



You will need...

- PPT
- A helper (prepared in advance)

The story

In our children's slots this term, we are answering the question, "What is church for?"

So far, we've learnt that church is for hearing God speak in the Bible. *[P/pt]* When we study the Bible together, we are hearing God speak to us, in the power of the Spirit.

And last time, we learnt that *[P/pt]* church is for talking to God in prayer. When we pray we ask God for everything we need, and never give up.

Today we are learning that *[P/pt]* church is for encouraging one another.

[P/pt] Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching"

We encourage each other because God first loved us, and brought us all together in Christ. So as a family, *[P/pt]* we can meet to point each other to Jesus. We can help each other see how wonderful He is.

We encourage each other when we hear God speaking in the Bible. We encourage each other when we sing together - we may not sound great but others can hear us sing and be encouraged! We encourage one another in our conversations, helping our friends to see Jesus when they feel sad about something.

[P/pt] We are a bit like an arrow. Arrows point us in the right direction, they help us to know the right way to go. We can act as arrows to help point each other to Jesus.

It's a bit like this: *[Invite up the helper you have prepared]*

Helper: Hey, I'm feeling a bit...um...lonely today.

You: Oh I'm sorry to hear that.



Helper: No it's ok, I just miss my family at the moment.

You: You know I'm always here if you ever need anything. It's hard when people you love are not around. Take comfort in remembering that Jesus is always with you, he promised that he would never leave you. So you don't need to feel alone.

Helper: Yeah true, I forgot about his promises to never leave me. Thanks.

Encouragement is pointing people to Jesus, *[P/pt]* all the time. When people are happy, sad, lonely or thankful. It's reminding them just how good Jesus is. And the Bible tells us to do that together.

[P/pt] Church is God's people coming together so that we can encourage each other. We encourage each other to keep loving Jesus. We do this by coming to church and singing together, praying, reading the Bible and being taught together. It's pointing others to Jesus. Because in church we are a family trusting God together and loving each other so we are ready for when Jesus returns.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love for us. We thank you for our church family. Please help us to love each other as you love us. Help us to point each other to Christ our Lord at all times, as we wait for your return.

Amen.