

Training Workbook

# Altogether Wonderful!

Intergenerational Worship



By Karen Holford  
TED Family Ministries Director



# Altogether Wonderful

Intergenerational Worship  
Training Workbook

© Karen Holford for Trans-European Division  
Trans-European Division  
119 St Peter's Street  
St Albans  
AL1 3EY

Designed by Little Zebra Studio

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# STUDENT CONTENT CON

04

## Session 1

Learning from the Past

07

## Session 2

Why do we Need to Change?

11

## Session 3

Building a Programme

15

## Session 4

Learning from Jesus

19

## Session 5

Different Models/Levels of Intergenerational Worship

23

## Session 6

Worship Planning Group

25

## Session 7

Feedback from Worship Planning Groups

27

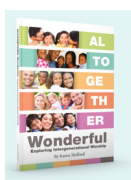
## Session 8

The Future - Where do we go from here?

This workbook has been created to accompany the TED Intergenerational Worship Training Weekend.

It also accompanies the book "Altogether Wonderful" by Karen Holford. It will be helpful to have a copy of this book which gives much more information in all areas of Intergenerational Worship. It is available from the Family

Ministries Department of the TED for a small price, or you can download it in PDF format from <https://icor.church/resources/> - scroll down to the picture of the book and you can access it for immediate download.



## The Parable of the Celebration

■ What did you like best about this parable?

■ What was the most important message for you?

■ Where are you in the parable? Which part of the story is most about you?

■ How can our weekly worship celebration become a place where everyone, including children and young people, feel welcome, happy, loved, involved and well-fed?

## Worship in different contexts

What can we learn from each of the different historical worship contexts that can help us shape our worship/church today?

- ▶ In the Garden of Eden
- ▶ Nomadic Abraham
- ▶ Wilderness Tabernacle
- ▶ In the family home
- ▶ Temples and Synagogues
- ▶ On a hillside or shore (Jesus)
- ▶ New Testament House Church

**Breakout group notes:**

Reflect together on some of the different kinds of worship experienced throughout the Bible. What can we learn from them to inspire our intergenerational worship today?

**Worship:**

- Adapts to needs of community and context – constantly changes
- Often includes hospitality and welcoming others of all ages
- Is multisensory to enable effective learning
- Includes celebrations and feasts designed for all ages
- Is usually experienced as a whole community – not split into age levels
- Is ideally a place where we can experience God's love – so that we are nurtured to love Him and others

**Think about Intergenerational Worship as meeting the needs of individual differences rather than generational strata:**

- Differences in learning styles and personalities
- Differences in spiritual gifts
- Differences in worship preferences
- Differences in attention span and energy
- Differences in ability to see and to listen
- Differences in ability to understand theology and complex ideas
- Different reasons why they have come to church

What other differences need to be taken into consideration when planning intergenerational worship experiences?

## **Intergenerational Worship includes:**

- Generations worshipping together
- Each person experiencing worship that meets their learning needs/styles (verbal, visual, kinaesthetic – sensory and practical)
- Each person being encouraged/disciplined on their Christian journey
- Each person experiencing love from God and others - and giving love
- Each person tolerant and accepting of others' differences
- Each person discovering their gifts and mission within the community

## **What are your key takeaway messages from Session 1 - History?**

1.

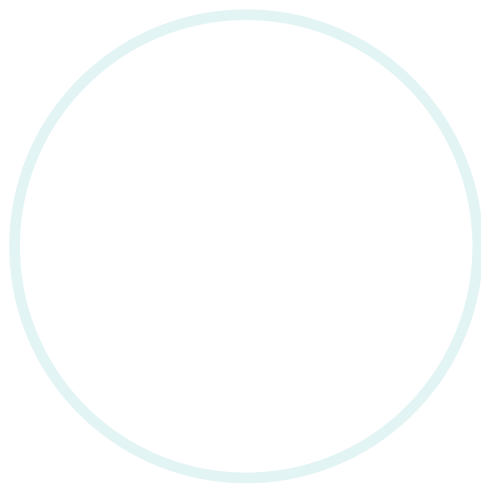
2.

