

Introduction

The first five resources produced under the **Engage Together** banner are aimed at building and deepening intergenerational relationships during a worship service, particularly the first 20 minutes when children are often present. This latest resource, **Engage Together: Growing Intergenerational Worship**, provides tips, ideas and some practical suggestions for other elements of a typical worship service plus some material from **Engage Together: Generating Intergenerational Worship Ideas**.

What's here?

In the **Engage Together: Generating Intergenerational Worship Ideas** resource, a general overview of tips and resources for the Call to Worship, Music, Prayer and Bible Reading – plus Take Home ideas – was provided. In a worship service there is also often an Early Word (children's talk), Preaching, Communion, Notices, Collection of Offering and Benediction, amongst a variety of other possibilities. Many churches also have a moment where children are sent out to age-specific ministry programs. This **Engage Together: Growing Intergenerational Worship** provides tips, ideas and some practical suggestions for the following elements of a typical worship service...

- Early Word (Children's Talk)
- Moment where the children are sent out to their age-specific ministry programs
- Notices
- Preaching
- Communion
- Collection of Offering
- Benediction

... PLUS some of the material from **Engage Together: Generating Intergenerational Worship Ideas** around...

- Call to Worship
- Music
- Prayer
- Bible Reading
- Take Home Ideas

For your encouragement

Of course, church is so much more than the worship service, our gathering for worship is more than just what happens between the Call to Worship and Benediction and intergenerational ministry is more than simply engaging younger generations more fully. Everything that happens before and after the service and throughout the rest of the week provides opportunities to build and deepen intergenerational relationships across all the generations. A great resource you might like to explore that will assist your church to become more intergenerational between weekly services is **Engage Together: More than Worship, more than Sunday**.

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Additional **Engage Together** resources

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Planning Intergenerational worship

In ministry we seek to enable the whole people of God – all people, all ages – to encounter God and grow in faith, to grow as disciples.

Therefore we need to keep in mind who is in our community, who engages with our church ministries and events and who does not. The joy and challenge is in how we plan activities with all ages in mind without making things more onerous or overly simplistic.

Central to ministry that is intergenerational is building and deepening intergenerational relationships. This is the key to keep in mind when planning, leading and implementing intergenerational activities.

Intergenerational worship uses multi-age strategies (multi-age, multi-ability, multi-sensory, multi-intelligence) with an intentional intergenerational overlay that seeks to deepen connections between at least two different generations.

As we bring in the multi-age, multi-ability, multi-sensory, multi-intelligence and intentional intergenerational opportunities, keep in mind, how is this encouraging people to grow in faith? We don't want to get so caught up in creativity or in multi-something that people are distracted from God. We want to plan and offer intergenerational engagement that supports faith growth and assists the whole people of God to grow in connection with one another:

In planning ministry that is intergenerational, as with any type of ministry planning, consider:

- The purpose for the ministry
- The congregation and/or wider community – who you are engaging with
- The physical location/venue
- How much time there is
- The theme – faith focus

In preparing ministry that is intergenerational, consider incorporating a variety of:

- Senses: touch, taste, see, smell, hear
- Intelligences (ways that people learn): intrapersonal (on own), interpersonal (with others), number (count/order), word (read/write), music, visual, movement (body), nature

Always encourage ministry planners/leaders to work as a team. Understand each other's strengths and preferences, including modes of communication. For example, some leaders may have a preference for on-line and visual engagement, others may prefer face-to-face and small group conversations. Don't use all approaches and ideas every time.

Some more tips for intergenerational worship:

- Provide opportunities for interaction of small intergenerational groups within the ministry setting
- Include fun, excitement and surprise in the context of genuine ministry
- Ensure explanations, invitations and directions are clear so that participants know expectations
- Use language that is hospitable, invitational, inclusive and understandable to those present
- Involve a number of different people — representing a range of generations — in various aspects of the ministry
- Make sure invitations to programmed movement and activities are inclusive of all present and respectful of different abilities
- Keep in mind the resources available – can you print off 100 copies of these? Do you have balloons or bubbles? Is there time to prepare 50 star shapes or would squares suffice? This isn't about adding to our workloads or budgets but thinking about simple and strategic ways to engage all people in ministry, encountering God and creating or deepening intergenerational connections.



Encouraging intergenerationality before and after the worship service

A strength of intergenerational worship is its focus on deepening community and being intentional with the flow and theme of the service. This can begin right from (or even before) the welcome at the front door and continue all the way through the post-service fellowship activities and goodbye.

Welcoming all ages to the building for a worship service

Car parking:

Your welcome can extend to the car park with dedicated parking for those with disabilities or people with prams.

Signage:

Have clear church signage, both inside and outside. This could include drawings from a range of ages (eg. lots of local councils do this with children's drawings) and abilities. It automatically says all people are valued and part of our community. Drawings could also be done by an intergenerational church art group.

Welcoming at the door:

- Invite different generations or family groups to welcome people to the service.
- Teach young people how to shake hands firmly and invite young people to teach adults creative ways to give a high 5, for example, give a fist pump, high 5 squid or fireworks/explosion (a quick google search also brings up the giraffe, spider, calculator, near-miss, turkey and wi-five). Perhaps invite a group of people of different generations to invent a greeting. This could be a particular type of hand shake or high 5 for your church or to fit the church season.
- Ensure all ages who come are welcomed and try to use all people's names.

Welcoming visitors:

- Record all visitor's names, irrespective of age, in the church visitor book.
- Provide welcome packs with information for people of all ages, including age specific and intergenerational ministries and how your church encourages intergenerational connections.

- Explain to visitors the flow of the service and, as appropriate, any age-specific elements, for example where age-specific programs meet, introduce them to key ministry leaders and explain where any age-specific facilities are, for example a change table or access toilet.
- Do not overwhelm visitors with too many people or too much information. Ask if they have any questions or how you can help them.

Engaging with the theme:

To assist all ages to begin exploring or thinking about the theme offer an activity or display a question as people arrive. Encourage different generations to engage with the activity or to discuss the question together:

- Have an activity table where everyone is encouraged to each make something and bring it into the service to be used. For example,
 - Make a praise flag or musical instrument out of recycled materials.
 - Make a crown, a necklace or name tag that will be referenced during the service.
- Have an all-in activity where everyone is invited to add something to a communal project. For example, for a banner to display during worship,
 - Add your handprint or drawing to this poster:
 - Have the service theme or Bible verse written on the banner to be coloured in.
 - Have "Thank you God for..." in the centre and invite people to write or draw prayers.



Fellowship and hospitality before / after the service

Here are some ideas to encourage intergenerational connections during times of fellowship and hospitality either before or after the church service.

Sharing morning tea:

- Ensure safety for all ages, particularly that urns are out of reach of little hands and children's active play areas are not where hot drinks are being served.
- Provide appropriate seating for all-ages.
- Provide drink options for all ages, for example, water, juice, hot chocolate or milo and plastic cups as well as tea and coffee.
- Invite people of different ages to suggest food and drink options for morning tea.
- Roster intergenerational teams to assist with cooking, shopping, serving and cleaning up.
- Provide conversation topics on tables or attached to coffee mugs to encourage different generations to share together. This could be generic questions or related to the service theme.

Provide spaces where intergenerational relationships can be developed:

- Have some table activities that all ages can enjoy together; for example chess or Uno.
- To assist all ages to continue exploring or thinking about the theme offer a theme related activity or display a question. Encourage different generations to engage with the activity or to discuss the question together. Similar to the pre-service ideas, offer an activity to take home to continue exploring that week's theme or an activity that helps prepare for the following week's service.
- Provide a prayer space where different generations can pray for or bless one another. If you offer a prayer ministry after the service invite different ages to be available to pray for people, and make sure that the people who are praying are ready for all ages.



Useful resource box

It can be handy to create a 'Useful resource box' that has a variety of stationery and other items that can be used for multi-age worship and to encourage intergenerational connections. These items can be reused in different services or to provide prompts for using different senses. They could be used to create something that can be taken home to remember a key element from the service or a reminder to action something from the service.

This list is a beginning point to assist your congregation in creating their own 'Useful Resource Box' that can be added to as you explore intergenerational worship.

