

Intergenerational New Members Lesson Plans and Slides

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APCE Annual Event- January 31, 2025

Session 1

Objective of this time together is to...

- Introduce ourselves.
- Glean some basic understanding of Intergenerational Christian Formation
- To begin to build community

The Educator before the session begins needs to:

- Create slides based on outline (slides should have dark background with light text)
- Gather group building items
 - Create Table Tents
 - Name and what do we call you?
 - Where did you live before here?
 - Favorite Candy
- Gather materials for collage
 - Cardstock
 - Glue sticks
 - Scissors
 - Markers
 - Magazines
 - Colored Pencils
 - Crayons
 - Assorted stickers
- Gather materials for community covenant
 - Large Post It pad
 - Markers
 - Blue Painters' Tape
- Make a poster that explains the 3 Before Me Rule*
- Check with attendees about food allergies and order lunch
- Ensure that there are paper products for meal or arrange for dishes, silverware, and glassware
- Plan room arrangement

- Select opening poem¹
- Select closing charge²

Opening Activity (Meal 30 minutes)

Welcome and encourage learners to mix up family groups

Share...*God's Holy People* (page 75) from *Searching for Shalom* by Ann Weems

Blessing of the food

During the meal encourage the learners to begin to think about the table tents

As meal wraps up say: *As we clear the tables, I invite you to use the Legos to create something as an individual and then with your table mates join those individual pieces into a group piece...while you are working answer the 3 questions on the screen, they are also on your table tents...we have 15 minutes and know that someone needs to describe, share what all you created as a group...in less than 3 minutes! Time starts now!*

Activity 2 (20 minutes)

Community Covenant and introduce Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Say: *We are creating safe space...in creating that space we need to establish guidelines/covenant for all of us...listen to Joel 2:1-2, 12-17...Joel is known as a minor prophet, it is the second in the collection of 12 that make up the collection of prophetic books in the Christian Bible and the second book in the scroll of the Twelve Prophets in the Hebrew scriptures. We don't know much about Joel, just that he is the son of Pethuel...no king or historical event is named, but he quotes other prophets...so the best guess timeline is roughly 500-400 BCE(Before Common Era) which places it post exile...he mentions Judah and he is familiar with worship in the Temple, so there is the thought that he may have lived in Jerusalem or near Jerusalem...if he was speaking to those outside of city, the farmers type they know the damage that locusts could and have caused...what else did you notice about the reading...first the horn is blown, the horn was blown to call the army together in times of war...and it was also used to call the community assembly...the whole community from*

¹ Ann Weems, *Resources for Creative Worship: Searching For Shalom*, (Louisville, KY: Westminster-John Knox, 1991) 75.

² *Book of Common Worship*, (Westminster/John Knox: Louisville, 2018) 154.

Infants to the bridegroom and the bride...within this space, this community are an intergenerational learning space here is 5 key things that I want us all to hear and hold on to...

As leader/facilitator of this space my requests is that we start on time, even if that means we have to push people out of the space, and we all arrive on time... and we practice 3 before me...what that means is that if you speak, then you wait for 3 other voices before you speak again...what else?*

Add comments as the learners...say we are going to take a 5 minute wiggle break, while this is happening, please sign the covenant.

Call the group back together for the next activity.

Activity 3...Individual Collages (20 minutes)

Say: Now let's learn something about each...on the rectangle tables are supplies for you all to create a collage that will reflect who you are...where you have been...what your passions are or aren't...what drives you crazy...only rule is don't put your name on the front, put it on the back because these are going to hang in this common space for the next 3 weeks...20 minutes to create, y'all can do it.

As the time is coming to close, provide painters tape to hang the collages in the space designated...say: We aren't going to share about our collages because I want you all to spend time at the close of this time today to look at them, and ponder on them, chat about them but really look at them...

Now we are going to change the space a little bit...move at your table so that you can see everybody in the space...

We are going to talk about the questions on the screen...so take a few minutes and ponder on them.

Activity 4...Conversation Time based on these questions (20 minutes)

- Why this community?
- What gifts do you bring to this community?
- Or are you still working on knowing your gifts?
- What are your expectations of this community?

