**Junior Church/Seedlings *Sunday 22nd March* (Mothering Sunday)**

Our theme for this school year in Junior Church is ***Journeys in Faith*.**

In March we’re learning about ***The Prodigal Son.***

Bible Story:

You can find it in your Bible here: Luke; chapter 15; verses 11-32, in your Bible story book, or you can read it online here: <http://www.dltk-bible.com/cv/lost_son.htm>

If you’ve read the story before, see what you can remember before reading it again.

‘The Prodigal Son’ is a parable. This is a type of story that Jesus told to teach people about God and God’s kingdom. Jesus used them to teach people something that might be difficult to understand using things which were more familiar/easy to understand.

As you read the story, think about how each character might be feeling at different times- the father and each of the brothers. Also, what do you think Jesus is trying to teach us?

The father in the parable was so happy to see his younger son that he ran to meet him; he didn’t even just wait until his son reached him. The father’s love in the story teaches us about God’s love. God will always love you and forgive you.

Suggested activity

How about making a friendship bracelet to remind you of God’s love?

It’s also Mothering Sunday today, so how about making one for your Mum(s) to remind you each of your love for each other?

Here are videos showing you what to do. They get more difficult from (1)to (3) so you can choose which one is best for you, and maybe try a higher number as you practise?
(You’ll need some wool or embroidery threads, scissors and tape/a safety pin)

1. Finger knitting bracelet (one colour) <https://youtu.be/jCcD4LOSr7U>
2. Double knot bracelet (2 colours) <https://youtu.be/K0iiUqbbXn0>
3. Striped knotted bracelet (suggest 3 colours, 2 strands of each) <https://youtu.be/sZv8kTT15F4>

Choose colours that remind you how the people in the story were feeling e.g. maybe sun-coloured for someone happy. If you’re making one as a present, choose colours that either you think match the person, or colours that will remind them of you.

Thinking and prayer time

How are you feeling?

Everything is a bit different at the moment, and keeps changing, due to an illness called coronavirus. I’m sure you’ve been learning how to wash yours hands and maybe a song to remind you? At the moment everything may feel an uncertain journey, for both you as children and us as adults. We’re finding our way. That makes it extra important to remember our theme, and what we learn from The Prodigal Son. We are ***Journeying in Faith***, and ***God loves us and will be looking out for you even when you can’t see each other.***

You may not see some friends as much at the moment. However, remember that your church family at Augustine, your Junior Church friends (& your Junior Church leaders) will all be thinking of you even if we’re not meeting up.

***Dear God,***

***Thank you for Jesus, your Son.
We can learn so much from the stories he told.
You are with us and love us wherever we are.
Thank you for friends/family who we know love and care for us even when we’re not with them.***

***Amen***

If you’d like a colouring sheet from the story, or if you try these activities and want to share your pictures/ideas with us, do ask your parents to e-mail us at: juniorchurch@augustine.org.uk

(This activity is based on the Spark: Activate Faith materials that we use at Augustine. Information can be found at <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/> )