

20 Worship Ideas

Who are we?

Revd Richard Gibbs is the Minister in Charge of The Church at the Centre in Banks, near Southport. This is a church that was planted in Spring 2005 with a view to working more closely with the local church school and specifically to work with families in the village.

Intro to Family/children's worship

- Is dull and worthy good enough?
- These ideas are not guaranteed winners, but based on principles
- Not like using a tried and tested worship tool like BCP, instead this is 'seat of the pants' worship leading that needs developing not imposing
- Accessible ideas intended for beginners/limited resources

Music

- Kids music tastes have changed over the years (High Five/Steps/Lazy Town)
- Live music or CD?
- Pitfalls of CD music (musical interludes, high notes, repetition)
- CDs with words removed (eg Ishmael, New Wine Acoustics, Spring Harvest worship)
- Signing rather than actions (Wonderful Lord - Doug Horley)
- Doug has produced a series of DVDs that will get you started in understanding how to use signing in your worship
- Blow up guitars and flags bring some action and colour to your worship (Douggie DVD, Help Me Be/Thine be the Glory)
- The Stationery Song - by Jim Bailey - add fun to worship

Word

- Bible quiz - kids vs parents makes most of family connections - read a passage then ask teams questions about it
- Magic - arrows board, envelopes (both from 'Gospel Magic' Grove booklet)
- Ideas - strongman (rip a newspaper in half, bend iron bars etc to set up the story of Samson), tug o war (temptation of Jesus), recreate sporting moments (a crown that will not spoil or fade), nativity parade, looking for lost sheep, put into practice what you heard (putting competition), Santa spy (for John 1 vs 1 and John's code language for Jesus)
- Puppets - use puppets to sing songs if you can't write a script. MITCH offer beginners coaching video with their puppets
- You can get puppets at resources exhibitions or at New Wine/Spring Harvest conferences or do 'Christian Puppet' search on the web
- Using video to get the message across eg The Miracle Maker
- Storytelling brings drama to the story more than simply reading from a book (Storytelling in the Stable)
- Walk Thru Ministries (New Testament seminar happening on 8th March at Holy Trinity, Southport, cost £12 - learn the whole story of the New Testament in one day!)
- Street Bible - and other alternative style versions of the familiar text

Prayer

- Prayer that *involves*, rather than 'read to' or abstract prayer...
- Movement and action in prayer keeps attention
- Clear instructions
- Prayer flowers, Aeroplanes with prayers on, then folded then thrown out of the window to signify their being left with God
- Folded messages at foot of the cross during a song
- Use a 'plant' person/s to get the ball rolling if movement is needed
- Prayers connected to concrete things (not just 'we pray for Africa' eg Tearfund DVD)

General

- PowerPoint presentations with images set to music
- Find any images on 'Google Images'
- Dance can be used if you have people who want to do it. Most teens/juniors will make up their own dance if given the opportunity
- Confessions and other prayers children understand (eg. 'All Age Everything' - Kevin Mayhew - excellent resource)
- Jokes on a theme can be found on the web (eg lightbulb jokes for a light party)
- Agape - in other words taking bread and wine/blackcurrant in a non-Eucharistic setting. We use this to be more inclusive due to the high proportion of non-confirmed attendees

Want to know more?

Richard is more than happy to discuss any of the above, or talk in more detail about what the Church at the Centre is, to offer advice on planting a congregation, or ministry to families or anything else relevant to the subject. Just give him a ring or email...

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