

Children and family talk for 30th August 2020 week 23.

Hello everybody! Welcome to the children and family worship.
Let's begin by talking to God:

*Lord, the disciples gathered around you,
trying so hard to answer your questions,
and to cope with difficult news.
We come before you now and ask your blessing,
as we seek to understand more of your story –
your tough and challenging,
but so good story!
Amen.*

Our Bible reading today is from **Matthew 16.21-28**

The followers of Jesus didn't like everything he told them. Some things he talked about were difficult to hear and others were difficult to do.

Peter had just been praised by Jesus, for saying that Jesus was the Messiah, but as Peter listened now, he couldn't believe what he was hearing. Jesus was saying that he would have to suffer and die. 'I will be killed,' he said, 'but on the third day I will rise again.'

The Messiah can't die, Peter thought. 'God forbid it, Lord!' he said. 'This must never happen to you.'

Jesus got angry. 'You're not thinking as God thinks, Peter. You can only see things like humans do. If I thought like that, it would make me stumble instead of doing the right thing. Get behind me, Satan!'

This was hard for Peter to hear, but then Jesus told his followers to do things that sounded very tough too.

'If someone wants to follow me, they have to stop putting themselves first and take up their cross. If they want to save their own lives, they will lose them, but if they lose their lives following me, they will find them again.'

'What is the point of having whatever you want, if it means losing your life? What can someone give in exchange for their life?'

Jesus said, 'When the Son of Man comes in glory with his angels, he will repay everyone for what they've done. Truly, I say, some of you standing here now will see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom before you die.'

Let's praise God now as we sing:

In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my
song

This Cornerstone, this solid
Ground,
Firm through the fiercest
drought and storm.

What heights of love, what
depths of peace,
When fears are stilled when
strivings cease,
My comforter my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on
flesh,
Fulness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and
righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to
save.

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid,
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness
slain,
Then bursting forth in glorious
day,
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on
me,
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood
of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final
breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of
man,
Can ever pluck me from His
hand,
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll
stand!

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Let's look at the story together:

This passage in the bible comes just after last week's passage, where Simon was given a new name by Jesus and became Simon Peter, meaning 'Rock'. In this passage Simon Peter is in trouble though, he hasn't understood Jesus, and really gets it wrong.

It's a hard concept to understand, because of course Simon Peter didn't want to see his friend suffer and die, but Jesus had to die to fulfil his mission on earth and then rise to life again.

Here I have a balloon, I'm going to share this one with my friend Mickey. Do you like my balloon, Mickey?

M: Wow, a balloon, I love balloons, especially orange ones! Can I hold it, can I, can I?

S: Yes, ok, but Mickey, I haven't.....Oh!

M: Oh, now it's gone. (very sad)

S: But, that was rather fun wasn't it!

M: I guess it was. (Still sad)

S: I have another one here Mickey.

M: Ok, but don't blow this one up because I want to keep it.

S: Oh, ok, here you are.

M: thankyou. Oh, but it's not much fun like this.

S: well, it's a bit like Jesus was saying in the bible passage, it's no good having everything if you are not prepared to give up something. Balloons are only fun when they are blown up, and we have to be prepared to give up things, just as Jesus gave his life for us, if we want to be part of His kingdom here on earth. It might mean giving up bad habits, like watching too much tv, or playing computer games, so that we have more time to read the bible, it's not easy to be a Christian, but it is definitely worth it, to be friends with Jesus. And don't forget, Jesus made the biggest sacrifice, by giving His life for us on the cross.

Praying together

It may be good,

it may be tough,

but God you are with us

and your love is enough.

Amen.

God's blessing song

May God's Blessing be upon you now
May you know of his great love for you
May God's blessing be upon you now
Right where you are
(Repeat)

Don't forget to join in the Sundayclub zoom session at 11.15am on Sunday, just ask Sandy for the link. Tel: 07511950633

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20748/30-aug-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>