Intergenerational Worship

Bible Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5
Year A – Advent 1 November 27 2016

What is this: Intergenerational Bible Reading and Art Observation

Where it’s used: In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically Lectionary based gatherings.

Time: 8 minutes

Bible Focus/theme: Isaiah 2:1-5

What’s needed:
- Enough red paperclips for everyone in your gathering.
- Print outs of individual phrases of text on small cards (See template below). Make enough of these for one phrase for each person in your gathering – there’s should be multiples of each phrase. Attach a red paperclip to each individual phrase.
- Art work for Isaiah 2 by Chris Booth

Trade up from a paperclip.

Introduction
During the introduction and video clip have some helpers

A few years ago there was a guy in Canada who did an experiment. He started with a red paperclip – and he went around trying to swap or trade his paperclip for something else a bit better. First he swapped his paperclip for a pen shaped like a fish, then a door knob...and eventually he traded all the way up to a house.

➢ show a little of the video clip of this – suggest just the first minute (paperclip to generator) and 3:58-4:10 (the house)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1_OolCS2b8&t=2s

This is really a very impressive trade, which all started with a little imagination. It’s especially impressive because this happens in a country and culture where, if you want a house, what you really need is not a paperclip, or something to trade, but a whole lot of money. Money is the thing that will get you a house in Canada in the year 2005.
Our Bible reading today also has a vision of an impressive trade. But it’s not a trade just for one person. It’s a trade for all people. It’s an impressive trade as well because the idea comes in the middle of a time and place that is filled with war and conflict, fear and destruction. We can see this swap happening in the art work that Melbourne artist, Chris Booth has created for this reading.

Who would like to describe what they can see?

➢ Accept and affirm narratives of the art

I can see some people bringing weapons up the mountain – it looks like heavy hard work carrying bombs and guns. And I can see them giving them to God and then walking away with spades and hoes for gardening. I can see an aircraft, maybe a drone in the background – this is a picture that’s about the world in 2016 not just 700 BCE.

So let’s read the Bible together. Take a look at the bit of the passage you’ve got attached to your red paper clip. Get ready to read that bit, and if you’re not sure of all the words, ask for some help from someone nearby.

➢ Give a little time for this.
Read the passage, slow enough for the collective reading of each part to work.

Who spotted the trades in this reading? What gets traded in for what?

Allow for answers... accepting and affirming all expressions.

God is at the centre of this picture, giving people something in exchange for their weapons. I wonder what God expects the people to do with the things he has given them?

Allow for answers... accepting and affirming all expressions.

The prophet Isaiah encourages the people of God - in a time filled with war - with this vision of a time when weapons can be traded for farming tools, and destroying life can be traded for growing living things, killing can be traded for planting new things to spring to life. Defending the land from attack can be traded for trusting the land for good things.

We are going to read the passage again, because if God’s wise word is worth hearing once it’s worth hearing again. But before we read again, you have the chance to trade your red paper clip verse with someone else. Perhaps having heard the whole passage there’s a bit of it that you especially would like to read this time. See if you can trade your way to that!

Give a little time for trading

Read a second time, slowly as before, allowing all the voices to keep up.

Conclusion

This is a picture of hope. Hope for swapping what’s wrong for what’s right. This is Hope to be celebrated, to be prayed for and to be lived as well as we can. In Advent we stop to reflect on what it meant for God to swap.

To swap being the invisible everywhere God, to be the visible seen in one place Jesus. To show us how to trade our ways of living for what’s right, and to make the way for us to trade in our sin for new life.

You can take your red paperclip home –to be a reminder to keep praying and living this hope through Advent.

Perhaps this week you could stop and write and pray some extra prayers of hope and swapping, and add them to your paperclip, and pray them as a household.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;</th>
<th>all the nations shall stream to it. [the mountain of the Lord's house]</th>
<th>Many peoples shall come and say, &quot;Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.&quot;</th>
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<tr>
<td>For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.</td>
<td>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.</td>
<td>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!</td>
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Prepared by Beth Barnett
Original Art by Chris Booth

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