3.

## Every Sabbath Evangelism

Every Sabbath is an opportunity to win the hearts of your children and teens for Jesus...  
...or an experience that will turn them away from Jesus...

## Where are the Children, Teens and Young People in Your Church?



- Make a mark in your circle to show the position of children, teens and young people in your local church. If you like you can make a different mark for each of the three groups.
- Are their needs important and central, or are they unimportant and pushed to the edge?
- Reflect on where you placed your dot/s and why you placed them there.
- List three things your church could do that would help to move the dot/s closer to the centre of the circle.

1.

2.

3.

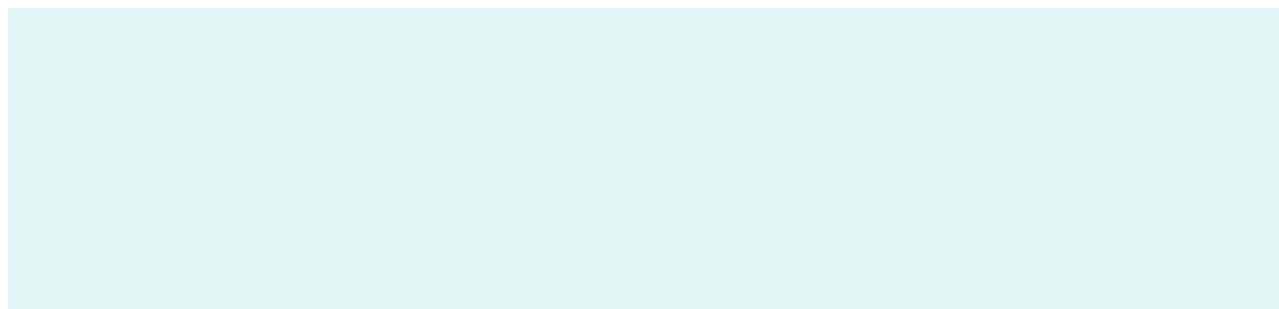
## Draw a child or teenager

■ Think about a child or teenager who is probably on the edge of your church – the one who doesn't really want to be there...or is always getting into trouble...

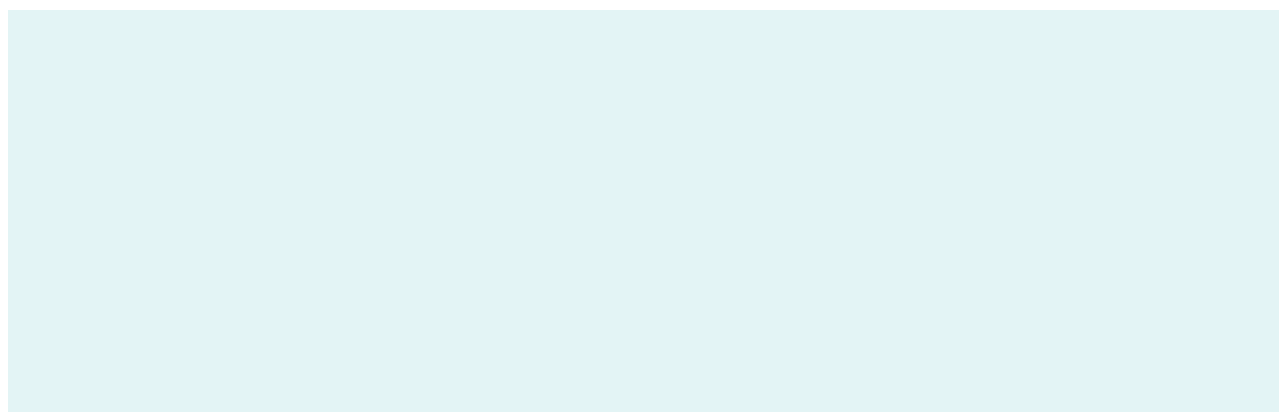
■ Draw a quick picture of this child or teenager in the space below – a stick picture is fine!

