



November 2015

engage**together**



A Resource for assisting those with responsibility for facilitating the Early Word (sometimes known as “Children’s talk”) section of regular worship services, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

Welcome to Engage Together!

Following the positive response to the initial *Engage Together*, this new resource has been prepared for November. An Advent *Engage Together* is also now available.

Engage Together includes three outlines for each week - that can be used, adapted or serve as a launching pad for other ideas - prepared by two very experienced Uniting Church practitioners with children and their families, Margaret Griffiths and Rev Linley Liersch.

In addition, links to four lectionary based resource sites are provided for each week...

[Worshiping with children](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/)

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/>

[Mustard Seeds](http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/>

[Sermons4Kids](http://www.sermons4kids.com/)

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

[Singing from the Lectionary](http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com.au/p/guide.html)

<http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com.au/p/guide.html>

Recognising the uniqueness of each individual congregation or faith community, this resource may or may not be helpful for your specific context. Be that as it may, any feedback to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au would be greatly appreciated as it will assist in the preparation of future Early Word resources.

Yours Faithfully,

Chris Barnett

(Children & Families, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria & Tasmania)

Contents:

[November 1, 2015](#)

Mark 12: 28-34

The Greatest Commandment

[November 8, 2015](#)

Mark 12: 38-44

The widow's offering

[November 15, 2015](#)

Mark 13: 1-8

Don't worry, instead trust God

[November 22, 2015](#)

John 18: 33-37

Christ the King

November 29

See Engage Together – Advent

[Additional song information](#)

Centre for Theology & Ministry

29 College Crescent, Parkville Victoria 3052 Australia

Telephone 03 9340 8800 Facsimile 03 9340 8805

info@ctm.uca.edu.au www.ctm.uca.edu.au

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA





November 1, 2015

Bible: According to the writer of Mark, the questioner here is a scribe who perhaps is checking up on Jesus' understanding of Jewish law. The answer Jesus gave was the correct answer, and the scribe praised Jesus for knowing the right answer. Perhaps the scribe was a little surprised with Jesus' next comment that he was not far from the kingdom of God.

1. Lead into a discussion about rules. Ask for a few about school or kindergarten. I wonder whether we have any rules here in church? What might they be? I wonder which rule is most important in our church?
Jesus was once asked the question about what was the most important rule that we should live by. He said to 'love God and to love your neighbour as yourself'. We sometimes think of a red heart as showing love. Would somebody hold up this big heart (have it ready)? Let's read what it says together – LOVE GOD. Hold up another big red heart that says LOVE OTHERS (and read it together). Discuss together how we can show love for God and how we can love our neighbour or others.
2. Ask the question 'which rule at home do you dislike the most?' Is it 'getting up at 7.30 so you won't be late for school', or perhaps 'you have to eat all your main course or there is no dessert for you'? They were the rules I didn't like when I was a child. Invite a few comments! Obtain a Mr Men book from a library or friends. Explain that you were looking at all the Mr Men books, 46 of them (children or adults may comment that they have one at home or have read one), and thought we could make a Mr No Rules. Perhaps Mr No Rules rides his bike and wanders all over the road. He doesn't stick to the left. What happens? Someone bumps into him! Some rules are necessary. Invite suggestions around some other rules Mr No Rules might break – and explore the potential consequences. Lead into the answer Jesus gave to the scribe when he asked him about which was the greatest commandment.

Reading

Mark 12: 28-34

The Greatest Commandment

Song Suggestions

[Love the Lord](#) (Lincoln Brewster)

[Singing from the Lectionary](#)



Links

[Worshiping with children](#)

<http://www.worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2015/10/year-b-proper-26-31st-sunday-in.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2015/10/proper-26-ordinary-31-b-november-1st.html>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/loving_god_loving_your_neighbor.htm

Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mararie/2383229392/> - Creative Commons





3. Multi-age Interview - based on Ruth 1:1-18
(answers are hypothetical to give direction to the conversation)

Organise for a mother and her daughter-in-law from within the congregation or as invited guests to be interviewed and tell them the questions you will be asking. On the day you should explain the relationship to the congregation with a family photo on PowerPoint or passed around.

How long have you known each other?

How did you meet?

What sort of things do you do together? (Meet for coffee; spring clean; craft; prepare meals...)

What do you think of each other? (Think of each other as their own mother/daughter now?!)

