



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 20/09/2020**

**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).

*Are you right to be angry?*

**Matthew 20.1-16**

- Jesus tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard.
- The owner is concerned to hire as many workers as possible, all through the day.
- The owner pays all his workers the same, irrespective of when they started work.

An active way to begin your session.

Hang some grapes or tape small pictures of grapes (see below) around the space just above everyone's head height. Invite them to gather the grapes, bringing each bunch/picture to you to put in a basket/bowl before looking for anymore. At the end, ask everyone to help you count how many grapes you have collected, to check they have found them all. This activity should help everyone understand what the vineyard workers in today's story were doing.

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

We come to you, loving God,  
with mixed-up feelings:  
anger, happiness,  
sadness, hopes,  
concerns, dreams.  
Thank you for understanding.  
**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 20.1-16 - Jesus tells a story of a vineyard owner, who pays all his workers the same amount of money, even though some of them only start work late in the day. God is generous to everyone. *Choose from these two ways of telling the story.*

'Early in the morning, workers were waiting in the marketplace,' Jesus said. 'A vineyard owner came and asked some of them to work for him.

'How much are you paying?' the workers asked.

'The usual wage for a day's work,' the vineyard owner replied.

The workers agreed and went with him.

At nine o'clock, there were still men waiting in the marketplace, hoping for work. The vineyard owner came back and said, 'I need some more men. I'll pay you what's right.' Some more of them went to the vineyard.

At midday, the vineyard owner returned and offered more men work. And then again at three o'clock. Finally, he came back at five o'clock. 'Why are you still here?' he asked the men in the marketplace. 'Nobody has offered us work,' the remaining men replied. 'Come to the vineyard,' the owner said. 'There is still work to do.'

When evening came, the vineyard owner sent for the men who had arrived last and he paid them. He paid them what was usual for a day's work. The men who had been working all day thought they'd get more, but when it was their turn to get paid, they were given what had been agreed.

'That's not fair!' said the men who'd been working all day. 'We've been out in the sun, picking grapes all day, and we got paid the same as men who only did an hour's work!'

The vineyard owner heard the complaining and he said, 'I've paid you what we agreed. If I choose to be generous and give everyone the same, why should you be jealous? Can't I do what I want with my own money?'

'This is what the kingdom of heaven is like,' said Jesus. 'The last shall be first and the first shall be last.'

### Glossary

**vineyard** a place where grapes grow on a vine.

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

When did you last say, 'It's not fair!'?

Why do you think the vineyard owner treated all the workers the same?

What is the difference between being fair and being generous?

### CRAFT

#### A global perspective

Understand God's sense of justice

**You will need:** *slips of paper, pens, a globe/world map.*

- Hand out the paper and pens and invite everyone to write down or draw things that make them angry or sad. Share them.

- Look at the globe/map and explain that God sees the world from a different perspective. On another slip of paper, invite them to write or draw what makes God angry or sad. Share these too. Does God get angry about the same things as us?
- You could pass the globe round for everyone to say a prayer.

### **SONG** Magic Penny

Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,  
Hold it tight and you won't have any.  
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor.

For love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

### **PRAYERS**

May the generosity of God inspire us,  
the justice of God encourage us,  
and may the way God does things  
enable us to see the bigger picture  
and not get too angry too soon.

**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 is the most recent act of generosity you have witnessed?
  - Did it make you feel guilty or pleased?
  - Does this apply to God's generosity to others too?

## **LIVE YOUR FAITH**

Resolve to treat everyone equally this week, especially if you think they don't deserve it.

*With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.* © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020. Reproduced with permission.