■ Around the picture of the child or teenager write a few words describing how they may have felt in the church worship service/Zoom last Sabbath.

■ If this were your child or grandchild, what would you like them to experience when they come to church? Write these below.



■ What would it take for your local church to be a welcoming and comfortable place for this child or teenager, a place where he or she experiences happy and positive emotions?





## Quote

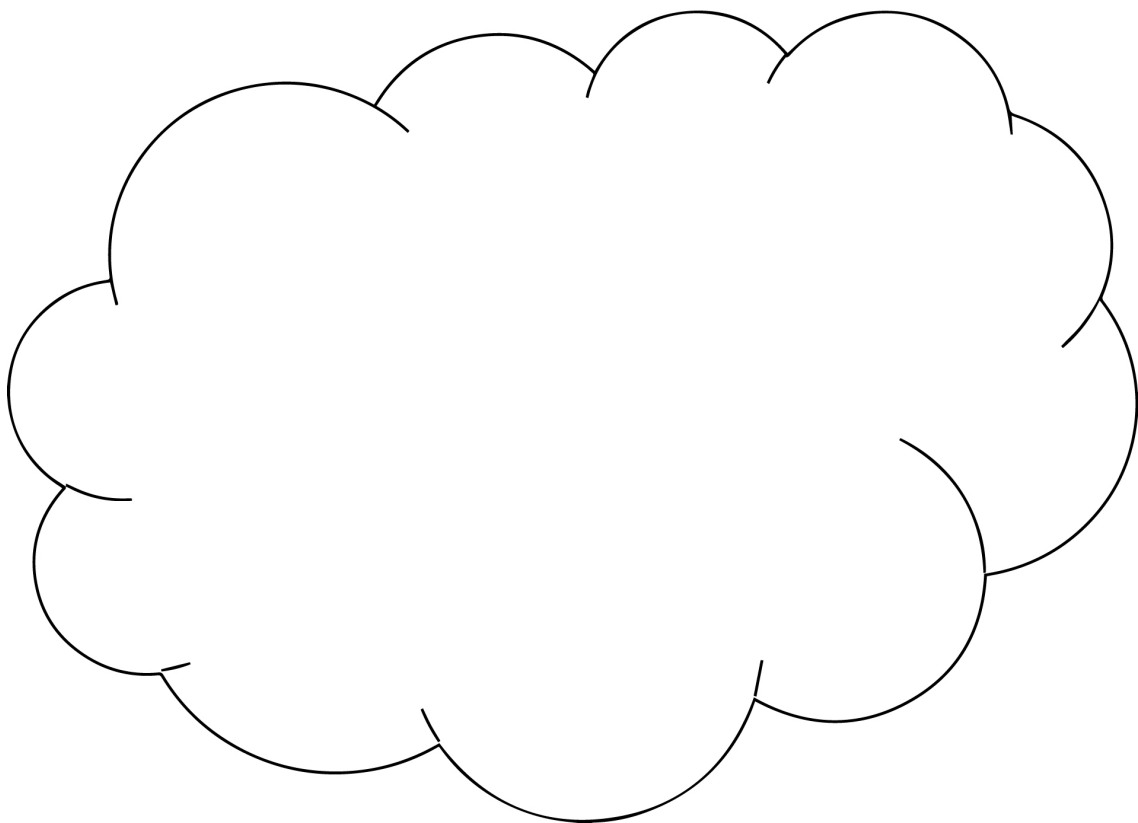
"Christ says to all his servants, "Feed my lambs". When Jesus admonished his disciples not to despise the little ones, he addressed all disciples in all ages. His own love and care for children is a precious example for his followers...

At every suitable opportunity, let the story of Jesus' love be repeated to the children. In every sermon let a little corner be left for their benefit. The servant of Christ may have lasting friends in these little ones, and his words may be to them as apples of gold in pictures of silver." Ellen G. White in Gospel Workers, 405

## Dreams and hopes

What would you like the children and teens to experience when they come to your church each week?

