



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 12/07/2020

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).

Sown in your heart

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

The farmer scatters his seed indiscriminately all over his field.

Much of the seed flourishes and produces a good harvest, but some fails to grow.

- The seed is God's Word: it flourishes where it is heard, but fails with those who have other concerns.

GATHERING ACTIVITY

An quiet way to begin your session.

Give everyone a heart-shaped piece of paper and ask them to write on it who or what planted the seed of faith in them, and what has helped it to grow.

GATHERING PRAYER

On a day such as today,
Jesus met with his disciples up a mountain,
sitting by a lake, followed by crowds,
and in a quiet place where they could be alone.
Today we meet as disciples of Jesus,
sitting here, part of a crowd,
in a place where we can meet and learn of you,
eager to hear your Word, O Lord.
In Jesus' name.
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

Split the story up into the four different environments (see **bold** numbers in text) and invite the group to create a different freeze frame for each one, to show what it's like from the seed's perspective.



So many people wanted to see Jesus and hear what he had to say, that he had to sit in a boat and teach the people standing on the shore. He told them many things through parables.

'Listen!' Jesus said. 'A farmer went out to sow his seeds. As he scattered them, some of the seeds fell on the path and the birds came and ate them up. **1** Other seeds fell onto rocky ground. At first they grew quickly, but when the sun came out they got all burnt up because they had no roots in the shallow soil. **2** Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up around them and choked them. **3** Other seed fell on good soil and they grew into thirty, sixty, a hundred times more wheat. **4** 'Listen!' Jesus said again. 'If you've got ears, listen!'

Jesus explained the parable of the sower to the crowd. 'What did I mean by the seed on the path being eaten up?' he said. **1** 'Well, that's like when the good things that God has planted in our hearts get snatched away by the devil. And the seed on the rocky path? **2** That's like when someone hears God's Word and loves it and is full of joy, but their enthusiasm disappears as soon as trouble comes their way. And the seed among thorns? **3** Well, that's like when someone hears God's Word but worry and greed take over. But the seed planted in good soil **4** - ah, the seed in the good soil is like the person who hears God's Word, loves it and lives it, so it produces thirty, sixty, a hundred times more goodness in their lives.'

Glossary

devil a personification of evil, also called Satan or 'the evil one'.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

In what ways have you grown or changed in the last year?

What makes a good listener? Are you one?

Where do you see evil in the world?

CRAFT

If you are lucky enough to have some seeds to plant do the following:
- ask everyone to think of something to give thanks for, sprinkle some seeds, then repeat after you:

Heavenly Father,
thank you for all the good things you give us.
Help us to share what we have with others.
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

Like seeds broadcast on the wind,
send us out from this place
to sow your seeds of love
in every place we go.

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 -



- Where have you seen growth in an unlikely place?
- What does the mystery of spiritual growth mean to you?
 - How might you help God's seeds to flourish?

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Spend a moment of quiet at the end of each day to reflect on any challenges to your faith and how you coped with them. Give thanks for where there was growth.

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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