Closing Activity...Hebrews 10:19-25 (10 minutes)

Say: *We are going to close with a reading from Hebrews...now the author of Hebrews is not clear...it doesn't start like a typical Paul letter...the Eastern tradition holds to Paul as the author...the Western tradition let go of that thought process around 1600...what events had happened and were still happening in the western sphere...the letter is in section that the NIV calls the Pastoral letters where Paul gives instructions but in the introduction of Hebrews the NIV scholars give us the possibility that Barnabas...who was a partner in ministry with Paul, or perhaps it was Apollos, he was favored by Martin Luther as the author...both men were learned Jewish men who became leaders in the early church...both were associates of Paul...and they had knowledge of this group of "Hebrews" they were writing.*

Ask one of the learners to read the Scripture from the slide

Say: *What words of encouragement do you hear in this reading?*

Write the responses on a large post it pad if there is no whiteboard.

Say: *Next week we are going to look at this community...its beginning, its history, its changes and its current story...we are going to look at Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Galatians 6:1-5*

This is the Book of Common Worship...written for Presbyterian worship. I have the Pastoral edition as well as this big one...I'm going to read something written in red, that means it is instructions not words of Jesus....

"A deacon or elder may share God's summons to service from the font, table, or door of the church, using one of the following, or another charge (154)" (Book of Common Worship, 30)

We will always close with a charge...we may open with a poem like we did today which wraps into the blessing of the food, or we may open with something from this book or the Book of Confessions or the Book of Order.

Go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind: and love your neighbor as yourself. (BCW, 154)

The slides can be found in Appendix 7

Session 2

Objectives of this session:

- Continue to build community
- Explore the history of this congregation
- Learn the structure of this congregation

The Educator before this session needs to:

- Create slides specific to the Educator's congregation/setting
- Create Scavenger Hunt specific to the Educator's congregation/setting
- Mark the parts of the Book of Order the Educator will be referencing during this session
- Gather materials for the different activities
 - Blank Index Cards
 - Crayons
 - Colored Pencils
 - Yarn 4 colors
 - Painters' Tape
 - Candy
- Select poem from *Searching For Shalom*
- Select Opening sentence from BCW
- Select Closing Charge and ask one of the Learners to lead it
- Ask Learner to be prepared to read scripture
- Order lunch and ensure paper products or dinnerware are available
- Plan Room Arrangement

Opening Activity (Meal 30 minutes)

Share *Prayer of Thanksgiving* ³

Blessing

³ Weems, 63.

Encourage conversations at the tables

Say: *As we begin our active learning time, I'm going to share an opening sentence from the BCW, our words are on the screen.*

Before we start with our activities, let's take a couple of minutes and go around the tables and reintroduce ourselves...

Activity 2 (Avatar/Logo 10 minutes)

On the tables we have index cards along with markers, crayons and colored pencils...what we are going to do is create avatar/logo type image that reflects you...for example mine is a "turtle" with 6 paws prints...turtles are something that I collect, and as someone pointed out to me quite recently that theologically I carry community with me wherever I go thus the turtles...and the 6 paws reflect my 6 grandpups...10 minutes is the time I have allotted for this activity...we don't need masterpieces.

Activity 3 (Scripture and Active Scavenger Hunt 25 minutes)

Say:

Today our goal is to learn some history of this faith community. A community founded in XXXX. The first way we are going to learn some history is we are going to have a scavenger hunt...but first let's listen to Deuteronomy 6:1-9, I have asked "name" to read it for us today. (Words on screen encourage them to listen, not read along)...

The Gospel reading which is paired with this Hebrew scripture in the lectionary is Mark 12:28-34, candy for whoever can tell us what that scripture is about???? It is where one of the teachers/legal experts tries to trick Jesus, and asks him "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus answers with the Shema which is verses 4 and 5 of Deuteronomy...using the NRSV because I like the way it sounds better for the Shema "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Shema in Hebrew means "hear" for a Jewish person, the Shema is equal to the Lord's Prayer

for a Christian person...everybody knows it...an observant Jew recites it twice a day in morning prayers...

Now in verses 8-9 “bind them on your hand as a sign...put them on your forehead...write them on your doorposts” ok that was a “this Educator’s name” translation...a Jewish home has mezuzah (small boxes on the doorposts) and the tefillin (small boxes wore on the forehead and arm during the morning prayers services)...

Moses is saying, hey these are important words, they need to be said often, you need to say them to their children, at home all the time...now how does a scavenger hunt about the history of this faith community relate to the Shema...our faith community is built on history...the history that goes all the way back to men like John Calvin and Martin Luther...to know this particular faith community you need to know some history and as adults in this community we should be telling the history of this community...we all need to know where we came from, where we have been, where we are and where we are going...so let see how we can divide the tables up...there is no need to go to the basement....if a door is locked there is nothing for you in that room...you will have 10 minutes when you hear the air horn come back to this space! If you think of questions while you are moving around the building, write them down!

