



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 05/07/2020**

**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).

**A glutton and a drunkard? 05/07/2020**

**Matthew 11.16-19,25-30**

- Jesus characterises his contemporaries as deaf to the voice of God.
- He thanks God that the truth has been revealed to the least significant in society.
- He invites the weary to learn from him and find rest.

### **GATHERING ACTIVITY**

An quiet way to begin your session.

Display some pictures of yokes (see below) with signs saying, 'What is this?', 'Do you think it would be easy to carry one?', 'What does it do?', 'Does this look heavy or light?'

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Thank you for gathering us today.  
Help us to follow you, Lord God,  
looking for signs of you all around us,  
and learning from each other and from you,  
through our stories and the leading of the Holy Spirit.  
**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**



Jesus was speaking to the crowd. 'What are you like? You are like children playing wedding and funeral games. You sit and watch and shout to each other, "We played the flute and you did not dance". "We were sad and wept and you did not cry with us".

'John the Baptist came,' Jesus said to them. 'He did not go around eating too much or drinking. And what did people say? They said, "He has a demon in him!" Then I came along, eating and drinking and what did they say? They said, "That man eats too much! He drinks too much! He is a friend of tax collectors and even sinners!" But God's wisdom is proved by its results.'

Jesus started to pray, 'Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You have hidden these things from the wise and the clever and revealed them to children. This is what you want. My Father has given me everything. Only he truly knows the Son. And only the Son truly knows the Father. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father too.'

He said to the crowd, 'Come to me, anyone who is tired and carrying a heavy load, and I will give you rest.'

Then he looked at the people around him and said, 'Take the yoke I give you

and learn from me. I am gentle - my yoke is easy and the load I give you is not too heavy. You will find rest for your souls.'

## Glossary

**demon** also described as an evil spirit; spiritual forces that trouble people - sometimes this might be interpreted as mental illness;

**sinners** people who are not living life as God intends; **yoke** a curved piece of wood put across the neck of an animal pulling a plough or cart, and so a burden to be carried.

## Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

What does it feel like to be left out of a game?

What are the things that worry you?

What do you do to rest?



- How guilty are you of labelling others?
  - How might others label your church?
- How might God's wisdom be revealed to you?

## **SONG** He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got all of our teachers, in his hand.

He's got all of our teachers, in his hand.

He's got all of our teachers, in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the doctors and the nurses, in his hand.

He's got the doctors and the nurses, in his hand.

He's got the doctors and the nurses, in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the policewoman and the fireman in his hand.  
He's got the policewoman and the fireman in his hand.  
He's got the policewoman and the fireman in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.

## **PRAYERS**

Loving Father,  
this week we want to dance for you,  
this week we want to sing.  
This week we want to praise your name,  
this week we want to bring  
the very best of all we are,  
and all that we could be,  
to work for you, and work with you,  
and bless your holy name.

**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 - How do you rest?**

Think about rest and relaxation. What do you find stressful and what helps you deal with this? Develop the conversation to explore the difference between rest for the body, the mind, and the soul. How can prayer be a strategy for rest?

## LIVE YOUR FAITH

Give yourself permission to do nothing for a while every day this week, and rest in God's presence.

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

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