

A Series of Themed Services for Inter-Generational Worship

Children's Song, Bible Story, Verse, and Sermon

This set of themed worship services is designed to communicate with people across the generations. Each week features a children's song, a Bible story, a memory verse and, then, the sermon addresses the principle in the Bible story.

Children's songs often communicate with our human spirits in a way that grown-up songs sometimes do not. For example, looking around the room, adults were observably relating to the song, "He's Still Working on Me." Try to select songs with real meaning. Avoid cutesy songs about things like *arkey*, *arkeys*. This is worship, not a campfire sing-along. Your Vacation Bible School may have included music which your children will know and for which you already own a license.

Many catch onto the big ideas in stories faster than they do a list of principles. In this part of the service, briefly tell the Bible story without editorial comment or application—just tell the story. Jackson Day has helpful suggestions for how to do this (www.biblestorytelling.org) and has written books on the subject (www.amazon.com/Bible-Storytelling-Tools-Jackson-Day/dp/0979732425).

The information below is offered as a proof of concept. There are plenty of other biblical themes and appropriate songs. The key ideas are to speak to people's human spirits in simple ways with a story and a song, in addition to a solid bible-based sermon. People of all ages are all just kids inside and the stories of the Bible speaks deeply within. The spiritual songs for children also express our own longings and express them in simple ways which resonate in our hearts.

1. Theme: *The Love of God*

Bible Story: Mark 10:17-22, The Rich Young Ruler

"Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him"

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:10, NIV

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Song: *Jesus Loves Me* (an old familiar song to introduce the concept)

Sermon: *The Love of God*, 1 John 4:10 or Ephesians 2:4

2. Theme: God is Able

Bible Story: Daniel 6, Daniel in the Lion's Den

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

Song: *My God is So Big, So Strong and So Mighty*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SHhpBVuxl0

Lyrics: https://hymnary.org/text/my_god_is_so_great_so_strong_so_mig

Sermon: *Lessons from the Lion's Den*, Daniel 6, note verse 20

Or Topical Sermon: 2 Cor. 9:8; Eph. 3:20-21; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 2:18; Jude 24

3. Theme: Created by God... and for God

Song: *I Was Made for This* (Maker Fun Factory VBS, Group Publishing)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVKuOi3YEAM

(We used this as a call to worship with intergenerational choir.)

Lyrics: www.musixmatch.com/lyrics/GroupMusic/Made-for-This-2017-Maker-Vbs-Theme-Song

Bible Story: Genesis 1

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female."

Congregational Song: *We Were Made to Love the Lord*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXQ_Px6KFUg

Sermon: *Created in the Image of God*, Genesis 1

4. Theme: God Helps Me When I'm Afraid

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 21-22, David, Running from Saul, Hides in Gath

Memory Verse: Psalm 56:3 "When I am afraid, I will trust in You"

Song: *When I Am Afraid, I Will Trust in You*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbAkKDBQoG8

Lyrics: www.songlyrics.com/steve-green/when-i-am-afraid-psalm-563-6-lyrics/

Sermon: *Dealing with Fear*, Psalm 56

5. Theme: Born Again

Bible Story & Sermon: John 3:1-10, Nicodemus Comes to See Jesus

Memory Verse: John 3:3 Jesus replied, “I assure you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Song: *Bullfrogs and Butterflies (We’ve Both Been Born Again)*

(Barry McGuire, *Back to the Creek Bank* musical)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTVQL8m-0qM&list=PLr8mf0wNU_VSzInGpFN_gGHwrqcwFm85v&index=10

Sermon: John 3:7 “Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.”

6. Theme: Christian Growth

Bible Story: Peter Has a Vision and Goes to Cornelius’ House, Acts 10

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Song: *He’s Still Working on Me*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIJJO3gO7h4

The Hemphills: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8my65ejzY6E&t=39s

Lyrics: www.lyrics.com/lyric/7586805/He's+Still+Working+on+Me

Sermon: *Grow in the Lord*, 2 Peter 3:18

7. Theme: Be Careful What You See, What You Hear, Where You Go

Bible Story: Genesis 3:1-24, Eve at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil

Memory Verse: Psalm 19:4 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.”

Song: *O Be Careful Little Eyes*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiVlueuhgt8

Steve Green: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vx65zb8AQpo

Lyrics: www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/c/157

Sermon: Genesis 3:1-6 “The woman saw...”

8. Theme: Heaven

Bible Story: John 13-14 — *Jesus Preparing a Place for Us*

Memory Verse: John 14:2 “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you.”

Song: *Big House*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5mZTUBGNE