Have you ever had a long journey together? How did it go?
(Loved it, got sick of each other...)

Today's story is about a mother from Bethlehem, called Naomi, and her daughters-in-law, Orpah & Ruth. Orpah and Ruth were from Moab, where they were living with Naomi. Their husbands had all died, so life was hard. In those days, a long time ago, only the men could work to earn money. So Naomi, Ruth and Orpah they had no one to look after them. Naomi realised that crops were good back in Bethlehem and that she could probably find a relative back there who would support her. So the three women headed off together. Naomi turned to her daughters-in-law and said 'Don't come with me. Go home to your own mothers. Your fathers can take care of you and you can get married again. I can give you nothing.' The three women cried and hugged, as the thought of being separated was hard for them. They had been together for over ten years as family. After a while Orpah went back to her family. But Ruth clung to Naomi and refused to leave her. Ruth said "Don't ask me to leave you! Let me go with you. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Naomi and Ruth went to Bethlehem together. Ruth's love for Naomi meant that she did not want to be separated from her mother-in-law. Perhaps Ruth realised that life would be hard for Naomi, but at least she could support her. Ruth dedicates her life to Naomi, to Naomi's people and even says that she will now worship Naomi's God. Ruth's love of Naomi means that she comes to love God. [Link to Mark 12:28-34 To love God and love others like Ruth.]





November 8, 2015

Bible: A short but important story. We can help children understand that although they don't have money to offer God, their contributions are indeed valuable. They offer to God a rich contribution. The widow could have kept one of her coins, but she gave all that she had.

1. The reading lends itself to dramatization. Tell the story and then act it out. Have just a few items for dressing up, such as scarves. Perhaps one for Jesus and one for the poor woman. If you have enough, other children could dress up too. Give the poor woman two small coins and ask the children to pretend they have offerings.

Jesus is sitting near the money box in the Temple (explain we now have a collection plate or bag). The richer people came past and put in a lot of money, but the poor woman only put in the two small coins. Invite the children to sit down as the narrator says 'Jesus said to his disciples that this poor woman gave more than the richer people. Two coins were all she had, whereas the richer people had plenty of money and may not have missed what they had put in the money box.

I wonder which person had given the most to God? Wonder together how children can show their love for God, following the example of the poor woman.

2. I am going to tell you a story about Jesus and a rich woman. Jesus was sitting opposite the money box in the Temple (*explain that we have offering plates or bags now*) when he noticed a woman who put in all the money she had. She really loved God and wanted to do as much as she could with her money, so she gave all she had. But here's a surprise – this "rich" woman was a widow, and had very little money. In fact all she had were two small coins (*show two small coins of little value*). Now Jesus called over to his disciples and said that this woman had a very rich heart. She gave everything she had. She could have kept one of the coins, to look after herself, but she didn't. She gave it all away.

Reading

Mark 12: 38-44

The widow's offering

Song Suggestions

Let Justice Roll (Welcoming Voices)

Star in God's Eyes (Snack Music)

[Singing from the Lectionary](#)

<http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com.au/2012/10/songs-hymns-music-for-proper-27b.html>



Links

[Worshiping with children](#)

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2015/10/year-b-proper-27-32nd-sunday-in.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/proper-27-ordinary-32-b-november-11.html>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/widows_mite.htm

Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/shimgray/3012213081/> - Creative Commons





3. Multi-age Interview –based on Ruth 3:1-5 & 4:13-17

(answers are hypothetical to give direction to the conversation)

Organise for two cousins from within the congregation or as invited guests to be interviewed and tell them the questions you will be asking. On the day you should explain the relationship to the congregation with a family photo on PowerPoint or a photo passed around.

How long have you known each other?

Do you remember the first time you met?

What sort of things did you do together as children? What do you do together now? (Meet for coffee; catch up about family)

Do you see each other often? (Sometimes cousins can go a long time without seeing each other but when they catch up it is like no time at all is past.)

If you found out your cousin was in trouble would you help? What could you do? (Check on them, offer help...)

