



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 30/08/2020

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).

Reality of faith

Matthew 16.21-28 Peter finds it impossible to believe that the Messiah must suffer.

- Jesus rebukes Peter.
- Jesus points all his disciples to the way of the cross.

An active way to begin your session. **Memory game**

Prompt everyone to think of three reasons why being a Christian is hard. Then ask each person naming one reason, after repeating all the previous ones mentioned. Continue until you run out of reasons. Conclude that faith is hard!

GATHERING PRAYER

Teach us the truth about faith, Lord,
and what it means to be real.

We want things to be easy,
but that's not part of the deal.

Show us how to stay strong
when suffering comes and it's tough.

Stay by our side at all times, Lord.

Help us to know that's enough.

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 16.21-28

Jesus shocks his followers when he tells them that he will suffer and die. He explains that if they want to follow him, they must be prepared to suffer too.

Facial feelings

Practise making facial expressions for happy, sad, cross and worried. Ask the children to show these expressions at appropriate points in the story.



The followers of Jesus didn't like everything he told them. Some things he talked about were difficult to hear and others were difficult to do.

Peter had just been praised by Jesus, for saying that Jesus was the Messiah, but as Peter listened now, he couldn't believe what he was hearing. Jesus was saying that he would have to suffer and die. 'I will be killed,' he said, 'but on the third day I will rise again.'

The Messiah can't die, Peter thought. 'God forbid it, Lord!' he said. 'This must never happen to you.'

Jesus got angry. 'You're not thinking as God thinks, Peter. You can only see things like humans do. If I thought like that, it would make me stumble instead of doing the right thing. Get behind me, Satan!'

This was hard for Peter to hear, but then Jesus told his followers to do things that sounded very tough too.

'If someone wants to follow me, they have to stop putting themselves first and take up their cross. If they want to save their own lives, they will lose them, but if they lose their lives following me, they will find them again. What is the point of having whatever you want if it means losing your life? What can someone give in exchange for their life?'

Jesus said, 'When the Son of Man comes in glory with his angels, he will repay everyone for what they've done. Truly, I say, some of you standing here now will see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom before you die.'

Glossary

demon also described as an evil spirit; spiritual forces that trouble people - sometimes this might be interpreted as mental illness;

sinners people who are not living life as God intends; **yoke** a curved piece of wood put across the neck of an animal pulling a plough or cart, and so a burden to be carried.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

What do you get told off for?

How do you think Peter felt when he was told off by Jesus?

What did Jesus mean when he said that his followers should 'take up their cross'?

CRAFT

Newspaper prayers Give everyone some newspapers and ask them to tear out pages containing stories of suffering. Turn the stories into a cross by folding, scrunching or tearing the paper up. Everyone to place a battery tealight (if you have them) on/by the newspaper cross and pray: Christ Jesus, bring your light of hope to all those who suffer, and the strength of the Spirit to all those who work for justice and peace. **Amen.**

SONG

Jesus love is very wonderful

Refrain

Jesus' love is very wonderful

Jesus' love is very wonderful,

Jesus' love is very wonderful,

Oh, wonderful love!

It's so high you can't get over it,

So low you can't get under it,

So wide you can't get round it,

Oh, wonderful love!

PRAYERS

Lord Jesus,

sometimes we are sad.

Sometimes life is tricky.

Help us to be strong.

Help us to follow 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.

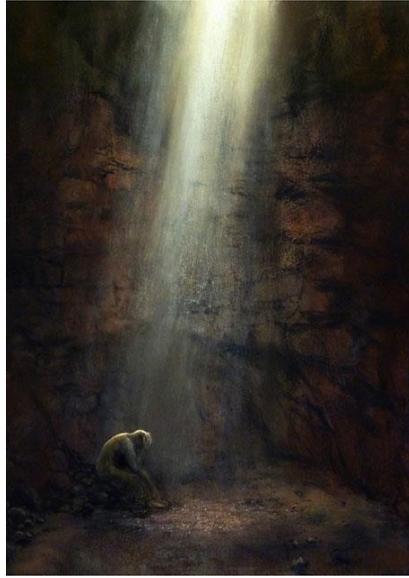
JUNIOR CHURCH PRAYER

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 feelings does this picture evoke in you?
- Have you ever felt isolated by suffering?

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Overturn someone else's expectations of you this week.

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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