Welcome back...I’m going to put the answers up on the screen...was it easy or hard to find the answers?

Activity 4...Discussion of the Educator’s congregation (25 minutes with a build in break of 5 minutes)

History of Congregation (10 minutes)

Wiggle Break (5 Minutes)

Changes to Congregation (5ish minutes)

Current Story (5ish minutes)

Say: As we move into a time of discussion about our congregation, let me remind you of our covenant agreement (slide)

What things did you notice while you moved around the church building?

Since this activity is based on the Educator's congregation, there are limited scripts so as not to include information about the authoring Educator and their congregation.

Share from the Book of Order, G-3.02 regarding the Session. Also share G-2.02 regarding the Deacons.

Closing Activity: Connecting our Avatars/Logos (10 minutes)

Say: *To close our time today we are going to use yarn to show our connections to each other via our logos/avatars.*

Red yarn is for family connection...Blue yarn I know your name and we chat...Green we are more than name and chatting...purple I have never talked to you before but I want to...Adults please help the children with this, also this is a SILENT closing activity, I'm going to play some hymns that may or may not be familiar

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

Galatians 6:1-5(on slide)

Say: *Next week we are looking at what being a connectional church means...as well as spending time in the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order...*

Our scriptures will be Romans 12:3-7, Matthew 18:19-20, John 15:1-5 and James 1:27, 2:17, and 3:17

Say: *"Name" will give us our charge* (BCW 155)

Love one another; serve the Lord; live peaceably with all

Amen

Suggested Scavenger Hunt template is Appendix 8

Slides for this lesson can be found in Appendix 9

Session 3

Objectives of this session:

- Continue to Build Community
- Explore Scripture
- Explore the Connectional Relationship of the PC(USA)
- Explore the Book of Confessions and Book of Order

The Educator before the session begins needs to:

- Create slides
- Gather materials for coloring
- Print handouts
 - PC(USA) Structure and Governing Bodies
https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/howitworks.pdf

PC (USA) Seal found in the Faith Question Resources & Coffeehouse

https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/Basics/10622670504FQre_00000127129.pdf

- Order meal
- Ensure paper products or dinnerware is available

Opening Activity (Meal 30 minutes)

Share blessing...

We praise God, who is known to us in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We pray for God to bless us so that we may be a blessing to others. We pray for Jesus to be with us, as he promised to be, whenever we gather in his name. We pray for the Spirit to make our worship holy, joyful, and true.

Now bless this food so that it might nourish our bodies so we can live into our call to serve you.

https://www.pcusa.org/resource/worshipping-god-together-a-guide-for-children-21605/?fbclid=IwAR0CY7rfewqXPIv-1EfEhm2x7T2DBWAbt8RvLm_wj9UiV2lRDztvM-oPQYo

Encourage conversations around the tables

Activity 2 (Exploration of Scriptures 20 minutes)

Prayer of Illumination

Say: *“Name” is going to pray for us*

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread.

Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit

so that we may grow in faith and love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (BCW 69)

Romans 12:3-7...Say: *“Name” is going to read the scripture for us...*

After the reading say: *Here are some thoughts that professionals have about this scripture...so what are your thoughts? Where do you see or hear community? How community is to function?*

Matthew 18: 19-20...Say: *“Name” has agreed to read for us*

After the reading say: *Again, we have some thoughts from professionals...same questions, what are your thoughts, where is community in this scripture?*

John 15: 1-5... Say: *“Name” is our reader for this familiar passage...*

Say after the reader is finished: *Here are the thoughts from some experts...what are your thoughts?*

James 1: 27... Say: *“Child” has agreed to read this verse for us...*

After the child has finished say: *Here are some thoughts from the experts, one of them we have been blessed to sit at their feet to learn from them. It is hard to glean everything from one verse...what are your thoughts?*

Community is what we are called to be... “a Christian can’t be a Christian alone” according to John Westerhoff. Westerhoff wrote one of the books we have been reading for our work, called “Will Our Children Have Faith?” He was one of the first authors we read as we began our work in the church. Do we need to stand up and wiggle before we move into the next activity?

