



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 16/08/2020**

**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).

For all people

**Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28** The disciples try to stop a Canaanite woman who asks Jesus to heal her daughter.

The woman pleads her case, saying, 'Even dogs eat the crumbs from their master's table'.

Jesus commends the woman's faith and says her daughter is healed.

A quiet way to begin your session.

Talk about the magazine *The Big Issue*. Do they know what it is? Does anyone buy it? Why do people sometimes discriminate against homeless people? Which other individuals or groups in our society experience prejudice?

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Everyone is welcome -  
there is room for all,  
here in God's presence.

You are welcome - there is room for you,  
here in God's presence, where we gather in God's 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**

A woman impresses Jesus with her trust and faithfulness and her daughter is healed.

Various voices (if you have enough people to take part)

Narrate the story and invite different people to read the voices of Jesus, the disciples and the woman.



Jesus went on to another place, a foreign place. A place called Tyre and Sidon. A woman from that place, a foreigner, came out into the street and started shouting, 'I need your help, Lord!' she called. 'Son of David, help me. My daughter is very ill.' She shouted as loud as she could to get their attention, but Jesus didn't answer her at all. His disciples tried to persuade him, 'Send her away. She keeps on shouting at us,' and Jesus seemed to agree with them.

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

But the woman didn't give up. She came right up to them and knelt before Jesus, saying, 'Lord, help me.' Then Jesus said to her, 'It's not fair to take what was meant for the children, their food, and throw it to the dogs.'

But she replied, 'Well, yes, Lord, but even the dogs get something. They eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table.'

Jesus looked straight at the woman and answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! What you want most will happen.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

How does it feel to be left out?

I wonder how the woman felt as she called out to Jesus.

What do you imagine the woman told her friends about what happened that day?

## **CRAFT**

### **To the ends of the earth**

Place a world map on the floor. Give each person a coloured stone. (or any small object you can find) Spend a few moments thinking of places in the world where people are suffering through poverty, war or natural disasters. Invite everyone to lay their stone on a place they want to pray for, as a symbol of God's faithfulness. Finish by saying **Psalm 67** together. *(see below)*

## **SONG** He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got all of our teachers, in his hand.

He's got all of our teachers, in his hand.

He's got all of our teachers, in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the doctors and the nurses, in his hand.

He's got the doctors and the nurses, in his hand.

He's got the doctors and the nurses, in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the policewoman and the fireman in his hand.

He's got the policewoman and the fireman in his hand.

He's got the policewoman and the fireman in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.

## **PRAYERS**

Faithful God,  
help us to bring  
words of welcome and love,  
hope and healing,  
into your world this week.  
**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 -**

'Faithfulness is outdated in modern relationships'. Do the young people agree? What is the Christian perspective? Discuss the issue. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, what score would they give themselves as faithful friends?



- How does it feel to be rejected?
- How might faithfulness be subversive?
- How can you change hearts and minds?

## LIVE YOUR FAITH

Seek out someone who is different from you and have a chat with them this week.

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

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### Psalm 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine on us—

2 so that your ways may be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.

3 May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the peoples praise you.

4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you rule the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations of the earth.

5 May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the peoples praise you.

6 The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God, blesses us.

7 May God bless us still,  
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

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