



Sand, 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 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).

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.

GATHERING ACTIVITY

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.**

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

Use the actions (*see italics*) to tell this story.

Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid! (*shake your head*)

It might be hard following me, but God cares for each one of you.

(*hug yourself*)

God cares for every little sparrow, but you are more special to God than a whole flock of sparrows. (*lock your thumbs together and make a bird*)

You are so special that God knows how many hairs are on your head.

(*run your fingers through your hair*)

Even when things are hard and tough, (*make a fist and bang it on the palm of the other hand*)

don't be afraid.' (*shake your head*)

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

Lay out cushions and invite the children to relax and listen to some reflective music (suggestions below).

Invite the children to draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Show the happy faces, then pray together: Thank you, Jesus, that we can follow you. This makes us happy.

Then turn the plates over and pray:

Sometimes life can be hard and that makes us sad.

Turn the plates over to the happy side for a final time: But we know that however we feel, you value us. **Amen.**

CRAFT

Provide some rough and smooth materials, e.g. sandpaper, felt, acetate, (whatever you have to hand) and a piece of A4 paper. Help the children to stick rough material on one side and smooth material on the other side of the paper.

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

Live your faith

When you find something difficult this week, count to 10 and remember that Jesus knows the number of hairs on your head

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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