

Holiday club service: Sunday 8th August 2021

Hello everyone, and welcome to this special all-age worship for our holiday club this year, welcome to all those joining us via the internet too, or who may be watching this later.

Before we begin, just to remind you that we can now sing if we keep our masks on, and while you are sitting down you are now allowed to remove them when not singing. After the service there will be drinks served from the foyer, please queue down the passageway, leaving a gap for people to get past, and once you have your drink, please bring it directly back into the church and take a seat, to avoid the foyer getting clogged up with people, thankyou. If you are chatting, please keep to groups of six or less.

Also, please remember to keep giving your gifts of money for the continued work of the church, there are several ways you can do this, via the website or by bank transfer, please speak to Keith if you are unsure.

This year's holiday club is called 'Supersleuths' and we are entertaining 18 children tomorrow in this building who will become detectives investigating the truths behind some of our bible characters. If your special talent is praying, then please take time to pray for us tomorrow between 10am and 3pm, thankyou. And so, we start our club off today by investigating two more characters, whose names both begin with an M.

But before we start, let's put ourselves in the right frame of mind, by having a chat to God, and we're going to leave a short gap in the prayer to listen to God.

All-powerful God who sees, hears and knows everything,

We come to talk to you now, and also to listen to what you have to say.

We know that you have so many ways of communicating with us, through the bible, through other people, through nature and directly to us.

Lord, speak to us, and through us today and help us to listen. (Pause)

We ask that you be with us today, tomorrow and always. Amen.

Our first bible reading is from Psalm 34 verses 1-8 and Rachel will read this for us now.

I will praise the Lord at all times.

I will constantly speak God's praises.

I will boast only in the Lord;

Let all who are helpless take heart.

Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness;

Let us exalt God's name together.

I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me.

I was freed from all my fears.

Those who look to God for help will be radiant with joy;

No shadow of shame will darken their faces.

In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened.

God saved me from all my troubles.

For the angel of the Lord is a guard;

he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in the Lord!

Now let's sing: **Our God is a great big God**

Our God is a great big God, (X3)

And He holds us in his hands

He's higher than a skyscraper, and deeper than the deepest seas

He wider than the universe and beyond my wildest dreams

And he's known me and he's loved me, since before the world began

How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan!

Sandy is quizzed by Rachel:

Sandy appears with a cleaning equipment, too much to carry and starts to use some of it.

R: What do you think you're doing?

S: Um, won't be a moment.

R: But, what are doing, you can't do that now

S: Well, it needs to be done, we've got people coming tomorrow, and I want it to look nice in here.

R: Looks alright to me. Anyway, you still can't do that now.

S: Why not?

R: Well, for a start, you're supposed to be leading the service.

S: Well, I'm too busy.

R: (Shrugs shoulders) Well, I better take over then. (Gets on with bible reading)

Todays bible reading is from...

Sandy puts the hoover on and makes a din

Rachel unplugs the hoover.

S: Oi!

R: What to you mean Oi! There are some things more important than cleaning you know.

S: But I've got to get it all ready!! (looking panicked)

R: Just sit there, and listen to this.

Rachel reads : Our Bible reading is from Luke 10 verses 38 to 42

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about, Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Sandy: Thankyou Rachel, so these are our characters today; Mary and Martha.

And now we have a mini challenge, can you identify from the pictures, the sitting and the doing activities? Which activities are full speed ahead, and which are slow-down?

(MINI-activity from Powerpoint)

Rachel: Now, let's gather some evidence on Mary and Martha, and here to help us is our supersleuth detective Stan!

Stan: Hi everyone!

(puts pictures of Mary and Martha up on the evidence board)

Stan: What we have here is a mystery! It's going to take some thought. Hmmm.

What do we know about these characters?

Let's examine the evidence....

They were sisters.

Sandy: Do you have some evidence then Stan? What have you got there?

Stan: (Rummaging through his box, pulls out a sandwich.)

Sandy: that is not evidence – that's a sandwich.

Stan: Yes, that' my lunch!

Sandy: Ah, but there was food involved in this story wasn't there.

Rachel puts sandwich on evidence tray, with a label attached to it (exhibit 1)

Sandy: Martha was making dinner.

Rachel helps Stan pull out more 'evidence'. This time it's a photograph, oh it's a welcome mat. Exhibit 2

Rachel: Which sister made Jesus welcome?