Activity 3 Web of PC (USA) Connection 20 minutes

Say: *This is a resource produced by the PC (USA) that helps explain the web of connection between local congregations to the national level.*

Now we are going to do some coloring as we talk about the Presbyterian seal, you all get to color it...everything has a purpose in the design...in sharing about the seal use the information that comes in the “Family Connection” packet.

Activity 4 The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (20 minutes)

Book of Confessions, Part 1(words on the slides)

Book of Order, Part 2 (words on the slides)

Closing Activity (10 minutes or so)

Ask, are there any unanswered questions?

Explain what the evaluation will look like. Why it matters?

Charge

One Voice: *Proclaim the good news,*

Be persistent in prayer,

Do the work of the gospel,

And carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All Voices: Amen

Evaluation Questions can be found in Appendix 10, as well on the slides.

Slides for this lesson plan can be found in Appendix 11

Bibliography for the Lesson Plans can be found in Appendix 12

Slides for Session 1 Lesson Plan

Welcome to the Community

An Intergenerational Experience
Session 1

LEGO FUN

Create something out of the Legos...Plus share the following...

Name

Where you lived before here

Favorite Candy

Now combine the individual creations into a Group creation

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain!

Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is near - a day of darkness and no light,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread out upon the mountains,

a great and powerful army comes, unlike any that has ever come before them,
or will come after them in centuries ahead.

Change your hearts

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love and ready to forgive.

Who knows whether he will have a change of heart and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

Blow the horn in Zion; demand a fast; request a special assembly.

Gather the people;

Prepare a holy meeting; assemble the elders;
gather the children, even nursing infants.
Let the groom leave his room and the bride her chamber.
Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the Lord's ministers, weep.
Let them say, "Have mercy, Lord, on your people, and don't make your inheritance
a disgrace, an example of failure among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Common English Bible

Community Covenant

Why Intergenerational Christian Formation aka IGCF

SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF IGCF PRACTICES (Referenced from outside above source)

Teaching intergenerationally means five key markers are present at each formational activity or practice: mutuality, accommodation, reciprocity, inclusivity, and equity. These can be benchmarks to tell if your CE, worship, or fellowship activity (or all three) is (are) having an intergenerational impact.

1. Mutuality: Mutuality means there is no hierarchy of power, instead there is mutual exchange. Mutuality is being transformed by one another across generations.

2. Accommodation is giving up something of one's place in order to enter into and learn from another's. In order to allow openness to spiritual transformation, spiritual growth, and discipleship, one has to be able to step outside of oneself and participate in and with others at differing points along the journey of faith and life.

3. Reciprocity is the actual give-and-take marking the process of mutuality and accommodation. It means all parties present are willing to give up personal journey space for another's to walk along in community together. It means all parties bring something to the table that others can learn from and appropriate for their own journeys.

4. Inclusive: To engage in authentic intergenerational experiences, the first three markers have to be in evidence. The next step is to be intentionally inclusive. This has various levels of meaning; for an authentic experience of congregational intergenerationality, representatives of the whole spiritual community must be present, regardless of age or stage of faith development. Further shades include gender orientation, ethnic and racial diversity.

5. Equity: Like it sounds, each age and stage represented by members of the spiritual community must have an equal place. One example using Vygotsky's "environment as the third teacher" is: contrary to a traditional rectangular table for fellowship activity after worship, round tables bring an equality to everyone gathered around it, with no implicit hierarchy or pecking order.

Lifelong Faith: Journal Collection: Intergenerational Faith Formation

Who Are You?

Create a collage which reflects
who you are...where you have been...what are you
passionate about or aren't...what drives you crazy

Conversation Time

Remember 3 Before Me Rule

- Why this community?
- What gifts do you bring to this community?
- Or are you still working on knowing your gifts?
- What are your expectations of this community?

Hebrews 10: 19-25

Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by the means of Jesus' blood, through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, and we have a great high priest of God's house.

Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from any evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Common English Bible

Next Week

This Community...

Beginnings

History

Changes

Current Status

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

Galatians 6:1-5

Charge

One

Go out into the world in peace

Love the Lord your God

With all your heart

With all your soul

With all your mind;

And love your neighbor as yourself.

Response

Thanks be to God

Book of Common Worship

Slides for Session 2

Welcome to the Community Session 2

An Intergenerational Learning Experience

Opening Sentence from the Common Book of Worship

One Voice: What does the Holy One require of us?

