

CREATIVE INTERGENERATIONAL *worship ideas*



Many people find working with their hands and exploring a theme or idea in conversation or creativity helps them integrate learning and meet more richly with Jesus.

The following resources are available either for free or at a small cost to help congregational worship meet these kinaesthetic worshippers in their natural learning mode. While children and families often find this way of worshipping helpful, these ideas are relevant and appropriate for all ages.

From the Grow Ministries suite of resources

GIFT – Serving Together

GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) Serving Together has been designed to help you to celebrate opportunities to be Jesus' hands and feet by serving as a family and as part of your congregation. It brings all generations together and provides a wonderful gift of learning, sharing faith and relationship-building.

GIFT provides an opportunity for people of all ages to explore God's love. Each GIFT resource includes many activities and templates, including worship and event ideas, intergenerational activities and take-home sheets for families.

You can purchase the [GIFT Serving Together](#) kit from Grow Ministries for \$35.

Faith Trail Marker 11

Faith Trail Markers are celebrated with an event for children and parents to attend together and are recognised in worship through prayer, blessing and gifting. Faith Trail sessions are designed to run for 90 to 120 minutes depending on how much of the resource you choose to use and how many people are involved. One of the Faith Trail sessions is specifically designed to mark serving together as a family. This session will engage families to think about their own acts of Christian care, and how they would like to do this together into the future.

Faith Trail has previously been available on DVD as a resource – your pastor, lay worker or church office might own a copy. Alternately, you can purchase and download a copy of **Faith Trail – Serving as a Family** from the Grow Ministries website.

Pinterest boards for inspiration

Grow Ministries maintains a Pinterest presence with several very helpful boards with ideas from all over the web. You could choose any idea from these boards to integrate with your Christian Care Sunday celebrations.

- [Serving Together](#)
- [GP #7 Personal Crisis](#)
- [GP #9 Serving Together](#)

Free resources from the website

Grow Ministries also has information sheets to guide congregations in learning about serving together in Christian love and also how to care for each other in crisis. These information sheets are free to download.

[Guiding Principles](#) that link to Christian Care Sunday:

- [GP #7 Personal Crisis](#)
- [GP #9 Acts of Service](#)

Equipping sheets:

- [Encouraging acts of service](#)
- [Helping in times of personal crisis](#)

Messy Church planners

Messy Church is a way of being a church that is Christ-centred for all ages, creative and focused on celebration and hospitality. A typical Messy Church gathering involves a welcome, 45 minutes to an hour of all-age activities, a short celebration time (songs, story and prayers) and a simple shared meal. You can use these planners to set up activity stations as part of your church worship experience or integrate the ideas in children's ministries or youth ministries and in aged-care facilities. If you are inspired, you could host a brand-new Messy Church gathering!

Several Lutheran churches in Australia gather as a Messy Church once a month or once a term, and there are state Messy Church representatives (a non-denominational role) who can help you if you want to start a Messy Church. You can find your local Messy Church representative [here](#).

[Session planners for free download](#)

[Micah](#) – justice, mercy and humility

From 'Authorised Mess', the session focus is, 'How can we demonstrate God's justice to the world? What is mercy? What does it mean to walk humbly with God?' Activities include a focus on fair trade and sharing love.

[1 Corinthians](#) – growing in faith, hope and love

From 'Authorised Mess', the session focus is love. Love begins with God. God sent Jesus to show his love for us. We can have a new beginning by turning and following Jesus. Then we need to grow – in faith and hope and love. Love is not just a feeling but is very practical and can be hard work. But, in the end, love is the most important thing. Activities focus on ways we grow in love and how we show love.

[Toilet Twinning](#)

This session looks at how something as earthy and humble as a toilet can be the basis for thinking about God's limitless love for his people! God's love longs for the best life possible for every human being. The session focuses on living well in everyday tasks and loving our neighbours. You could use this session in connection to [ALWS toilet sponsorship](#), using the [ALWS toilet session planner](#) or referencing the toilet paper company [Who Gives A Crap](#).

[Session planners available for PDF download in the *Get Messy!* magazine](#)

The *Get Messy!* magazine costs around £4.50 from the BRFOonline store. It is delivered to you as an emailed PDF. Make sure to click 'Buy PDF Download', or you will be waiting a long time for a physical magazine from the UK! Each magazine has four Messy Church session plans and other great news, stories and inspiration for Messy Church communities.

- January 2021 [the Good Samaritan](#) based on Luke 10:30–37

The classic and possibly best-known story in the Bible – the Good Samaritan. There will be plenty of insights and examples from recent months in your own neighbourhood of 'good neighbours'. Globally, people may have become aware of the GoodSAM app ([goodsamapp.org](#)), which is based on the principle of disinterested goodness as shown by the stranger in Jesus' story.

Pages 2 and 3 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

- January 2020 [faithful sheep](#) based on Matthew 25:31–40

This session uses the parable of the sheep and the goats to help us explore what it might mean to share resources. It will be fascinating to see how this goes down: will people think Jesus is being ridiculous or radical?

Pages 2 and 3 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

- February 2020 [loving and serving](#) based on Matthew 7:24–29

This session has fun with another parable, the house on the rock. We're looking in particular at the sometimes-forgotten three words Jesus uses 'and obeys them' – hearing good teaching is only the start; we need to act on it too and follow Jesus's example. After all, his whole life was given over to serving others.

Pages 4–7 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

- September 2019 [God loves a cheerful giver](#) based on Malachi 3:1–10

Page 2 and 3 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

- March 2019 [friends/kindness](#) based on the story of Jesus and the woman caught in sin from John 8:1–11

Pages 9–11 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

- April 2016 [two tiny coins](#) based on the story of the Widows Mite in Luke 21:1–4. This session is an opportunity to explore the themes of justice and kingdom values as well as see Jesus at his most compassionate and respectful towards the most vulnerable in society.

Pages 16–19 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

- August 2015 ['I'm not doing that!'](#) based on the idea of foot washing, John 13:1–17 and Mark 9:33–37.

Page 9 of the FREE [extra resources](#) for this session outlines the activities, mealtime discussion starters and take-home ideas. Check this out before buying if you are unsure!

Session planners available in books

If you own any Messy Church books or can borrow, buy or view them, the following session plans would also be appropriate for Christian Care Sunday.

- I am the Good Shepherd ([Messy Church](#))
- Love your neighbour ([Messy Church 2](#) – this session is available for just £0.99 as a PDF download)
- Love rules – Love your neighbour ([Messy Church 3](#))
- Blessing our communities ([Messy Church 3](#))

Illustrated Ministry

Another intergenerational resource available for purchase is from [Illustrated Ministry](#). They are a US-based resource development organisation that creates accessible faith-based resources for the church and home. Their resource costs are tiered so that products are available for churches and groups of all sizes (including personal home use). The Christian Care Sunday theme of compassionate love and care for others is perfectly encapsulated in their '[Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You](#)' resource. In 2021, '[Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness](#)' will also be released.

Illustrated Ministry also has a wide range of resources to support faith in the home and liturgically themed worship resources, such as children's bulletins, colouring sheets and worship videos. Illustrated Ministry has a focus on celebrating the expansive image of God in everyone through open and inclusive language, diverse imagery and progressive theology. They have an intergenerational focus and aim to foster authentic faith engagement through their refreshing designs and creative activities.