We heard the story last week about Naomi, the mother, and her daughter-in-law Ruth, the Moabite who came with her back to Bethlehem. Ruth loved Naomi and was very loyal to her. Ruth had given up everything - family, friends, her own country - to support Naomi, who was alone in the world. Naomi loved her daughter-in-law and knew life was going to be hard for them both. Naomi had a cousin, Boaz, who was rich and honourable. Naomi told Ruth to go to Boaz' fields, walk behind the harvesters and pick up any wheat that fell on the ground (this was how poor people could have grain for flour). Because she was a relative she was allowed into the field to gather dropped grain. Ruth worked hard and Boaz noticed her. When he found out she was looking after her cousin he told the harvesters to be less thorough and leave some grain for Ruth. After that kind action, Naomi thought that Boaz would make a good husband for her daughter-in-law Ruth. So Naomi found ways for the two of them to meet and to talk. Boaz soon married Ruth and she bore a son. Boaz told Naomi that she was blessed to have Ruth as a daughter-in-law. Ruth had been more loyal to Naomi than seven sons and now she had given Naomi a grandson who would look after Naomi in her old age. Ruth was the great grandmother of King David. [Link to Mark 12:41-44 Ruth gave up everything to help Naomi. The widow in the temple gave up everything for God.]





November 15, 2015

Bible: There are a few themes running through these eight verses. The prophecy of the fall of the Jewish temple (which did occur in 70AD), signs of the end time of the world, and warnings about false Christs. The theme of this talk is based on the words 'do not be alarmed (v.7)'.

1. Show a bulb and its flower (if possible). This is a very pretty flower, but it was not a happy flower. It was a worried flower. It said to itself "It won't be long before I die and then I won't look pretty and nobody will even look at me or admire me". The gardener will come along and just pull me out and I won't be any use to anyone'. BUT the bulb cried out saying 'Don't you worry, you have helped me grow by sending down all the good things I need and next year there will be another flower. God will provide the sun and rain to make it all happen.' The flower seemed a bit happier. Just then the gardener came along and looked at the flower. She said 'What a beautiful flower, I will pick it and take it to grandma who is sick'. The flower brought much joy to grandma.

2. Discuss with the children whether they sometimes get a little bit worried about things. Maybe at school or kinder you have a bit of an argument with your friends, and you are worried, or you haven't finished your homework on time and you are worried that you might get into trouble.

The disciples, Peter, James, John and Andrew, had been looking at the temple. It was very big with large stones. It might have been a bit like this (show a picture of a large cathedral) The disciples were surprised when Jesus said that soon all these stones would be thrown down and there would no longer be a great temple. They were worried about when this might happen, but Jesus said to them 'don't be alarmed'. When we are alarmed or worried about things that are happening in the world we can remember Jesus' words 'don't be alarmed'. We can choose to trust in God's love and care, instead of being worried.

Reading

Mark 13: 1-8

Do not worry, instead trust God

Song Suggestions

Pop Song (Click)

[Singing from the Lectionary](#)

<http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com.au/2012/10/songs-hymns-music-for-proper-28b.html>



Links

[Worshipping with children](#)

<http://www.worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2015/10/year-b-proper-28-33rd-sunday-in.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/proper-28-ordinary-33-b-november-18.html>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/caution_false_teachers.htm

Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dittmars/1350171351/> - Creative Commons





3. Multi-age Interview – based on 1 Samuel 1:4-20 & 2:1-10

(Answers are hypothetical to give direction to the conversation.)

Organise for a woman, either from within the congregation or as an invited guest, who experienced difficulty in having a baby, but subsequently gave birth, to come and talk about her experience. You might like to meet with the mother in advance and decide on the questions together. On the day you should carefully explain the situation to the congregation. Show a family photo on PowerPoint or pass a photo around.

Great photo of your family but it wasn't always like that was it?

(No. For many years my husband and I struggled to conceive a child... Depression...)

What did the two of you do during that time?

(Cried, doctors' appointments, tests, prayed...)

What changed for you? (I don't know / IVF / answered prayer)

When did the baby arrived? (Two years later/ months ago...) ***baby's name and significance?***

What was your reaction when baby was safely born?

(Thankful / Disbelief / Blessed)

Our Bible reading today from the Old Testament is a story about Hannah. Hannah wanted to have a baby but was unable to do so. She was teased by the other woman in her household and she felt ashamed. As depressed and upset as she was, she went to the temple to pray. Hannah was overcome with grief and silently prayed to God to help her. Eli, saw her praying and thought she was raving drunk, and tried to get her out of the temple. Hannah explained that she was desperately praying. Eli then blessed Hannah, that her prayers might be answered. Hannah eventually had a son, whom she called Samuel, which means "I asked the Lord for him." She was filled with joy and she sang her thanks to God. Hannah cared for the boy for several years and then she took her son to the temple where he could become a priest like Eli. Samuel grew up to be a great priest and prophet who would one day anoint a shepherd boy, David, as King.





