The following is one way of delivering this session with children.

Opening activity

Make up your own story! For example, read the following and ask your child(ren) to fill in the gaps!

Once upon a time there was young boy/girl called _____.

He/She went on a journey to see his/her _____.

On the way, he/she saw a _____,

which made him/her feel _____.

Suddenly, a _____ appeared

and _____.

so he/she _____.

Opening prayer – Lord Jesus, as we gather today

Lord Jesus, as we gather today,
may we have eyes to see
and ears to hear
what you are saying to us.
Make us ready to learn
from your stories.
Amen.

Open the Word: Open the Bible at Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13.1-9%2C18-23&version=ICB

Remind children that Jesus told stories, called parables, to help people understand an important message.

You could substitute the first part of the Bible reading with a poem. Please print or draw and cut out the pictures beforehand. When you pause, your child(ren) show which picture they think would fit!

A **farmer** went, his **seed** to sow, he did not know if they would grow.
Some **seed** fell on stony ground, some the hungry **birds** soon found.
Some fell among the **thorns** so tall, they stood no chance to grow at all!
But some **seed** fell on fertile ground, and soon the crops grew all around.

The read the second part of the story is then read:

Talk together:

- Farmers used to sow their seeds by 'broadcasting' (throwing the seed as they went). Do you think the seed would land where the farmer wanted it to?

- What makes a good listener to a story?

- In the story, what helped the seeds to grow? What helps us to grow as followers of Jesus?

Craft Activity: Make a story catcher!

You will need: a square of plain paper (about 20cm square) and pens or pencils for each child.

- Help your child(ren) fold their square paper into quarters then unfold. Ask them to fold each corner in towards the middle. Turn the paper over so that the folded edges are face down, and now fold each corner in towards the middle again.

- Write numbers 1 to 8 on each of the folded triangles, then lift the flaps and write the story in eight parts underneath each triangle shape.

- Flip it over and decorate the folded squares with colours. Place index fingers and thumbs into the squares on each side to fold the story catcher in with the coloured squares on top. (see below).

- Invite your child(ren) to play with one another or you and use their story catchers (using the structure below).

    1. Jesus liked telling stories.

    2. Lots of people came to listen to Jesus.

    3. Sometimes the crowds were huge!

    4. Once Jesus told a story about a sower.

    5. The sower sowed seed on different types of ground.

    6. Jesus hid messages in his stories.

    7. The parable of the sower is about how we respond to God.

    8. Parables help us to learn more about God.

How to play

- Choose a colour. Spell out the colour as you move the story catcher
  e.g. yellow = 6 moves.

- Choose a number from one of the triangles and move the story catcher that many times.

- Choose a number from another triangle and open up for that part of the story.

Repeat

Praise Song: Rocky wocky song, Fischy Music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-8veaBmsEl   Mime some actions!

Closing Prayer - Once upon a time…

Lord Jesus, you are always ready
to share your story with us.
As we go out into the week ahead,
may we all have ears to hear
so that we might grow.
Amen.

Other ideas for family worship have been made available by Roots can be found here:

www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome12jul

An alternative is provided by Hull minster (on Genesis 25: 19-24)

https://hullminster.org/family-resources

Or the Diocesan Children and Young People Mission and Ministry Team.

https://rochester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1594303973.pdf

Kid's Church which is great fun and very interactive. Beforehand, you can read the details which shows you the resources that will be required.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yESrkLTH40s