

This Week's Worship: The Wilderness

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 9

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: Some sandpaper, wax crayons, felt tips, pencils

Jesus' time in the desert is hard. He is alone and hungry. The devil comes to test him but Jesus manages to stay strong and hold on to what he knows that God wants. At the moment, in lockdown, we are also in a kind of desert place. We are separated from our friends and family, our school and our work and lots of the things that we like to do. It can be very lonely. We might be worried or scared. We might want to go and see people and do things that we used to but we know that, to keep people safe, we have to be strong and do the right thing. This isn't always easy and it's ok to say that we are finding it hard. Feel the sandpaper's roughness and think about those things that are worrying you or making you sad right now. You might want to write or draw those things on the sandpaper, or just keep holding onto the sandpaper and feeling the roughness. Say the prayer here to bring your desert time to God

God, at the moment it can feel as if we are in the desert, cut off from friends and family and the things and places we love. We bring to you all of the things that we are finding difficult, all of the things that make us worried or sad or afraid right now. Help us to be strong and to support each other until this desert time is over. Help us to know that you are with us. 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.