

## Resources for Helpful Hive Sunday

*We understand that Vacation Bible School can be exhausting for the entire congregation. We want to offer you resources for carrying on the joy of VBS into the following worship service so that the whole church can get excited about what the kids have learned - while making sure that you don't spread yourself too thin!*

*To that end, we've prepared liturgical pieces and a suggested order of worship for weekly worship, including a recorded sermon. Have the adults learn the songs that the kids have been singing all week - if you use the suggested songs and lyrics from the curriculum, chances are the congregation already knows the tunes! Use the prayers and styles that work best for your church and have fun with it!*

*The recorded sermon takes you on a tour of Midwest Mission, Illinois, summarizes the five days of learning, and lets everyone in the church know that we all have a place in God's Helpful Hive.*

### Calls to Worship

The Lord's instruction is perfect, reviving our being.

**The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.**

The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.

**The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.**

The Lord's judgments are true. All are righteous!

**They are sweeter than honey - even dripping off the honeycomb.**

*(Psalm 19:7-10)*

Pleasant words are flowing honey

**Sweet to the taste and healing to the bones**

*(Proverbs 16:24)*

God, your word is pleasing to my taste buds.

**It's sweeter than honey in my mouth!**

Your word is a lamp before my feet

**And a light for my journey.**

Lord, accept my gift of praise.

**Teach me your rules! Your laws are my heart's joy.**

*(Psalm 119:103, 105, 108, 111)*

We gather today as one Helpful Hive.

**Buzz!**

We gather together to praise God our Bee Keeper.

**Buzz! Buzz!**

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.  
**Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!**

### **Opening Song: O For a Thousand Bees**

### **Opening Prayers**

We bees come to the Helpful Hive so glad that we have shelter and a safe place to be, God. Bless each of us who are gathered here today and open up our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to hear the message of love that you have for each of us and your children around the world. Amen.

Today we give thanks for the ways that the Holy Spirit moved at the Helpful Hive. We praise you for families who brought their little honey bees. We praise you for volunteers who stepped up to lead in sweet ways. We praise you for all the kiddos who got a taste of your love for them and their place in your Kingdom and the Helpful Hive. This has been a blessed week and we give you all the praise. Amen.

**How sweet it is when siblings get along with one another! When we work together to build God's Kingdom! We want to *bee* a blessing! Help us to learn how today! We pray that we can learn more, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Blessed are we when we come before you, Almighty God. You shower us with your sweet love and offer us grace even when we make mistakes. Gather us together as one community, as one hive, so that we can be blessed and share your blessings with others. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God, we confess that at times we have tried to go off on our own. We have tried to do life by ourselves, thinking that our way is better, thinking that we are wiser than those around us. Like a bee that leaves the hive alone, we have been foolish. We have forgotten the power of working together. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us of our pride and our vanity.**

*Time for silent prayer.*

Hear this good news! Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God!**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

God, your Word is pleasant to the taste, like flowing honey. May your Word be filled with sweetness today, flowing with new life for all. Amen.

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12**

**Responsive Song: Be My Bee Keeper**

**Prayers of the People**

For those who face disaster and destruction and despair, for those who mourn...

**We lift up prayers to God.**

For those who are seeking after knowledge and education and discernment, for those who are meek...

**We lift up prayers to God.**

For those who do not know where their next meal will come from, for those who hunger and thirst...

**We lift up prayers to God.**

For those who watch over others in love, the helpers and leaders in our world, for the merciful...

**We lift up prayers to God.**

For those who long for new life and a fresh start, for the peacemakers...

**We lift up prayers to God.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**God, we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. In praise and thanksgiving, we offer ourselves back to you. May the gifts we offer today be used to build up your Kingdom here on earth. May the gifts we give of ourselves, our time, and our talents be used to further your mission in the world. You have blessed us and we want to be a blessing to all of your children. Send us out to do your will. Amen.**

**Closing Song: Blessing, Blessing**

**Benediction**

Go out now to be a blessing to all the world! May those that you meet find your deeds sweeter than honey and may those who do not yet know Christ's love quickly hear what the buzz is all about!