



Preaching Using Preach Exodus!

Introduction

Preach Exodus! is an extensive and comprehensive resource. The material provided for each week of the preaching series is broken down into a number of sections for ease of access. The content of each of the sections is explained below.

Exodus Overview

This document offers an overview of the way in which the theme of the gifts given to Israel is handled in Preach Exodus! It will be of particular interest to preachers, those coordinating worship and of course children's ministry leaders.

Warming Up, Warming Down

Warming Up provides all age activities that can be used to set the theme for the service. They are ideal for churches that wish to do something for adults and children together prior to children leaving for their separate Ministry of the Word classes in Sunday School. Warming Up, Warming Down provides all age activities that allow for some reflection and response to the main teaching material, leading into prayer. They are also, of course, building blocks for an all age service of worship.

Godly Play

Godly Play is a creative, experiential and innovative way of retelling Bible stories. When using a Godly Play script the leader firstly tells the story using the materials and objects indicated in the script. Then the children are invited to discuss some "I wonder" statements which help to interact with the story. The scripts are most effective in Sunday Schools and smaller churches with flexible furnishings. Some churches will choose Godly Play scripts as the main teaching activity and if time is limited the scripts can

stand alone perfectly well. Where more time is available the Action Scenes (see below) can be used as a creative way of responding to the story. Time must be allowed for preparation of the materials needed for using the Godly Play script provided. See the Godly Play web page for more advice.

Action Scenes

Action Scenes are specially commissioned A4 size pictures which retell the Exodus story for the week. They are designed to be used interactively with space for both adults and children to add words and draw elements. Full guidance is offered as to how to use the pictures. They can be used by adults in church as part of more interactive preaching and the Study Exodus! small group resource material for adults use the pictures extensively. Some churches will use the Action Scenes on their own as the main teaching activity in Sunday School classes. Where time in Sunday School permits the Action Scenes can be used in addition to the Godly Play scripts. Together they form an excellent and creative telling of and interaction with the Bible story. See Using Action Scenes for more advice.

Adult Sermon notes

For adult preaching in church these sermon notes provide some background to the passage and suggestions for key points that can be raised in preaching.

Liturgical resources

Liturgical resources offer opening sentences, confessions, collects intercessions and post communion prayers to complement the weekly themes in Preach Exodus!. Some are suitable for all age worship, others are more appropriate to adult services. Take some time to explore the resource material online and decide

which elements will be most suitable for the needs of the church. The resource material for each week is broken down into the relevant sections to make it easy to print out the material that is needed.

Different approaches

Consider the following suggestions from some fictional churches:

At St Arteta's the children have just half an hour in Sunday School, returning for the Eucharist. The adults are following the Matthew preaching track and use the liturgical resources for that track. However, they want the children to be part of Giving in Grace. In their Sunday School class the children simply use the Godly Play script for the day - its all they have time for. However, there is a midweek Bible study for adults using Study Exodus! and the Action Scenes are used there to help reflect upon the Exodus story.

At St Lescott's the whole church is looking at Exodus. The preacher uses the adult sermon notes and the worship leader makes extensive use of the Exodus liturgical resources . Adults and children together in church use a Warming Up, Warming Down activity and then the children have plenty of time in Sunday School. They use the Godly Play Script followed by the Action Scene. When they come back into church they show the adults what they have been doing in their classes.

At St Cahill's resources are very limited. The Action Scenes were used because they were easy to print out. The children come into church for the Eucharist so space is made after the Eucharist for one of the Warming Up, Warming Down activities to link the children's work with the worship of the adult congregation.

At St Yakubu's the congregation is small and meets very informally. They are able to share the Godly Play scripts all together each week. There is no Sunday School so good use is made of the all age resources. Action Scenes provide a visual focus for an interactive sermon for adults and kids alike.

