



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 21/06/2020**

**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).

### **When the going gets tough 21/06/2020**

**Matthew 10.24-39** Matthew continues Jesus' teaching on mission to the world. Jesus points out that the disciples must expect some opposition, including possibly from their own families, since Jesus himself has been opposed and called names. He reminds them that God loves and values them as a father.

An active way to begin your session.

Arrange some paper footprints (**see below**) on the floor leading from an entrance to a cross.

Everyone follow the footsteps and imagine they are walking through different scenarios: mud, fog, a blizzard, on hot sand. Gather together and discuss how it felt to walk through the harsh conditions. Today's story is about the journey of life being hard, but with God with us always to help us.

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Living God,  
being a Christian can be hard.  
Thank you for a safe space  
to enjoy your presence  
here and now. **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**

Think of an action that describes the words, 'Do not fear', e.g. shaking heads, wagging a finger. Ask everyone to listen out for 'Do not fear' as you tell the story, and every time they hear the phrase to repeat the action they came up with.

One day, Jesus was talking with his disciples. 'Students are not better than their teacher,' he said to them. 'A slave is not better than his master. Instead they need to be like each other.' He continued, 'So do not fear. Everything that is hidden will be found and everything that is secret will be discovered. Anything I say to you in the dark, I want you to tell in the light. Anything that is whispered, I want you to shout from the rooftops!'

Jesus reassured them. 'Do not fear those who try to kill you, as they cannot kill your soul. The only one you should be worried about is the one who can destroy both the body and the soul in hell. Two sparrows are sold for only a penny. But if one of them falls to the ground, God knows this. Even the hairs on your head are counted and known by God. Do not fear, you are much more valuable than the sparrows.'

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you tell others that you are my follower, I will tell God in heaven that you are my follower. But if you say you are not my follower, I will tell God in heaven that you don't belong to me. I didn't come to bring peace; I came to bring a sword. Families will turn against each other because of what I say. Anyone who loves their family more than me is not good enough to be my follower.'

Anyone who is not willing to take up their cross is not good enough to be my follower. If you try to hold onto your life, you will give up true life. But do not fear. If you give up your life for me, you will hold onto true life.'

**Talk together** (Connect faith with everyday life)

Why do you think the disciples needed great courage to go and tell other people about Jesus?

If someone asks you what you did on Sunday, would you tell them you went to church or joined in a service online or at home?

How can we share the story of Jesus with others today?



- How would you feel about being presented with a challenge like this?
- How could you finish the sentence 'When the going gets tough...'?
- How can you support one another through the challenging realities of being a disciple of Jesus?

### **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**

*Play follow my leader, walking, tiptoeing, jumping, etc., and end by pretending to trip or slip.*

Follow in the footsteps of Jesus,  
when you are walking...

when you are...

*(add in other ways you are moving)*

Jesus, catch us when we fall or fail,  
and walk beside us through this week.

**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** - If we think of the term 'disciple' as a 'follower' - what sort of things do we follow? e.g. music, sports, people on social media. Ask the young people to put these things into a list of most to least important. Why do you think it may be easier to follow some of these things than Jesus? Are there challenges involved in some of the other things we follow?

## **LIVE YOUR FAITH**

If you are in a difficult situation this week, remember some of the promises that Jesus talks of in the passage.

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

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