*Template for an intergenerational service*

Blurb to describe the overview of the service. Theme, approach, values, possible takeaways (outcomes, questions, responses)

You will need:

* Equipment, what needs to be prepared ahead of time.
* People you need to talk to, delegate to, encourage to participate in some way.
* Any links, media files, videos

Top tips:

* This is a suggested outline. Adjust this to reflect the traditions and structure of your own church. However, a good intergenerational service is no longer than an hour, so you may need to shorten certain elements to fit within that (i.e. singing 3 songs instead of your usual 5).
* Instructions are in italics (Put the script in standard font, and the instructions in *italics*)
* Invite people of a range of ages to be involved. Give them time to prepare in advance of the service. Make sure your Bible readers are well practiced.

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| Timing | Item | Details | Who | Tech needs |
|  |  |  |  | i.e. powerpoint |
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Opening and prayer:

Service leader:

Introduce yourself (for the benefit of those who are new to the gathering). This is a possible script:

“We have gathered together this morning to meet with each other and to meet with God. It doesn’t matter how young we are or how old we are. God is present here with us all this morning. We are glad you are here. So, don’t worry if your little ones wiggle or make noise. This morning let us help each other to worship God as a family, the family of God. Check to make sure that those around you are included and that everyone understands what is happening as the service unfolds.”

**Begin with the normal elements of your service. This might include:**

* + A call to worship – make sure the wording includes all ages
	+ Prayer –in language that all can understand
	+ Worship songs – choose at least one song that the children and the young people know. This doesn’t have to be a ‘kiddie song’. Talk this through with the worship leader to make sure they are aware of the fact that children will be present and give them some simple ways to include them.
	+ Offering
	+ Birthdays and notices

Set the scene:

Introduce the theme of your service. This needs to be fun or easy for everyone to participate in. Think about how people who are new to your church might feel included. You could:

* Have a quick game: this could be something simple the whole church can participate in, or you can invite a few volunteers to the front.
* Run a fun quiz. Make sure some of the questions are easy to answer or are funny.
* Show a video or images on a PowerPoint – this could be something topical or in the news, or something from a movie or pop culture
* Show an object lesson
* Ask a question for them to think about. Don’t necessarily ask for feedback or discussion.

Explore the Bible passage:

* Invite people to use their imaginations to enter into the Bible passage or theme of your service.
* Use one or more of the senses: touch, taste, sight, hearing, smell.
* Use images or video to help their imagination. There are plenty of great resources that help bring the Bible to life.
* Read the Bible passage: it is important to have one or more people read the passage out loud. Encourage everyone to read along in their own Bibles, from the pew Bible, and have the text displayed on the screen.
* Consider memorising the text and deliver it from memory. This can be a very powerful approach.
* Invite people to read certain words or phrases (I.e., on the PowerPoint have words in red, green and blue. Divide the church into three groups and have them read their coloured words.
* Drama: invite people to play certain roles in the story. Give them simple scripts ahead of time to practice. A good method is to have someone narrate the story while the actor's mime. This doesn’t require them to learn any lines. Alternatively, put them into small groups and have each small group bring one character in the story to life. One way to do this is to ask them: Choose one person in your group to be ‘x’ and have them answer this question – what question do you want to ask Jesus? Or, how do you feel about the decisions King David is making at the moment?

Respond to the Bible passage:

Response can include:

* Small group discussions
* Reflection on their own: give people something to do or hold during this time to help with concentration.
* Worship songs
* Listening to a piece of music
* Some kind of activity/simple craft. Keep it simple so everyone can achieve it.
* A question to ponder: What does this mean for me? What questions do I have about this passage? What might God be saying to me today?
* Prayer – corporate and/or individual
* Sharing with the whole church. This could include personal testimonies or faith stories. Plan these in advance where possible.
* Offer a challenge or an action point for them to consider for the coming week. Is there something simple they can do as a response?
* Communion – consider carefully what this looks like with all ages present.

Closing:

Close in the normal way of your service. You could include:

* A benediction or blessing
* A response prayer: the service leader reads some parts and the congregation responses with certain words or phrases.
* An invitation for further prayer or support from church members/leaders. Invite children to come with someone from their family/a caregiver.
* An invitation to stay for a cup of tea 😊