

## Children and family talk for 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 week 30.

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.  
Let's begin by reading from Psalm 96, verses 1 - 5

*Sing a new song to the Lord!*

*Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!*

*Sing to the Lord; praise His name.*

*Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.*

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.*

*Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.*

*Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!*

*He is to be feared above all gods.*

*The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens!*

Our Bible reading today is from 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 verses 1 to 10. (With pictures).

This letter is from Paul, Silas and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace.

We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. For when we brought you the good news, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you. So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece – throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it, for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from Heaven – Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

Let's praise God now as we sing: (use any instruments you have to really praise God as we sing).

## **You shall go out with Joy (415 rejoice and sing)**

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,  
And the mountains and the hills shall break forth in singing.  
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field shall clap,  
Shall clap their hands;  
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
The trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
And the trees of the field shall lap their hands,  
And you'll go out with joy.

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

This part of a letter to the Thessalonians contains another one of my favourite verses – verse 2 which says: “We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly”. How lovely to be thought of and prayed for like that! It goes on to say that as they prayed, they thought of their ‘faithful work, loving deeds, and enduring hope’. We can find these words in another one of Paul’s letters, where he talks about faith, hope and love, in 1 Corinthians 13 verse 13. These Christians had had to go through and still were going through a lot of troubles, where people were being particularly nasty to them because of their beliefs and sometimes they were even arrested, imprisoned or killed because they believed in Jesus Christ. But they had also had some amazing things happen which helped them through the bad times. They had experienced the Holy Spirit working through them and had felt the power of God in their lives. Jesus was a bit like we might think of a super hero – no he didn’t fly through the air, or scale walls, but he did show them the right way to live their lives and make a better world. We can experience the power of the Holy Spirit ourselves if we are prepared to open our lives to God. God is love, and if you want that power in your life, you just need to say sorry for anything you have done wrong and then ask God into your life. These early Christians were going through a lot and they could have hidden away and kept to themselves, but instead they decided to spread the good news far and wide, and it’s thanks to them that we have Christian churches in most parts of the world now, including our own. Don’t be afraid to tell others about your faith in Jesus and ask God to help you do this, maybe you can be like a superhero, spreading the good news all around!

### **Praying together**

Dear Lord,

We are sorry for anything we have done wrong this week. Come into our lives now and fill us with your Holy Spirit. We want to know the power of your love in our lives. Help us to tell others about what it means to be a Christian, and help us not to be afraid, knowing you are with us. 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)

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/21033/18-oct-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>