



Children's Resources for Mothering Sunday 2018

Further Mothering Sunday resources can be found on the Mothers' Union website www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday

Bible story: *to be used if it will not form part of a family service*

Have a dry stick-like plant; watering can; plant food; items to represent ways to help a family grow well.

As it's Mothering Sunday today I thought I'd show you my plant that I was hoping to give to someone who cares for me. I planted it a little while ago but it's not doing very well.

Show children the dry plant and ask for suggestions as to how to make it grow better. Encourage suggestions such as watering, plant food, maybe sunshine, talking to it! etc.

Thank them for their helpful suggestions which you will try out and see what happens.

This reminds me that we sometimes talk about family trees. By this, people usually mean finding out who is in their family in the present and who has been in their family in years gone by. Sometimes people can discover all about their family members from hundreds of years ago!

But just imagine our families as a real tree or plant. To make our family grow well we will want to care for it just like you showed me how to care for my plant. But instead of water and plant food there are other things that our families need to make them grow well.

I wonder if you can think of what will make a family grow well.

Produce the watering can and choose volunteers to delve into it and bring out one thing each to represent love, kindness, time for each other, e.g. heart, clock, card with "sorry" written on it....

All of us can help our families grow well by loving each other, showing kindness, forgiving each other when things go wrong, spending time together...

But today especially we want to thank God for our mums and those who care for us, for their love and all that they do to make our families grow well.

And did you know that all of us here belong to two families! We have our own family we belong to and we have our church family that we're also part of; with God as our

heavenly Father and each other like brothers and sisters. Sometimes the church is called “mother church” so it’s particularly good to remember we are part of it on this special day.

So we have our own family tree and we have our family of God tree and today we want to thank our mums and those who care for us and our church family for helping both trees to grow well.

Bible Verse

Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:21

Explain that the verse is talking about their church family not just their own family.

Suggested actions:

Anyone who loves God

Point to self, then clap hands upwards

must also love their brother and sister.

Point to and clap each other and the congregation

1 John 4:21

Make “book” with open hands

This could be used in a family service. The children say the verse with the actions and then teach it to the congregation.

Active Prayer

God our heavenly Father,
help us to grow our families well
by staying close to you
like branches joined to the tree.
Children raise arms high like branches

Help us to grow our families well
by staying close to each other
like leaves clustered on the branch.
*Children move close together, raise arms
and cross hands to make leaf shapes*

Help us to grow our church family well
by staying close to you and each other
so we can be rooted in your love
and share our faith together.



*Children raise arms high, then move close together
Crouch and point down, then point to everyone*

*This can be used as a prayer in their groups but could also be used in a family service.
Either have one person to read the prayer or the words on a screen for all to read.*

Thank You Song

Thank you Lord for those who care
Thank you Lord for those who care
Thank you Lord for those who care
for our family.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, praise the Lord
for our family.

We care for our church family
We care for our church family
We care for our church family
and they care for us.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, praise the Lord
for our family.

*Original song by Diane Davis Andrew;
1971, 1975 Celebration/Kingsway's Thankyou Music (words adapted)*





Activities

Children can plant a bulb in a container as a gift for mothers and carers, which they can then grow together at home.

If numbers allow, these can also be given to the rest of the congregation as a gift from the children to their church family. If this isn't feasible a small card, gift of chocolate or other token can be given out.

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Invite one or two of your church family to share with the children what it means to them to be part of this family. Choose people of different ages and life circumstances.

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Play a version of "Simon says" - "Our family grows well by...." choosing things which either do or don't help our family, or family of God, to grow well e.g. being kind, helping each other, listening to someone, hogging the tv remote control, arguing....

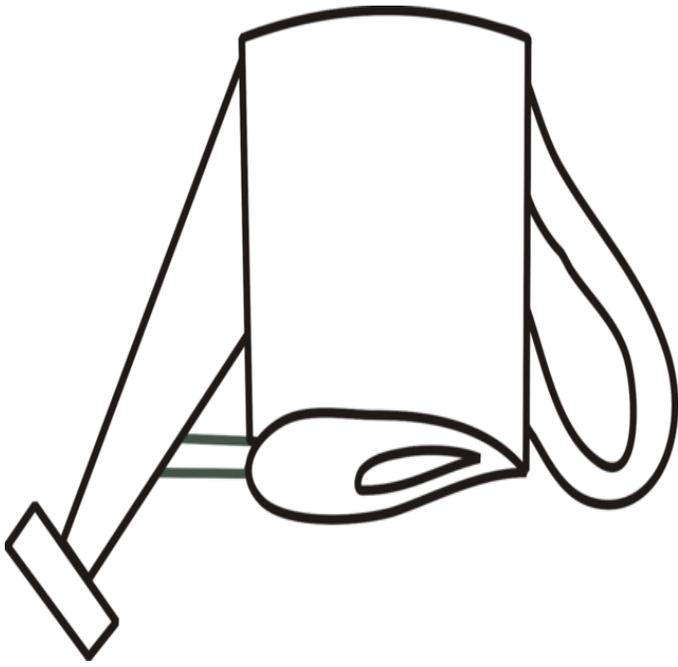
For attributes that are positive children can make a "thumbs up" for those which are negative, "thumbs down" or sit down. With older children they may like to take turns to suggest different attributes.

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Make "Thank you" cards (see templates below) for mums and carers by decorating the watering can with images and words to show how they care for their family. You could also have alternative cards for the church family.

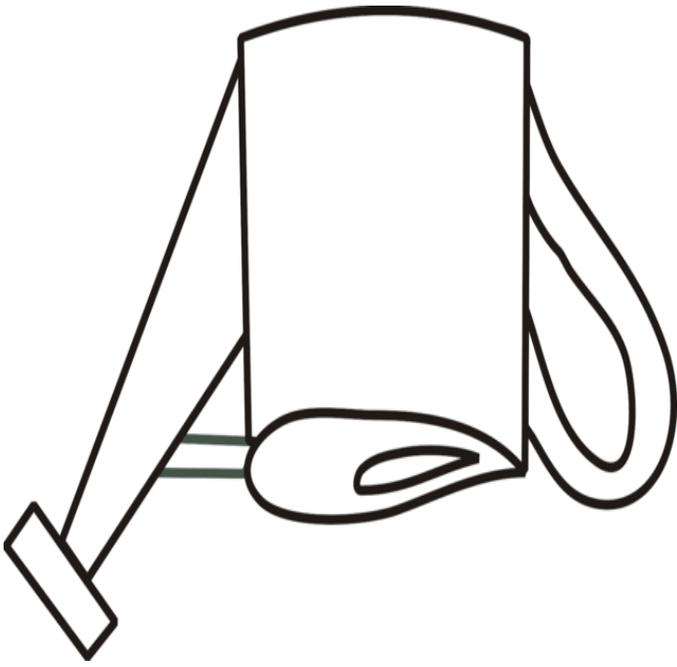
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Provide an outline of a tree (see template below) for them to draw a picture of, or write the names of those who belong to their family. Encourage them to include members of their extended family and people who are like family to them. On the trunk they could write "God loves our family" or for older children a prayer for their family.



Thank you...

for helping our
family grow well!



Thank you...

for helping our
church family
grow well!

