

# CHEEKY PANDAS

## Family Service

# Celebrate

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 Pandas 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, an application, a craft activity, a game, a 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 sheets* to send to families prior to the service if you wish to use them.
- Some chocolate coins for the families to hide around the house.
- For those taking part in the craft activity:
  - A small paper plate
  - Two sets of googly eyes
  - A red marker,
  - Some pieces of wool to make hair
  - Either a lolly pop stick or a piece of doweling to mount the faces on.
- You will need any words that you wish the people to use in a format to suit your local situation



Theme: Celebrate – The Bible text is Luke 15:8-10

## Background reflection

So, I had a watch. It had been handed down through the generations. There were endless stories attached to it. Stories about people and wars, survival, love and tragic deaths. I was to guard it until the next generation when it could be handed on. So, we moved house as you often do living in Vicarages. The removal men came and all went smoothly. We unpacked and eventually realised, no watch.” It’s only a watch “the eldest said, seeing my distress. “We have other watches “shouts the youngest. All the packing paper was searched time and time again. The car was searched, the removal firm called just in case. No watch.

This parable in Luke shows the length that God will go to and with some urgency to find just one of his children, made in his image, to bring them back to himself. When he does, there is a great celebration and all for just the one

The challenge for Christians is to work with God in his great searching adventure to seek out with some urgency the ones who are as yet not part of The Way .Thy Kingdom Come pray for five is a part of enabling people to enter into this great adventure of God and into the great celebration when that which is lost is found.

The watch? Stuck down into a pair of child’s summer socks and only to appear when the sun shone again. Rejoicing? You bet!

## Welcome

Our theme today is *Celebrate*.

## 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

Prayer for the day. Lord God, we thank you for this new day with its lots of possibilities to celebrate all the good things in your world. Help us to really celebrate and enjoy all you have provided for us. Amen.

**Sung worship** can be inserted here if suitable.

## 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.

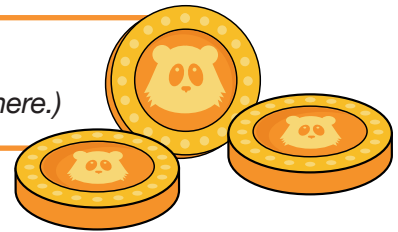
**Leader:** *Hold both hands open with the palms upwards.*

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

**Leader:** So now we can celebrate. *(you may wish to celebrate any birthdays or anniversaries in here)* So what is the best way to celebrate? I wonder if the Cheeky Pandas are celebrating today?

### Watch - Cheeky Pandas Video: *The Lost Coin*

*(The optional craft activity happy/sad faces could be included here.)*



## Prayers

*If the craft has been included in the service you may wish to make use of the happy/sad faces in the prayers by the children simply holding up the right side of the face at the appropriate time.*

**Leader:** Loving heavenly Father when we look at your beautiful world it makes us so happy.

**All:** Help us to celebrate your goodness to us every single day.

**Leader:** Sometimes Father God we see people who are suffering and very sick. This makes us sad.

**All:** We pray that you will make them better and that their sad faces will be turned in to happy faces.

**Leader:** Father God we pray for all those people who keep us safe, the police officers, the firemen, the ambulance people whose happy faces help us to feel safe.

**All:** May we learn that our happy faces can also bring cheer to the people we meet.

**Leader:** Father God we pray for all those whose family member or friend has died. Whose faces are now very sad.

**All:** Help us to understand their sadness and be caring for them in their sadness.

**All:** We continue to pray for our five friends who do not yet know your love Lord God. May they get to know that love so that their faces might be happy with your love. Amen.

*(Remind them of the activity pack and the food challenge)*

## The Blessing/Grace

*We say the grace together or a similar blessing.*

