



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 13/09/2020

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).

Am I in the place of God?

Matthew 18.21-35

- Peter asks how many times he must forgive someone.
- Jesus tells a parable about a slave who does not pass on his master's forgiveness.
- We are challenged to see ourselves as channels of God's mercy.

An active way to begin your session. **Seventy-seven** Challenge everyone to spot and list 77 different things around the room, church or outside. These do not have to be collected, but only seen, e.g. window, floor tile. You could offer a prize for the first one to reach 77.

GATHERING PRAYER

Make us all like you, God:
forgiving, merciful, fair.
Make us tender-hearted,
slow to judge and quick to care.
And if we get into debt
and worry how we'll pay,
may we think of Jesus, our friend,
every step of the way.
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 18.21-35 - Jesus tells his disciples a story to explain the importance of forgiveness. He says that we should forgive people not seven but seventy-seven times.

Empathy exercise

Read the story through to the end of the second paragraph. Ask everyone to imagine that they are the first slave. How do they feel? Now read to the end of the third paragraph and ask everyone to imagine they are the second slave. How do they feel? At the end of the fourth paragraph, ask everyone to imagine being the king. How do they feel?

'How many times should I forgive someone who has done something bad to me?' Peter asked Jesus. 'As many as seven times?' This seemed very forgiving to Peter. 'Let me tell you a story about two slaves,' Jesus replied.

'The first slave owed his king 10,000 talents, more money than he could ever pay back. The king came to him, saying, 'It's time to pay up. If you don't have the money, you'll have to sell everything you own - your house, your possessions, even your wife and children.' The slave fell to his knees and begged him for more time. Seeing his distress, the king said, 'I have changed my mind. You are released from the debt.' (Cheer!)

'Straight away, the man went out and met another slave. This second slave owed him a smaller amount, just 100 denarii. 'Pay up what you owe me,' the first slave demanded.

'The second slave begged, just as the first one had, 'Please have patience. I need more time to pay.' There was no pity in the first slave, though. He had the man who owed him money thrown into prison, saying he wouldn't be set free until he had paid his debt. (Boo!)

'Of course, all of this was reported back to the king, who was extremely angry. 'I had mercy on you!' he shouted at the first slave. 'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow slave?' Then the king handed over the man to be tortured until he had paid everything he owed. (Boo!)

Jesus looked at Peter and his other disciples. 'So you must forgive more than seven times. Let's say seventy-seven times. (Cheer!) You really have to forgive people with your hearts, not just your mouths. If you don't, my heavenly Father will punish you, like the king punished his slave.'

Glossary

talent a weight of 30-35 kg. 10,000 talents of gold would be worth more than £326 million today;

denarius a small silver Roman coin. One denarius was a labourer's daily wage. 100 denarii would be worth about £1,500 today.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

How easy is it to forgive someone?

Who do you sympathise with most in the story?

Why do you think Jesus asks us to forgive 77 times?

CRAFT

Seventy-seven times

You will need *paper, plates of coloured paint, halved raw potatoes with the raised number 7 cut out of the flat surfaces, or cut out the '7's below.*

Invite the children to print or colour in 7s in different colours.

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

May we never be afraid
to ask for forgiveness,
may we always try to forgive others,
and may the love of God
be our strength, day by day.
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 - Dissolving sins

Place a bucket of water on the floor and give everyone two pieces of tissue paper, on which to write: 1) a confession to God; 2) the name of someone who has wronged them. Encourage them to come up, put their papers into the bucket, and watch them dissolve as a sign of God's forgiveness.

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Be aware of any sins that you are still carrying with you unnecessarily. Ask for God's forgiveness and ask God to help you forgive yourself.

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