



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 23/08/2020

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).

Identity

Matthew 16.13-20

- The truth of who Jesus really is comes out in conversation.
- Simon is given the new name of 'Peter, the rock'.
- Jesus expresses a vision of the future Church.

An active way to begin your session.

Look up on the internet pictures of different ways that Christians might speak into today's world, e.g. preaching on a street corner, giving a sermon in church, feeding the homeless, going on a protest march, putting a fish sticker in their car window. What does everyone think about these ways of being a Christian? What other ways can you share or display your faith?

GATHERING PRAYER

Faithful God, loving God,
we are glad to be here.

We meet in your name.

Help us to ask bold questions
as we share your Word.

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

Matthew 16.13-20

Jesus asks his followers who they think he is, and Simon Peter says that he is the Messiah. Jesus renames him Peter, which means 'rock', as a sign that he will become the foundation stone of the Church.



When people heard the stories about Jesus, they couldn't believe that he was just an ordinary man. They thought he was a prophet, like their Old Testament heroes.

Arriving in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And his followers had a list: 'Some say Elijah, or Jeremiah, or another of the prophets.' They even included some more recent heroes: 'Some say you are John the Baptist.'

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter said, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Now, the Messiah was someone that the Jews had been waiting for; a person God would send to rescue them from their enemies. 'You are blessed, Simon,' Jesus said, 'because God, my Father in heaven, has given you this answer. From now on you will be known as Peter.' Jesus gave him this name because it means 'rock'.

'On this rock,' Jesus continued, 'I will build my Church, and even hell will not defeat it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.'

Whatever you say is allowed on earth, will be allowed in heaven.' Then Jesus warned his disciples, 'Do not tell anyone that I am the Messiah.'

Glossary

Messiah the 'anointed one', someone chosen by God to save the Jewish people, also a title used for Jesus.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

Who do you say Jesus is?

Why do you think Jesus changed Simon's name?

I wonder what the keys to the kingdom of heaven might look like.

CRAFT

Draw a road map of your local area. Invite everyone to draw a cross to mark the house of a friend who isn't a Christian. Then pray for each person, out loud, or silently. Think of some questions you could ask them when you see them to prompt a discussion about life, faith and God.

Keys to the kingdom

You will need: large cut-outs of keys (*template below*) sparkly bits, glitter, glue sticks. (or anything you have to hand to decorate them, maybe just colour them in).

Invite the children to decorate a key to the kingdom of heaven.

SONG

Be bold, be strong
For the Lord your God is with you.
Be bold, be strong,
For the Lord your God is with you.
I am not afraid,
I am not dismayed,
Because I'm walking in faith and victory,
Come on and walk in faith and victory,
For the Lord your God is with you.

PRAYERS

God be with us,
wherever we go and whatever we do.
God be with us,
whoever we meet and whatever we say.
God bless us and keep us safe,
today and always.
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 -



- Have you ever protested?
 - What bold questions do you want to ask today?
- What might a Christian response be to those questions?

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Prompt a conversation with your friends about what they are looking for in life.

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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