Stationery

- variety of coloured paper and card
- scissors, staplers, sticky tape, glue sticks, hole punch, Blu tack
- pens
- pencils (lead and coloured)
- textas (variety of colours, thickness, permanent, whiteboard, washable)
- crayons (particularly for younger children)
- sticky notes (variety of sizes and colours)

It may also be handy to have available:

- laminating pouches and laminator
- photocopier
- guillotine

Items

- balloons
- bubbles
- feathers
- pebbles and rocks of various sizes
- wool
- seeds (eg sunflower seeds, mustard seeds)
- candles, candle holders (eg circles of card) and matches or battery operated tea light candles
- glow sticks
- playdough
- stickers (smiley faces, butterflies, stars, anything that might link to a theme for worship)



Tips for creative *Call to Worship* ideas for the intergenerational context

Intergenerational community can be experienced and enhanced during the Call to Worship as people are encouraged to engage with one another; to respond collectively, participate creatively and join in enthusiastically.

There are a variety of ways to facilitate a Call to Worship that utilise multi-age ideas and encourage intergenerational connections, such as:

- Prompting conversation between the worship leader and congregation
- Being intentional in engaging people of different generations/ages
- Using a bible verse or sentence, a quote or poem that focuses people on worshipping God
e.g. Invite people of different ages to read this aloud. Include actions or use visual images to support the theme and focus people.
- Encouraging silence as people enter the space
e.g. Provide a note to hand out at the door explaining to people the reverence of being in God's presence and the space that silence provides for us to focus on the awe of God, to still ourselves, to lay aside our busy and often noisy lives. Silence can also engage those who prefer contemplation and encourage others to experience contemplation as a way of connecting with God and preparing for worship. Pre-arrange for some adult helpers to be ready to sit with families to model, encourage and assist younger children to focus on God in silence. Afterwards, invite people to share together how they felt or if they sensed God with them in a new way.
- Using objects/items that focus people on the theme and prepare them for worship
e.g. Invite people of different ages to bring items forward or share amongst the congregation. Invite the whole congregation to participate. Use the items to invite conversation between generations.
- A song or repeated lyric
Use music, include actions, use repeated phrases. For example, "*Be still and know that I am God*".

CALL AND RESPONSE

Call and response is often used in the Call to Worship when the worship leader 'calls' and the congregation 'responds'.

Helpful tips to keep in mind when using Call and Response in the intergenerational context include:

- Offer all instructions as an invitation to participate
- Explain who is to say what part and how they will know
- Prepare clear displays either digitally on screen or on posters with clear, large font. Use bold or coloured words that are easy to identify which parts are for the congregation and which parts are for the leader
- Decide if the whole congregation will respond together or if particular parts of the congregation will say different parts, for example certain age groups, colour of clothing or places they attend/things they do
- If needed, particularly if there's different groups doing different parts or if there's actions included, invite people to practise together. You could do a countdown, point to the appropriate people and give encouragement and affirmation afterwards. Eg. 1,2,3 [point]... Well done!
- Make sure people feel generally comfortable with what you're asking and understand what they need to do
- It is helpful to have the congregation repeat the same phrase, particularly if they are moving around the room and can't easily see a screen
- Incorporate actions with or without a prop/resource as part of the response

MORE IDEAS

- Use liturgical gestures (ie. hand or body movements) that complement the words being used
- Incorporate mime, invite people to join in by miming (and freezing) in response to what has just been said
- Have a prop or item as a visual aid to encourage response at the appropriate time
- Provide a prop or hand-held resource for each person to use as a part of a response

See **APPENDIX I (page 13)** for specific ideas



Tips for creatively engaging with **Music** in the intergenerational context

Music in the intergenerational context can be great for...

- Enhancing teaching
- Energising response
- Engaging with the Bible
- Enabling options for participation
- Encouraging community/relationships

When utilising music, as with many other aspects of intergenerational engagement, it is important to...

- Lead/teach songs well
- Use invitational language
- Provide clear instructions
- Prepare well before-hand
- Allow for different abilities
- Have different generations engaged in leading

Creative ways for engaging intergenerationally with music can include...

- Utilising percussion ("found", recycled and/or actual instruments)
- Using rounds and (voices only) for building congregational song
- Pausing mid-song/between verses for related content (eg. prayer, stories)
- Having different generations introduce songs and share the story of why they are important
- Whilst singing, providing other creative options related to the song (eg. collage, painting, graffiti board)
- Inviting augmented participation around particular words/phrases (eg. add action/volume, hold up sign)
- Allocating verses/phrases to groups to brainstorm their thoughts and responses. Share these prior to singing.

See **APPENDIX 2 (page 16)** for specific ideas

Tips for creative **Prayer** ideas in the intergenerational context

When preparing prayer activities for the intergenerational context, some questions to consider include...

- How can the whole space be used most effectively?
- How can different senses/intelligences be incorporated?
- How many different ways/options are there to participate?
- How can the theme of the service be integrated effectively?
- How can multiple ages be involved in the leadership of the prayer?

When leading prayer activities in the context of intergenerational engagement, it is important to...

- Keep your talking short
- Provide multiple ways of engaging
- Know your theme and keep it in focus
- Model what you expect participants to do
- Ensure creativity enhances, not distracts, from purpose

Some creative ways for engaging intergenerationally with prayer include...

- Drawing/craft
- Prayer stations
- Whole body movement or utilising liturgical gestures (ie actions)
- Incorporating prayer with songs
- Small group prayer opportunities
- Tactile engagement (eg. playdough)
- Visual images either digital or posters
- Using music creatively (eg. to create mood or for reflection)
- Engaging with symbols (eg. lighting candles, pouring water, blowing bubbles)
- Having different generations involved together in the preparing and leading of prayer

See **APPENDIX 3 (page 19)** for specific ideas



Tips for generating **Creative bible reading** ideas for the intergenerational context

When generating ideas for creatively engaging in the reading of the Bible in the intergenerational context...

- Allow the text/words to provide the foundation
E.g. What words/ideas are repeated?
What words/ideas do you want to emphasise?
What words/ ideas might require clarification or explanation?
- Consider ways to highlight particular words/ideas
E.g. Different coloured text
Using images, instead of letters, for particular words
Associating an action or response with particular words
- Develop opportunities for increased participation
E.g. Multiple readers/groups of readers
Enable whole congregation reading (unison or in groups)
Have different individuals/groups join in from the congregation at particular points
- Creatively deepen engagement with the text
E.g. Seek to model/demonstrate the key idea as text is read
Encourage identification with characters and/ or emotions
Begin with an introductory activity that highlights a key theme/idea

See **APPENDIX 4 (page 22)** for specific ideas

Tips for generating **Creative Take Home ideas** for the intergenerational context

To encourage both ongoing discipleship (reflection and/or action) throughout the week and household intergenerational connections after the worship service, you can plan Take Home ideas. These might be a physical item, a note or an action (something to do).

When making decisions about materials/resources/visuals for different elements of the service, keep in mind what could be taken home physically or could be thought about or actioned during the week at home or in community. Consider:

- items that can be used as reminders and prompts for prayer
- crafts or games that enable people to reflect on the theme or Bible reading
- encouraging a particular action, such as acts of service or ways people can live into or embody the service theme or Biblical teaching/reflection during the week

These ideas support intergenerational connections best when people are encouraged to connect with other generations during the week. This could be as simple as praying for other people or reflecting with someone about the sermon topic or service theme. It could also be playing a game with someone or doing a craft alongside one another.

Take Home ideas can be connected to any element of a service although often it is simplest to connect to prayers, declaration of forgiveness, Bible readings and preaching.

Take Home ideas can be explained at the point in the service where it makes the most sense, for example if connected to the declaration of forgiveness explain it after that or if connected to the gospel reading explain it after that. At the end of a service the Take Home idea could be explained or another reminder and invitation provided about the idea.

See **APPENDIX 5 (page 25)** for specific ideas



Refocusing the *Early Word* (*Children's Talk*) into an intergenerational opportunity

The Early Word can be an opportunity in an adult-focused service to provide a part of the service that is for children. A possible positive outcome is that children know they are valued and welcomed in the worship service. The dilemma and risk is that this often puts children on the spot causing embarrassment and can actually be unwelcoming for children. It is also often done poorly. It can easily turn into a performance for the person presenting or inadvertently demean children as 'cute', rather than fully engaged disciples exploring faith.

