



## **Rocks & Pebbles worship session 27/09/2020**

**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).

Who do you think you are?

**Matthew 21.23-32**

- Jesus is questioned about the nature and source of his authority.
- After testing his questioners, who decline to respond, Jesus also refuses to answer.
- Instead, he tells a parable about the priority of faithfulness and obedience over appearances.

An active way to begin your session.

**Charades** Invite everyone to write down the names of two well-known authority figures, dead or alive, on slips of paper and put them in a hat. In two teams, individuals take turns to pick a name and act out the character for their team to guess.

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus,  
you are our friend and our teacher;  
you are our guide and our Saviour;  
you are our Lord,  
and we praise you with all your Church.  
**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 21.23-32 - Jesus is challenged about his authority and tells a story about two sons to show that actions speak louder than words.



Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach in the Temple. While he was there, the chief priests and the leaders of the people asked him a question:

'Who gave you the power to teach here?'

Jesus answered them with another question: 'Who gave John the Baptist the power to baptise: did it come from God, or did it come from his own human strength?' This was a tricky question for them. If they said that John's power came from God, then Jesus would ask them why they hadn't believed in John and what he preached. But if they answered that John's power was only human, then the crowds would become very angry, because they believed that John was a prophet.

So they said, 'We don't know.'

Jesus refused to answer their question and instead told them a story. 'A man had two sons. He told the first to go and work in his vineyard. The son said, 'No, I will not!' But later he changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard. The father also told his second son to go and work in his vineyard. This son said, 'Yes, I will go.'

But then he changed his mind and refused to go.' Jesus asked those listening a question: 'Which of the sons did what his father wanted?' 'The first son,' they replied.

Then Jesus said to them, 'Sinners will get to heaven before you, because they believed what John preached and changed their ways. But you did not believe what he taught, even though you saw that he was a godly man.'

### Glossary

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

**sinner:** someone who is not living life as God intends.

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

What makes us who we are?

How do you work out if people are 'for real'?

Who has authority over you? Do you have authority over anyone or anything?

### Do what I say!

A variation on 'Simon says' to illustrate authority and obedience

- Choose one person to be the leader.
- Using their own name, they say, '...says' and give an instruction, e.g. scratch your head, stand on one leg, cluck like a chicken, and the group must do the action.
- If the leader does not say their name, but merely gives the instruction, the group must not follow the instruction and anyone who does so is out.
- Rotate the role of leader so that everyone who wants to can have a go.

## **SONG** Jesus' hands were kind hands

Jesus' hands were kind hands,  
doing good to all,  
Healing pain and sickness,  
blessing children small,  
Washing tired feet and saving  
those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands,  
doing good to all.

Take my hands, Lord Jesus,  
let them work for you;  
Make them strong and gentle,  
kind in all I do;  
Let me watch you, Jesus,  
till I'm gentle too,  
Till my hands are kind hands,  
quick to work for you.

## **PRAYERS**

Help us to be proud of who we are in Jesus,  
at home or at school,  
and may this week bring:  
ways to help others,  
times to be still,  
and opportunities to have fun.  
**Amen.**

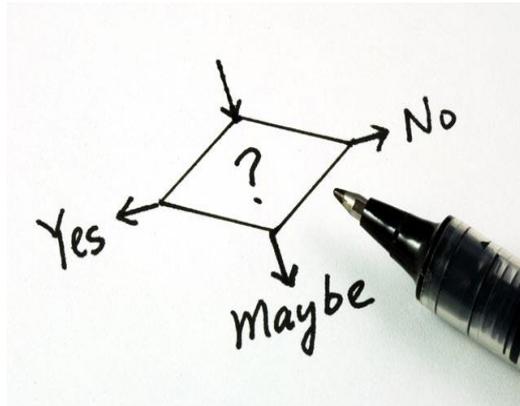
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom the power and the glory are yours 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 -



- How honest are you with other people?
- How honest are you with yourself?
- How honest are you with God?

## **Prayer ribbons**

Provide lengths of coloured ribbon or string/wool. Ask everyone to think about something that they keep hidden in their hearts, because they are afraid of what others may think. Invite them to choose a ribbon to represent this. Tie the ribbons together, end to end, to make a circle. Lay this on the floor and pray:

Father God,  
search inside,  
touch the things we try to hide,  
and help us bring them to the light.

Amen.

## **LIVE YOUR FAITH**

Choose a situation in the news, think about how Jesus would respond and do likewise.