November 22, 2015

Bible: Pilate was puzzled. He asks Jesus 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

Jesus asserted that his kingdom was not of this world otherwise he would have had support from his followers. Jesus' kingdom was different to anything Pilate could relate to. Those who served Jesus were not fighting people.

1. Make a crown beforehand and sit one child (repeat this with different children) on a big chair with the crown on. Ask the 'king' 'what would you like to do if you were king for a day?' (*have a few suggestions ready for kings having difficulty with the question*). Make this a short segment.

Lead into explaining that today is when we think about Jesus being a King. He was a different kind of King, although. Ask some questions such as

- > What kind of army did Jesus have?
- > Where did Jesus live? In a palace?
- > Who did Jesus spend time with? Princesses and princes? Rich and powerful people?

2. Make two crowns beforehand for two kings. Before the service prepare two volunteers (children or adults) to be the kings. During the service, invite the two kings forward and give them a chair and a crown each. Call one King 1 (Jesus) and the other King 2 (worldly King). The leader could ask each King in turn about his kingship. For example the following questions could be asked:

- > King no. 1 Do you have an army? Jesus would reply that he doesn't have an army but has followers who love him.
- > King no. 2 Do you have an army? Yes, I have many soldiers in my army.
- > King no. 1 Do you live in a big palace? Jesus would reply that he does not live in a palace.
- > King no. 2 Do you live in a big palace? Yes, it is very big and I think I will build a bit more onto it.

Further questions could be asked. The leader could narrate each king's responses if required.

Reading

John 18: 33-37

Christ the King

Song Suggestions

My king doesn't wear a crown (How Cool is that)

[Jesus rocks the world](#) (Colin's Favourites)

[Singing from the Lectionary](#)

<http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/songs-hymns-music-for-reign-of-christ.html>



Links

[Worshipping with children](#)

<http://www.worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/year-b-proper-29-reign-of-christ-or.html>

[Mustard Seeds](#)

<http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/christ-king-sunday-b-november-25-whos.html>

[Sermons4Kids](#)

http://www.sermons4kids.com/born_to_be_king.htm

Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hillaryraindeer/3208347099/> - Creative Commons





engagetogether
November 2015

3. Multi-age Interviews – based on 2 Samuel 23:1-7 (*answers are hypothetical to give direction to the conversation*)

Organise for a musician (or poet), either from within the congregation or an invited guest, to come and be interviewed about song (or poetry) writing. On the day you could invite your guest to present one of their songs (or s).

What instruments do you play? Do you like to sing (or write poems)?

How long have you been song (or poetry) writing?

Is song (or poem) writing always hard? (Perhaps dwell on a story where a song or poem came easily) ***Why did the words come easier this time?*** (A story that just had to be sung, or a poem that just had to be written!)

Today in our Old Testament reading we hear a song of the great King David. He was thought to be a good musician who played the lyre and wrote many songs. David is credited for writing most of the Psalms. In today's story David is dying, but his last words are a song of praise to God. David says "The spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his message is on my lips [2 Samuel 23:2]." The words on his lips are inspired by God. David believes that God has spoken with him and commended him for being a good King. David then sings "God will bless my descendants, because God has made an eternal covenant with me, an agreement that will not be broken, a promise that will not be changed." Indeed, God will keep his covenant with King David and bless his descendants. [Link to John 18: 33-37 We know that Jesus was born in the city of David's birth, Bethlehem, and was of David's kingly line. Jesus, too, was anointed by the Spirit of God and spoke inspired words of God.]

Additional Song Suggestion Information

[Jesus rocks the world](#)

<http://store.colinbuchanan.com.au/collections/christian/products/colins-favourites-songbook>

[Love the Lord](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8mr839-TVs>

[Let Justice Roll](#)

<http://www.suvic.org.au/shop/welcoming-voices-songs-of-love-and-justice-cd/>

[My king doesn't wear a crown](#)

<http://www.johnnyburns.com.au/CDs-DVD/>

[Pop Song](#)

<http://www.suvic.org.au/shop/welcome-mat-the-click-cd/>

[Star in God's Eyes](#)

<https://www.snackmusic.com.au/products/star-in-gods-eyes/>

