

Intergenerational Worship

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Intergenerational Prayer

Exodus 14:19-31 Year A Proper 19 Sept 17, 2017



What this is: Interactive Prayer



Where it's used: Any intergenerational gathering; Early Word



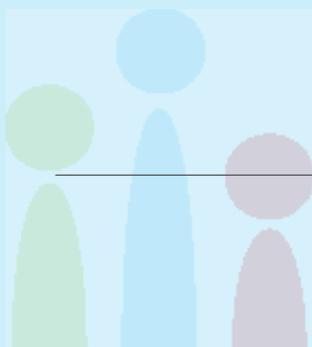
Time: 5 minutes



Bible focus/theme: Exodus 14:19-31; Crossing Red Sea; Travelling with God



What's needed: Print copies or screen display of the prayer prompts poem; bicycle wheel; sticks; pieces of paper; markers.



Introduction

The story of the Israelites from Exodus 14 that we have explored today has taken us into the story of people who are fleeing for their lives. Seeking freedom from oppression. Who are vulnerable and defenceless. Who have no weapons, and yet are seen as a threat. We have seen God taking their side. Completely taking their side. We talk a lot about how God loves everyone. But when there are those who seize power, and those who are powerless, God takes sides. He leaves the powerful to their war-machines, and their violence, and takes the side of the vulnerable, suffering and oppressed.

It has also taken us into the story of those who are driven by violence. And into the disaster that awaited them. Into the terrible story of their demise and downfall as they became stuck in their own violent pursuit, as the chariot wheels of the Egyptian army became stuck on the mud of the sea. German Theologian and Nazi resistor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote

“We are not simply to bangade the wounds of the victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.”

Now in our prayer time, we will let the story of God’s vulnerable, suffering, defenceless people take us into the stories of our world, our neighbourhoods, and call us to prayer and action. And we will pray prayers that stick a spoke in the wheels of violence and injustice and oppression, and prayers for those who are stuck.

Continue - Prayer prompts

To help us find our prayers today we will use this simple rhyme.

What’s not fair?

Does the suffering God care?

How can we turn this into a prayer?

What action does this call us to dare?

What cost does this call us to bear?

Repeat this several times together. Let the rhythm and the meaning become familiar.

Here we have a wheel - it’s not a chariot wheel, but it will remind us of the powerful chariots of the Egyptian army, And how God stopped their wheels and protected the oppressed. As we think about these questions - and things that are not fair come to mind, you invited to choose a stick and, if you like write a prayer on a piece of paper, attach it to the stick, and stick it into the wheel here.

Play the song ‘He has shown us’ or a similar themed song that your community is familiar with while you leave space for you stick prayers. Finish with praying the prayer prompt poem together, with an open invitation for people to pray aloud following each of the lines.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z05mN4XCFrQ>