If a worship service is intentionally shaped using intergenerational principles then a re-envisioned Early Word is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to engage with the key theme of the service and with one another. No age group need be 'highlighted'.

If including an Early Word component, be very clear on the purpose of having this in the worship service and then keep the purpose in mind when planning. It should not be about entertainment (an adult entertaining children or children entertaining adults). Ideally, it is about engaging with the Bible, being open to the Holy Spirit's leading, encountering God, growing faith and building and deepening intergenerational relationships.

If an Early Word is being used, keep in mind when planning the intergenerational principles of multi-age worship ideas with an intentional intergenerational overlay:

- Use different senses and ways of learning.
- Ensure invitational language is used and clear explanations so children can choose to participate and understand what is happening.
- Include opportunities for intergenerational engagement. Rather than inviting children forward to be 'apart from' the rest of the community invite children to sit with someone in the congregation who they'd like to talk with. Then provide questions for them to ask of each other, either as an introduction to the topic or as a reflection on the Early Word input.
- Link the Early Word theme into the overall service so there is consistency across the worship service.

Valuing people when separating for *Age-specific* ministry

We acknowledge that age-specific ministry programs have their place and in some communities this means there will be a point in a service where certain age-groups meet in a different space. This often requires younger generations to leave the main space.

Where this is the case, there are a number of ways we can ensure younger people know that they are valued by the whole church.

Provide spaces for their age-specific ministry that are safe, age-appropriate and friendly, well-resourced and have trained and appropriate leaders.

Use language that affirms children, their faith formation and the ministry programs and leaders.

- Celebrate young people and God at work in them.
- Thank them for being part of the church community and name them as a blessing.
- Ensure your language doesn't belittle or negate children. For example, don't make jokes or comments about, "Go have fun while we do the serious worship/learning" nor, "big or little worship".
- Think about the names for the age-specific programs and what this means for children, their families and all present.
- Use invitational language such as, "you are invited to..."

Pray for children and young people before they leave.

- Simply pray a short prayer from the front.
- Pray for them by name or age group.
- Invite them all forward, or to stand in the aisle.

Invite children and young people to return to the worship service:

- To participate in Communion.
- To provide opportunity for each age-group, including the adults, to share what they have learned and to hear what was learned by other age-groups. This could be done by inviting one person from each age-group to share from the front or inviting people to get into small groups of varying age-groups to share one thing they learned or were reminded about.

Remember to provide resources, such as simple activity bags, preferably that connect with that week's theme in the service for any younger people who do not want to go to the age-specific program.



Intergenerational *Preaching*

When preaching with a variety of generations, including children, present the same multi-age principles with an intentional intergenerational overlay apply as when preparing any element of an intergenerational worship service.

Use multi-age principles with an intergenerational overlay

- Consider which of the different ways of learning (multiple intelligences) and the 5 senses best fit with the theme or style of sermon/service and include some of these as best you can. Do not use all of them every week but try to use most of these over a month or season.
- Invite people to listen for a phrase/word during the sermon or have a 'bingo' style sheet with words and phrases to listen for.
- Provide a colouring in activity that all ages can participate in. Use some of the current colouring in resources for adults. Provide some large posters or banners for groups of people to work on together during the sermon.
- Invite people to connect across generations, to answer a question prompted by the sermon, share a reflection or offer a prayer point.

Be aware of time and how long you speak for

- Keeping a sermon short, for example up to 10 minutes, is helpful in a multi-age setting. Another option is to offer 2 or 3 messages of about 5-8 minutes throughout the service with songs, prayers and other components interspersed throughout. Each message could cover a different key point of the sermon. Each message could connect with the following song or lead into a time of participative prayer. The components between the messages need to be interactive and participative otherwise the preacher may as well have spoken for 20-30 minutes in one section.
- Every 5 minutes or so invite movement, ask a question or prompt people to talk to each other. Yes, it can feel like it interrupts the delivery flow but if done in a way that connects what was just said with the movement/ activity or conversation topic then it helps younger people and those with shorter attention spans to stay engaged and possibly even remember the message better. It also affirms that all people of all ages and backgrounds are able to engage theologically and offer reflections on Christian themes, faith formation and/or Bible passages.
- Invite people of different ages to prepare and share part of the message.

When planning, think about the different ages present

- Make the sermon relevant to all of them. Use examples and stories that relate to different age groups and settings e.g. work and school.
- Use age-appropriate language and visuals, particularly any DVDs or movie clips. If unsure, check the opinions of some of the parents and families or use something else.

A couple of notes specific to the presence of children:

Always affirm parents that their children are welcome and can be children – if that means moving and being a little noisy so be it. Of course, we could also provide opportunities for noise and movement for all ages in the sermon and help families feel more welcome, as well as those who learn in different ways.

Remember, do not ever from the front ask a parent to take their child out. If needed, have an elder or family ministry leader available to come alongside a parent and ask if they can help. Maybe something is needed, for example a different space, some toys or just another adult to engage with. Keep in mind children often aren't used to sitting quietly for any length of time, get hungry, tired and are still learning to regulate their emotions. This means they will let everyone know if they're not happy but sometimes it's tricky to work out what is wrong. Give parents some time, at least a few minutes, to work this out with their child. Affirm parents that their children are always welcome and noisy behaviour is completely normal for children, of any age. This isn't a reflection on poor parenting or even on the child themselves. Help parents to feel welcome to settle their child in a different space if being very distracting and assist parents to return to the space when ready.



Intergenerational *Communion*

We acknowledge that different communities have different expectations about the involvement of children with Communion and any of our suggestions need to be read and adapted for the local context.

- Keep instructions clear.
- Use simple language or explain particular words.
- Invite all ages present to participate and where appropriate to assist with serving. For example, invite younger people to participate with their family or to participate with an adult they feel comfortable with.
- Encourage conversations between generations about Communion, perhaps to share what Communion means to them, or what they like or dislike about Communion.
- Put on the screen a thought, prayer prompt, discussion point or activity option in response to Communion, for example:
 - While waiting for your turn or afterwards while waiting for others, think about... or pray for... or discuss with someone of a different generation...
 - As you finish Communion pick up a paper and texta and write a prayer or... put a finger in the paint and leave your fingerprint on the cross.
- Celebrate the whole people of God enjoying and remembering God's special meal for us, God's people. At any age we can participate with respect, silence and solemn-ness and we can also celebrate and delight in the joy of God's gift of life to us through Christ. Prepare and lead Communion in ways that highlight and teach about different approaches or responses to Communion and then encourage participation in that way.
- Teach about Communion in age-specific ministry programs. For example, on a non-Communion service day, invite a Communion leader to take Communion out to age-specific groups and explain the different parts and elements and explore the Bible story together. For any age, *Godly Play* has a beautiful story called *World Communion* which connects Communion across Biblical themes and provides some wondering questions for all ages to consider. *Messy Church* also has resources for exploring Communion, including crafts and activity ideas, for all ages together. Both *Godly Play* and *Messy Church* resources can be adapted for use in a worship service where all ages can learn about Communion together.

Collection of *Offering* in intergenerational ways

- Invite different generations to collect the offering together or invite family groups to collect the offering.
- Invite people of different generations to write and share a prayer for the offering over different weeks.
- Depending on time and the theme of the service, collect the offering in a different way to usual (not in collection plates/bags). For example,
 - Come forward and place your offering on a map as we pray to support overseas mission.
 - Place your offering at the foot of the cross as our gift to Jesus.
 - Throw your offering into a bucket or onto a plate as we seek to put Jesus at the centre of our lives.
- While collecting the offering, invite people to turn to someone of a different generation to discuss something from the service so far or to share a hope or prayer for where the offering might be given.
- Display offering prayer prompts on a screen and invite people to pray together in intergenerational pairs or small groups.



Intergenerational *Notices*

Basically, this part of the service is about building the community, a sense of who we are and what our week/coming events could look like. Let's keep the details short, the presentation interesting and make sure the congregation don't get lost in too many details.

