

This Week's Worship: The Parable of the Talents

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 Matthew 25: 14-30

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 this story, some of the servants take a risk and use the treasure they have been given. Because they do this, it grows. One of the servants is afraid and hides his treasure, so it never has the chance to grow. Sometimes when we have a treasure like something we are good at, we are worried about using it in case someone laughs at us or we fail, But every time we use that treasure or talent it grows and gets better and other people can see and share in it. If we stay afraid and never use it, we can never grow and we won't be able to share it with others. What are you good at? How can you use or show your talent so that it will grow and others can share it? Who can help you if you feel nervous about sharing it?

You will need: a balloon for each person, marker pens

Write your talent/something you are good at on a balloon. Now blow the balloon up, but be careful not to blow it up so much that it pops. Tie the end of the balloon. Look at the balloon and the words you have written grow as the balloon blows up. It's always risky blowing up a balloon- it's easy to pop them. But unless you have a go, it will never look how it's supposed to look- just like us if we don't use the treasures or skills that God has given us.

Pray: God, thank you for the things we are good at. Help us to use the skills we have so that they will grow and so that others can see and share them. Even when we're nervous, give us the courage to have a go and help us to encourage others to do the same. 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.