

All-age worship ideas

Education Sunday 2011

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Building a Prayer Wall

Aim: To get the congregation to work in groups and think of ways the church can support its local schools.

Resources: Brick-shaped paper (suggest using coloured A4 paper, cut into 4 brick shapes), extra large piece of paper or card, or a wall/screen/display board, designated bricklayers to make the 'wall'.

Encourage your congregation to think of ways the church can support their local schools by building a prayer wall together. Give each person a brick-shaped piece of paper and invite them to write on it one, or all of the following:

- names of a school they have links, live near to, pass on their way to work etc
- different ways they could support local schools, eg help run PTA events, help with reading, pray and attend school prayer meetings
- actual prayers including hopes and dreams for those schools, or names of people and school-related issues they want to pray for

Collect the bricks or invite people to bring them forward during communion or the offering. Have a team of 'bricklayers' to set out and glue the bricks onto large sheets of card/wall/display board so that the prayers become a wall or foundations themselves.

The bricks could have some statements already printed on them, eg 'Lord we pray for school.' 'We pray for peace and safety.' 'We pray for the head teacher and staff, governors' etc. Members of the congregation could pray for particular issues which are printed on the bricks, either individually or in groups.

In conclusion, you may like to have a team of 'bricklayers' to set out and glue the bricks onto large sheets of card or paper, or to pin or Blu-Tack them to a wall or screen during the service so that it becomes a wall/foundations.

Other helpful all-age resources

- *The Parable of the Two Builders* written by Melody Carson and illustrated by Steve Bjorkman. Published by Candle Books (Lion Hudson) 1998
- *Stories Jesus Told* written by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen 1994 ('The House on the Rock')
- *The Lion Storyteller Bible* by Bob Hartman. Published by Lion Publishing plc. 1995, p.86 'The Two Houses'
- 'Wise Man Rock' Phil Joel, *Deliberate Kids* CD

All-age talk idea

Aim: To get more people praying for those involved in education.

Resources: Construct or obtain 4 boxes, at least shoe box-sized or larger. Alternatively, use separate cards that are taped together.

Write the words below on the four sides of each box, or on the separate cards. You could prepare this in advance or write the words during the talk. Feel free to adapt this and include your own ideas of words or phrases relating to each group.

Use each of the words or phrases as a prompt for prayer and comment. Perhaps ask those involved in each of the first column (teachers, pupils etc) to share other words and phrases, or prayer requests which come to mind. Alternatively, you might like to write some liturgical responses to go with each of the words and phrases. Build up the boxes or pieces of card so that the display looks like a wall and link this to the Education Sunday theme of building firm foundations.

Teachers and school staff	pray	Ask them to share	Encourage them
Children and young people	Pray for them	Pray for their families	Pray for their future
Local schools	Open door	Safety	Success
School governors and local authority	Wisdom	Open-hearted	Listening

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