Things to keep in mind when sharing notices during a worship service with a variety of ages present:

- Can this be done in a timely manner?
- What needs to be shared and what doesn't? Refer to where to find further information, for example church bulletin or noticeboard rather than saying all the details.
- What can be presented visually rather than verbally? Use video clips.
- Invite people of different ages to assist with giving the notices.

How do we provide opportunities to build and deepen intergenerational relationships during the notices?

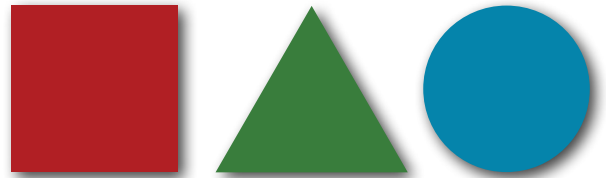
- Invite people to get into pairs, preferably with someone of a different generation, and share together one thing they are interested in following up/attending that is highlighted in the notices.
- Invite 2-3 people of different generations to share from the front why they are attending a coming event.

Intergenerational *Sending out and Benediction*

To close the worship service include any reminders or explanations about the take-home idea/activity and try to link the Benediction with the theme of the service.

You could also:

- Invite people of different generations to write and share a Benediction.
- Invite people to share with someone of a different generation, such as:
 - one thing they'll do this week as a response to the sermon/service
 - a prayer point for each other this week
 - a blessing for each other.



APPENDIX I

Intergenerational *Call to Worship* ideas

The following examples are drawn from previous *Engage Together* material.

USE OBJECTS

An example from the *Lent Engage Together* uses four different objects (p. 11 *Lent Engage Together*).

Invite 4 people of different ages to each bring an item (cross, candle, feathers, Bible) forward as the congregation are invited to listen, watch and think about being ready to worship God together. It begins with:

We are here together in the name of Christ Jesus (*cross brought forward*)
in the presence of an awesome, Holy Love (*candle is brought forward and lit*)

USE SONG

"Be still and know that I am God"

Arrange for the music to begin whilst the worship leader is speaking, continue through the Call to Worship and keep on playing for a short time after the refrain has been sung for the final time. The worship leader gives a brief introduction about the busyness of life and difficulty of being still. Then invite the congregation to say together the words in bold and sing the refrain, "Be still and know that I am God" while being as still as possible. The Call to Worship begins with:

Let us worship God!
Jesus says to us: Come to me, all of you that are weary
And God says, "**Be still and know that I am God.**"
(sing) "Be still and know that I am God." 3X

Jesus says: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
And God says, "**Be still and know that I am God.**"
(sing) "Be still and know that I am God." 3X

Legend

-  Say
-  Prepare
-  Do
-  Take Home





IN PAIRS OR GROUPS

- **Trinity Sunday - groups of 3**
(p. 7, 8 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

Invite people to get into groups of 3, if possible with people from different generations and to number themselves 1, 2 and 3. Invite the number 1 people to read the lines with number 1, number 2 people to say number 2 line and number 3 people to read the number 3 line and to read the last lines together:

Leader: Let us worship God!

1 - O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

2 - The heart of creation throbs with your glory!

3 - Glory revealed in the vast reaches of the universe;

1 - in the stars shining in the eyes and songs of children.

2 - Awesome God, our lives seem insignificant

3 - but we know how deeply you care for us and all creation!

All together - You trust humanity with caring for your wonderful creation.

O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Then invite people in their groups to:

- finish this sentence: My favourite thing in creation is...

- share how they care for God's wonderful creation or something they'd like to do to care for God's creation.

- finish this sentence of Praise to God: Awesome God, you are... Amazing or Majestic or ...

- say the last 2 lines of our Call to Worship together again.

ADAPTING PSALMS

- **Psalm 130**
(p. 18 Lent Engage Together)

Split the congregation into halves based on age e.g. those over 60 and under 60. As the Call to Worship is read, the question is repeatedly asked, "Do you believe this?"

- **Psalm 149**
(p. 3 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

Invite the congregation to repeat, "Praise the Lord!" after each verse.

EXPLORING THE THEME OF THE SERVICE

- **Week 1 of Lent - Wilderness**
(p. 4 Lent Engage Together)

Display a picture of wilderness. Wonder together and invite responses about what it would be like to be in this picture and how it might feel. Then invite those under 50 to join in

with the phrase, "A wilderness" and those over 50 to say the words in red with everyone invited to say the words in bold. For example, it begins with:

Welcome to Lent, a wilderness, a journey, a temptation.

A wilderness, **a turning, a calling.**

A wilderness, **an encounter; a renewing.**

- **Who do people say Jesus is?**
(p. 13 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

In this example people of any age who spend part of their week at Playgroup, in a primary school or at a secondary school are invited to join in with the word "**who**".

Everyone is invited to say the words in **bold**. For example, it begins with:

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his followers, "**Who** do people say that I am?"

They said: "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, **others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.**"

Then he asked them, "But you—**who** do you say I am?" **Lord, You are the Bread of Life, coming from heaven and giving life to the world.**

MORE IDEAS

- **Use hand movements that enact the words of the prayer**

(p. 26 Jun-July Engage Together)

Begins with:

(place hands on either side of where you are sitting)

God, you search me and know me.

Before I sit, you know when I will rise.

(place hands to lips)

God, you search me and know me.

Before I speak, you know what I will say.

- **Mime**
(p. 21 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

As well as saying the words in bold, invite people to join in with their whole body by miming what they've just said. Provide a chord/short musical phrase as a signal to "freeze" in their pose and explain that when the leader continues reading that is the signal to "unfreeze". For example, it begins with:

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song. (mime/freeze)

Praise God among the communion of saints.

Let the people of God rejoice in their creator. (mime/freeze)



- **Halve the congregation and give words to say with actions**

(p. 30 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

Divide the room into those under 40 years (or choose an age that is about half of your congregation) and invite them to say, "God is our strength" and make a 'muscle' pose. Invite those over 40 years old to say, "We will praise God" and raise their arms in praise. For example, it begins with:

We worship God who caused the sea to look and flee.

God is our strength (*muscle pose*);
we will praise God! (*raise arms*)

We worship God for whom the mountains and hills skipped.

God is our strength (*muscle pose*);
we will praise God! (*raise arms*)

USING A PROP OR HAND HELD RESOURCE FOR EACH PERSON

- **Hand flags for Palm Sunday**
(p. 20 Lent Engage Together)

As people arrive for the service they each make a flag by tracing around their hand. During the Call to Worship they are invited to wave their flag each time they say the response, "You are our God, and we will praise You!"

- **Heart shape**
(p. 78 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

This service uses a heart shape from felt or cardboard for each person and in the Call to Worship the heart is waved, held to chest, placed on someone's arm, touched to another heart shape and held up high. For example, it begins with:

With thankful hearts we praise God and God's saving deeds.

Our songs of praise proclaim all God's wonderful works. (*wave your heart shape*)

Our hearts rejoice and glory in God's holy name each day.

We recall God's saving deeds, promises & judgments. (*hold your heart shape to your chest*)

This would be simpler if the response wording was repeated each time, here's an adapted version of the above example:

With thankful hearts we praise God and God's saving deeds.

Our songs of praise proclaim all God's wonderful works. (*wave your heart shape*)

With thankful hearts we praise God and

God's saving deeds.

Our hearts rejoice and glory in God's holy name each day. (*hold your heart shape to your chest*)

With thankful hearts we praise God and God's saving deeds.

We recall God's saving deeds, promises & judgments. (*hold your heart shape to your forehead*)

PROPS OR ITEMS USED AS A VISUAL AID DURING THE 'CALL AND RESPONSE'

- "My cup runneth over" (p. 14-15 Lent Engage Together)

Prepare

Prepare a medium-to-large clear glass bowl filled to the brim with water and placed in the middle of a large tray. Place next to the bowl three "empty", reasonably sized glass (or plastic) jugs – each with a small amount of differently coloured food dye in them. Fill a larger jug (sufficient to fill the three reasonably sized jugs) with water. Pre-select three people (maximising the age difference as much as possible) and explain to them what they will need to do at the appointed time in the service.

