



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 03/05/2020

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).

Finding pasture 03/05/2020

John 10.1-10 Jesus speaks of a shepherd whose sheep know his voice and follow him away from danger. The Pharisees do not understand that Jesus is referring to himself. He also says that he is the gate of the sheepfold, and whoever enters by him will be saved.

An active way to begin your session.

Give everyone one minute to find lots of comfortable objects to sit on, e.g. rugs, cushions, bean bags.

Then choose just one person to sit on the soft furnishings, with everyone else sitting on the floor. How does it feel for one person to have it all? Would it be better to share the good things they have found?

GATHERING PRAYER

Awesome God,
you gathered the disciples of Jesus,
and you gather us, here and now.

Just like the disciples, we pray:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
until we are overflowing.

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 cannot 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 cannot do! For me, and you and you.

STORY *Distribute cotton wool balls (if you have them or something else that is soft and small) to everyone to hold in their hands. Ask them to protect them, gently enclosed in their hands. Reflect on how safe the sheep would feel, knowing that protection, as you read the passage.*

Jesus said, 'I am just like a good shepherd who takes care of his flock of sheep. He knows the names of all his sheep. When he calls them, they follow him into the safety of the sheepfold. And when he calls them out, they follow him wherever he goes, because they know and trust him. But if a stranger gets into the sheepfold and calls to the sheep, they refuse to follow, because they do not know the stranger's voice. The gatekeeper only opens the gate for the good shepherd. Thieves and robbers try to break into the fold to steal the sheep, but the shepherd protects them from danger.'

The people listening to Jesus still did not understand what he was saying, so he said to them, 'I am just like the gate of the sheepfold. All those who went before me were thieves and robbers who wanted to lead the sheep astray, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am not like a thief who comes to steal and kill and destroy. I am the gate: whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. I came that the sheep might have a full and happy life.'

Glossary **sheepfold** an enclosure in a field to keep sheep safe from wild animals and thieves; first century Middle Eastern sheepfolds were made of stone.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

- What things do you think Jesus is promising in a 'full and happy life'?
- What things in your life make you feel full and happy?

- If abundance is having enough, with enough to share, how could we help our friends and our families live a full and happy life in abundance?



- What feelings does this image evoke in you?
- When have you experienced 'enough with enough to share'?

SONG

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished me
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore,
My dwelling place shall be.

PRAYERS

Abundant God,
fill us up this week.
When we are worried or happy,
when we are with others or alone,
when we feel tired, and
when we feel most alive.
Guide us home to you.
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

For older children - Social media prayers

Give the young people a piece of paper and a pen each, and encourage them to write a private tweet, Facebook post, Instagram post, or other social media post as if to God, encouraging them to thank God for all the abundance they have and that they might experience abundance in every aspect of their lives.

LIVE YOUR FAITH Share the message of hope and abundant life that Jesus gives with one of your friends on social media using the hashtag #livingmybestlife.

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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