**Many Voices: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly
with our God.**

Micah 6:8

Common Book of Worship

Avatar/Logo

Create an avatar/logo
that reflects
You!

10 minutes... we aren't looking for an masterpiece

History of XXXX Presbyterian Church

Scavenger Hunt...

First things first...

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

6 Now these are the commandments, the regulations, and the case laws that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you to follow in the land you are entering to possess, **2** so that you will fear the Lord your God by keeping all his regulations and his commandments that I am commanding you—both you and your sons and daughters—all the days of your life and so that you will lengthen your life. **3** Listen to them, Israel! Follow them carefully so that things will go well for you and so that you will continue to multiply exactly as the Lord, your ancestors' God, promised you, in a land full of milk and honey.

4 Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord!

5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. **6** These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. **7** Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. **8** Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. **9** Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

Gospel lesson that pairs with Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Mark 12:28-34

Lesson in Hebrew

Mezuzot...small boxes on the doorposts

Tefillin...small boxes wore on the forehead and arm during the morning prayers services

Scavenger Hunt

- Who were the architects for the XXXXXX?
- How many service members are on the Scroll of Honor?
- List the ones who died in service from the Scroll of Honor.
- What years are covered on the Service Roll of Honor?
- Oddest location of a stained glass window?
- Location of the Presbyterian symbol?
- First Pastor to serve more than 20 years?
- Two Pastors who each served 20 years?
- What classroom has a fire exit window?
- What are the names of the 3 rooms on the 3rd floor?
- Where is the XXXX office located?
- Whose office is located in the back of the Prayer Room?

XXXX PC History in a nutshell

Founded in 1XXX

Founding Pastor was Rev. XXXX, a XXXX...no documentation that he was a Presbyterian minister. Despite eventually establish over XX churches, XX Presbyteries and XX Synods traveling almost one million miles.

When XXX was formed it aligned with the northern branch of the Presbyterian Church, what was called the United Presbyterian Church of the USA

First building on this site was built XXXX

Additions/Remodel of the building have occurred several times...

The list of Pastors are only part of our history...we have had Associate Pastors as well as Interim Pastors

Changes in XXX

Over 1000 members in the 1960s/1970s

500 children in the Sunday school programs....explains all the doors into XXX...the Library...the XXX Room and the XXX room

Today XXX members as of XXXX

Active membership of 200-250(show up for worship at least once a month to every 6 weeks)

More information

Member of XXXXXXXXXXXX Presbytery...largest congregation of XX congregations

We send 7 Ruling Elder Commissioners to Presbytery

- XXXXXXXX (active)
- XXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXX (active)
- XXXXXXXX (active)
- XXXXXXXX
- Me

MWS, CP, and HR

Pastor XXXX, MWS member of XXXXXXXX, Presbytery

Pastor XXXX, MWS member of XXXXXXXX, Presbytery

Pastor XXXXXXXX(RE) Commissioned Pastor has voice & vote as long as XXXX is serving in XXXX commissioned role

Other Commissioned Pastors in XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXX, XXXXXX, Executive Director of XXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXX, XXXXXX, assigned as Stated Supply to XXXXX, PC here in XXXXXXXXXX

Other MWS members who worship and volunteer at XXXXXX

Rev XXXX XXXXXXXX,, HR Rev XXXXXXXXX, XXXX, HR, Parish Associate of XXXX

Pastor XXXX, XXXX, HR

FPC Session

Has 14 members elected by active members of XXXX

XXXXXX, XXXXXXX, Clerk of Session... elected by the Session

Corporate officers are President... XXXXX, XXXXXX

Vice President... XXXXX, XXXXX

Treasurer... XXXXXXX, XXXXXXX

Session Ministry Teams

9 Ministry Teams aka Committees

Finance & Stewardship

Worship & Arts

Congregational Life

Mission

Personnel

Christian Education

Welcome Team

Facilities Management(Property) Nominating

Board of Deacons...sends report to Session

Staff sends reports to Session... Pastor XXXXXXXXX, Pastor XXXX, XXX report to the Session

Business Manager, Admin Assistant and Custodian report to Pastor XXXXX as Head of Staff

Closing Activity: Connecting our Avatars/Logos

Red Yarn is for family connection

Blue yarn is I know your name and we chat

Green we are more than name and chatting

Purple I have never talked with you and I want to!