Say

Water can be a sign of God's blessing or God's Shalom. Lots of water can be a symbol for lots of blessing! I've invited three people to help me lead our Call to Worship this morning and I'd like them to come forward now [as they come forward, give them an "empty" jug]. Everybody's job this morning is to join in with the words in bold. [Name], [Name] and [Name] are going to help by pouring water into our bowl. I wonder what will happen? [At this point fill each of the empty jugs]

Do

As the Call to Worship is read, one person each time (in turn) pours out about half of their jug's contents into the bowl already brimming with water. Pause each time to allow a focus on the pouring before proceeding with the text.

The Lord is my Shepherd: **I shall not want** (*pour water*)

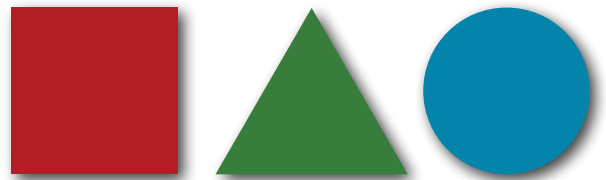
I seek the grace of God: **and my cup runneth over** (*pour water*)

I seek the will of God: **and my cup runneth over** (*pour water*)

I seek the strength of God: **and my cup runneth over** (*pour water*)

How generous is God's love: **so much the world cannot contain it** (*pour water*)

The Lord is my Shepherd: **and I lack nothing** (*pour water*)



APPENDIX 2

Intergenerational *Music* ideas

The following examples are drawn from previous *Engage Together* material.

TIS 154 GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

(p. 4 Lent *Engage Together*)



Say

This song is about God's great faithfulness to us and all of God's Creation. To help us remember that, I'd like everyone on the left side of the church (or everyone who is under 50 or everyone who is wearing a dark coloured top or your choice of dividing the congregation into two parts) to especially join in on the word "Great". Let's practice that... 1, 2 "Great". Well done!

To help us remember God's great faithfulness, I'd like everyone on the right side of the church (or everyone who is over 50 or everyone who is wearing a light coloured top or your choice of dividing the congregation into two parts) to especially join in on the word "Faithfulness". Let's practice that... 1, 2 "Faithfulness". Excellent!

Let's practice that together... 1, 2 "Great" "Faithfulness". Fantastic! Now we're ready to sing...

TIS 10 "THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD"

(p. 15 Lent *Engage Together*)



Prepare

Pre-select two people (making sure there is a significant age difference between them, if possible) to share briefly (ideally around a minute) as to why Psalm 23 is important to them. You might also want to pre-select one or two people to initiate the sharing to take place after the third verse (as described below).



Say

This song is based on a Psalm from the Bible – Psalm 23. For many people, this is one of their favourite Psalms. I wonder if you are one of those people [invite people to put up their hand]. I know that [name] and [name] like this Psalm – and I've asked them to briefly tell us a little bit about why it is special to them...

... Thank you [Name] and [Name]. As we sing this song, we're going to pause at the end of the third verse. The music will keep playing quietly and during this time you might like to share briefly with the whole congregation why this Psalm is special for you. Alternatively, you might want to sit quietly and reflect on God's presence, God's blessing, God's shalom.

Legend



Say



Prepare



Do



Take Home





TIS 111 “PRAISE TO THE LORD”

(p. 10 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



Invite a small multi-age group (perhaps 4 people) or a family/ household to prepare a simple prayer/litany beforehand along the lines of

Person 1 We praise you God for...

Person 2 ...

Person 3 ...

Person 4 ...

Person 1 We praise you God for...

Person 2 ...

Person 3 ...

Person 4 ...

Make sure you liaise with the person/s responsible for leading music regarding the process as outlined below.



I wonder what you would like to praise God for this morning? In a moment, I'm going to ask you to cluster into groups of three or four people to share with one another. During the song, I'm going to give you an opportunity to call out the things you want to praise God for. Make sense? Please get into groups of 3-4 and share what you would like to praise God for... and when the music starts, I'll invite you to stand.



(Please stand & sing)

Between verse 1 and 2: as the music continues to play, pause the singing here and have the multi-age group say the first cycle of their prayer).

Between verse 3 and 4: as the music continues to play, pause the singing here and have the multi-age group say the second cycle of their prayer).

Between verse 4 and 5: as the music continues to play, pause the singing here and invite the congregation to respond and call out their response to, "We praise you God for...").

TIS 447 “LORD YOUR ALMIGHTY WORD”

(p. 13 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



Collect a range of light emitting objects (eg. torches, battery-powered lanterns and, safety-considerations/risk management permitting, cigarette lighters). Place the torches/lanterns under the seats/pews at random and, if you have chosen to use them, prior to the service commencing hand out the cigarette lighters to adults who can use them safely.



The last phrase of each verse in the song we are about to sing is, "Let there be light". When we get to this point, I want to invite everyone who is 15 (or a higher age, depending on your congregation) or under to stand up and enthusiastically call out, "Let there be light" - and then sit down. Also, if you have a light-emitting object under your seat - or were given a lighter prior to the service - the invitation to you when we sing, "Let there be light" is to shine/wave the light around. Let's practice... on the count of 2, "Let there be light"... 1, 2... "Let there be light" (all together). Well done!

Nb. If you have the capacity to do so, you might also choose to darken the church at this point.

TIS 585 “I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY”

(p.20 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



As our next song speaks of hearing the voice of Jesus, I thought it would be a good idea to play a listening game. Firstly, I need two volunteers who think they are good listeners to come up the front here (**at this point choose two volunteers of vastly different age or, if you think it more appropriate, arrange for the “volunteers” prior to the service. Invite them to the front and have them stand side by side.**) I also need another four volunteers, who think they are good talkers to come up here (**again, choose a diversity of ages and have them stand in a line facing the initial pair**). In a moment, these two people will turn away from the others and close their eyes. Their task will then be to listen carefully and guess which of these four people has spoken. Make sense? Great, here we go (**at this point, they turn and close their eyes**).



Do

Explain that the first phrase is, "Come unto me and rest" and identify, by pointing, which person will speak. Ask them to say the phrase. Ask the two people facing away if they were able to recognise the voice. Whatever their response, ask them to listen carefully whilst the same person repeats the phrase. Check with the volunteer pair (**who should still be facing away with their eyes closed**) whether they're ready to identify the person. Hopefully they will say, "Yes", but if they don't then have the phrase repeated one more time by the same person. Now invite them to open their eyes, face the line of four people and, in turn, say whose voice they thought they heard. Affirm/encourage as much as you can whether they choose correctly or not.

Repeat the process, with same volunteers, this time with the phrase, "Behold I freely give". You might also like to encourage the person you identify to speak to disguise their voice in some way (e.g. with an accent).

Repeat the process for a final time, with the phrase, "I am this dark world's light". This time you might like to encourage the whole congregation to participate by closing their eyes, listening carefully and seeing if they can identify the speaker.

Finally, thank everyone for their participation and announce the song... "I heard the voice of Jesus say"

TIS 182 "BRING MANY NAMES"

(p.23 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

Prepare

Prepare a list of 'names of God' (e.g. from [Got Questions?](http://www.gotquestions.org/names-of-God.html) - www.gotquestions.org/names-of-God.html) and meanings of common first names (or, ideally, the names of those in your congregation) using a site such as [this one](http://www.businessinsider.com.au/first-name-meanings-2014-7?r=US&IR=T) (www.businessinsider.com.au/first-name-meanings-2014-7?r=US&IR=T) or [Behind the Name](http://www.behindthename.com/) (www.behindthename.com/). Liaise with the person/s leading music around the process, as described below, for the song.

Say

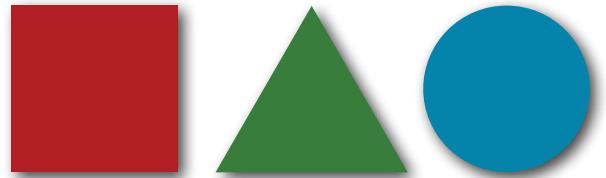
A challenge for many parents is to decide on a name for their children. My parents chose [name] for me, which means [meaning]. Here's a list of some common, or not so common, names and their meanings (**display and read some names that pique your interest**). I wonder, do you know what your name means? I invite you to gather in groups of 3, ideally with people of different ages, to talk about your name/s – what they might mean and, if you know, why your parents chose those name/s for you...

