

This Week's Worship: Fishers of People

Opening

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

We come together to say sorry

We come together to say Thank you

We come together to ask for God's help

We come together to hear God's story

We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

Saying Sorry

Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.

For times this week when we have made others sad.

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not helped others

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,

We are sorry

For times this week when we have been selfish

We are sorry

Put the stone in a bowl of water

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.

Amen

Saying thank you

To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!)

Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it.

Continue to fill the jar during the week.

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...
Amen

Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.

Story and response

Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week's story is from Mark 1: 14-20

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?

I wonder what surprised you about this story?

I wonder what this story makes you feel?

I wonder where you are in this story?

Do you wonder anything about this story?

Prayers

When Jesus came to Galilee he told the people the good news that God was close to them and that there was a time coming when there would be no worry or fear or sickness or sadness- only love, joy and peace. When the fishermen see and hear Jesus, they are so interested in who Jesus is and the good news he is sharing that they leave everything behind to follow him and share the good news with others. What good news have you seen this week that you can share with others? Where have you seen people showing love, joy and peace?

You will need: sweets

Make sure that everyone has a sweet. As you eat the sweet, think about good news that you have heard this week. Who told you the good news? How did you feel when you heard it? Do you have any good news to share with others?

Jesus, thank you that, even in such difficult times, there is always good news somewhere. Thank you for people who bring love, joy and peace to the world. Help us to be people who bring good news so that people know that they are loved and that they are not alone, even when life seems hard. Amen

Close

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

May God bless us.

May we know that we are loved

May we know that we are cared for.

May we know God's hope.

God is with us

God is here

Amen.

Extinguish the candle.

Jesus Calls the Disciples: Spinning Fish Prayers

This prayer activity links really well with the story of Jesus calling the disciples but could be used to pray for anyone or any situation!

You will need: strips of paper (experiment with length but the ones shown are roughly 10cm x 2cm)
Scissors, pens



Choose a strip of paper and write on it the name of the person or situation you would like to pray for. Cut slits near to the ends of the strip as shown below.

Fit the slits together to make a fish shape. Now comes the fun part!

Hold the fish high in the air and let it go. As it gains momentum you will see it start to spin!

Talk about:

Discuss the story in the Bible where Jesus calls the disciples and sends them out to make more- turning fishermen into fishers of people (Matthew 4:19)

- What does it mean to be a disciple?
- How would people know that you are a disciple?
- How do you think that the disciples made more disciples?
- How would you try?

Pray

Think of people who don't know who Jesus is or who you would like to ask God to bless. Write their names or draw them on the strip and make them into fish as shown above. Play some music and let the children drop the fish and watch them spin as a symbol of giving their prayers to God.