Both were friends of Jesus.

What other evidence do we have, ah, it's a cushion!

Stan: err, that's mine too.

Sandy: Mary sat at Jesus' feet –rabbis did not allow women to sit at their feet and study the Torah, to listen and ask questions. Yet Jesus encourages it.

Martha – is the one to welcome Jesus, and is then preparing a big dinner, right or wrong?

There are two sides to this investigation of Mary and Martha. Jesus said Mary had discovered the one thing that it was worth being concerned about – and it would not be taken away from her. Martha however distracted, is performing an important task, she is preparing a big dinner for them. So, why does Jesus side with Mary when Martha asks him to step in?

I sometimes feel a bit sorry for Martha. She seems to really care about doing the right thing, but then gets it so terribly wrong. Jesus was only going to be there a short time, and she was so busy in the kitchen that she was missing out on his visit, while her sister chose to spend her time with Jesus. I guess we can often do this too. We get so caught up with fussing with the details that we miss what is really important. Christmas can be a bit like this can't it, where we get tied in knots trying to have the 'perfect' Christmas, getting all the ribbons and bows on the presents, instead of spending time with the family and celebrating Jesus' birth. Jesus wants us to spend time with him, in whatever form that takes, whether it is reading our bible, taking time to talk to our Lord, giving our time to help others or enjoying a nature walk and taking in the wonders of God's creation. We need to find time for reflection and being with Jesus.

Tomorrow, our lovely holiday club team will be helping to bring some of the bible characters to 18 children through games, crafts, cooking and fun and we will be spending time with God. Let's thank God for those people now. Please stand if you are helping tomorrow.

Dear patient, loving God,

You are so awesome and we want to share that with others.

Tomorrow we have the chance to do just that.

Be with each one of us as we take your message of love and share it with others.

Bless each one of these people who are giving their time in your service, and may we all learn more about you.

Thankyou Lord, in your name we ask it.

Amen.

And now we say the Lord's prayer in a family friendly version.

Our Father in heaven, you are awesome!
Show us who you are and how you want us to be.
Make earth more like heaven.
Please give us what we need to keep going each day.
Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside.
Help us to let other people off and move on.
Keep us from bad stuff.
You're in charge!
You're strong and powerful and always there.
Forever!
Amen.

Let's sing again: Holiday club song:

Hints are everywhere we look as we investigate this book
We must search to see if we can find the truths
With a magnifying glass, and the right amount of sass
We will be a group of modern supersleuths

There was Mary, there was Martha in their home
One was working, one was praying all alone
Both things needed to be done, but it doesn't sound much fun
But they knew that very soon they would be welcoming God's son

Our prayers for others.

People stand a little apart from each other. At AMEN, wave your hands; dance, make noise or move however they like (Frenzy). When you hear the word Jesus, stop and listen. At the final Amen, cheer!

Martha liked to do things and Mary liked to think. Thank you, God, for all those people we know who are like Mary and Martha AMEN. Frenzy

Jesus, we thank you for all the people who do good in the world. We now think of someone we know who helps make other people happy. Silence

Thank you for those special people AMEN. Frenzy

Jesus, we thank you for all the people who are brainy and think of ways that make other people's lives easier. We think of someone we know who helps other people. Silence

Thank you for those special people AMEN. Frenzy

Jesus, we thank you for all the people who have worked so hard to keep us safe over the past year. We think of someone we know who is a doctor, nurse, works in a shop or has looked after someone. Silence

Thank you for those special people AMEN. Frenzy

Jesus, we thank you for all the people who are helping us learn and grow, our teachers and schools, our families, our church, the groups we belong to. We think of someone we know who has taught us something important. Silence

Thank you for those special people AMEN. Frenzy

Jesus, we ask you to help us be a little bit like both Mary and Martha. Help us to do our best to show people your love in all we think and do. Amen (cheer)

Our last song today is one we know very well:

You shall go out with joy!

*You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you,
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, (X3)
While you go out with joy!*

*You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you,
There'll be shouts of joy and the owls
In the trees, shall flap, shall flap their wings.
and the owls in the trees shall flap their wings, (X3)
While you go out with joy!*

*You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you,
There'll be shouts of joy and the dogs in the park, shall run, shall run around.
and the dogs in the park shall run around, (X3)
While you go out with joy!*

Before we go, let's all do the blessing together, with actions;

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all, Now and always, Amen.*