Write your wishes and hopes in the dream cloud below.



## How to put children and teens at the centre of your church

- **Pray** asking the Holy Spirit to inspire you with His ideas.
- **Look** at the children and teens in your church through Jesus' eyes, and see how much He loves them.

- **Adapt your message**, or at least one aspect of the service, to make it more relevant to children and teenagers.
- **Use their gifts and talents** whenever possible
- **Be flexible** - when you involve children and teens in church things don't always go to plan! Their happiness and wellbeing are more important than the having the 'perfect' service.
- **Invite feedback** and ask the children and teens what they like best so you can do it more often.
- **Think about** the needs of the children and teens at all times and at every church event.
- **Encourage** children and teens to serve others in your church community projects.
- **Speak up** for the needs of children and teens when they are not at meetings and they don't have a voice.
- **Keep** going even when it is challenging.

## What changes will you be able to make next Sabbath?

■ Look at the picture you drew of a child.

■ Every time a child or teen leaves church with a positive experience he or she is more likely to choose to become a disciple of Jesus.

■ What can you do next Sabbath to help this child to feel special, happy, welcome, and totally loved by God?

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## What are your key takeaway messages from Session 2 - Change?

1.

2.

3.

**Every Sabbath** has an **impact** on every **child**  
or **teen** for **eternity**.

## How often should we have an IGW service?

- Every service needs to involve someone from each age group, where possible.
- Try to involve children and teens in the service even if it is not a full IGW service - especially in the Scripture reading or in some part of the sermon - an illustration, etc.
- Many churches will only have a full IGW service monthly.
- Start slowly - Once a quarter? Once a month?

## Who should organise the IGW service?

- Recruit and train a special team- including creative people of all ages. Give each team member a special task suited to their gifts - the songs, scripture, prayer, 'sermon', etc. Include people of all ages, and singles, too.
- In one church - each month the IGW service is taken by a different family - so each family only needs to lead out about once a year. The families also invite people from other generations, and single people, to help them plan and lead out. This provides more opportunities for intergenerational relationships and community.
- In some churches the Children's Ministry and youth teams work together to plan the service.
- In one country, pastors were trained in IGW. Each pastor would write out the planning details for a service. These were shared on a website and churches could use the ones that suited them. This saved everyone time.

## Choosing your topic/theme

- Consider working with a series of ideas so that you don't spend a long time thinking about the topic (e.g. parables)
- Prayerfully study the topic/passage together and reflect on it.
- Explore it creatively, apply the lessons to the lives of children and young people today, as well as older generations.
- Experience the story through your different senses to give you fresh ideas

## Involving children and teens in the church service

- Use their gifts and talents whenever possible
- Quieter ones can write their ideas for others to read, do artwork, or make videos, etc.

- **Your ideas:**



## **Involving children and teens in the scripture reading**

- Plan a month ahead.
- Mentor the child/teen to explore the Bible verses and to discover the meaning for themselves.
- Help them think of their own creative way of presenting the verses: dress up, music, art, objects, videos, PowerPoint, etc.
- Consider mentoring the adults to create more interesting scripture readings, too...
- **Your ideas:**



## **Involving children and teens in prayer (see creative prayer handouts)**

- Invite children to pray for specific prayer requests or people's needs in congregation.
- Prayer bag idea - Praise, Thanks, Sorry and Please.
- 'Things we're thankful for' display table.
- Ask a group of teens to create a prayer together.
- **Your ideas:**



## **Involving children and teens in songs and music**

- Include at least one children's or contemporary song per service.
- Invite people of all ages to choose hymns and songs, introduce them, and say why they have chosen them.
- Let them play their own instruments.
- Invite them to illustrate songs and hymns with their own pictures, videos or PowerPoint presentations.
- **Your ideas:**



## **Involving children and teens in the offering**

- Children can decorate tithe and offering envelopes.
- They can collect money towards their own service projects.

