

CHEEKY PANDAS

Family Service

Silence

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 Sheet to send to families prior to the service if you wish to use them**
- The bible verse sheet for them to colour in and draw onto.
- If you are providing materials for the wind chime you will need:
 - A stick about 12 inches long
 - Garden twine
 - A selection of 12 large buttons that can be threaded with the garden twine.
 - 5 different coloured beads and a piece of cord or twine 15 inches in length for the prayer time.
 - The Cheeky Pandas Bedtime Prayer Booklet (TKC web site)

For this Family Service you will need:

- Some pieces of cord or twine about 15 inches long. Five different coloured beads for the prayer time, placed in envelopes for everyone.
- Any words that you wish people to use in a format suitable for your local setting.



Theme: Silence (*not something that is often found in family services!*)

Bible Text: Psalm 46:10

Background reflection

Silence is, for many in our increasingly loud and image driven world, uncomfortable. If nothing is said on the TV we assume they cannot read the auto cue or there is something wrong with our sound. If we ask a person a question and they do not answer we assume that they did not hear it, so say it again and louder until we get a response. Perhaps the silence was simply thinking time! Even the noise of incessant emails crowds our minds.

Silence can become a lost gift. It is not always a void nor is it always a 'waiting' that is to be got through. It is in its own right a sort of event and one that has meaning in itself.

Silence with God is a powerful action as we allow our own needs, wants, images, and distractions to slip away until it is just us and God. The practice of the three-minute egg timer set while we sit alongside God on the sofa in silent companionship is to be recommended.

After all, how can we get a hint of what God is up to and let him be God until we stop our own chatter and allow his presence to come alongside us. Such silence is a deep form of communication as anyone deeply in committed in love will tell you - just by sitting together side by side.

Welcome

The theme today is **Silence**.

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.**



Prayer for the day

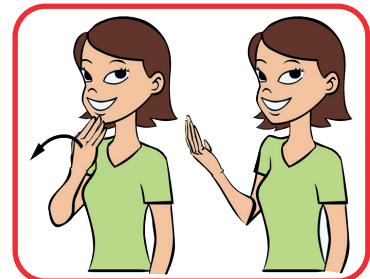
Father God, we give you thanks for this new day. We thank you for the sounds we can now hear all around us. Help us to remember that we are here to listen to your word, to hear from you and to pray for others. **Amen.**

Saying sorry

Leader: Well, our theme today is Silence. That is a challenge for everyone. It is not the same as being quiet. It is about being still in our bodies and listening to what God might be saying to us. So our saying sorry prayer today will be a silent one.

Leader: I invite you to think of something that you have done that made someone unhappy, or was careless or unkind.

Simply bend your head down and wait a few seconds in silence. Listen instead to your breathing ... Now hear these words. (Say the next part in a very quiet voice so people have to listen hard) **The Lord God loves you and forgives you. Be at peace.**



All: (respond with a silent sign for thank you.)

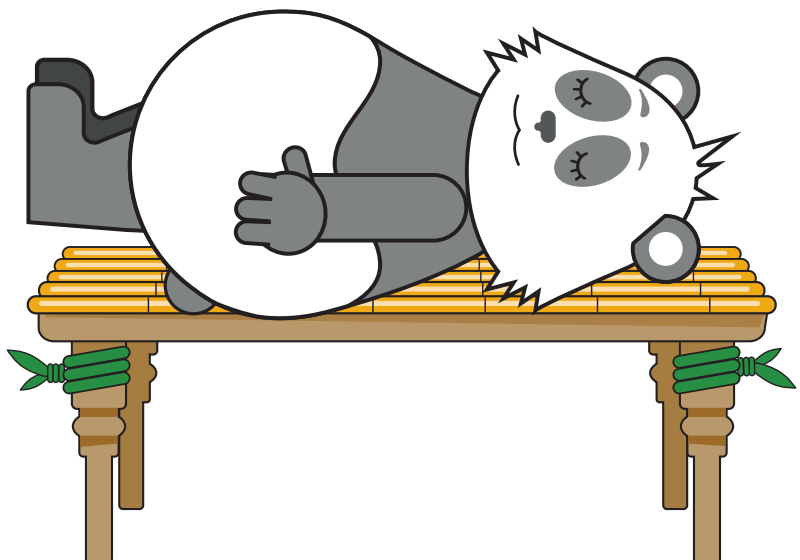
Leader: Well, the cheeky Pandas are usually very noisy. I wonder if they can ever be silent...

Watch the Cheeky Pandas video here.
VIDEO: The Silent Disco

Activity

Sleeping Lion game activity could be used in here. Instead of having the children on the floor they could simply sleep in their chairs.

- Have all the children (except one or two hunters) lie down on the floor in sleeping positions.
- Once they are settled, they are not allowed to move - you might use the language “freeze” so they fully understand the object of the game.
- The hunters walk through the room and try to make the sleeping lions move by making them laugh, telling them jokes, and so on.
- However, the hunters are not allowed to touch the lions.
- Once any lion moves they are tapped and get up and join the hunters.
- The last child still on the floor wins!



Prayers

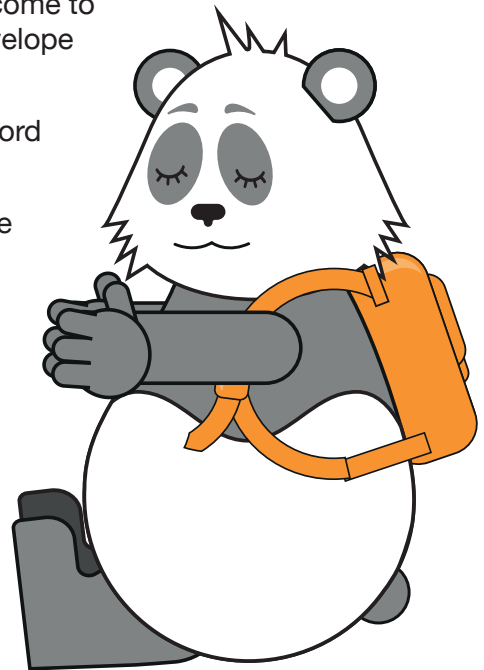
Leader: We are going to pray again for our five friends to come to know the love of God for themselves. You will need the envelope now with the beads and cord in. Please help each other.

The first thing you do is tie a nice knot on one end of the cord and as you do so, silently tell God you are praying.

Then choose one of the beads to represent one of the five people you are praying for. Hold that bead in your hand as you pray for that person to know God's love. Slip the bead onto the cord. You then slowly repeat the process for every bead you have, and then tie a knot after the last bead to keep them still.

Now, helping each other, tie the prayer band around your wrist to remind you to keep in praying.

Leader: Father God we have prayed for our friends and family members to come to know your love. Remind us through these coming days to keep on praying as we trust you to bring them into your love. Amen.



Remind them of the activity packs and the food challenge and don't forget to use your Cheeky Pandas prayer books as well!

The Blessing/Grace

We say the grace together or a similar blessing.