THIS IS A SILENT ACTIVITY

Closing Scripture

Galatians 6:1-5

Caring and sharing

6 Brothers and sisters, if a person is caught doing something wrong, you who are spiritual should restore someone like this with a spirit of gentleness. Watch out for yourselves so you won't be tempted too. **2** Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. **3** If anyone thinks they are important when they aren't, they're fooling themselves. **4** Each person should test their own work and be happy with doing a good job and not compare themselves with others. **5** Each person will have to carry their own load.

Common English Bible

Next Week

Connectional Church

Book of Confessions

Romans 12:3-7

Matthew 18:19-20

James 1:27, 2:17, 3:17

Book of Order

John 15:1-5

Charge

One voice: Love one another; serve the Lord;

Live peaceably with all.

All: Thanks be to God

Slides for Session 3

Welcome to the Community

Session 3
An Intergenerational Learning Experience

Opening Prayer and Blessing of our meal

We praise God, who is known to us in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We pray for God to bless us so that we may be a blessing to others. We pray for Jesus to be with us, as he promised to be, whenever we gather in his name. We pray for the Spirit to make our worship holy, joyful, and true.

Worshipping God Together: A Guide for Children and Their Parents:
https://www.pcusa.org/resources/worship-together-a-guide-for-children-215057.html#sthash=AB04Y7d6.wnVPh.1E8hmA277PQWAb8RvLm_w8LV2B0x3MeEPYg

Exploration of Scriptures

Prayer of Illumination

God of abundant life
your grace is our daily bread.
Nourish us by your Word
and fill us with your Spirit
so that we may grow in faith and love;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Book of Common Worship, 69

Romans 12: 3-7

Transformed relationships

3 Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. 4 We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. 5 In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. 6 We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching.

Thoughts on Romans 12:3-7

Looking back and forward at the same time....

Another way of recalling the center of the Law, the prophet, the writing, and the gospel...we are called to live by an essential truth...

Frank L. Crouch, workingpreacher.org August 27, 2017

Another thought...

Paul's letter to the Romans is both a countercultural and counter-political document...

Paul's appeal and persuasion points Christians to what can be called testimonial living...when we live out a life of testimony, they become instruments of evangelism, missionary work, and discipleship...transformation and renewal are not one-time events, but an intentional process endeavored through humility, prayer, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and our total surrendering to the Trinity...

Israel Kamudzandu, workingpreacher.org August 23, 2020

What are your thoughts?

Matthew 18:19-20

19 Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

Thoughts?

Wherever two or more are gathered...it can be really hard to get along...

Conflicts fester(or explode) thanks to fear or misplaced loyalty... stir into the congregational mix divided loyalties and power dynamics...

Jesus encourages the church to be a community that nurtures honest dialogue and refuses to keep silent in the face of behaviors that harms others...

Listening is hard...

Audrey West, workingpreacher.org September 6, 2020

Your thoughts on Matthew 5:19-20?

John 15: 1-5

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. 2 He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. 3 You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything.

Thoughts about John 15:1-5

Another extended metaphor...borrows from and adapts Old Testament imagery for Israel...this image of the vine of fruitfulness, intimacy and love...

The Father himself tends the Son-vine, pruning the branches for abundant fruitfulness...

Overwhelming thrust of the passage is fruitfulness.

Meda Stamper, workingpreacher.org May 3, 2015

More thoughts...

The imagery of the vine and the relationship of the branches, appendages to the main source of nourishment has long been used to describe the church...

The image of the sturdy vine that continues to thrive beyond all challenges that come against it can be a helpful one for the church.

The branches the people individually, congregations, or even denominations, cannot continue to grow and to thrive within the Body of Christ unless they hold closely to the teachings of Christ.

Gennifer Benjamin Brooks, workingpreacher.org May 2, 2021

James 1:27

True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

Thoughts on James 1:27

Scholars consider the letter of James to be in the genre and lineage wisdom literature, not epistle...this wisdom literature from James is prophetic and provocative.

We don't know who he is other than James-Audience is followers of Jesus dispersed around the Mediterranean basin

It is full of quick proverbial lessons

...world lust for money, wealth, and status...behaviors lead to actions that destroy the fabric of Christian community. In contrast true religion hurries to help the poor, widowed, orphaned, the ones on whose backs the rich grow wealth...

Casey Thornburgh Sigmon

workingpreacher.org

August 29, 2021

Some of Margaret Aymer Oget's thoughts

...the importance of faith-informed action...faithful action...specific attention to the "the law of liberty," possibly a shorthand for Torah, the Ten Commandments and Leviticus 19:18, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord."

