



## **Sand, 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 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).

### **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.

### **GATHERING ACTIVITY**

#### **A quiet way to begin your session**

Display a few toy sheep, or pictures of sheep (*see below*) or even balls of cotton wool.

Allow the children to look at and play with them, then pass them round the everyone and reflect on some questions together: what does this sheep need, to be looked after? What sort of ground is good pasture for the sheep? What might be abundance (enough, with enough to share) for this sheep?

#### **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.**

## **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 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**

*You will need a dark piece of material or scarf for a path, a green piece of material or paper (or even an handful of grass if you have outside space) picture of a gate (see below) and some toy sheep or cotton wool balls, follow the instructions (see italics) as you tell the story.*

*Jesus said: 'I am the gate (place pictures of gates on the cloth/scarf), the gate for the sheep. (add toy sheep, pictures or balls of cotton wool)*

*Anyone who comes through me will be safe; (open the gate and let the sheep through)*

They will come in and go out, (move the sheep in and out of the gate)

They will find lots of green lush grass. (place a piece of green cloth next to the brown cloth and move the sheep onto it) They will find everything they need, more than they can ever imagine.'

*Ideas to explore the story further... These are just ideas, use whatever you have to hand to explore the story!*

1 Give the children a selection of building blocks and invite them to build sheepfolds and gates. Provide toy sheep and some green cloth and encourage the children to retell the story.

2 Place a large sheet of paper on the floor and provide pots of sparkly confetti, shiny shapes and glitter. Encourage the children to fill the paper with 'abundant' sparkle.

3 Provide the children with pots of bubbles. Encourage everyone to blow as many bubbles as they can and thank God for all the good things he gives to us.

4 Place a clear, empty jar on a tray. Give each child a smaller pot, filled with buttons. Ask them, one at a time, to tip their buttons into the jar until it is overflowing, as you pray:

Lord,  
thank you that you offer us abundance;  
a full and happy life.

**Amen.**

**SONG** Jesus shepherd (Tune: Baa baa black sheep; words by Emily Hoe-Crook)

Jesus shepherd, helping me to grow,  
follow, follow, show me where to go.  
If I turn away from him, Jesus loves me back again.  
Jesus shepherd, helping me to grow,  
follow, follow, show me where to go.

### **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**

*With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.*

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