

**This Week's Worship: Take up your cross**

**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 8

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**

You will need: Hidden treasure biscuits (see recipe below)

Jesus says that following him is not easy. Sometimes we will need to think about others before ourselves and show love to them, even if that means we don't get what we want. But Jesus tells us that following him will be worth it. What do you do that is hard work but worth it because of what you will get in the end? I've started running and it's sometimes really hard and I want to give up and go home, but I know it will be worth it if I keep going because I will get fit. The biscuits you have made have a hidden treasure inside. They are hard and boring on the outside, but you know that there is something good on the inside. Eat your biscuit and think about those things you do that are hard work but worth it in the end. Ask God to help you to keep going and then pray this prayer:

**Jesus, thank you that you bring hope and love and peace and joy to the world. Help us to follow you and love others and love God, even when it is really hard to do so. When we find it hard to love others and put them first, help us to remember that you love us and give us strength to keep going. 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.*

## Hidden treasure biscuits

- **You will need:**
- **200g plain flour**
- **100g butter**
- **50g sugar**
- **pinch of salt**
- **12 squares of chocolate**
  
- Preheat the oven to 180°C
- Cream together the butter and sugar until fluffy.
- Stir in the flour and salt until a dough is formed. Keep going. It might take a while!
- Roll out the dough on a floured surface and cut into biscuit shaped rounds.
- Put a piece of chocolate in the middle of each round.
- Pinch the dough around the chocolate until it is completely hidden inside.
- Put the biscuits on a baking tray covered with greaseproof paper.
- Bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes.
- Cool and then eat (or use in the prayer activity above!).