...encapsulates the spirit of the entire chapter, by pointing out the primary characteristics of "true religion."

James ask "What does it mean to live as a Christian?"

Workingpreacher.org

September 2, 2018

What say you about James?

Web of Connection

local = Congregation
district = Presbytery
regional = Synod
national = General Assembly

Congregation

Congregation is led by Ruling Elders elected from the active roll of the congregation by active members of the congregation. They make up the Session which is moderated by the called and installed MWS or by a Commissioned Pastor or by a MWS appointed by COM on behalf of the Presbytery.

Three types of membership in the PCUSA

Active = All rights explained in the Constitution part 2 aka Book of Order (BoO) which includes being elected to ordered ministry and voting on matters that the Congregation votes on.

Affiliate = members in good standing of another PC(USA) church but are away from their permanent home...ie college students/military members and snowbirds. They may volunteer with the congregation but they may not vote nor be elected to ordered ministry

Baptized = anyone who is baptized but has not been received as members...infants/children/youth... our tradition is that in the teen years a youth goes through Confirmation and then they are received as Active members.

Ordered Ministries

Minister of Word and Sacrament (MWS)

Ruling Elders (RE)

Deacons

Presbytery

Ruling Elders then represent the congregation at Presbytery as well as all MWS within the bounds of that Presbytery.

Ruling Elders are elected by Session...don't have to be active Elders

Equal number of Ruling Elders to MWS

Who else have voice and vote at Presbytery?

XXX Presbytery has an Executive Presbyter...
Stated Clerk...

Presbytery meetings are made up of equal numbers of MWS and Ruling Elders...

Presbyteries send Commissioners to
Synod(regional) and to General
Assembly(national)

Synod = Synod of the XXXXXXXX

Presbytery meetings are made up of equal numbers of MWS and Ruling Elders...Presbyteries send Commissioners to Synod(regional) and to General Assembly(national)

congregations

Presbyteries

states or parts of states make up the Synod

More about Synod

The # states are Xxxx, Xxxx and Xxxx, XXXXX and Xxxx

Stated Clerk...XXXXXX

Office Support and a Treasurer

General Assembly

Is made up of equal MWS and RE with voice and vote...elected by Presbyteries

Does have Young Adult delegates, Theological Student delegates, Missionary Advisory Delegates and Eccumenical Delegates...advise the GA but their advice is not binding

Corresponding Members elected by standing committees, staff of agencies and entities of the national church, Presidents of our seminaries, and Synod and Presbyteries EP and Stated Clerk; as well as all Past Moderators of General Assemblies.

Six Agencies and Two Entities

Office of General Assembly(OGA)...Stated Clerk(6 year term) and Co-Moderators

Presbyterian Mission Agency(PMA)...

Board of Pension(BoP)...

Presbyterian Foundation(Foundation)...

Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program(PLIP)...

Presbyterian Publishing Company(PPC)

Presbyterian Church(USA), A Corporation(entity) A Corp ...ASG

Presbyterian Women (entity) (PW)

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church(USA)

Book of Confessions, Part 1

Creeds that say who we are...from the 3rd century to the 1980s

Historical living documents...language is hard at time...reflects where the church and world was

Taskforce formed by the 225th GA to begin the work of writing a new confession.

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Book of Order, Part II

Not a manual of operations.

Living document.

How we as Presbyterians relate to each other.

What questions have I left unanswered?

It's A Wrap

Coming in the mail...evaluation

Was the instructor show familiarity with the Scriptures used?

Did the instructor use different teaching methods?

Did the instructor introduce new materials to you?

Strengths of the instructor?

Weakness of the instructor?

Were the materials covered informative?

Other comments?

Suggested Scavenger Hunt Questions (session 2)

- Who were the architects for the XXXXXXXX? (this only works if you have architectural drawings on display)
- How many service members are on the Scroll of Honor?
- List the ones who died in service from the Scroll of Honor.
- What years are covered on the Service Roll of Honor?
- Oddest location of a stained glass window?(remodeling put one in a restroom)
- Location of the Presbyterian Seal?
- First Pastor to serve more than 2 years?
- Two Pastors who each served 20 years?
- What classroom has a fire exit window?
- What are the names of the 3 rooms on the 3rd floor?

The scavenger should take about 10 minutes, with learners working in pairs of older and younger.

