

This Week's Worship: The Parable of the Mustard Seed.

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 we are looking at a famous Bible verse from Mark 4.

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

In the story we are told that the kingdom of God is like a tiny seed that grows to become a massive plant where birds can make a home. Something very small can grow into something amazing, over time and with help. The kingdom of God, heaven, is described as being a place where there is love and peace and joy and hope and no more illness or sadness. We can help to grow that place here on earth by the tiny things that we do, the tiny ways that we bring joy and hope and peace and love to others. It's like a smile that spreads from one person to another until, soon, everyone is smiling. What tiny thing could you do to bring love or joy or peace or hope to someone and help to grow God's kingdom where you live?

You will need: paper, pens, scissors

Draw a picture of a large plant on your paper and think of a group of people or a situation in the world that needs hope or peace or love or joy and write them/it on the branches. Concertina up your paper as shown on the video and draw a seed on the outside piece. Next to the seed, write what tiny thing you could do the start growing God's kingdom. Pray the prayer below.

Dear God, thank you that you can do amazing things and that, with you, something very small can grow into something bigger than we could ever imagine. Help us to see the tiny things that we can do to start to grow your kingdom here on earth. Help us to be bringers of your love, your joy, your peace and your hope. 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.

