



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 02/08/2020**

**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 taste of the kingdom**

**Matthew 14.13-21** At the end of the day, the crowd that followed Jesus round the lake needs feeding.

- Jesus meets their need through a miraculous proliferation of bread and fish.
- This miracle is an image of life together in the kingdom of heaven.

An active way to begin your session.

Display an empty plate with some breadcrumbs on it.

### **Gathering activity**

Beforehand, write out the words 'YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT' on a piece of paper and cut it up into single words. Hide the words around your space. Invite everyone to find the six pieces of card and make a sentence. Explain that these are some of Jesus' words from today's story. Talk together about the sign. Who and what might it be referring to? Are the children the 'you' or the 'them'? Or are the 'them' people they know or others? What might the 'something' be? How could we follow the instruction?

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Are you thirsty to learn about God?  
Are you hungry to live in God's kingdom?  
Fill yourself up with the Word of God:  
Jesus, the bread of life.  
There is nothing to pay -  
God gives freely.  
Lord God, come and feed 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**



Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been killed by Herod. He needed some time on his own and went in a boat to a place completely away from everything. But the crowds found out and followed Jesus on foot from the town. When he got off the boat, Jesus saw all the people and he had compassion for them. He healed people who were sick.

When it was evening, Jesus' disciples came to him and said, 'This place is in the middle of nowhere, and it's getting late. Send the crowd away so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'

But Jesus told them, 'They don't need to go away; you give them something to eat.'

The disciples replied, 'What? We've got nothing here! Nothing apart from five loaves and two fish.'

Jesus told them, 'Bring them here to me.' Jesus made everyone sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, blessed the bread and broke it. Then he passed the food to his disciples and asked them to share it out. Everyone ate as much as they wanted. And at the end when they cleared up, they had twelve baskets of leftovers! Five thousand men, women and children ate that day.

### Glossary

**compassion** sympathy and concern for other people's suffering;

**to bless** to say a prayer to bring God's favour over a person or thing.

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

How easy is it to share with others?

How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them to feed the crowd?

Why do you think there was so much food left over?

### CRAFT Two small fish

**You will need:** fish card cut-outs ([template](#) below) things to decorate..

Decorate two fish, punch an eye hole in each and string the fish together.

### SONG To the tune of 1 little 2 little 3 little Indians....

5 little loaves and 2 little fishes  
5 little loaves and 2 little fishes  
5 little loaves and 2 little fishes  
In the little boy's lunch.

5 little loaves and 2 little fishes  
5 little loaves and 2 little fishes  
5 little loaves and 2 little fishes  
Jesus fed 5000 lunch!

## 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 -**



- Why are these people drawn to this man?
- Where is Jesus in your community?
- How is this painting a foretaste of the heavenly banquet?

## LIVE YOUR FAITH

When you eat with your family this week, begin with a grace or a moment of silence, to thank God for the food and to remember those who are hungry.

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

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# Fish Patterns

