



Sand, 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 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).

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.

GATHERING ACTIVITY

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.

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

Mini Bible story with actions (see italics)

Planting seeds

Jesus said, 'A farmer planted some wheat seeds.

Mime planting.

The wheat started to grow,

'Grow' hands up.

but so did the weeds!

Wiggle fingers in and out.

The farm workers wanted to pull the weeds up.

Mime pulling.

But the farmer said, "No! It will hurt the wheat!

Shake head.

When we harvest,

Mime cutting.

we can separate them out,

Mime sorting.

put the corn in the barn,
'Shovel' corn.
and burn the weeds."
Wiggle fingers like flames.

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

You will need: *plasticine, coloured pipe cleaners.*

Invite the children to bend and stick pipe cleaners into the plasticine, to make 'growing' sculptures. Or you could use spaghetti and blue tak!

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

Live your faith

Challenge the children to do some weeding at home.

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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