pass the joy on.

Amen.

Jesus is risen!
Our world is full of happiness.
Yes! We want to sing and shout for...

JOY!

Amen.

(maybe you could make a poster and decorate it with the above prayer on it!)

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

Share the joy of the good news by wishing as many people as you can 'Happy Easter' by telephone or by other ways using the technology!

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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