

Piloting a Prayground



Creatively Bridging the Worship Gap for Children

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Intentional shifts from “multi-gen” to “inter-gen”

What's the difference?

- The church has embraced and practiced *multi-generational worship*. This means the worship space is open to people of all generations.

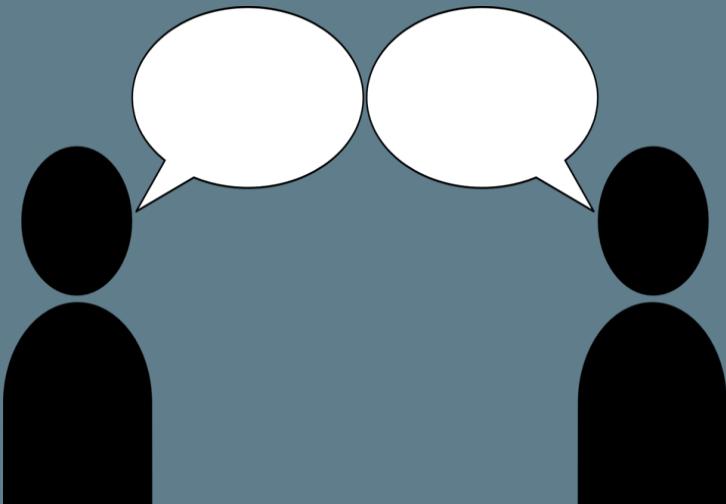
Open



Accommodated

- Only more recently have churches acknowledged the reality that welcoming children means we are unable to plan worship without considering the ways children can/should be uniquely engaged.

How does this make you
feel? How do you respond?



*“Back in my day,
children just knew
how to be quiet in
church.”*

Moving On...

Two ideas to pilot as you make moves from a multi-gen to an inter-gen space

Worship Bags



Lego Creation Cart

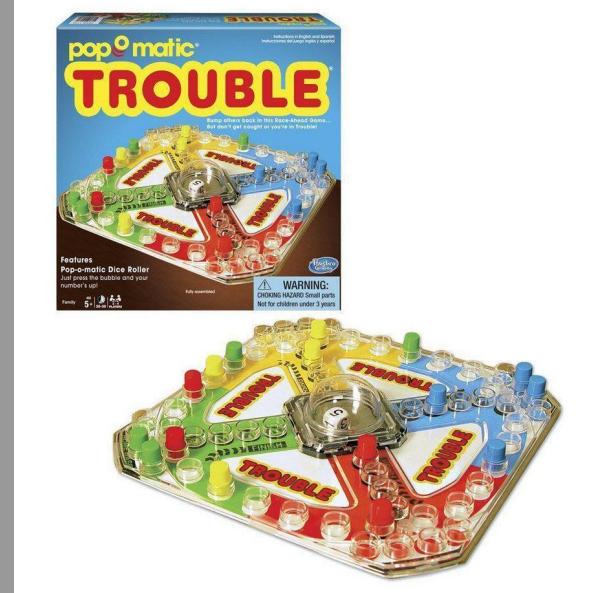
Children's Church



Prayground

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How do I do
something
new/radical
without stirring
up controversy?



1. Set a term limit (scope of your pilot program)
2. Collect feedback and advertise your adjustments

Lego Creation Table: Let us “Play Well”

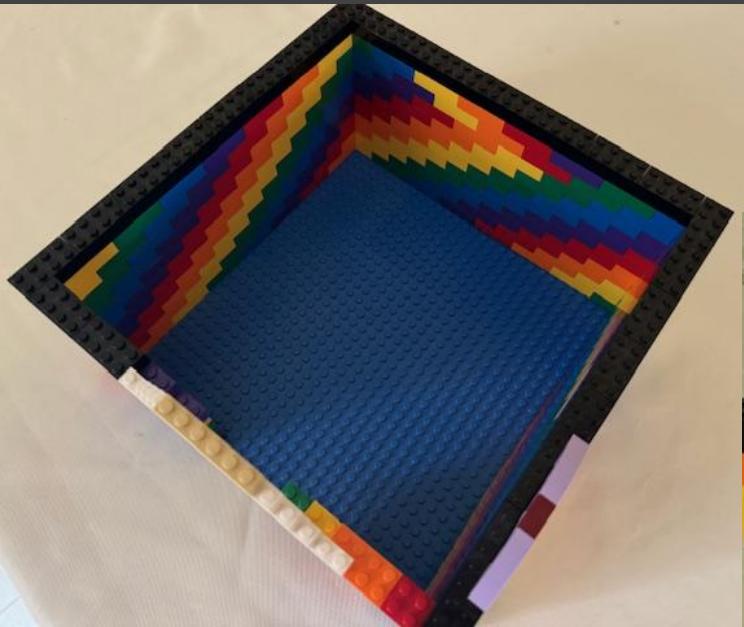


LEGO comes from two Danish words that combine to mean “play well.” God invites us to play, create, and worship together in ways that bring joy and connect us to one another. Help us build a mini-sanctuary and worship symbols that spark creativity. Let’s fill this sanctuary with fun and unique expressions of God’s children.

