

Risen and Real: Resources for Intergenerational Worship

Early Word Bible Reading/Drama Third Sunday of Easter Year B April 15 2018



What this is: Early Word Bible Reading/Drama



Where it's used: In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically with Lectionary based gatherings



Time: 5 minutes



Bible focus/theme: 1 John 3:1-3



What's needed:

- Two well prepared presenters – A (comic) B (straight)
- Large Jar of sunflower seeds
- bananas
- banana lollies
- Blackboard prop (see illustration)
- Text with coloured highlights on screen or printed and shared among your gathering.

1 John 3:1-2

3:1 **See** what love the Father has given us, that **we should be called children of God**; and that is **what we are**. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

3:2 Beloved, **we are God's children** now; **what we will be** has not yet been **revealed**. What we do know is this: when he is **revealed**, **we will be** like him, for we will **see** him as he is.

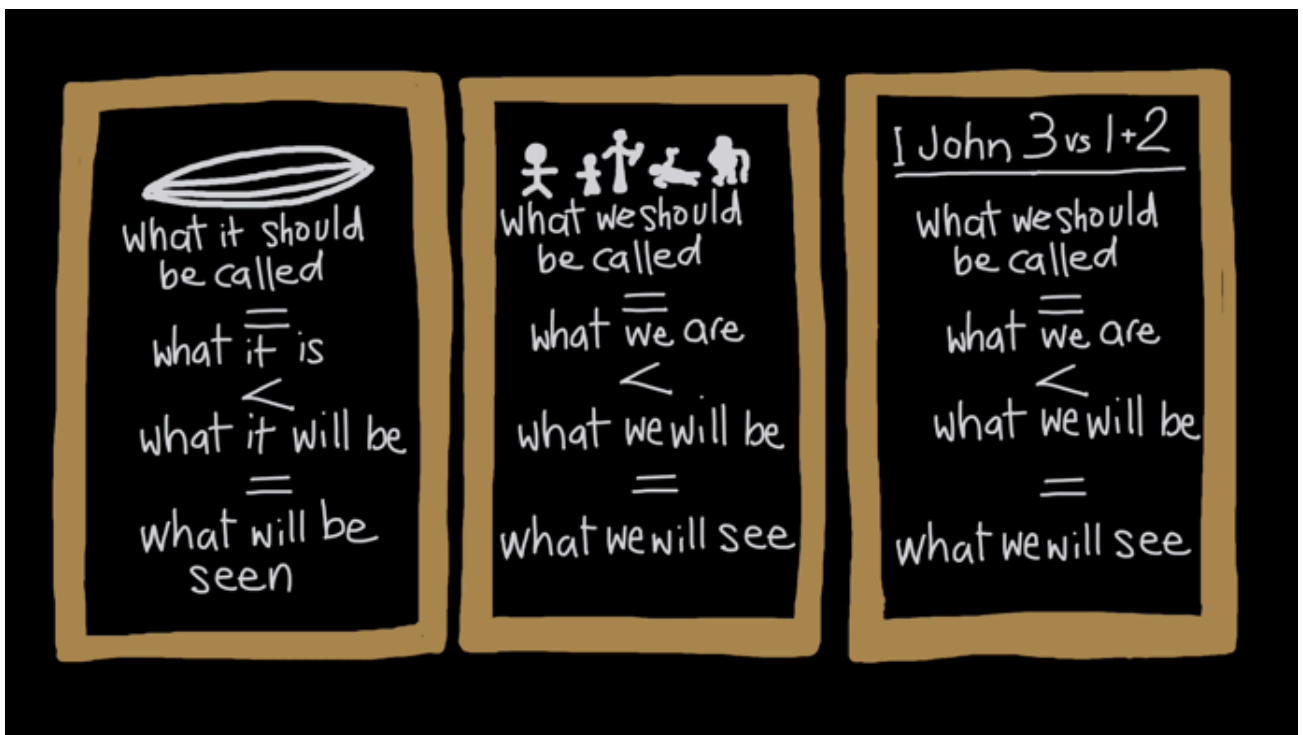
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- B: Good morning everyone. Look at all these wonderful people here today. All children of God. Ready to look at the Bible together?
- A: *(interrupting)* Look at these!
(shakes glass container of large black sunflower seeds)
They are pretty awesome. See how much I love them? *(hugging jar)*
- B: Yes we can see how much you love the...
- A: *(cutting in)* You know what they are?
- B: Yes. I do. They are...
- A: STOP! I want to call them...*(thinking)*...bananas.
That's right. Look at these Bananas.
See how much I love the Bananas.
Bananas, they're called bananas.
- B: Well, we can certainly see how much you love them, but...
(appealing to the gathering)
We don't think these should be called bananas.
I think they should be called what they are.
And they are NOT bananas.
They should be called what they are - and what are they?
NOT BANANAS!
What should these be called?
(appeal to gathering for responses...)
These should be called Sunflower seeds, because that is what they are.
- A: I don't get it. Why not bananas. Everyone loves bananas. See how much I love them, and see how much everyone loves them...
- B: No. Let me explain.
These seeds should not be called bananas, because that is not what they are.
These seeds should be called Sunflower seeds because that is what they are.
They are not bananas. You are just about driving us bananas.
But still we all should not be called bananas because that is not what we are.
- A: Hmmm, I can see how you all shouldn't be called bananas. What should we all be called?
- B: We all should be called be called 'children of God' because that is what we are.
- A: *(awkward pause...)* Hey Children of God,
(holding out the seeds) Anyone want a banana?