- They can write 'thank you' slips to put in the offering with their money.
- Teens can create a short creative video or sketch about giving, or how the offering is used, etc.
- **Your ideas:**

## Involving children and teens in the sermon

- Invite children and teens to participate in the sermon.
- Use the 5 senses.
- Hide pictures of objects in PowerPoint slides things for children to find.
- Teens - video, sketches, stories, etc.
- Give children activity sheets.
- Creativity - play dough and art.
- **Your ideas:**

## Using children and teen's creativity in church

- Invite children and teens to illustrate the Bible verses in the scripture reading with pictures - then incorporate them into a PowerPoint
- Children and teens can design bulletin covers and banners, etc.
- Older creative members can mentor the younger ones.
- **Your ideas:**

# Your ideas!

We will give each breakout group one aspect of the church service listed below and ask you to think of at least 10 ways you could involve children and/or teens in this area.

Write down your group's ideas in an email to share with the trainers so they can be sent to the whole group.

Write the trainer's email here \_\_\_\_\_

- Using their gifts, talents and interests
- Using their visual creativity and artwork
- Involving them in the scripture reading

- Involving them in the prayer
- Involving them in the music and songs
- Involving them in the offering
- Involving them in the sermon

### 10 ideas for \_\_\_\_\_

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

### What are your key takeaway messages from Session 3 - Building a programme?

1.

2.

3.



## Jesus blesses the children

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:14-16 NIV

- Jesus was upset when the disciples wanted to turn the children away. In what ways might people in our churches turn the children and young people away from Jesus?

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- Jesus says that His kingdom belongs to people who are like little children who freely receive the kingdom of God. What does this mean for adults?

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- What holds some adults back from receiving God's Kingdom with the faith and innocence of a child?

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- What does this mean for the way we think about intergenerational church?

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- Jesus welcomed the little children warmly and affectionately and blessed them generously. Who welcomes the children and young people in your church as Jesus did?

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- How are the children and young people in your church blessed each week?

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## Children praising in the Temple

But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"

And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Matthew 21:15-17 NIV

Instead of focusing on the great things that God was doing right before their eyes, the priests and teachers focused on the children's noisy singing. They saw it as annoying to them, rather than pleasing to God.

■ What sense do you make of the children's praise?

■ How do you think Jesus felt about the reaction of the priests and the teachers to the children's heartfelt praise?

■ How would Jesus have liked them to respond to the children?

■ How can we use this story to help all our church members to value children's praise, even when it is sometimes noisy and imperfect?

## Who is the greatest?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the



kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

Matt. 18:1-5 NIV

Discuss in your groups what we can learn about Jesus' attitude towards children from these verses.

Write your key points below:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## **Jesus - Intergenerational Worship Leader**

What good principles of intergenerational worship can you find in Jesus' ministry?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Jesus - Intergenerational Worship Leader**

- Jesus kept the focus on God and His Kingdom values – loving God and loving each other.
- Jesus welcomed children openly and warmly.
- Jesus created a relaxed environment outdoors where children could move around and explore without being disruptive.
- He was able to be spontaneous in his teaching and make the most of learning opportunities.
- He kept His stories short, simple and about familiar, everyday experiences.
- He included different learning styles – verbal, visual and action/sensory.
- He met people's needs – spiritual, physical, emotional, relational.
- He ensured that people felt safe, happy, loved, fed, forgiven, blessed, accepted and inspired, etc.

## **What are your key takeaway messages from Session 4 - Learning from Jesus?**

1.

2.

3.

## Why we need the different models

- Each church is at a different stage in its worship journey and different things are currently acceptable or not acceptable.
- Change can be difficult for some people.
- Many people hold very strongly to traditional patterns of worship, even though they are not Biblical models, and they are now several hundred years old.
- We need a step-by-step road map to help us progress wisely and gently so that we keep everyone moving forward together.
- Different contexts need different approaches.
- It is useful to have a variety of options to meet different contexts and needs.