...Did you know that there are many different names for God in the Bible? I wonder how many we can think of together? (**gather responses from the congregations**). That's fantastic! Here's a list that I prepared earlier (**display names with their meanings**). Again, in your group of three, I encourage you to have a chat about these names – which had you heard before? Which do you like the sound of? Do you have a favourite?...

...Our first song this morning includes many 'names' or ways of thinking about God. After we sing the third verse, while the music keeps playing, we will pause to allow space for you to call out some of the names – or ways you like to describe – God. We will then sing the final three verses of the song "Bring many names"...

Do

Between verses 3 and 4: pause to call out names of, or ways of describing, God.



APPENDIX 3

Intergenerational *Prayer* ideas

The following examples are drawn from previous *Engage Together* material.

BUBBLE PRAYERS

(p. 9 Lent Engage Together)



Say

Together we pray for things we want to see changed in this world. We pray in faith, even if we cannot explain it, and we ask for God to intercede, to break into situations in this world that need healing and restoration. We also pray that we find ways we can help in God's work of healing and restoration.

As we pray today, I invite you to listen and also to pray in your own hearts for those you are thinking of at this time. Four times we will pause and respond to prayers offered up - I will say 'God in your Grace', and you can all respond 'hear our prayer' and at that moment we pause in silence and blow bubbles, or watch the bubbles, spreading out carrying our breath and our prayers for one another and this world.



Do

Creator God,
We pray for a healthy earth,
That leaders will make good choices for our environment,
That people will all do their bit to conserve water and electricity,
That the three R's, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, will be practiced in homes, schools and workplaces.
And for other environmental concerns on our hearts today.
God in your grace,

Hear our prayers

[Blow bubbles, and allow a little time to watch]

Loving God,
We pray for our communities and families.
For those who don't feel like they belong, to feel accepted.
For those who are fighting, to hear one another and find peace.
For those who are sick or injured, that they find strength and comfort.
And for other people we know who are on our hearts today.
God in your grace,

Hear our prayers

[Blow bubbles, and allow a little time to watch]

continued over page ...

Legend



Say



Prepare



Do



Take Home





God our holy parent,
surround us in loving embrace,
fill us and bless each breath,
hear these prayers of our hearts,
joined in community here today.
God in your grace,

Hear our prayers

[Blow bubbles, and allow a little time to watch]

CANDLE LIGHTING

(p. 15 Lent Engage Together)



Prepare

Set up five candles. Pre-select two people to light the candles.



Say

As we pray together, I invite you to join in with the phrase, "Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us". Let's practice that now... 1,2, "Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us". Great! Also, after each time we say, "Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us", a candle will be lit and a short time of silence will be kept.



Do

Jesus, servant King and Light of the world you penetrate the darkness of the world with your love and your life, graciously enlightening us in ways which enable us to see the world and our neighbours as you see them.

We confess, however, that there are times when we choose to reject the gift of your insight, preferring to 'close our eyes' to the pain and suffering which are daily experiences for so many people.

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us. [Allow a short time of silence after the candle is lit]

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us. [Allow a short time of silence after the candle is lit]

When our prejudices blinds us to the equal dignity and worth of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us. [Allow a short time of silence after the candle is lit]

When our pride blinds us to our own faults;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us. [Allow a short time of silence after the candle is lit]

When the lure of wealth blinds us to the poverty of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us. [Allow a short time of silence after the candle is lit]

Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light so that goodness, righteousness, and truth are made visible as we reflect your love and your mercy in and through all we say and do. **Amen.**

PLAYDOUGH PRAYER

(p. 11 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



Say

As we enter our time of Confession this morning, I invite you to take some plasticine/playdough and roll it into a ball. As you do, you might want to think about your past week – all that has happened, the good and not so good (pause).

You might like to turn your ball into a face - by spreading it out like a pancake or adding some eyes, ears and, perhaps, a nose. As you do, you might want to think about the people that know you well and what you have done with them across your week (pause).

Sometimes things don't turn out as we expect. Sometimes things can end up in a bit of a mess - we might hurt others, others might hurt us. Squash your plasticine/playdough so it becomes a bit out of shape (pause).

We're going to say together a prayer and, as we do, I invite you to roll your playdough/plasticine back into a ball, back the way it was.



Do

Merciful God, Creator and Redeemer;
you know us completely and love us utterly.

There is not a thought or feeling,
word, action, memory or hope,
that you do not see and understand.

Please forgive our sins and remove our shame,
heal our diseases and redress our distortions,
reinforce our faith and enlarge our love.

Let all that is true, beautiful and compassionate
find a new lease of life in our character.

For your name's sake. **Amen.**

SOUNDSCAPE PRAYER

(p. 21 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



Prepare

In the week prior to the service, arrange for a small, multi-age group (or perhaps household) of four people to arrange a soundscape (recording), backed with visual images (digital projector or pictures) to accompany their leading of the prayer.

For example, the sound of babbling voices (played loudly) for the first section, heavy ominous music for the second (e.g. from Orff's [Carmina Burana](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEIIIeCo4OM) - [youtube.com/watch?v=QEIIIeCo4OM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEIIIeCo4OM)), something pastoral for the third (e.g. Grieg's [Morning Mood](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVa9IsjUutA) - www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVa9IsjUutA from the Peer Gynt Suite) and a repeat of the babbling voices (gradually quietening) for the final section. Ensure the sound lasts a little longer than the spoken words for each section to allow reflection. Make sure the group arrives early enough on the day to ensure the technology required is in order and to practice in the space.



 Do

Prayer 1: O God, we hear so many voices within us and around us weighing us down with burdens too great to bear.

When we fall short of the ways you want us to live:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Prayer 2: Lord Jesus, when you call us to carry your easy yoke, when you tell us your burden is light, yet we choose other burdens to carry and leave your work undone.

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Prayer 3: Compassionate God, when we try to do good and yet end up doing the opposite, when we let you down and fail to live your ways of love and peace, and justice towards all people.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Prayer 4: Gentle loving God, quiet the voices that distract us from loving you, still our minds, and keep us focussed on loving and serving you, in the name of Christ. **Amen**

PRAYER STATION

(p.23, 24 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

 Prepare

Set up a number of 'stations' (appropriate to your space and the anticipated number of people) where each station includes a pile of seeds, a collection of rocks/large stones, a large container of soil, a bowl of water, paper towels and a source of heat (most likely a candle – with a box of matches – but if you can come up with a safe – and less clichéd source of heat – go for it!)

 Say

As you arrived today, you might have noticed a number of tables set up through the church. I invite you to move to a table now as we get ready for our Prayer of Confession. As you move, you might like to begin thinking about another image we find of God in the Bible – that of a Gardener... (allow time for people to move to the tables)... as you arrive at your table, please take a few seeds and rub them between your fingers, or hold them in you palm. Notice how they feel – their lightness, their texture – their fragility, their vulnerability. As we pray together, at various points I will invite you to pause and engage with some of the other elements on your table...

 Do

Let us pray...

The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks.

As we pause, pick up a rock or two, notice its weight, its texture, its hard bits – how different it feels to a seed (allow a time of silence). I invite you to pick up a handful of soil as we continue...

We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins

that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion.

Lord have mercy: **Lord have mercy**

As we pause, rub the soil in your hands, notice its texture, its smell, its feel against your skin (allow a time of silence). I invite you to return your soil to its container and then all place your hands in the bowl of water...

God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy.

Help us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!

Christ have mercy: **Christ have mercy**

As we pause, gently rinse your hands in the bowl. Notice the coolness, the cleansing, the difference the water makes. Remove your hands from the bowl, have one person light the candle/s and carefully hold your hands close enough to feel the warmth of the flame without being burnt...

God of steadfast love, you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy.

Help us to sprout a new life, growing with honesty!

Lord have mercy: **Lord have mercy**

We say together...

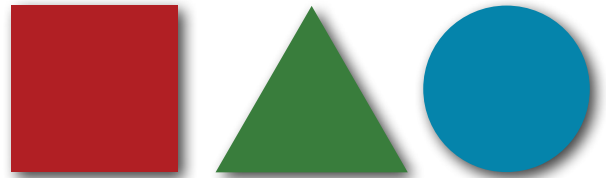
God of steadfast love, you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy,

Help us to branch out into new life, growing with generosity, in Jesus' name. Amen

God the Divine Gardener, tends us with generous love,

Through Christ, this love is planted in our hearts. So we are cultivated to grow in God's boundless forgiveness.