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- B: They are not bananas. And they should not be called bananas.
See this? (*holding up a real banana*) This is a Banana. Those are seeds.
This is called a Banana because it is a Banana.
These should be called seeds because that is what they are.
And we should be called children of God because (*gesturing for all to join in*) that is what we are.
- A: (*slowly conceding...*) They are seeds. Oh, seeds!....maybe, perhaps, will they ever be bananas?
If I plant them they might be bananas one day.
- B: I don't think so.
- A: They might be called bananas one day...
- B: No, they won't be called bananas. Not now, not ever.
- A: Not ever?
- B: No, they will never be Bananas.
- Let me try again.
Let me show you. With maths.

Chooses a volunteer to hold up a 'blackboard poster'



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- B: *(Pointing to the board)* Here's the seed.
What it is called equals what it is.
But what it is now, is less than what it will be one day.
One day, we'll see what it fully is.
And so...
Here **we** are too: we should be called children of God, because that equals what we are. But what we are now, is less than what we will be. One day we will be like Jesus, because we'll see him as he fully is.
- A: *(reads blackboard aloud, stands back and puzzles.)* I don't know. Where do you get this stuff from. I really wanted to call these Bananas. Or at least know that one day they will be Bananas.
- B: ok, enough with the bananas!
I'll tell you where I get this from – from the Bible – from a book right up the very back end called First John – written to followers of Jesus who are wondering where that is going to lead them.
The writer first of all says – “See all of us? God really loves us!”
- A: Ah – just like “See how much I love these Bananas!”
- B: They are not Bananas! The writer of First John goes on...

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Let's get this together:

If you like bananas (give us a wave) – read the **yellow** text

If you don't like bananas (give us a wave) - read the **blue** text

Whether you like Bananas or not – read the **green** text.

1 John 3:1-2

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3:2 Beloved, **we are God's children** now; **what we will be** has not yet been **revealed**. What we do know is this: when he is **revealed**, **we will be** like him, for we will **see** him as he is.

- B: See? What we should be called equals what we really are...children of God.
Call the thing what it really is.
(Pointing to Jar) Sunflower seeds.
(Pointing to gathering) Children of God.

You know there's more of this reading to take in.

Let's read our verses again and then continue to listen for the word of God as our reader brings the whole reading to us.

Designated Reader reads 1 John 3:1-7