

This Week's Worship: John the Baptist dies

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 story from Mark 6.

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 today, John the Baptist is killed by the King. Sometimes in life, bad things happen to good people and it seems very unfair. Sometimes we just don't have answers for why things happen and it makes us want to ask God lots of questions. Sometimes, when bad things happen, it makes us angry at God for letting them happen- and that's OK. Lots of people in the Bible get angry and shout at God. Sometimes it's hard to feel that God is there when we are facing hard things, but he is always there and he never stops loving us. Have you ever wanted to ask God why something bad has happened? What would you say to him? Who helps you when you are feeling angry at other people and angry with God?

You will need plastic bottle or jar, water, glitter

Fill the jar with water and add 1-2 tablespoons of glitter. Shake the jar and think of all of the things that are making you sad and angry. Put the jar down and, as you watch the glitter settle, imagine telling God what you have been thinking about or what you want to ask him.

Dear God, thank you that you are always with us, whatever is happening- in the good and the bad. Help us to know that we can always come to you with our sadness and our anger and our questions. Help us to know that we are always loved by you. 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.