Our sins are forgiven; **thanks be to God!**



APPENDIX 4

Intergenerational *Bible* reading ideas

The following examples are drawn from previous *Engage Together* material.

ROMANS 5:1-8

(p. 11 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



Say

As we read the Bible together today, there are two ways I want to invite you to join in. There are some points in this reading where it is appropriate to celebrate, where there is good news for us. At these points I'd like to encourage you to respond with, "Yes" - and a fist pump or fist bump with the person next to you. Let's practice that 1,2,3... "Yes". You'll know when to do this by following the words and watching out for a "tick". Other parts of this reading might seem surprising at least at first and cause us to wonder. At these points, I'd like to encourage you to respond by saying, "What?" and holding your hands out, palms upward - like this (model "What?" and action). Let's give that a go, 1,2,3... "What?". Well done. The sign for this in the text will be a "?".



Do

By faith we have been made acceptable to God "tick". And now, because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we live at peace with God "tick". Christ has also introduced us to God's undeserved kindness on which we take our stand. So we are happy, as we look forward to sharing in the glory of God "tick". But that's not all! We gladly suffer "?", because we know that suffering helps us to endure "?". And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us "tick". All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love "tick"...

GENESIS 21: 8-21

(p. 15 Jun-Jul Engage Together)



Say

In our Bible Reading today there are at least four key characters - Abraham, Sarah, Hagar and Ishmael (provide any further introduction/context you think is required). As we engage the Bible together I'm going to invite the females here today to imagine what it was like for Abraham and the males to imagine what it was like for Hagar (or you could be more conservative and go with males/Abraham and females/Hagar). At certain points in the story I'm going to pause and invite you to mime - as enthusiastically as you can - how either Abraham, if you're female, or Hagar, if you're male, might be feeling. I'll say, "Abraham" - or "Hagar" "emote".

Legend



Say



Prepare



Do



Take Home





(Each time this happens, encourage the “non-emoting” participants to observe the different expressions. You might also like to highlight, with due pastoral sensitivity, any particularly enthusiastic/interesting “emoters”).

Do

The time came when Sarah no longer had to nurse Isaac, and on that day Abraham gave a big feast. [Abraham – emote]

One day, Sarah noticed Hagar’s son Ishmael playing, and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that Egyptian slave woman and her son! I don’t want him to inherit anything. It should all go to my son.” [Abraham – emote]...

They wandered around in the desert near Beersheba, and after they had run out of water, Hagar put her son under a bush. Then she sat down a long way off, because she could not bear to watch him die. And she cried bitterly. [Hagar – emote]

When God heard the boy crying, the angel of God called out to Hagar from heaven and said, “Hagar, why are you worried? Don’t be afraid. I have heard your son crying. Help him up and hold his hand, because I will make him the father of a great nation.” Then God let her see a well. So she went to the well and filled the skin with water, then gave some to her son. [Hagar – emote]...

ROMANS 8:1-11

(p. 24 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

Prepare

Prepare a version of the text for the congregation to read (ideally a powerpoint, but a printed version is also fine) with all the words beginning with S printed in red, L printed in purple and C printed in blue (or whatever colours work best in your context). Practice the reading process with the designated Bible Reader.

Say

Three key elements in our Bible reading this morning from Romans 8:1-11 are the Spirit, Christ and the Law. We’re going to read the Bible together, and I invite you to join in – enthusiastically - with all the words starting with ‘S’.

Do

If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won’t be punished. The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death...

(Pause at this point and affirm how well people have joined in. Say that because they have done so well, you’re going to step it up a level. Divide the group into two, with one half to still read the words in red beginning with S and the other half to read the words in blue, beginning with C. Return to the beginning and read again...)

If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won’t be punished. The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death...

(Pause again, affirming how exceptionally talented the congregation is. Say that you are going to make it more challenging again. This time divide the group into thirds, with one third to still read the words in red, one third to read the words in blue and the final third to read the words in purple. Return to the beginning and, this time, proceed to the end of the passage.)

If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won’t be punished. The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death. The Law of Moses cannot do this, because our selfish desires make the Law weak. But God set you free when God sent his own Son to be like us sinners and to be a sacrifice for our sin. God used Christ’s body to condemn sin. He did this, so that we would do what the Law commands by obeying the Spirit instead of our own desires.

People who are ruled by their desires think only of themselves. Everyone who is ruled by the Holy Spirit thinks about spiritual things. If our minds are ruled by our desires, we will die. But if our minds are ruled by the Spirit, we will have life and peace. Our desires fight against God, because they do not and cannot obey God’s laws. If we follow our desires, we cannot please God.

You are no longer ruled by your desires, but by God’s Spirit, who lives in you. People who don’t have the Spirit of Christ in them don’t belong to him. But Christ lives in you. So you are alive because God has accepted you, even though your bodies must die because of your sins. Yet God raised Jesus to life! God’s Spirit now lives in you, and he will raise you to life by his Spirit.

Extra Tip: It can be really helpful if the Reader pauses slightly before each coloured word and points to the relevant group.



ROMANS 8:12-25

(p. 27 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

Prepare

Arrange for a child and an older adult (or if this is not possible, two people born at least two decades apart) to prepare to interview one another. Invite the child to ask the three questions of the adult first, and then swap roles.

- What do/did you like best about being a child?
- Is there/was there anything you are/were scared of?
- As a/when you were a child, what do/did you like about your parents/those who cared for you?

Nb. Make sure you have asked two people for whom this last question is not inappropriate or a source of pain.

Prepare a slide (or include in a printed form) these questions...

- What do/did you like best about being a child?
- Is there/was there anything you are/were scared of?
- As a/when you were a child, what do/did you like about your parents/those who cared for you?

Say

Today's Bible reading speaks of those who are led by God's Spirit as God's children, about us becoming and being God's children by God's Spirit's action. To help us think about being children, I've invited [name] and [name] to come up the front here and ask each other a few questions... **(once they have finished, thank them and continue)**...

In a moment, I'm going to invite you to find a partner who is very different to you in age. This will probably work best if those who think they are younger move to someone they think is older. Once you've paired up, I invite you to "interview" one another as [name] and [name] have just done. The questions are on the screen (or in a printed form) for you. Make sense? Good, let's go then...

(after allowing sufficient time, continue)

Please stay where you are as we read the Bible together. As we read, you are invited to join in with the words in bold...

Do

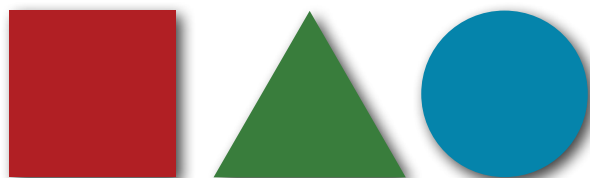
Reading from Romans 8:12-25...

My dear friends, we must not live to satisfy our desires. If you do, you will die. But you will live, if by the help of God's Spirit you say "No" to your desires. Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are **God's children**. God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, **we become God's children** and call him our Father. God's Spirit makes us sure that **we are his children**. God's Spirit lets us know that together with Christ we will be given what God has promised. We will also share in the glory of Christ, because we have suffered with him.

I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us. In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show **who God's children are**. Meanwhile, creation is confused, but not because it wants to be confused. God made it this way in the hope that creation would be set free from decay and would share in the **glorious freedom of God's children**. We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth.

The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future. But now we groan silently, while we wait for God to show that **we are God's children**. This means that our bodies will also be set free. And this hope is what saves us. But if we already have what we hope for, there is no need to keep on hoping. However, we hope for something we have not yet seen, and we patiently wait for it.

Conclude by saying something like "Thanks for joining in with the reading today. Before we continue on, feel free to look the person you chatted with in the eye and say "You are a child of God" [pause while people say this], shake their hand and say "Thanks for sharing with me today" [pause while people do this] and, as people return to their seats, wave goodbye and say "See you later".



