

# CHEEKY PANDAS

## Family Service

# Praise

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 Panda 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, application, a craft activity, a game, 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 Sheet to send to families prior to the service if you wish to use them**
- If the service is in church and you wish to use the craft as a part of the service then you will need to provide sufficient materials for everyone
- Small empty bottles with a screw top
- Some dried beans, rice or lentils to make an instrument
- Some plastic forks for the prayer time

### For this Family Service you will need:

- A church praise certificate ready to write the name on. This is found in the activity pack
- A lit candle and something that will go over it, hiding the flame but not putting it out
- A plastic fork
- An empty plastic bottle with a screw top and some dried beans, rice or lentils to make an instrument
- The words that people will say in a format to suit your local situation



Theme: Praise – The text is around Acts 16:24-34

## Background reflection

It is great to offer our thanks and praise to God when everything is going well or we are feeling happy and secure. To find ourselves in places of danger, despair and threat and still to be able to offer our praise is another thing altogether. Such was the Paul and Silas situation. The text *Rejoice in the Lord always* is often quoted to Christians in the face of adversity and can seem cruel and unsympathetic but it is precisely at such times that we lift our focus, our very being to the one who remains constant in love, in spite of our current circumstances – after all he is either Lord of all or not Lord at all!

## Welcome

Praise is our theme today.

**If in church:** Let's start with our own praise award. Is there anyone you would like to nominate to be worthy of praise because they have done something good to help someone this week?

**If online:** Let's start by thinking if there is anyone in your household you would like to award the Church Praise certificate to? You have it in your activity pack. Award it now to them having written their name on it.

## Gathering Prayer

**Leader:** We have come together in the name of Christ. Have a look around at each other and greet each other with a wave or a smile or both.

**Leader:** We are here to offer our praise and thanksgiving to God. So let's lift our hands up as an act of praise. *(Demonstrate actions)*

**Leader:** We are here to hear and receive God's Holy word. So let's open our hands together like an open book in order to receive. *(Demonstrate actions)*

**Leader:** We are here to pray for the needs of the world. So let's make a circular motion describing a world. *(Demonstrate actions)*

**We are here to praise you Lord, regardless of what kind of week we have had. WE praise you.**



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

**Saying sorry** *You may wish to use the following*

**Leader:** Sometimes when we come near to God in our praise we are aware that we have done and said things that do not bring praise to God.

It's a bit like this candle *(light the candle so all can see)*. When we are acting as God wants us to, then the light is bright but when we don't act as God would like us to then it is like this *(hide the candle)*.

So, let's say sorry.

**Together we say:** We are sorry Lord, for the things we have done that have hurt you and others. We are sorry that there have been times when we have not helped others as Jesus helps us.

# CHEEKY PANDAS Family Service PRAISE - Sheet 3

We are sorry when we have been impatient.

We are sorry when we have forgotten to pray to you, especially when everything was going well in our lives. *(Pause during which the flame is revealed again)*

Thank you Lord, that you love us, you hear us when we pray and you forgive us. Amen.

## Prayer for the day

**Lord God, we thank you that we can praise you; that we can see you around us in the wonder of creation. Help us to offer you our praise even when life is hard.**

**Amen.**

**Cheeky Pandas video - Use the clip here**  
**VIDEO: The Duck Award**

**Leader :** What did you like best about that video? What do you think we might learn from it?

## Prayers *Please give a little space between categories for silent prayer*

**Leader:** Right: we are using fork prayers today; so if you are at home, they are in your activity pack. We are going to dig deep for our prayers and use a digging deep action like this to help us pray. So let's dig deep and think of someone who we find it difficult to get on with and bring them to God to bless. *(They hold the fork steady as if something precious is balanced on it)*

Let's dig deep and think of someone who is very ill that we want to pray for.

Let's dig deep and think of people without food or shelter and pray for them.

Let's dig deep and pray for our families, especially when times are very difficult.

Let's dig deep and pray for five friends or family members to come to know the love of God for themselves.

Let's dig deep and ask God to help us to praise him, even when we do not feel like it.

Amen.

**Leader:** Now this is not just any fork; it is our prayer fork, so every time we use it we can remember to pray.

Time to sing our praises to God. You can make an instrument like I have here *(this can be an activity during the service if you wish)* after our time together; but for now let's use what we have: keys to jingle, feet to stamp, hands to clap, saucepans at home to rattle, voices to sing.

## Praise song

So, there is, in the activity pack, an instrument to make at home and a food challenge. Can you make a cake without using an oven? There is one example in your activity pack.

## The Blessing/Grace *We say the grace together or a similar blessing.*

