

7 Ways to Grow



A Kid's Program on the 'Way of Learning and Understanding' from *7 Ways to Grow*



This talk accompanies Part 1 of Spiritual Tradition series - Evangelical tradition



'Shout it' song by Parachute Band and 'Ain't gonna let no rock' song by Ron Kenoly
Concordance/Bible website to look up verses

Paper, highlighters, textas

Jenga

The Way of Learning and Understanding (Evangelical/word-centred)

'Shout it' - Parachute Band

Lyrics:

I'm gonna shout it from the mountain high
Shout it from the valley low
Shout it cross the ocean wide
Shout it shout it everywhere I go

How good you are
How good you are
How good you are
I'm going to shout how good you are
How good you are
How good you are
Everybody shout it

You are Jesus the son of God
Prince of Peace and Saviour
Through you I give thanks and glory
To the everlasting father
Mighty God creator



Session 1

Bible reading: Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came to them and said:

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! ¹⁹Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."

Discussion:

Who do you think Jesus said this to?

Can you guess when he said this? (Have a look at where chapter 28 comes in the gospel of Matthew.)

What is a disciple?

How do you know what Jesus teaches? What would you say is the most important thing that Jesus taught?

What do you think would happen if everyone who learnt about how good Jesus is passed it on to someone else?

Relating it to the song:

Which bit in the song do you think relates to the bit about "all nations"?

How would you show that in movement?

Which bit in the song would you use to show learning about Jesus and then passing that on?

How would you show that in movement?

Kid's Program

Session 2

Bible scramble:

Using a concordance or a search in a bible website, find the bits of the Bible that say that Jesus is the:
Son of God (Matthew 16:13-17)
Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
Saviour (Matthew 1:21)
Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6)
Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)
Creator (John 1:1-3)
(Alternatively, play match up with references and phrases.)

Which of these descriptions do you like best?
Are there any words you don't understand or don't relate to?
Are there any other words you like to use to describe Jesus?
For someone who had never heard of Jesus, how would you describe him?

Relating it to the song:

Pick your favourite description of Jesus and make up an action that shows that.

Session 3

Bible reading: Psalm 145

*I will praise you, my God and King,
and always honor your name.*

*² I will praise you each day
and always honor your name.*

*³ You are wonderful, LORD,
and you deserve all praise,
because you are much greater
than anyone can understand.*

*⁴ Each generation will announce
to the next your wonderful
and powerful deeds.*

*⁵ I will keep thinking about
your marvelous glory
and your mighty miracles.*

*^[a] ⁶ Everyone will talk about
your fearsome deeds,
and I will tell all nations
how great you are.*

*⁷ They will celebrate and sing
about your matchless mercy
and your power to save.*

*⁸ You are merciful, LORD!
You are kind and patient and always loving.*

*⁹ You are good to everyone,
and you take care of all your creation.*

*¹⁰ All creation will thank you,
and your loyal people will praise you.*

*¹¹ They will tell about
your marvelous kingdom and your power.*

*¹² Then everyone will know about
the mighty things you do
and your glorious kingdom.*

*¹³ Your kingdom will never end,
and you will rule forever.
Our LORD, you keep your word
and do everything you say.*

*^[b] ¹⁴ When someone stumbles or falls,
you give a helping hand.*

*¹⁵ Everyone depends on you,
and when the time is right,
you provide them with food.*

*¹⁶ By your own hand you satisfy
the desires of all who live.*

*¹⁷ Our LORD, everything you do
is kind and thoughtful,*

*¹⁸ and you are near to everyone
whose prayers are sincere.*

*¹⁹ You satisfy the desires
of all your worshipers,
and you come to save them
when they ask for help.*

*²⁰ You take care of everyone
who loves you, but you destroy the wicked.*

*²¹ I will praise you, LORD,
and everyone will respect
your holy name forever.*

Discussion:

Give the kids highlighters and textas and have them mark out all the good things about God and then write them as a collected list on a piece of paper.



Kid's Program

Session 3 (cont.)

Ask:

Which things do you agree with?
Which things do you not connect with?
Is there anything missing?
What do you imagine happened to the writer of this psalm to make him write this song?
Can you think of a time that you were really excited about what God has done or wanted to be thankful and celebrate?

Relating it to the song:

What do you imagine made the writer of this song write it?
What is the mood of the music? Would you change it to make it faster or slower, louder or quieter?

Preparing to present the song:

Have the group write a statement for someone to read in the service:
This song is about...
In our dance we are showing...
The Bible verse that best goes with it is...

'Ain't gonna let no rock' - Ron Kenoly

Lyrics:

We gather in this dwelling place
A house of living stones
We've given praise
You've made your presence known
Now we worship and sing hallelujah
Christ has risen from the dead
But if our praises cease
If we hold our peace
The rocks will cry out instead

I ain't gonna let no rock out-praise me
I ain't gonna let no rock cry in my place
I ain't gonna let no rock out-praise me
Ain't gonna let it sing in my place

I will make a joyful noise
I will sing a joyful song
That is pleasing to the ear of the Lord

Session 1

Bible reading: Luke 19:28-40

When Jesus had finished saying all this, he went on toward Jerusalem. ²⁹As he was getting near Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples on ahead. ³⁰He told them, "Go into the next village, where you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, 'The Lord [e] needs it.' " ³²They went off and found everything just as Jesus had said. ³³While they were untying the donkey, its owners asked, "Why are you doing that?"

³⁴They answered, "The Lord [f] needs it."

³⁵Then they led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back and helped Jesus get on. ³⁶And as he rode along, the people spread clothes on the road in front of him. ³⁷When Jesus was starting down the Mount of Olives, his large crowd of disciples were happy and praised God because of all the miracles they had seen.

³⁸They shouted,

*"Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory to God."*

³⁹Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!"

⁴⁰But Jesus answered, "If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting."

Discussion:

Have you ever been to a parade? Why do people go to parades?
Why do you think people went to see Jesus ride in on a donkey?
What do you think the people expected of Jesus?
Why do you think the Pharisees would want to stop the shouting?
How do you feel when someone tells you to be quiet?

Relating it to the song:

How do you imagine rocks shouting? What do you imagine the attitude of the writer is to the rocks?
How would you show that in your dance?
What kinds of movement would you use to show being quiet and being noisy? When would you do these in the song?

Kid's Program

Session 2

Bible reading: 1 Peter 2:4-8

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For in Scripture it says:

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”*

*^[a] ⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.
But to those who do not believe,*

*“The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,^[b] ^[c] ⁸and,
“A stone that causes men to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”*

*^[d]They stumble because they disobey the
message—which is also what they were destined for.*

Discussion:

Play Jenga and make the tower crash down by removing the bottom blocks.

What happened?

How important is it to have a good foundation?

How would we know if Jesus was the foundation for our lives? What would it look like in everyday life?

Why would Jesus be someone that makes people “stumble”? Are there things that Jesus said or did that you find hard to understand?



Relating to the song:

The beginning of this song talks about being “living stones”. How are we living stones? How would you show that in movement?

Session 3

Preparing for the service

Read through the script together. Note that the Donkey will be “singing” the opening solo, and then the dancers come in.

What emotions do you imagine are already on stage when the song starts? Why are there those emotions?

What emotions do you think are right for the dancers to have?

Look at the order of service – check out where this dance comes in. What do you want people to feel at the end of the song? How are you going to communicate that?