



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 26/07/2020**

**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).

### **Snapshots of the kingdom**

**Matthew 13.31-33,44-52** The kingdom of heaven is like the seed that becomes a shrub, or yeast in a bowl of flour: a little goes a very long way.

Like buried treasure or a priceless jewel, it is worth giving up everything to possess.

But just as fishermen must sort their catch, so there will eventually be a sorting of good and evil.

An active way to begin your session.

Put a large sheet of paper on the floor, write 'Kingdom of heaven' in the centre, and hand out marker pens. Everyone can to write down what this phrase means to them.

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Lord, send your light  
to guide us onto the path of wisdom.  
Lord, send your light  
to help us as we explore your kingdom.  
Lord, send your light  
to teach us to live by your rules.  
Lord, send your light to us 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**

Treasure trail

Beforehand, copy and cut up the story into the five parables and put each one in a numbered envelope. Place the envelopes around your space. Invite someone to open it and read out the parable inside.

Here are some parables that Jesus told the crowd:

**The parable of the mustard seed**

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, sown in a field. It is the smallest of seeds but grows up into a huge bush, and the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.'

**The parable of the leavened bread**

'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixes with three lots of flour, until it is all leavened and ready to rise.'

**The parable of the hidden treasure**

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. Someone finds it, hides it again, and then is so very, very happy, he goes and sells everything he has to buy the field.'

**The parable of the fine pearl**

'The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who is looking for fine pearls. He finds one very special and valuable pearl, and goes and sells everything he has to buy it.'

**The parable of the good and bad fish**

'The kingdom of heaven is like a net. The net is full of fish, of all shapes and sizes. It is pulled ashore. The good fish are put in baskets while the bad fish are thrown away. And it will be like this at the end of time when the angels will separate the good people from the bad.'

## Glossary

**leavened** yeast is added to bread to help it rise;

**merchant** a trader.

## **Talk together** (Connect faith with everyday life)

Have you ever found something really special?

What are the things that you treasure?

I wonder which picture of the kingdom of heaven you like best and why.

## **CRAFT**

Invite the everyone to decorate a 'pearl'. *(see below for two different colouring pictures)*

## **SONG** Jesus' hands were kind hands

Jesus' hands were kind hands,  
doing good to all,  
Healing pain and sickness,  
blessing children small,  
Washing tired feet and saving  
those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands,  
doing good to all.

Take my hands, Lord Jesus,  
let them work for you;  
Make them strong and gentle,  
kind in all I do;  
Let me watch you, Jesus,  
till I'm gentle too,  
Till my hands are kind hands,  
quick to work for you.

## **PRAYERS**

Heavenly Father,  
for our laughter and learning today,  
thank you.

During this week,  
help us to grow in faith,  
and help others to discover 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 precious thing might this girl have discovered?
  - What is precious to you?
  - What would you give up everything for?

## **LIVE YOUR FAITH**

Sacrifice one treat this week and give the money to a Christian charity that promotes the growth of God's kingdom.

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

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