



## **Sand, worship session 17/05/2020**

**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).

### **The Spirit beside us 17/05/2020**

**John 14.15-21** Jesus promises his disciples that God will send the Spirit of truth, who will be with them for ever. He reminds them that those who love him are those who keep his commandments. These are the ones to whom he will reveal himself.

### **GATHERING ACTIVITY**

**A quiet way to begin your session**

**Have a bowl of water in which the children can see their reflection**

God, we see ourselves,  
made by you  
and loved by Jesus.

You gave us the best way to live,  
and our reflections are spoilt  
when we turn away  
from your commandments.

***Disturb the water then wait for it to settle.***

Let's turn back  
and see ourselves  
as forgiven children of God.

**Amen.**

### **An active way to begin your session.**

Provide some play people or toys (*whatever you have to hand*) and a selection of hearts of different sizes (*see below*). Encourage open-ended play as the children play with and arrange the hearts and people/toys as they wish.

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Jesus, we love you,  
and know that you love us.  
Help us to understand  
how you want us to behave:  
towards you and towards others.  
**Amen.**

### **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**

Lay out a cloth and cut out four hearts and two plus signs *(see below)*. As you tell the story, place a heart on the cloth each time you say 'love' and a plus sign each time you say 'commandments'.

Explain that the commandments are Gods special rules, like rules we have at home. (discuss some rules that you have!)

Jesus said: 'You will show that you **love** me by doing as I have shown you, by keeping my **commandments**.

To help you do this the Holy Spirit will always be with you.

If you keep my **commandments**, and if you do as I have shown you, then you will show that you **love** me.

And so, I will **love** you, and God will **love** you.'

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

1 Paint a big heart outline on a large piece of paper and place a selection of coloured paint and paint brushes around it. Encourage the children to use colour to praise God. Ask them to use the colours in the heart to show how it feels to be loved by God. If you don't have paints, use colouring pencils or crayons.

2 If you have playdoh create heart shapes and pass them to each other saying 'Jesus loves you and Jesus loves me!'

3 Take a shallow tray and pour in salt or fine sand (or even soil). Smooth it out to make the surface flat. Invite the children to use a lolly stick or finger to draw a heart and a plus sign, as you say:

Lord,

may we always love you and follow your commandments.

**Amen.**

## **SONG**

### **Jesus love is very wonderful**

*Refrain*

*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**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have called us to love God  
and love our neighbours as ourselves.  
Give us the Holy Spirit  
to help us follow your commandments  
and to live in peace, hope and love.  
**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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