

CHILDRENS PROGRAMME

God cares and protects us John 17: 6-19

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
We are thankful you are the God we can know.
You are with us here and everywhere we go.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.



Starter:

Sit facing a wall with you eyes closed.
Ask members of your family to join in. They have to walk behind you with out you seeing.
Can you guess who walked behind you?

Bible Story

In this story Jesus is praying to God. It is after the Easter story but he is still on earth.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

'I have taught the people here about you. They were following your laws and you asked me to teach them more and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything I can do is because of you. They knew for certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the whole world but for my friends. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by the power you gave me. '



'I am coming up to heaven now, but I want to say these things whilst I am on the Earth, so that they can be filled with joy. I have given them your word and the world has hated them. Do not take them out of the world but protect them from the evil one. They are not of this world now, even as I am not of it. Bless them by your truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.'

Ooh there are a lots of tricky bits in this Bible reading! In essence Jesus is saying that his disciples are good people who love God. Jesus wants God to protect his friends as they have the hard job of going out and telling more people about God now Jesus is going back to heaven.

Here are the main points I have found:

God cares about these people because he sent Jesus to tell them more about him.

God will protect the disciples as they are telling people about him.

God will bless them with the right words to say and things to do because they are doing his work.

Did you find any more when you were reading?

We can learn from this that as disciples of Jesus (who follow his word and tell other about him) God cares about us and he will protect us from evil. Also God will bless us when we are doing his work of telling people about him and caring for others.

Response:

There are lots of children who need God's protection now.

We are going to spend a few minutes thinking about children who are less fortunate than us and need God's protection.

You may want to think about:

Sick children who have the Corona virus or have a family member who have it

Children in poverty

Children who are homeless

Children who live in countries that are at war.

Our God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lybYyxoGTgg>

Craft:

This is Psalm 18: 1-2.

I love you, LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

What is God like?

What do these images mean?

Is God really a rock and a fort?

How is he like these things?

Using play dough make a model of one of these things that God is like. Take a picture or put this somewhere you can see it. This can remind you that God protects you.

Closing prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for caring for us and protecting us.

We think about all the children in the world that need your protection now. Please put your loving arms around them.

Help us as we go into this week to spread your word and tell people about you.

In your name we pray.

AMEN!