

# Morning service script 14 June 2020

Good morning! A very warm welcome to Manor Mission's Parade service for June 2020.

Here are the notices:

- Monday morning, 10-12, online **coffee pot** hosted by Jackie and Jeff and Dave and Margaret
- Tuesday 8-9pm **Bible study**: 4 sessions on how to study the Bible, filling all of June's Bible study slots and led by Dave ("*Building on the Basics – being a bible detective*") – we did session 1 last week, so session 2 coming up
- Thursday 8.05 **prayer meeting** led by Ronke (no clapping at 8pm now, so please use the 5 mins for prayer)
- **Sunday morning service** – Colin

This week we're going to be talking about children, God, prayer and goldfish ...

First, some prayers:

Question for our younger members (and anyone else...)

- What's the best prayer?



We need to cast some light on this ... so we'll sing My Lighthouse.

<My Lighthouse>

PRAYER:

- Heavenly Father, we pray you'll remind us always through your Holy Spirit that you are a lighthouse for ALL of us – young or old – and we should always have our minds on your Holy Light

Now the Apostle Paul wrote:

- “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” ([1 Corinthians 13:11](#))
- 1 Corinthians 14:20: “Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.”

Which emphasises how we should grow in Christ, and not remain “childish”.

However, we also know that Jesus said:

- **Matthew's 18 (NIV)** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
- <sup>2</sup> He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”
- **Luke 18:15–17 (MSG)**
- People brought babies to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. When the disciples saw it, they shooed them off. Jesus called them back. “Let these children alone. Don't get between them and me. These children are the kingdom's pride and joy. Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in.”

Prayer:

Heavenly Father we do pray for all of our wonderful children at Manor Mission

- *Rainbows*
- *Brownies*
- *Guides*
- *Sunday School*
- *Xplore*

And their dedicated leaders, who help them all take their steps along the road to God.

Sing One More Step Along The World I Go.

Now what did Jesus mean by “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”?

There’s a clue here – “whoever takes the lowly position of this child” – means that we should be humble and not arrogant.

It doesn’t mean that children are all wonderful and then get worse as they become adults. EXAMPLE – me

- My brother and the injection

Now when I was young (about 2 years old), I had to have an injection against polio. I hated that – it hurt and I made a fuss. When my little brother was about 2 years old and I was about 5, he had the vaccination too. However he had the newer version – on a sugar lump! I was outraged! Why should he get a nice sugar lump, when I had a rotten, painful injection!

But it got worse ... he spat it out! I was furious! Then ... worse ... he did it again, and again.

I’d had enough. I thought “well, he’ll just have to get ill and die. It’ll serve him right.”

Of course the very patient doctor (Dr Martin I think), and my patient mum, together played choo-choo trains and he eventually swallowed it.

- My brother and the potato

Now my little brother was, like most small boys, very keen on eating his

food. He wasn't so keen on taking his time to chew it properly though. He'd been warned quite a few times by our dad about what would happen if he got something stuck in his throat – could be very nasty! Anyway, one day the inevitable happened and he started to go purple at the dinner table. Clutching at his throat he went more and more purple as he couldn't breathe at all. I was very sympathetic – I thought "serves you right, you've been warned!". Dad was fast though, and lifting him up by the ankles, he struck him in the back and a whole potato shot across the kitchen floor. I can still see it happening 55 year later.

So I wasn't a very loving brother, was I?

So we have to agree that Jesus didn't mean that all children are wonderful and adults just have to be more like children. Remember what Paul wrote.

Children are:

- Trusting
- Communicative

**TRUST and COMMUNICATION** – can't have either if we don't **talk**

- Sometimes this can break down between parents and children
- How do we avoid it breaking down with our Heavenly Father?

