

All-age Worship Resources




Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

Youth & Children's Project
2017/18

Introduction

This year's Youth and Children's Project is thinking about the question "What is Church?" It is about church being more than the building that we meet in and more than simply about Sunday mornings. Church is the people. Church is about living our lives every day following Jesus and showing the world Jesus' love. It is about gathering to have fellowship and to worship and learn together and then to go out and be a blessing to our local communities.

The Project's memory verse tells us through the prophet Jeremiah to be a blessing as we seek to be distinctive as God's people. What an amazing calling!

We want to think about what the Bible says about church and to think about how people in Zambia and Maynooth are seeking to be church beyond a Sunday morning and be a blessing to their local communities.

Show introductory DVD clip for the Project entitled "What Is Church?"

Bible bit

Read Acts 2:42-47

(For this you will need a prop of a cross that is large enough for everyone to see)

This morning I thought it would be fun to build a church. I need some help – children, young people, adults – I need help from everyone. *(Gather about 12-15 at the front)*

Great – we have some good building blocks for our church but in order to start building we need a cornerstone which is the most important stone. Can anyone tell me who they think the **Cornerstone** is? *(Receive answers but the answer you are looking for is Jesus)*

Because we cannot see Jesus, although He is alive, we will use a cross to remind us of Jesus. *(Show the cross to the congregation and then lay it on the floor at the centre of where you are going to 'build' your church)*

We have seen through our Bible passage this morning that the church is made up of the people who go there. God builds His church with young and old and with lots of different gifts and talents. The church is the followers of Jesus on earth.

There are 3 main purposes that we have as part of that church and we are going to use our volunteers to help see what those are.

The first is **WORSHIP** – praying to God, reading the Bible, singing. Its about making God the focus of all that we do.

- Have volunteers stand in a circle facing in towards the cross, putting their hands in the air and looking upwards.

Worshipping takes our focus up to God.

The second purpose is **FELLOWSHIP** – being together, loving each other, being a family.

- Have volunteers all hold hands, facing into the circle and looking at each other.

Fellowship is about loving one other.

The third purpose is **MISSION** - going out and telling others about Jesus so that other people are attracted to faith in God as well

- Have volunteers all turn to face outwards and reach out their hands.

Mission is about sharing the Good News of Jesus with others through words and actions.

So because we have chosen to follow Jesus we are His church. The church is not the building but the people.

So let us all together raise our hands as we remember we are to worship God; let us all hold hands as we remember to love each other; and let us reach our hands outwards we remember we are called to share the Good News of Jesus.

In Zambia and Maynooth, the churches are also trying to ensure that they worship God, love each other and reach out to those around them as they live out being the church.

Pray

Take some time to pray together.

- Pray for your congregation as you are reminded to worship, have fellowship together and reach out to the community around.
- Pray for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in Zambia that as they reach out to preschool children they will have an impact both educationally and spiritually on these children and their families. Pray for Diane Cusick as she works with the church to make the preschools the best they can be for children like Bessy.
- Pray for Maynooth Presbyterian as they prepare to build a new church in the town. Pray that their vision to both grow in their faith and also in their witness will be fulfilled through His leading. Pray for Keith McCrory as he leads the church and for the youth and children's ministry leaders as they continue to disciple children and young people like Rachel.

Song suggestions

Welcome to the family – Debbie Kerner Retino

Shine – Nick Jackson

Big family of God – Becky Drake

Family devotion

Something to think about.

Think about where you live. Is it the town or the country? Are you near a big city or miles from anywhere? Do you live in a house or a flat? Do you have a garden or a yard to play in?

Now think about the people who live near you. Whether you live in a town or the country you will most likely have neighbours. You may have lots of neighbours or maybe just one or two.

“Do good things for the city where I sent you...
Pray to the Lord for the city where you are living.
If there is peace in that city, you will have peace also.”

Jeremiah 29:7

I imagine that you do not read the book of Jeremiah often as a family but there are some important things to learn about how to live God’s way in this book.

When we are followers of Jesus, God calls us to be different because we live as He wants us to live. One of the ways that we do this is talked about in this verse. God wants us as His followers to remember to look out for and be a blessing to the people around us. He wants us to reach out to others, to love them and through the way we live to help them see and understand who God is. He wants us to use our words as well as our actions to show people what it means to be a follower of Jesus. That is part of what we do as a church together.

Something to do together

Why not make up some little bags of sweets or parcels of cookies and deliver them around your neighbours. You could simply leave them on the doorstep with a message of what they are for. Or even better knock the door and hand deliver the parcels, explaining why you are doing it – to be a blessing as God calls us to be.

Pray

- Pray together as a family that God will give you opportunities to be a blessing as a family to the people around where you live.
- Pray also that your church family will be a blessing in their local community.