

Youth Resources



Introductory games

Introduce the idea of working together by using one or all of the following games.

1) Marshmallow towers

The objective of the game is to build as high a tower as possible using marshmallows and straws. Several different individuals can be playing against each other at one time.

You will need: marshmallows - dried spaghetti - blindfold (optional) - stopwatch

Method:

- The first time round pick one person per team
- They should try and build it themselves and then second time round someone else can be picked to help them.
- An alternative way to play is that the first time round the individual player is blindfolded and then the following round they are still blindfolded but have someone else in their team to direct them.
- The time limit of each round is up to you.
- The winning tower will be the tallest and must be free standing.

2) Hands together

Method:

- Stand in a circle and everyone should cross over their hands before taking hands with the people beside them.
- Work as a team to try and get everyone untangled but still holding hands in a circle. You must not lose contact with each other's hands.
- Depending on space, you can do this as one large group or split into smaller groups.

3) Circle sit

You will need: stopwatch (optional)

Method:

- Have everyone stand in a circle with their right shoulder facing into the centre.
- Everyone needs to be standing close together.
- At the appropriate signal, everyone sits down at the same time as if on an imaginary chair and ends up on the knee of the person behind.
- The end goal is that everyone should remain in a seated position in the circle without falling over. Everyone will need to work together to stay in the seated position. If one person falls, the whole group will fall.
- You can time how long the group stay upright (optional).
- Depending on space this can be done as one large group or several smaller groups.

Group activity

Create your ideal church

If you could design your ideal church what would it look like? What type of people would be there and what things would you do? In groups of 4-5 think about your ideal church. Be as creative as you want, write or draw the things that you would like included in your ideal church. Feedback as one large group.

You will need:

- A3 sheets of paper for each group
- markers / pens

Video

Show "What is the church" video: <https://youtu.be/ifnJtkAnBq4>

Bible focus

Read Acts 2:42-47

Here we see a radical vision of what a community of faith should look like. The passage is only 6 verses long yet it is one that is incredibly challenging for us today, and has the potential to completely transform how we do church.

Bible study/talk notes available to download from the DVD in the pack or online at www.presbyterianireland.org

3 main points:

DEVOTED

Big idea: Church isn't just another thing we do, it's who we are!

Key verses: vv42-43, 46

TOGETHER

Big idea: The church should be a group of people from diverse backgrounds, united by our love for God and our love for one another.

Key verses: vv44-45

OUTWARD

Big idea: We aren't supposed to keep the good news to ourselves.

Key verse: v47

Reflection

DEVOTED TOGETHER OUTWARD

Write down what word is most important for you and what it looks like for you practically in your life. How could you live out this aspect more in your life? Pray that God will help you do this.

Video

Show the "What is Church?" video on the DVD in the pack or download from www.presbyterianireland.org

Practical help

Talk about how you could practically help the church in these two different locations. Take suggestions and ideas, perhaps first in 2's and 3's, and then sharing them as one big group, writing them down on a flip chart. Here are some that might get you going:

- **PRAYERFULLY:** Commit to praying for the project in Maynooth and Zambia when your young people meet up together.
- **PRACTICALLY:** Write a letter of encouragement for one of the churches or else get a specific gift list for Maynooth Church or Zambia (e.g. pencils, rubbers etc.)
- **FINANCIALLY:** Raise money to give to the projects e.g. soup lunch – young people preparing a lunch for their congregation.

Close

- Before you finish, commit to specifically doing one of these things as a group to respond.
- Pray for the two projects and for you as a church.