

All-age worship ideas

Education Sunday 2012

LEARNING AND SERVING

All-age ideas for prayer and discussion

Aim: To get the congregation into groups wherever possible including a pre-school child, primary school child, secondary school child, someone in further education, someone working in education - groups no larger than 15 are recommended. (This activity will also inform members of congregation not currently engaged in education of some of the current issues).

- Allow 10 minutes for an initial discussion and a list of education establishments represented in each group to be recorded on a sheet of paper.
- Allow 10 minutes in each group for each child, each student, each teaching assistant, each teacher, each governor to express the most important prayer need for their educational setting at this time. Record these prayer needs.
- Spend about 15 minutes praying in the group for these specific things.
- Ask each group to commit over the coming week to praying for the people, issues and situations they have discussed.

www.prayforschools.org provides some useful resources for those who wish to pray for their local schools and other educational institutions.

Ask the following question:

What can this church do?

Education in this country is often taken for granted. If your church has connections with educational projects overseas, spend some time learning about the work, reflecting on it and praying for it. If you do not have these connections, World Vision has some useful resources – (www.worldvision.org.uk click 'What we do' click 'advocacy' click 'education')

What can this church do?

All age talk idea

Aim: To get more people helping in education.

- Discuss the roots of education in this country and that it was part of the 'family business' of the church. Look at one of the pioneers of education in this country, for example, Joshua Watson.
- Discuss ways in which members of congregation can help those working in schools. See the ideas included in this section.

What can this church do?

Use the readings, prayers and hymns and songs from the resources of the Education Sunday site to intersperse with these ideas.

What can this church do?

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Some useful facts and figures as background - September 2011

ENGLAND:

3466 state secondary schools. 1300 are academies, 319 sponsored academies and 981 transferred academies (outstanding schools).

16884 primary schools. Only a few are currently academies.

7000 faith schools, primary and secondary.

6957 Christian state schools, 36 Jewish, 6 Muslim, 2 Sikh, 1 Hindu.

24 free schools.

2414 independent schools: 790 secondary and 1265 primary.

SCOTLAND:

372 secondary schools, all comprehensive. 53 are faith schools (all Catholic).

2099 primary schools, 318 denominational or faith schools ,314 Catholic, 3 Episcopal and 1 Jewish.

WALES:

222 Secondary schools, all comprehensive.

1435 primary schools.

This is a fast-moving picture because of the move to academy status and the introduction of free schools

pray for school	read with a child	lead collective worship	help in class
become a governor	help with clubs	help with educational visits	donate books
help with RE	offer church buildings for use	provide chaplain for school	ask head teacher how to help

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The Education Sunday 2012 theme was devised by an ecumenical steering group co-ordinated by Churches Together in England representing the following Christian denominations and organisations: the Association of Christian Teachers, the Baptist Union, the Catholic Church, the Church of England and the National Society, the Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, the Student Christian Movement and the United Reformed Church. The material in this resource was written and sourced by members of the Education Sunday steering group. All worship material in this publication may be freely copied for single-occasion use as part of Christian worship. Any organisations or individuals wishing to reproduce this material in any other circumstances should seek prior permission from the Education Sunday Steering Group, Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH.



The Methodist Church

