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School Assembly / Youth Group Idea

All Age Worship Material 1 - 'The Enormous Turnip'

All Age Worship Material 2 - We don't have to be clever

All Age Worship Material 3 - Set apart.

All Age Worship Material 4 - God's Call. A reflection for three voices.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY / YOUTH GROUP

Recognising opportunities

- Introduce yourself
- Imagine or Give out blank pieces of paper
 - What words or images might describe you in 15 years time?

 - Will you be married?
 - Will you have a job - what sort?
 - Will you have children?
 - What country? What sort of home?
 - Will your current hobbies still be important to you?
 - Will God or the church be involved?
 - What will be the state of the environment?
 - Will you be rich?
 - Will you still be in touch with your current family and friends?
 - Will you be happy?
 - Will you be fit and healthy?
- Draw a pin-man of yourself as you will be - draw anything or words that are answers to questions, quality not important.
- Review pictures
- How do we think about the future
 - does anyone know what they should do?
 - inspiration, ideas, gamble? God
 - Is it reasonable to expect God to play a part in your decisions about the future or is it your own affair?
- Read Francis Dewar's poem (from 'Called or Collared')
 - " There is an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world
with a special message to deliver,
with a special song to sing for others,
with a special act of love to bestow.
No-one else can speak my message, or sing my song, or offer my act of love.
These are entrusted only to me".*
- Reflect on word 'vocation'
 - what we think it means
 - if we are made in Gods image ...what implications are there?

All age worship material 1

1. Theme: No matter how small and insignificant you think you are, you are important.

Tell the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'. Use whatever you feel comfortable with - pictures, puppets, volunteers from the congregation or you may be able to borrow a large book version from your local primary school.

If you are unfamiliar with the story, here is a basic version. Add, adapt, embroider as you wish.

It was harvest time and the farmer fancied a bowl of turnip soup for his supper so he set out to pull one up from the field. He saw one which had a good clump of leaves sticking up from the earth and he started to pull it up and he pulled and pulled but, to his surprise, he could not pull up the turnip.

He called to his wife to come and help him so she left her ironing and came and put her arms round his waist and pulled and pulled but they couldn't pull up the turnip.

'This must be some huge turnip!' said the farmer and called to his son to come and help. Peter stopped playing with his Lego and came and put his arms round his mother's waist and pulled and pulled, but they still couldn't pull up the turnip.

'I'll go and get Suzie to help,' said Peter and went off to find his sister who was playing with her play station. She ran over and joined onto Peter, who held on to his mother, who held on to the farmer and all four of them pulled and pulled, but they still couldn't pull up the turnip.

'It must be enormous!' said Suzie. 'I'll go and get the horse to help'. She fetched the horse who held onto Suzie and they all pulled and pulled but they still couldn't pull up the enormous turnip.

(You've got the idea of the story by now and can spin it out or shorten it depending how fidgety the congregation is getting. The important thing is that the last one fetched to help is a very small mouse.)

'How can I possibly help?' said the mouse. 'I'm so small and light that I can't possibly help.'

'Come on,' said all the rest of the line of people and animals. 'You are our last hope.' So the mouse joined on to the end of the line and they all pulled and pulled and, with a mighty sound of ripping as the roots let go of the soil, the turnip at last came free and everybody fell into a great heap. Luckily the mouse was not at the bottom. They were all so pleased that when the farmer's wife invited them all to supper, they all ate so much turnip soup that they were ready to burst.

The mouse was so pleased and surprised that he had been the one person who made the difference that he never said he was too small for anything ever again.

We can be like this; we think we can't do things and say no when we are asked to do them. God knows we are all important and will be there to help us when we have something to do even if it seems too big. Remember the mouse!

All age worship material 2

2. Theme: We don't have to be clever or have special gifts to be accepted by God.

You may find a flip chart useful to make notes as you get feedback from the congregation.

You could begin by asking if anyone has a special skill or party trick that they could show. You may get no response so either have a 'plant' you have prepared earlier or have something you can do.

Ask if people need special skills for what they do - examples: lorry driver, doctor, cook, minister (be prepared for this one to have answers you don't expect). Jot down some of the skills as they are suggested but don't spend too much time writing.

Include things like the English football team where one of the answers has got to be a certain nationality. It's good to finish with this as the next question leads on. 'What do you need to be part of God's team?' The answer is of course 'Nothing'.

God doesn't need us to be clever, athletic, or good at anything and certainly not a member of any group or nationality. All God needs is us- the basic, plain us and He will give us all that we need to be a good member of His team. You may want to refer to bible readings and stories to show how God did this in the past, but of course He still does it - even with you and me!

All age worship material 3

3. Set Apart

You may choose to use the dialogue 'Set Apart' page 79 from 'Off the record conversations Jesus and Peter' written by John Bell and Graham Maule, Wild Goose Publications.

If so you will need to rehearse the dialogue.

All age worship material 4

4 GOD'S CALL

A REFLECTION FOR THREE VOICES

The 'voices can speak from the front of the church, but it can be vary effective to have them in different parts of the church, depending on the sound system you use. **You will need to rehearse this.**

1: God calls

2: In the darkness of night, in the brightness of day,

3: In the silence of solitude, the clamour of crowds.

1: God calls

2: In a voice which speaks no words

3: In a language unheard by the ear

1: God calls

2: Whispering to the soul in that most private, secluded place where no other human resides or walks.

3: Chasing the spirit in every way; in prayer, by questions, through conversations, in the things that happen, in joy and sorrow, peace and disturbance.

1: God's call troubles, unsettles, stirs up chaos, disrupts the calmness and control of life, runs against the flow of certainty.

2: God's call cannot mean me!

3: God's call is for other people.

1: God only wants good people.

2: Go away God. Give me peace!

3: But God does want me, whether I like it or not.

1: 'Follow me' is the invitation.

2: 'Love me as I love you'.

3: 'Go out into the world'.

1: I will challenge you to be me in the world.

2: Be my voice in business, in politics, in school, in society,

3: Confronting injustice, healing wounds, reconciling division,

1: Showing my love in every community of faith.

2: Not hiding in the church, but being the Church.

3: Proclaiming by living the Gospel, not to the converted but in the world of the everyday.

1: Speaking honestly, getting involved, taking risks for God's sake.

2: I can't do it - me? Be serious!

3: Oh yes you can. You're just the one. But you won't be alone.

1: The saints of yesterday and today are all around you. They too have responded and will enfold you with love courage and vision.

2: They will sustain and support you.

3: God, give every one of us the ears to hear you call.

1: The courage to step out into the darkness of faith.

2: The strength to handle frustration and futility.

3: The faithfulness to hold on in adversity.

1: The confidence to speak out clearly at all times and in all places.

2: God calls.

This may be followed by quiet recorded music or a short period of silence

Janet Turner 1997 ©

See also 'You can't mean me' in 'Readings and Hymns' section.