

CHEEKY PANDAS

Family Service

Jesus

The following are suggestions of what you might wish to include in an All Age/Family Service, whether on line or in church. Please adapt and change to ensure all essential elements for your denomination/church are included.

It incorporates the Cheeky Panda videos for you to use in the teaching slot.

There are 11 in all so you have the possibility of using them in 11 family services. Please use as much or as little of these outlines as you wish.

There is also an activity pack available for each service outline. Each one has a Biblical Text, application, a craft activity, a game, food challenge and a prayer. You may wish to enable families to have them prior to services. Please feel free to adapt to your local situation.

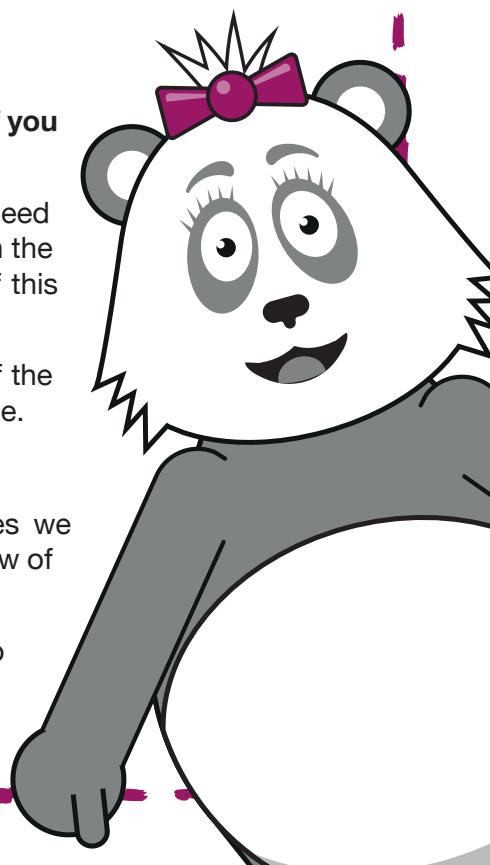
Inclusion of sung worship is still a matter of local guidance so we have not included anything specifically here. There are however songs included in the Cheeky Pandas Videos.

What you will need

- **The family activity sheet to send to families prior to the service if you wish to use them**
- If you are wishing to provide materials for the activity pack you will need to provide 12 cotton wool balls or some Cheerios and a glue stick in the pack. There is a space if you wish the craft to be done as a part of this service.
- If the service is in church and you wish to use the craft as a part of the service then you will need to provide sufficient materials for everyone.

For this Family Service you will need:

- Some cut out sheep to hide in the church. In these COVID times we suggest that they are prepared well in advance and stuck under a few of the seats/pews.
- The responses for the congregation in a format that is appropriate to your setting.



Theme: Jesus – The text is around The lost sheep – Luke 15: 4-7

Background reflection

This parable is a reflection of the significance of every single person to God. The fact that the shepherd goes looking for the sheep is a challenge to all who think that we are the ones who search for God. He is always ahead of us, such is his love. If in parallel we consider the parable of the prodigal son we find the father, at just the right time, running from the house down the road to greet the son. Such is God's desire for restoration with his children. The story of the lost or wandering sheep raises for us the issue of how the church cares for the 99 against the urgency for those many millions who are not yet aware of God's love for themselves.

Welcome

Gathering Prayer

Leader: We are not once a week friends

All: We are the family of God

Leader: We are here to receive God's love

All: We are the body of Christ

Leader: We are here together to share in worship

All: Our Father God has called us to worship Him together

Leader: So let us draw near to God



Prayer for the day

Dear God, we thank you for this new day. We thank you for each other and that we belong as a part of this church family. We pray for five people we know to come to know your love for themselves. May our time together with you bring us closer to each other and to you. Amen.

Saying sorry

You may wish to use the following.

Saying sorry with our hands – people do the actions while the leader says the words. You may wish them to be said by everyone if the words can be on a screen.

Leader: Make a fist – Lord we are sorry for the times we have got angry with other people

Leader: Point away from yourself – We are sorry for the times we have blamed other people when it was us who had done something wrong

Leader: Put your hand over your mouth – We are sorry for the unkind words we have spoken which have hurt other people.

Leader: Hold both hands open with the palms upwards

All say: Thank you God that you love us and forgive us when we get things wrong. Amen

Introductory Activity maybe used here

- 1) **If in church together:** have some cut outs of sheep hidden under some seats in the worship space. If you are feeling energetic you might hide 99!
Leader: I am sure that I had something in my hand when I came into church. Now I seem to have lost them. Might you be able to help me find them. Just look around where you are.
- 2) **If online:** Tell people you have hidden an object on your person .e.g in a pocket. Ask people to volunteer where they think you have hidden it until it is found.
You might wish to round this off by finding out how people feel if they have lost something that was precious to them

The bible text is told in the Cheeky Pandas video - Use the clip here

VIDEO: The Lost Guitar Pick

Leader: Which part of the video do you like best and why?

Answers might be collated or the leader could have anticipated some answers and hold them up for people to see in speech bubbles.

If wishing to use a song - **God Loves me because I'm special** would be very suitable.

The Optional Craft activity of making a sheep could go in here or be done after the service at home.

Prayer activity

Using our hands again

Hold your little finger and say a prayer for all the children in your church/ or household.

Hold your Thumb and say a prayer for all those who need a thumbs up, an encouragement at this time.

Hold your middle finger which is usually the tallest and say a prayer for all who look after our safety.

Hold your own hand and say a prayer that God will keep you in his care. Amen

Leader: Remind people that there is a craft activity to do if not done in the service, a sheet to colour in if they want to do so and a food challenge that they might like to complete and photograph and send into you. The challenge this week is to make a sheep sandwich. It can have any filling so long as it is in the shape of a sheep. Have some fun exploring the Lost sheep story.

Blessing We say the grace together or a similar blessing.