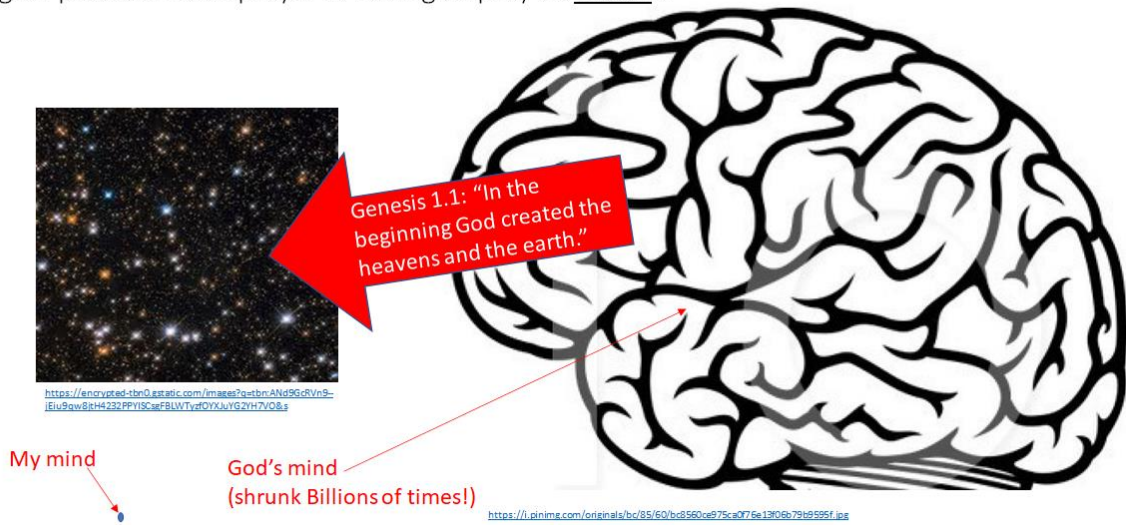
We can PRAY. Now all the prayer we read at the start of this service are all good prayers! But we might wish to be dedicated and consistent in prayer.

P.R.A.Y. is an acronym to remind us how to do prayer in a dedicated and consistent fashion, if we want to do that.

- Pause
- Rejoice
- Ask
- Yes (Yield)

Let's look at **PAUSE** first.

Pause ... the **pause** is to get “in tune” with God ... it has been said that the biggest problem with prayer is having to pray to God...



Well if we can't understand it, perhaps we can sing it!!!!

Let's sing “Our God is a GREAT BIG GOD”.

Next:

### **REJOICE!**

- Yes, sometimes it is hard to rejoice
- We're just not “feeling it”
- Perhaps right now, with a virus on the loose?
- So, sometimes we have to make a real effort to rejoice

The bible reminds us (Psalm 106 NIV) that:

**1**Praise the Lord. <sup>a</sup>

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.”

... Then later ...

**25**“They grumbled in their tents  
and did not obey the Lord.”

Sometimes we all feel like grumbling in our tents.

Let's sing “Rejoice, Rejoice, Christ Is In You”.

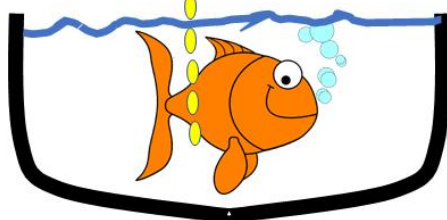
Next:

### ASK (John 14 (NIV))

- Jesus said “<sup>12</sup>Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name\*, and I will do it.”
- \* “...in my name...” -> think of protestors saying: “not in our name!”
- But if we are truly asking for what is *in Jesus name*, then God will find a way to make it happen. This is what Jesus is saying. Do we want to live in a way that’s in Jesus name?

**Ask** - why do we need to ask?

- Jesus said “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (Matthew 6, 7-8, NIV)
- ... *your Father knows what you need before you ask him??*
- But Jesus also said “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15, 15, NIV)



- No one should decide what a friend wants before they ask, but instead should say: *ask when you need help, and I will be there for you...*

If God gave us what we needed before we asked, we wouldn't have proper loving relationship with Him. We'd be more like goldfish, and God would simply drop in the fish food when He'd determined we needed it.

Now you can't have a relationship with a goldfish! Jesus couldn't have said "I have called you friends" if we are no more than goldfish.

This is really important. God wants a proper relationship with us in Jesus Christ.

- Matthew 7, 11 (MSG) Jesus said: "'Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?'"

Sing "Our Father" by Don Moen.

Finally:

### **YES! (Yield)**

- When God replies, what are we going to do?
- I said "no, you must be mistaken God!"
- If it is me God wants, I had better be prepared to say: "is it I Lord?" that You want? What do you want of me?

Sing "Here I Am Lord".

### **PRAYER:**

- Heavenly Father help us to remember that you really do talk with us and to us
- Help us to hear you when you speak, and be ready to say "is it I Lord?" ...
- ... and to recognise that Your people is EVERYONE
- ... And to give us strength and boldness in following your call, even if we are very young (or a bit old!)

Sing "Be Bold, Be Strong".