

CHEEKY PANDAS

Family Service

Thanks

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, 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**
- 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
- For the Thanks Catcher, you will need an A4 piece of paper made into a square. Here is a YouTube tutorial to help you make one:
<https://youtu.be/U-W9GcRzLWw>
- Any words that you wish people to say in whatever format suits your situation

For this Family Service you will need:

- The Bible verse, James 1:17, written out on a large piece of card (old delivery boxes are fine), with some letters missing
- The family activity sheets to send to families in advance
- If you are providing resources then you will need to provide bananas, an assortment of sprinkles, and some sort of non-nut chocolate-type spread. It will be more fun, and will avoid allergy issues, if you provide the bananas and the families use whatever spread they have at home, and send photos in.



Theme: Thanks – The text is James 1:12-17

Background reflection

The Epistle of James sort of holds our hand and walks with us, if you like, through the practical aspects of living a life for Christ in both good times and in times of trial. It emphasises, in Chapter 1, that everything that is good comes from God and because of his very nature he can do no other. His character, unlike ours, is unchanging. How much emphasis do we place on giving thanks to God for his goodness in our everyday life. In both the ordinary things and the extraordinary things of his provision?

Welcome

Our theme today is *Thanks*.

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.

Leader: So let us draw near to God.

(Song would be appropriate here)

Leader: Here is the Bible verse for today: James 1:17; but it has some letters missing.

Every **_ood** and perfect **_ift** is from **a_ove**, coming down from the **Fa_er** of the heavenly **l_ht**, who does not change like shifting **sh_ows**.

What do you think the missing letters are? We are here to praise you Lord, regardless of what kind of week we have had. We praise you.

Prayer for the day

Lord God, we thank you for this new day. We thank you for everyone here. We thank you for all the exciting things that surround us and we thank you for sending Jesus to be our special friend.

Amen.



Saying sorry

Leader: Dear God, for the times when we were grumpy because things didn't go our way.

All: We are sorry and ask you to help us not to always want things our own way.

Leader: For the times when we do not say thank you for the ordinary things in life, like our food, homes, and friends.

All: We are sorry and ask that you remind us to give thanks for all the good things in our lives.
Amen.

Cheeky Pandas video - Use the clip here
VIDEO: The Birthday Gift

Thank You Active Prayers

Leader: If you would like to thank God for your friends, stand up and after a count of three shout a nice 'Amen!'

Leader: If you would like to thank God for the food you eat, rub your tummy and give a big smile, and after a count of three shout a nice 'Amen!'

Leader: If you would like to thank God for your church family, turn around, give them a wave and after three shout a nice 'Amen!'

Leader: If you would like to thank God for caring for those who are ill, stand up, hold your hands out and after three do a nice quiet whisper 'Amen.'

Leader: If you would like to thank God for animals and all in His creation, stand up and make a shape like an animal and after three shout a nice 'Amen!'

Sung worship *A suitable action/signed song could be inserted here.*

Remind everyone that there is a craft activity to do (if not done in the service), an activity sheet and a food challenge. This week it is making Banana Bites. Of course, you can share them round as well, and people might even say thank you!

The Blessing/Grace

We say the grace together or a similar blessing.

