

Ministry @Home



These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.

Gather.....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world
and gave everything life.

I will light a light
in the name of the Son,
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit,
who is present everywhere in the
world
and gives me strength.

Together:
**We will light three lights
for the trinity of love:**
God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us;
The beginning,
The end
and the Everlasting one.

Welcome.....

Song: How Great Thou Art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc0QVWzCv9k>

(can be sung or listened to)

Reflection time: In which different languages can you say "welcome". If you have a device you could research "welcome" in different languages and try saying welcome, those whom you gather with can try to guess the language. Here are a few to try:

Bienvenidas = Spanish

Velkommen = Danish

Gratissimum = Latin

добро пожаловать = Russian

Welina = Hawaiian

ようこそ (Yōkoso) = Japanese

Within your gathering is there anyone who can use sign language to say "welcome", give this a try too....



Share which is your favourite way of welcoming & why?

Bible passage: Genesis 22.1-14 & Matthew 10.40-42

AND/OR watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAFMg09bido>

(starting at 13:00mins – 14:22secs & 16:04-16:55)

Interactive Learning.....

Play these songs whilst creating, sharing and learning together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSWpVKKMcs> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEvEVALljNQ>



Create a Welcome Banner for your home/church – this could be placed on an outside wall if weather proofed or in a window. Using the letters of "WELCOME" create short sentences that illustrate the meaning and describe how people would be welcomed.

Whilst creating chat about the following questions & share stories.....

- **Have you ever felt your faith being tested when things aren't going too well?**
- **Have you ever questioned God or doubted your trust and faith in God?**
- **I wonder if we could be more welcoming and more loving.....**
- **Share would you rather be welcoming or be welcomed & why...**

The meaning of the word Welcome is to be pleased about, encourage or to support something and if someone is welcome, you are pleased when they visit you. Sometimes it is easy to be pleased when we see someone and other times we are less keen! How far are we prepared to go to be pleased, or support, or encourage when we are with people? At this current time we may be less pleased to be with the people who we've had to be very close too – it's not always easy to be "welcoming" when we are wishing we'd rather be with someone else or be somewhere else.


Our bible story of Abraham and Isaac is a powerful story but also can be a disturbing story. Abraham had already left his family, his country to follow where God had called him to be. Abraham is open and willing to respond to both God and his son Isaac, the dilemma (decision) for Abraham at this stage is having to choose between God and his son. They journey together for 3 days to get to the place where God called them to be – put yourself in their shoes:

How would you feel as Isaac – remember he was obeying his father Abraham and not sure of what was happening.

How would you feel as Abraham – Abraham was known for his faith & trust in God but is this a step too far?

Faith is confident that God is always good, fair, just and loving no matter what He does or asks us to do. As we follow Abraham's example of living a life which is faithful and following God's requests even when it's difficult – this may also mean welcoming people whom we may find difficult.

Game

Blow up a balloon and play a game of "No Let Down." As you sit or stand in a circle and toss the balloon into the people you are gathered with say: "Don't let the balloon fall to the floor. You may only bat at the balloon with your hands. No one is allowed to catch it". If the balloon falls, ask/share one of the questions in the think bubble. 

Take a Trip

Journey to a view point or the beach - get up while it's still dark. Grab some blankets and a thermos of hot chocolate, and find a place with a good place to watch the sunrise. While you're sitting in the predawn darkness, ask: "What would happen if the sun stopped rising?" Wait for the sunrise, then ask: "Why do you suppose God is faithful to always keep the sun shining in our lives?" Chat about God being faithful to Abraham or how to be more welcoming as we welcome the sunrise every day.

Reflection & Prayer Time.....

Song: Be Thou my vision

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CMclLT_Hjg

Song: Lord we long for you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeoiOKOxc4o>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

Encourage members to read silently or aloud their prayers. Other prayers can be said at this time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Celebration....

If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing

Happy birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May God's richest blessings
Be showered on you.



Closing.....

The Grace (with "Messy" actions)

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore. Amen.**

Closing Responses.....

Song: There's a Place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eMO5aut7eI>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

From where we are
to where you need us.

Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you reveal.

Jesus, now lead on!

To make this world
look more like your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on!

Ask different members to blow out the candles.....until you meet again

Extra Ideas

- Creative ideas based on Abraham <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/284923113910794441/>
- If you have new neighbours, post a card to them to say Welcome to the neighbourhood
- Use these examples to inspire you to write a welcome letter <https://futureofworking.com/thank-you-for-welcoming-me-into-your-family-messages/>
- Recreate this video within your gathering <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktR1IYskTII>