**What are some other reasons why we need different models of intergenerational worship?**

## Different models

1. One child/teen involved in the service each week
2. Mentoring and training children to participate in a meaningful way
3. Carefully planned intergenerational worship service
4. Flow Church - Semi-structured service with a choice of activities
5. Story-based Church - the 'service' outline follows the story
6. 'Messy Church' - a lively story and craft-based church with a meal
7. Outdoor Church - useful for camps and times of social distancing

**What other models can you think of?**

### 1. One child/teen involved in the service each week

- Thoughtfully involve a child or young person in the service each week to help children and young people feel valued, special and involved.
- One piece of research showed that churches who involve at least one child each week grow faster than other churches - for all kinds of possible reasons.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## **2. Mentoring and training the child/teen participants in the service**

- Plan what the child/teen will do one month in advance.
- Invite a safe and trained mentor to meet with them, pray, explore ideas, and discuss together what they will do.
- When using the Bible, it's important to use a Bible version that the child/teen can understand.
- Invite them to explore creative ways to prepare for their involvement in the service.
- Children and teens can be mentored whenever they are doing something in the church to maximise the spiritual benefit of their involvement.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## **3. Carefully planned intergenerational worship service**

- This is the kind of service we have been exploring.
- A team plans the service to involve people of all ages, including at least one child and one teen.
- The service contains a range of music to suit all ages.
- The prayer, scripture-reading and 'sermon' could be interactive, or use a variety of senses, etc.
- The theme of the service inspires the way each aspect of the service is carried out, so that they are linked together.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## **4. Flow Church**

- The "service" flows between full group activities, such as singing, prayer, Scripture reading, and a short thought sermon (5 minutes), and a choice of small group activities.
- People choose from various worship activity options, which are introduced near the beginning of the service.
- These activities are 5-7 minutes each, such as a Bible game/quiz; an interactive action story; creative prayer tables; an appropriate craft activity; a quiet and reflective space; a mission/service project; learning a memory verse in a creative way, etc.
- Each person on your planning team can be responsible for 1-2 of the activities each time according to their special skills and interests.
- All the activities are linked to the theme of the service.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## 5. Story-based Church

- This style of interactive intergenerational service uses the story to inspire the structure of the service.
- Think about the appropriate place in the service for the offering, singing, prayer, etc.
- Creation story service: Start with singing/praise and scripture reading to set the scene.
- Tell the interactive story of creation, involving the children in some way for each day of the creation week.
- Then have a prayer where children can thank God for what was made on each separate day.
- Offering collected as people come forward to thank God for what was made on their favourite day and put money in the gift bags used to tell the story.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## 6. Messy Church

- Messy Church was started by Lucy Moore in the UK.
- This form of church is designed to reach out to families in the community.
- Includes a time of lively worship and singing and a range of messy crafts for children and parents to do together.
- It is followed by a simple meal that the group eats together.
- There are many books of Messy Church ideas online that can inspire your worships.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## 7. Outdoor church

- Jesus held many of His services outdoors.
- Outdoor church is good for summer, warmer climates and times of social distancing!
- Church takes place outdoors in nature and uses aspects of nature, or the location, in the service.
- Larger scale action stories, treasure hunts, story trails, etc.

**What are the pros and cons of this model?**

## Reflections

■ What new possibilities have occurred to you during this workshop?

■ Which model would be the best one to start with in your context?

## What are your key takeaway messages from Session 5 - Different Models?

1.

2.

3.