APPENDIX 5

Take Home ideas

The following examples are drawn from previous *Engage Together* material.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- **Red balloons**
(p. 6 Jun-Jul *Engage Together*)

At the end of the Pentecost celebration service, invite every person/household to take a red balloon home to blow up and hang somewhere in their home to remind people to thank God for his Spirit or to pray for the congregation, wider community or for God's church around the world.

- **Summer and Winter Call to Worship reflection**
(p. 15 Jun-Jul *Engage Together*)

Print out for each household or person a copy of the adapted Call to worship below. You might like to laminate them or print on card paper:

The winter deepens and the days are short
but the long summer of Christ's light remains.
A cold wind blows outside
but the warmth of God is around us and within us.
We are indeed a most privileged people.
God is our God and we are God's people!
The joy of Christ Jesus be with us.

- **Garden elements - Prayer of Confession**
(p. 25 Jun-Jul *Engage Together*)

Consider if all of the elements provided on the tables for the Prayer of Confession can be taken home, eg the bowl for water, the candle (or heat source you choose). If not, provide extra seeds, rocks and soil at the door as people leave. You could also provide tea-light candles to take home and use a larger candle at the prayer table. Having some zip-lock bags could also assist people to take home some seeds or soil. You may also like to provide a copy of the *Prayer of Confession* for each person or household.

"May these elements prompt you during this week to pray to the Divine Gardener for hearts to be tilled, sin to be dug out, seeds of justice, peace and compassion to be sown and cold hearts warmed with mercy. May new life sprout in us this week through Jesus Christ."

Invite people to choose an element from the prayer tables to take home - perhaps a few seeds, or a rock or some soil. (List the elements they can take or explain what they can collect at the door as they leave.) Please make sure everyone is able to choose something to take home.

Legend

- Say
- ▲ Prepare
- Do
- ★ Take Home





- **A5 card with image for gospel reading, own prayer written on back**
(p. 5 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

An A5 card with an image of 5 loaves and 2 fish on it is passed around during the Bible reading, then everyone is encouraged to write or draw prayers on the card in the Prayers of the People; then this card is encouraged to be taken home and stuck somewhere to prompt ongoing prayers throughout the week.

- **Raindrop with faith sentence and invitation to sign cross on themselves**
(p.8 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

In the prayer of confession water is used as a visual/drama prop and in the Doxology (the song after the declaration of forgiveness) people are invited forward to touch the water and sign the cross on themselves. The Take Home idea is to give everyone a blue paper raindrop, possibly with something written on it like, "You are saved by faith through Jesus Christ." and people are invited to stick this up somewhere at home to remind them of God's forgiveness and encourage them to make the sign of the cross on themselves, either forehead or wrist, and possibly using water.

GAMES

Provide instructions, what you will need and how to play, for a simple game to play at home during the week that connects with the theme of the service/sermon.

- **Celebrity Heads**
(p. 15 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

Provide instructions for Celebrity Heads as this connects with a service about, "who do people say that Jesus is?" Encourage people to adapt their game to use different people from the Bible. Invite people to say a prayer after they've played that thanks God for the people you know and interact with each day.

- **Playdough**
(p. 12 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

As part of the Prayers of Confession playdough is distributed. Invite people to take home a lump of playdough (provide zip-lock bags). Invite people to shape it into a happy face and offer prayers of thanks. Then shape into a sad face and offer prayers of confession about your day. End by rolling it back into a ball ready for the next day and pray "I praise you God for your faithfulness each day."

CRAFTS

- **Plaiting wristbands/bookmarks**
(p. 9 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

People were invited into groups of three to engage with different elements of the service. Prepare three strands of wool tied together ready to plait, sufficient for each person in your congregation. Invite people to take the wool home and to pray for the other two people in their group during the service. Invite people to turn their plait into a bracelet to wear during this week or just hold and pray for those in their group.

ACTIONS

- **Share a meal or a cuppa with someone**
(p. 18 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

When you leave the service today, think about who you could invite over to share a meal or a cuppa with or who you could take a meal or afternoon tea to. Perhaps turn to the person next to you and say who that person will be or just say, "Yes!" to affirm that there is someone who you will extend hospitality to this week. Remember to also pray for that person this week too.

- **Using a rock to give our burdens to God and also encouraging someone else**
(p. 22 Jun-Jul Engage Together)

Provide one rock per person to take home. Try to get rocks that are as large as possible to carry in the palm of your hand but within reasonable budget. If necessary use garden stones (pebbles) but larger will assist to emphasise the 'heavy burdens' theme in today's service. You may also like to provide simple instructions and prayer prompts as outlined below.

"As you leave today, please collect a rock to take home. Put your rock inside your house where you will see it each day. May it remind you of Jesus invitation, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens." When you see this rock, come to Jesus, pray and give him that day's burdens.

As the week progresses, when you feel ready, put your rock outside. Thank Jesus for "giving you rest" whether that's feeling good about life or that day or just a quiet cup of tea or a few hours of sleep. Remember taking our burdens to Jesus is an ongoing part of being his disciple - as is thanking him for rest.

We also encourage you, at least once during this week, to share with others in your home or to call a friend or member of your Bible study/small group (use wording appropriate for your context) about that day's burdens or moments of rest and pray for one another."



- **Forgiving others**

(p. 27 - 28 Aug-Sept Engage Together)

Create a pile of cards with the word 'Forgive' on each card. Have enough cards for every person or household. These cards could be used during the Prayers of Confession but only hand a third to half the cards out at that time. Make all of the cards available as people leave the service.

Be ready to also explain forgiveness in a way that doesn't put vulnerable people back in unsafe situations. If the following activity is not helpful for members of your congregation feel free to adapt it to be used as a reminder during the week to confess our sins to God and to thank God for forgiving us. For example: "Please note that forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean putting yourself back in harm's way. Forgiving someone doesn't mean you have to stay in unsafe situations. Forgiveness is about releasing someone from revenge and praying blessing upon them, praying for their good."

Invite people to take a 'Forgive' card home and to think about the times in your week when you find you most need to forgive someone. If it is when you are driving, attach the 'Forgive' card to your car stereo or put in the cup holder. If you need to forgive people when at work, perhaps tuck the 'Forgive' card on your desk or attach to your computer. If you need to forgive people in your home, perhaps put your 'Forgive' card on the fridge or kitchen sink. Put it somewhere to help remind you to forgive more freely and to thank God for all the times God forgives you.

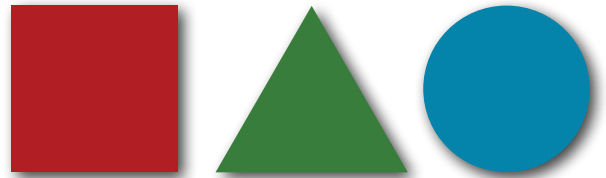
- **Patience and grace in queues**

(p. 33 Aug-Sept Engage Together)



"As we prepare to finish worshipping together here today, I invite you to think about your coming week. Can you think of a time when you are likely to be in a queue? Perhaps at the supermarket, at the Doctor's, ordering a coffee, getting on a bus. It might also be when serving a meal in your home with others present.

When you are in that queue, would you consider letting someone go before you or even letting the whole queue go before you? (pause) I wonder what might happen? I wonder how others might respond? What would you say if someone asked why you did that? Perhaps next week we might share stories together of what we each did and what happened. Let's also pray for one another during the week, pray for patience and grace when we find ourselves in a queue."



Additional Engage Together resources

Resources:

2018 Engage Together: More than Worship, More than Sunday

ctmresourcing.org.au/more-than-sunday-more-than-worship

2017 Engage Together: Generating Intergenerational Worship Ideas

ctmresourcing.org.au/engage-together-generating-intergenerational-worsh

Weekly material:

2018 Engage Together: Lent

ctmresourcing.org.au/engage-together-lent-2018

2017 Engage Together: Advent - Dec

ctmresourcing.org.au/engage-together-advent-2017

2017 Engage Together: Aug - Sep

ctmresourcing.org.au/after-pentecost-engagetgether

2017 Engage Together: Jun - Jul

ctmresourcing.org.au/engagetgether-intergenerational-worship-ideas-for~12338

2017 Engage Together: Lent

ctmresourcing.org.au/engagetgether-intergenerational-worship-ideas-for

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