

Intergenerational Worship

by Beth Barnett

Intergenerational Bible Reading - Sticks Exodus 17:1-7 Year A Proper 21 Oct 1 2017



What this is: Interactive Bible Reading



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



What's needed: - **Text** of Exodus 17:1-7 either on screen or print copies.
- Sticks of different sizes.
- Chris Booth Exodus series **Posters**.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BzY1iy990r0kaWp0ekpPSFo0WG8>



Time: 5-7 minutes



Bible focus/theme: Exodus 17:1-7 Israelites are provided with water

Connect

>Begin by holding the bunch of sticks together vertically close to the floors and letting them drop in a pile on the floor.

We are going to prepare for our Bible reading today by playing a round of 'Pick a Stick' Here on the floor is a pile of sticks. Our challenge is to try and pick up all the sticks, one by one, without moving any of the other sticks. Who would like to volunteer to 'pick a stick'.

>Choose volunteers one at a time to try to pick up a stick. Let this go for a few minutes,

Context

Our Bible reading today features a stick, just like some of the stories we've already had from Exodus. The stick turns up a bit like a character through Exodus. It has some rather amazing adventures for just an ordinary stick. Let's look back at the stories so far and see if we can see the adventures of the stick.

Display the posters of the Exodus series and invite people to identify where they see the stick being used.

Ex 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

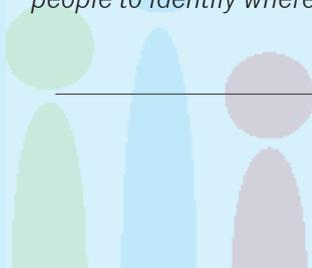
The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the stick with which you struck the Nile, and go.

I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"



Content

Display the text on large A3 print outs - gather in small groups around these.

Make sure each group has one sturdy stick, at least 50 cm in length.

Read the text slowly and expressively, but substitute the word 'STICK' in on key words.

While the passage is being read, someone in each group should try to follow along, pointing with the stick to the words as they are read.

When 'STICK' is substituted in, the reading stops, those with the sticks should be pointing to the word that should have been read.

The groups should call out the actual word that is in the text correcting the reader.

Each time the reading stops, change who is holding the stick to give lots of people a turn.

Consider

Great work following along with your sticks. Your sticks have so far been playing a game sticks, reading the Bible sticks, soon they will become praying sticks. Later they may be story sticks^{see extension A} or writing and drawing sticks^{see extension B}. But really they are just ordinary sticks. Same with the stick Moses used showing God's power to Pharaoh, making a path through the sea and bringing water in dry wilderness for the Israelites. A stick is just a stick. What was it that made all of these things happen? The answer is in the question at the very end of the reading: 'Is God in our midst or not?'

And the answer is always...yes. Simple as sticks.

Consequence - Prayer

Stand in a circle and old sticks pointing in towards the centre.

Loving God

you have made us, out of the same stuff as the rest of the world. We belong here, where you are too, in the midst of your loving creation.

hold stick, pointing up

We praise you! We want to point out how great you are.

hold stick pointing forwards

You have shown us your good ways to live and how to walk in your paths of love and justice and hope.

cross sticks with another person

but we have not always lived according to your peace and justice. We have fought and hurt one another - friends and enemies. We have lashed out, we have been defensive, we have used the beautiful things you have given us as weapons for fighting, instead of tools for building.

Please forgive us.

break stick in half - place two pieces together as a cross

Although we have broken your good laws and broken each other's hearts, you put things right again, showing us your love through Jesus life and death and resurrection.

during this next part of the prayer, bring your pieces of stick forward to the ground and join them together to make a large circle holding all our prayers for the world

We pray now for the things in our world that are broken, that are in need, that are fearful, that are in danger.

name any particular prayers or concerns you would like to share now.

You are our God, who is in the midst of us, and you hear our prayers.

Amen.

Extension A - Stickman Story

Read the picture book story 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson, as a parallel discussion with the adventures of Moses' stick in Exodus.

Stickman has many uses, but in the end he is just plain old stickman.

Extension B - Stick Pictures

Provide a collection of large and small sticks of different types and lengths and diameters.

Invite your gathering to use the sticks to either make pictures of parts of the story they think are important, or to construct words which they find significant or helpful from the passage.

