



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 06/09/2020

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).

Living together well
Matthew 18.15-20

- Jesus suggests a three-stage path for reconciliation between people.
- Those who agree together will see their prayers answered.
- Jesus promises to be present with those who meet in his name.

An active way to begin your session.

Previous experience

Discuss what kind of arguments people have ever had. How did they affect the lives of those involved? Were they ever resolved? If so, how? Is it true that most resolutions come from a conversation between the people involved? What can be the consequences if arguments aren't resolved at a personal/communal/national/international level?

GATHERING PRAYER

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 18.15-20

Jesus teaches his disciples about how to deal with conflict and restore positive relationships within the church community. He says that where two or three people are gathered in his name, he will be with them.



'Imagine,' said Jesus, with his disciples gathered about him, 'that somebody in the church has done something to upset you.' The disciples had just been asking about who was the most important in the church, and Jesus had shocked them by saying it was the children. Now he was teaching them about relationships.

Jesus continued, 'Speak to the person alone and tell them what they've done wrong. If they listen, you'll have solved the problem and got a brother or sister back.'

'What if they don't listen?' the disciples asked.

'Take along one or two other people, who can hear what you say to one another,' Jesus replied. 'If the person still won't listen, then tell the whole church what has happened. If they won't even listen to the church, then that person is not like a brother or sister to you. They are like a Gentile or a tax collector, and you shouldn't treat them as family.'

Jesus told the disciples that they would be the ones making judgements in the church. 'You are in charge of deciding what is forbidden and what is allowed now. Whatever you forbid on earth, will also be forbidden in heaven.'

Whatever you allow on earth, will be allowed in heaven. And remember, if two of you agree when you ask for something on earth, my Father in heaven will give it to you.' Looking at the group listening to him, Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Glossary

Gentile the name that Jews give to non-Jews; **tax collector** tax collectors were Jews who worked for the Romans, collecting money from their own people. This meant they were seen as traitors.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

What do you do, at home or at school, when someone upsets you?

Who would be a good person to take with you, to speak to someone you've had an argument with?

Why do you think Jesus told us to solve arguments like this?

CRAFT

Together in my name

You will need: sturdy paper cups, or empty plastic bottles, bowls of dried lentils/peas/beans/pasta, sticky tape, stickers, praise music that mentions Jesus.

Invite everyone to decorate two paper cups, (or paper that can be stuck to the outside of the bottle) if they are using paper cups then help them to tape them together to make a shaker. Listen to the sounds the different fillings make, then praise God together along with the music. If you can't get any suitable music sing 'Jesus love is very wonderful!'

SONG Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together

Bind us together in Love

There is only one God,
There is only one King
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing.

PRAYERS

May our words bring others together,
may our actions inspire others to live well,
and may we know the love and friendship
of Jesus, as we journey through the week,
with our family and friends.

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 - Listening and responding

Beforehand, gather some objects, e.g. a toy boat, a spoon, a trowel, a shell, a flower. Divide into pairs. Secretly give one partner an object, and the other, paper and a pencil. Ask them to sit back to back. The person without the object should ask questions to deduce what it is, e.g. Is it sharp or soft? What does it smell of? Can you eat it? The aim is to draw an accurate picture of the object.

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Commit to resolving a conflict this week. If nothing comes to mind, pray that God will bring up something you hadn't realised was there.