



Planning all age worship

Pixar films are a brilliant example of something that engages adults, teenagers and children through being multi-layered. We can look to do the same with all-age worship.

There is often a perception that all-age worship is the "children's service", however, a helpful idea to keep in mind when planning is this:

- 'everything needs to be child-accessible, but nothing should be child focussed'.

This guide is not a quick fix on welcoming families and leading intergenerational worship, but rather offers some pointers and things to consider as we seek to love and embrace people of all ages, enabling them to worship together.

How to lead intergenerational worship

Forming a vision

Ask yourself and your team these three questions

- What is your vision for children and adults worshipping together?
- What are you trying to achieve in this area?
- What values underpin your intergenerational worship?

Up to 65% of the population are visual learners!

Something to consider:

Planning intergenerational worship is hard work. It takes time and energy. There is no easy fix or short cut to doing it well, but with time and effort it can be so worthwhile. Ultimately it can have a profound and significant impact on helping people of all ages grow in faith.

Don't be afraid to try new things

Varied Music

- Include a variety of styles.
- Ensure your song choices have a purpose, linking to your theme.
- Consider the language the songs use, and ask whether it is understandable or accessible to all ages/stages of faith.
- You may need to introduce the song with some explanation of the words.
- If you are going to use action songs, think about using sign-language or makaton, and consider whether all ages can join in with the actions if they choose to.
- Try not to define the song by age group i.e. "this is a children's song", but remember they are praise and worship songs for all ages.

Be creative!

Planning an intergenerational service

Environment

Create an environment that is welcoming to all. This may involve sitting around tables (where practical), having refreshments, having activities to do in welcome bags or on tables. These shouldn't be exclusive to children, but include all ages.

Participation and interaction

The ideal for intergenerational worship is to have as many people from all ages and stages involved as possible. Try to build a team made up of a diverse group of people. Hearing from different voices will impact on those present. All-age worship should provide space to build and strengthen relationships across different generations.





Scan the QR code
for more useful
links and resources



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Pace and length

- Decide on a length and stick to it!
- For many people, it is important to know how long a service is likely to be.
 - This is especially true for families who have a child/ren with additional needs.
- To help with this, you may want to provide some kind of order of service or menu sheet so people know what to expect.
- This doesn't mean that you must stick to it rigidly, with no space for the Holy Spirit to lead, but it gives people an idea of where the service is heading, and gives them permission to leave when they need to.
- Pace is also important.
 - Short and snappy often works well for all ages. Consider changing activity every 4-8 minutes.

Review and Evaluation

After each intergenerational service, spend some time with your team reflecting and de-briefing. Try to gather feedback from those participating in the service to inform your planning for next time. You may want to consider these questions as a team:

- Did the service fulfill our vision?
- Was the service an act of worship, or a collection of activities?
- Was there quality and depth?
- Did everyone present have an opportunity to worship and meet with God?
- What could we do differently next time?



Ask people
what they think

