



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 19/07/2020

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).

Growing together until the harvest
Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

- The good seed grows while threatened by weeds.
- The weeds will be left alone for fear of damaging the wheat.
- At the harvest, the weeds and the wheat will be separated; the weeds will be thrown into the fire.

An active way to begin your session.

Have a pile of two different coloured wools that are really tangled together. Make sure there are enough lengths of one colour for everyone to pull.

Challenge everyone to separate one colour of wool from the other. Say that the other colour stains your hands so they should avoid touching if possible. Let them all pull at a strand of the colour that you do want. Unless they are very careful the wool will end up even more tangled! Reflect that sometimes it's hard to remove one thing without disturbing another. Today's story is about the difficulty of separating wheat from weeds.

GATHERING PRAYER

O God, our king and our friend,
kind Father to us all,
thank you for bringing us together.
May we see you and meet you,
in all that we do today.
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

Use your hands to tell the story and do simple actions, e.g. scatter seed, creep like an enemy, use different hands for 'growing' wheat and weeds, then put palms together so that the fingers entwine, raise palms upwards for questioning, collect and tie bundles, draw a square for the field, horns for the devil, halo for the angels, 'flames' for fire. You could add emphasis by wearing a pair of white gloves against a black background or shine a bright torch onto a white wall and create shadows.



Jesus told the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is a bit like someone planting his field with good seed. He is very happy, but at night, when everyone is sleeping, his enemy creeps in and plants weeds among the wheat, then sneaks off again. So when the wheat starts to grow, the weeds grow too!

'The servants then go to their master and ask him, "Sir, didn't you just plant good seed in your field? So where have all the weeds come from?" When the master tells them that an enemy has planted them, they ask, "So, shall we pull up the weeds?"

But the master replies, "No, because if you pull up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat as well. Let them both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will send in the reapers, then the weeds can be collected up, tied into bundles and burned. The wheat can be harvested and put in my barn."

Later, Jesus explained the parable to his disciples:

'Listen carefully. This is the story of my world. The master is the Son of Man, that's me. My friends are like the good seed, and my enemies are like the weeds that the devil has planted. The harvest is like the end of time, and my angels are the reapers who separate the wheat from the weeds in the field - the good and the evil in the world. All the evil is thrown away, like weeds on a bonfire, but all the good will shine like the sun in God's kingdom.'

Glossary

reapers people who cut down the wheat at harvest time;

Son of Man a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself;

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

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

How patient are you a) with yourself? b) with other people? c) with God?

Can you think of some good qualities (wheat) and some bad qualities (weeds) in yourself?

How do you imagine the crowd felt, on hearing this parable?

CRAFT

Create a 'wheat and weeds' picture

You will need: sheets of A4 blue card, (or colour in a sheet of paper in blue) green wool, You could even use things from the garden! scissors, PVA glue, green and yellow paint, or colouring pens.

- Give everyone a sheet of blue card. (or paper) Help the children cut the wool into strands to make the weeds and stick them across the bottom landscape edge of the card, to about halfway up the card.
- Now add ears of wheat with green paint, using brushstrokes and a stippling technique. They don't need to avoid the weeds - just stipple over them. Paint a nice bright sun to finish.
- As the pictures dry, talk about how the wheat and weeds will be separated at harvest time. The weeds will be thrown away and burnt, and the wheat seed or corn will be ground into flour to make bread.

SONG Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together, Lord
 Bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken
 Bind us together, Lord
 Bind us together
 Bind us together in Love

There is only one God,
 There is only one King
 There is only one Body,
 That is why we sing.

PRAYERS

We are children of your kingdom,
 and we want to shine like the sun,
 helping others to see the path
 into the kingdom of God.
 Jesus, help us to point the way
 in what we do and who we are,
 so that others may meet you.
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 -



- What might the figures be waiting for?
- What have you had to wait a long time for?
 - What does patience teach us?

LIVE YOUR FAITH

What groups at your school are helping students to get more involved in world issues, e.g. prayer, charity, human rights. Join one when you are at school!

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