



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's Work

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A simple plan for an all age Meeting for Worship Desert Island discs

Planning

In the weeks before, ask members of the meeting to provide you with their 'Desert Island Discs'. Explain that you may use them in an all age Meeting for Worship. Make sure they understand that they will not have to talk about their music, unless they wish to at the time. Also explain that you may not use all the suggestions/recordings that you are given. If you have musicians in your number ask them if they would be prepared to play something. Make sure the children are asked too.*

You will need to prepare a 'playlist'. If the meeting is going to last 45 minutes, you may need about 7 tracks or recordings to play. If you are able, the best thing to do is prepare a playlist on an mp3 player. But the most important thing is to choose a medium that you know is reliable. This may mean CDs. That is fine. If you have live musicians, they may be nervous. Make sure you have let them know exactly what they have to do. This will make them feel more secure.

*If this seems too difficult, just choose some music yourself. Do whatever is possible and feasible or ask the children only.

Preparing the space

Lay out craft materials on a few different tables in the room. Children love colouring sheets. If you can, have some of these. The tables can also have other objects on them. These might be children's books, music books, quotations that you feel are adept (Faith and Practice 2.12, 21.27-42.).

Welcome everyone to the meeting once it has settled.

Explain that the meeting will be exploring sound, music and its importance in our lives.

Say that you are starting with a period of silence but that then there will be music played at intervals throughout the meeting. People are welcome to share their thoughts about their choice in the gaps between the music, or to just sit quietly.

Show them the craft materials that are on offer if they wish to use those too.

Leave a period of silence.

Play each track or invite the musicians to play. Leave up to five minutes between each piece. Be guided by the ministry and the meeting. Sometimes longer gaps will feel right; sometimes shorter.

If you feel it will work for your meeting, end with a song that everyone can sing together. This could be something like Lord of the Dance (Sidney Carter) or choose something seasonal. The most important thing is to choose something that is familiar for as many people as possible.