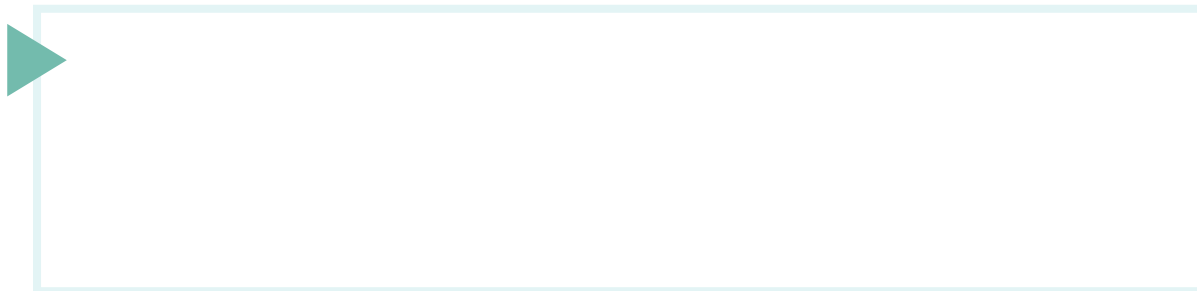
## Instructions

- Each group will be given a different parable or Bible story.
- As a group you will create an outline of an intergenerational worship service, based on this parable or Bible story, that involves children or young people in every aspect of the service.
- Use themes and ideas from the parable to help you find creative ways to pray, present the scripture reading, make the "sermon" time interactive/multisensory, etc.
- During session 7 each group will be given an opportunity to share their outline, ideas and activities with the rest of the training group.
- Please write up your service outline in such a way that others could use it to help them develop their own Intergenerational Worship Service and email it to your trainer so that the ideas can be shared.

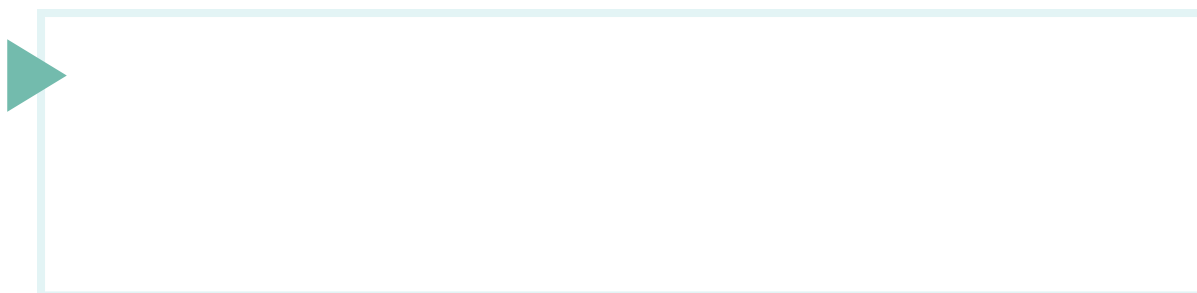
Trainers' email \_\_\_\_\_

**My group's story Bible story is** \_\_\_\_\_


**Ideas for the main prayer (can you use a theme from the Bible story to inspire you?)**




**Ideas for creative scripture reading**




### **Ideas for including children and young people in the offering time**



### **Ideas for including children and young people in the sermon**



**Other ideas - using their artwork, videos etc, songs, that you might use, other whole church activities that could be done on the Sabbath afternoon after the service, etc.**





(Please use the next few pages to note down the ideas shared by other groups, and any other ideas that come to you as they share)













## Where are you now?

- Where is your church now on their journey towards intergenerational worship?

- Where would you like them to be in a year's time?

- What will it take to motivate your church to move from where they are now to where you would like them to be in a year's time?

- What are the steps you will need to take to support them in the change process?

## List three things that you could do by next Sabbath to involve children and teens in your worship service.

For example:

- Introduce an action song after the children's story (burn off energy!)
- Ask a family with teens to do the main prayer together in church.
- Think of a small, creative way for the children to participate in part of the sermon - looking for things on the PowerPoint, making sound effects, hunting for visual illustrations hidden in the church...

1.

2.

3.

## What are the biggest challenges that you anticipate as you work to move your church forward in the area of Intergenerational worship?

1.

2.

3.

4.

## What help do you think your church needs in order to help them accept change and move towards IGW?

Rank them in order of greatest need, where 5 = most needed

	<b>Factors that can enhance progress towards change</b>	1	2	3	4	5
1	A recognition that there is a need for change.					
2	Education/training about the importance of the change.					
3	The need to change linked to a personal desire (to help save our children - ensure a church for the future).					
4	Responding to the concerns people have about change (fears about reverence, will it still be worship? etc.)					
5	Future thinking about the fresh possibilities that might come from the change.					
6	Experiencing intergenerational worship for themselves so that they can see how it works					
7	Other (describe)					

## What insights have you gained from reflecting on the change process?

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## If Jesus came to your church...