Instructions

1. Take a plastic tray.
2. Place 2-3 small handfuls of LEGO pieces on the tray.
3. Build something to add to our mini-sanctuary, or a symbol of something you heard in worship today.
4. Leave your creation in or around the LEGO mini-sanctuary
5. Place your unused pieces back in the bins







Prayer Garden Space



9 Year Old
Sanctuary
Build

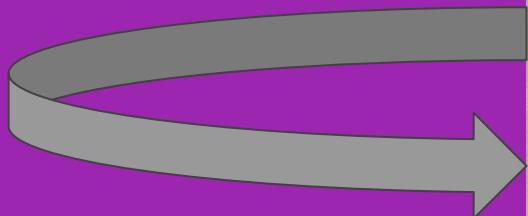


Pilot Time: Summer
6 Weeks

Then, the Lego cart went away for refreshing and upgrades that addressed a concern.

Feedback: “*Those Legos rain on the brick floor and make a lot of noise.*”

Lego Lap Trays



Prayground



Tipping the Sacred Cow of Sanctuary Pews

Scope and Sequence: 4 Weeks of Reflective Activities Paired with the Lectionary Texts

2

Psalm 23: Lord is my Shepherd

1

Ephesian 1: 3-14: chosen and marked with a seal of the promise of the Holy Spirit

- Parament cloths and pendant painting with symbols of Holy Spirit

4

Ephesians 4: 1-16: unity in the body of Christ built up in love

3

John 6: 1-21: A boy and his lunch (feeding of the five thousand)

- 5 loaves and 2 fish keychains

- Lego Heart ornaments





Week 1: Making our mark on the parament cloth





Week 2- Moravian Seal
Stained Glass Hangings





Week 3: Five Loaves and 2 Fish
Keychains



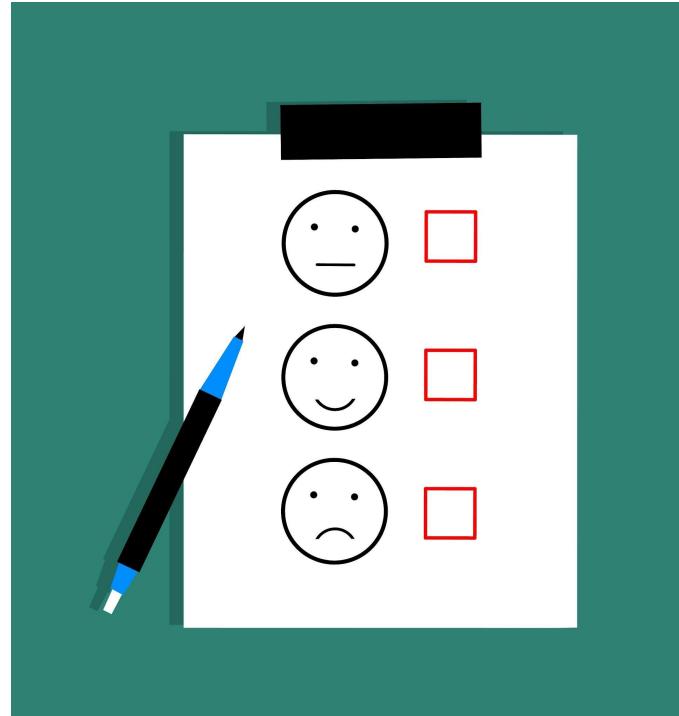


Week 4: Building Lego Heart Wreaths

Prayground Pilot Study Survey

<https://forms.gle/XcFCbp8MxJ3Nri4m6>

1. Ask everyone to provide feedback, not just parents
2. Offer the option for anonymity and follow-up
3. If streaming, be sure to see how it translates online





Share any thoughts you had about the prayground during its' 4 week pilot. These could be likes, dislikes, praises, or concerns.

- *It was exciting to see the children so engaged in the activities.*
- *I just hate that Jami never gets to hear the sermon*
- *It was a great way for children to remain in the sanctuary during the service and engage with the sermon content in a meaningful way. I wonder if we might outgrow the space. It's kind of nice to have it as a novelty. Would having it every week make it less engaging/meaningful/manageable? It's hard to know without doing it longer.*
- *Loved that the results of the Prayground time became offerings of love.*
- *I loved it. And I sit on that side of the sanctuary. I have to admit that when the paraments were being made, I kinda wanted to go and see what y'all were doing. I think that the adults did a good job of keeping the children mostly quiet. For me what was distracting in a positive way was wondering what was going on up there! I think this program needs to continue from time to time.*

- *I liked that it gave them children something to do with their hands related to what we were talking about during worships. Also enjoyed that the children got to share with the congregation on what they made.*
- *Love it so much! The kids anticipated the activities throughout the beginning of the service and enjoyed the crafts.*
- *I liked the way it engaged the kids during worship and connected them to the theme of the service. It took a number of volunteers and Jami to make it happen, which is good but will we have a time to prototype the pray ground as a space where children engage during worship without a directed project?*
- *I really like how members and visitors both online and in-person get the opportunity to see in action the love of God being invested into the children. As well as also having the opportunity to display their creativity with the church.*

Brainstorm Ideas

Work at tables to create a 4 week pilot to connect scripture with art reflection

Helpful Tip: consider art in a variety of mediums and try to frame it as both a response and an offering

1. Select 4 consecutive weeks this summer and review the lectionary texts (or choose a theme)
2. Once a scripture is selected for each week, identify a focus: word, phrase, or concept
3. Use pinterest to help find art ideas that connect to each focus

What might you like to pilot?

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