

Children and family talk for 25th October 2020 week 31.

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.
Let's begin by talking to God:

*Dear God, you are a great big God, full of strength, slow to get angry and made of Love. We love you God.
This morning, help us to listen to your word and learn more about your strength, love and gentleness.
Amen.*

Our Bible reading today is from 1 Thessalonians 2 verses 1-8 (reading from the Message).

So, friends it's obvious that our visit to you was no waste of time. We had just been given rough treatment in Philippi, as you know, but that didn't slow us down. We were sure of ourselves in God, and went right ahead and said our piece, presenting God's message to you, defiant of the opposition.

God tested us thoroughly to make sure we were qualified to be trusted with this message. Be assured that when we speak to you we're not after crowd approval – only God approval. Since we've been put through that battery of tests, you're guaranteed that both we and the message are free of error, mixed motives, or hidden agendas. We never used words to butter you up. No one knows that better than you. And God knows we never used words as a smoke screen to take advantage of you.

Even though we had some standing as Christ's apostles, we never threw our weight around or tried to come across as important, with you or anyone else. We weren't aloof with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronising, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did.

Let's praise God now as we sing: (JOIN IN THE ACTIONS).

Our God is a great big God

Our God is a great big God (repeatx2)

And God holds us in those hands

(repeat)

God's higher than a sky scraper

And deeper than a submarine

God's wider than the universe

And beyond my wildest dreams

And God's known me and God's loved me
Since before the world began
How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan!

Our God is a great big God (repeat x 2)
And God holds us in those hands.

Let's look at the bible passage a bit more.

Paul is writing to the Thessalonians, who knew that he had been imprisoned in Philippi just before he came to Thessalonica. Fear of being put into prison did not stop Paul from telling others the good news about Jesus. If God wants us to do something then God will give us the strength and courage to do it. Paul talks about being honest and not buttering people up with flattery. We should always try to be honest and not just say what people want us to say, but tell people the true message of God's love for all of us.

At the end of this passage, Paul is talking about how they cared for the Thessalonians, as if they were a mother caring for her children. This is because the Thessalonians were brand new Christians, still learning. They were gentle and kind to them as a mother would be to her children. Gentleness is love in action, being considerate, meeting the needs of others, and being willing to learn. It isn't easy, but let's all try to be gentle with those we meet this week.

{Balloon demonstration of gentleness}.

Praying together

Lord, help us to be gentle, to know when we need to be gentle, to have the strength to be gentle. Amen.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)
And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)
Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21037/25-oct-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>