

Short Talk

(SHT097)

Protecting what is Precious

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “Protecting what is Precious”

Aim of Short talk:	To teach that Jesus prayed just before He died that His Father would look after His disciples and protect them from spiritual harm.
Use of Short talk:	This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
Main themes:	Jesus, Prayer, Protection, Evil
Biblical references:	John 17:6-19
Lectionary:	Year B – The 7 th Sunday of Easter
Props:	This talk needs a live animal and the animal’s owner.
Before hand:	Brief the animal’s owner that you are going to ask them how they look after their pet. You want them to mention that they give their pet food, water, shelter, love, and that they also protect their pet from harm.

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How many of you have a pet? *(Engage with the congregation about what pets they have)*

We are very fortunate today that *N* (*Name of the pet you have*) is here with us.

- I am going to ask *N*'s owner to come and hold *N* for you all to see. *(N's owner brings their pet to the front of the church)*

Thank you for bringing along *N* today.

- Now obviously *N* is very precious to you.
- Can you tell us a little bit about how you look after *N*? *(N's owner speaks about how they look after their pet)*

So you feed *N*, provide shelter for *N* and protect *N* from harm because *N* is very precious to you.

I want you to imagine for a moment that you are going to have to go away for 6 months.

- Who would you choose to leave *N* with?
- Who would you choose to protect your precious pet from harm? *(N's owner answers)*

Why would you trust that person? *(N's owner answers)*

- Thank you for bringing along your pet for us today. *(N and owner sit down)*

I wonder who you would trust to look after your most precious possession if you had to go away for a while. PAUSE

When Jesus lived on earth, His disciples were very precious to Him....

He looked after them for 3 years;

- teaching and sharing with them the truths of God's Kingdom;
- helping them to understand God's amazing plan of salvation;
- protecting them from the evil one's lies and deceptions.

But then Jesus knew that He was going to die, eventually return to heaven and leave His disciples alone,

- so shortly before He died Jesus prayed an amazing prayer to His Heavenly Father.

As part of that prayer Jesus asked His Heavenly Father to take over the job of looking after His precious disciples;

- and keep them safe from spiritual harm.

Jesus knew that He could trust His Father to do that because God the Father not only has all power and authority,

- but He is also all loving.

And so when Jesus left earth.....God the Father looked after and protected the disciples from spiritual harm,

- and helped them when they went through many trials.

Now followers of Jesus are much more precious to Father God than our pets are to us,

- and today Father God continues to look after and protect followers of Jesus from spiritual harm.

That means that whatever we go through in our lives Father God will help us and love us so that our precious relationship with Him cannot be robbed by the evil one.

So today know that you can trust your Heavenly Father to keep you completely spiritually safe in His hands, because you are His most precious possession.