Jesus put children and young people at the centre and told us they were the most important...

- What would Jesus experience if He came to your church?

- What changes would He like to see so that the children and teens feel heard, loved, seen, wanted, and involved?

- If Jesus held a service in your church, how might it be different from the service you usually have on Sabbath?

### iCOR

Church of Refuge (or iCOR) is an instrument for value-oriented church growth, intended to aid local churches in becoming supportive spiritual homes for all generations. iCOR is...

- Based on the biblical understanding of a relational God and “family of God” as a key biblical metaphor for the Church.
- European Adventist initiative helping churches to be intergenerational, intercultural and inter-social
- Encouraging leaders to make children & youth their priority and their most important partners, because that’s the only way to grow young.
- iCOR calls for a foundational cultural shift in the way we live as Church by dealing with values rather than just focusing on programmes (see illustration below)
- Key iCOR values: Connecting, Caring, Participating, Teaching, Worshiping, Serving, Reconciling, Mentoring, Training, and Leading.
- Fully supported by the latest Youth Ministry trends, and empirical research on the Church dropout issues.
- iCOR supplies churches with lots of helpful resources to expand their ministry (excellent short videos, well-prepared study guides and many more).
- Visit <https://icor.church/> for more information.



## What resources do you need to help you create a sustainable, long-term IGW programme?

### Books

Which topics do you need the most?

### Resources

Write your wish list – technical equipment, better microphones, cameras, basic props and supplies to create visual contexts for services, etc.

### More training in specific ideas and creativity

What do you most need to learn?

### A supportive team

Name some of the people in your church who would support you and mentor the children and young people when they are involved in the service.

### A day/weekend of training in your local church

How would you do this?

## Families and Worship

Intergenerational worship and family worship can nurture each other.

- Intergenerational worship can inspire families with greater creativity and motivation for family worship.
- Family worship can inspire families with greater creativity and motivation for intergenerational worship.

## What are your key takeaway messages from Session 8 - The Future - Where do we go from here?

1.

2.

3.

## Useful Resources for Intergenerational Worship Ideas:

### **Books of creative ideas - many ideas can easily be adapted for IGW services:**

Holford, K. 100 creative ways to learn memory verses. Autumn House

Holford, K. 100 creative activities for Sabbath. Pacific Press

Holford, K. 100 creative prayer ideas for kids and adults too. Pacific Press

Holford, K. 100 quick and easy worship ideas for kids. Pacific Press (young children)

Holford, K. 100 creative worship ideas for busy families. Pacific Press (older children)

### **Books about all age worship**

Moore, L. All Age Worship. Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF). 2010 - by the creator of Messy Church. Also look for other 'Messy Church' titles

Hartman, B. All Age Services. David C. Cook. 2009 (including 12 service outlines and lots of ideas that get progressively more active and creative)

Bob Hartman is one of the most creative and engaging Bible storytellers in the world. If you can watch him online, or attend a training event, you will be inspired!

### **Online video resources - for short videos that can be shown in your services**

[www.ignitermedia.com](http://www.ignitermedia.com) - search their mini-videos by topic

[www.max7.org](http://www.max7.org) - Biblical, free resources - often language free for use around the world

[www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com)

[www.sharefaith.com](http://www.sharefaith.com)

[www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk) (search your local Bible society for other resources)

### **Online quiz and feedback resources**

[www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com) - create online quizzes that can be played through phones, etc.

[www.mentimeter.com](http://www.mentimeter.com) - feedback, questionnaires, group Wordle creation, etc.

### **Contemporary songs for children**

[www.paulfield.com](http://www.paulfield.com) - Paul Field is a songwriter for Cliff Richard, and he writes amazing songs for children with simple, fresh lyrics and great tunes. It may be possible to translate some of them.

