

connect

May-July 2019

MODELLING
*spiritual
disciplines*

WHAT IS IN
YOUR HAND

THE POWER OF
A SHARED STORY

HOW IMPORTANT IS
THEOLOGY ANYWAY?

baptist
children &
family 
ministries

manatū iriiri whānau tamariki



**baptist
children &
family
ministries**

manatū iriiri whānau tamariki

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Once upon a time there was a 'not-as-young-as-she-used-to-be' girl who was given a magical opportunity. Her fairy godmother offered her the chance to put aside her mops and brooms and fly to a far-away land. A land of queens, royal palaces and enormous ferris wheels! What was the girl to do? Would her whānau survive without her? More to the point, would anyone notice she was gone? The girl pondered and stewed. She dreamed about spreading her wings, and fleeing the pots and pans. "Yes!" she exclaimed. "I will go. I will broaden my horizons. I will learn new things and bring them home to my friends. I will be brave and strong and face the challenge!" And just like that the decision was made. So she tidied her desk, put the 'out of office' on her email, packed her bags and called an Uber. The adventure had begun!

All joking aside, my amazing opportunity has finally arrived. As you read this I will be winging my way to London to meet with a group from around the world to talk about intergenerational faith formation. It will be a time of networking, sharing, learning, and hopefully, growing. The rest of my sabbatical will be filled with holiday and reading—that stack of books that has been growing in my office will finally get their day in the sun! I will be away from May 1 - July 31, but the office will still be open. Marelize will be available to answer your resourcing questions and Raewyn Moodie will be available for ministry advice as needed. Raewyn is the Regional Coach for the Northern Association and I am grateful that she is able to give some time to the national work while I am away.

I trust that you enjoy this issue. Annette Osborne shares great ideas for helping children engage in prayer and Bible reading, and Gareth Davies has some pertinent thoughts for parents. Make sure you check out the resources and training dates in the back. SUNZ Way2Go Conferences should be a must for those who are close enough to travel, and Carey Baptist College has two great courses on offer in the second semester.

I look forward to sharing my new insights and refreshed perspectives!

Ngā mihi nui,

Karen

Faith @HOME

HOW IT impacts PARENTS

RAEWYN MOODIE
NORTHERN BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION REGIONAL COACH

For 12 years I was a children's and then family pastor at Westgate Baptist Church. Early on in that journey I realised the importance of partnering with parents to help them become the primary means for passing on faith to their children. I was lucky to have an hour a week with their children but they had many hours of unstructured time which could be leveraged to pass on faith.

I began by running a series of afternoon workshops to encourage families in passing on their faith at home. Seven families attended and I had very good feedback about how they were encouraged and learnt practical ways to pass on faith in their everyday life at home.¹ These families built great relationships with one another and 70% of them went on to become key leaders in our various children's ministries. However, they were only a small percentage of the total number of families in our church. My desire was to reach more families with this encouragement but family life has

become increasingly busier and it's difficult to get families to come out again on a Sunday afternoon.

I decided that the principle of Faith@Home needed to be built into a regular Sunday morning when families were already at church. I adopted Mark Holmen's Take It Home model.² This model has parents coming out from the church service together with their children one Sunday morning a year to learn a faith skill which they can then use in the home. It took some time to persuade the church leadership to let me trial it (as the parents are leaving during the sermon!) but on the first Sunday we ran a session I had 20 families attend. This particular session on service showed them how serving can be an important part of discipleship. The response was phenomenal. Parents were asking me if they could have a Faith@Home event once a term! Parents later gave me feedback on how they had gone out into the community to serve and it had enabled their children to witness to others. One mum who had never been to church before, came with her children who had been regularly coming to Children's Ministry. That was the start of her attending church and doing the Alpha course for herself. Here is a feedback comment from one of our families:

"Big thanks for organising a fantastic morning! I thought the participation of the parents with the children was so special!...the testimony on serving was amazing and so practical...I really enjoyed the interaction with my children today."

Faith@Home went on to become a regular part of our children and family ministry with sessions twice a year. When we did the 'My Bible' session people donated used children's Bibles and I arranged for a Christian book store to let us sell Bibles on approx. I wanted

every child to have access to an age appropriate Bible. As parents went through the ceremony at the end of the time together to present their children with a Bible and to pray for them, some were moved to tears and there was a real sense of God's Spirit in the room. Many of these parents mentioned a strengthened sense of the importance of the Bible for them and their children as a result.

Over the past five years a number of children and family pastors have written their own New Zealand specific Faith@Home sessions and these are now being published through the Baptist Children & Family Ministries website (www.baptistcfm.org.nz).

Several years ago I conducted a research assignment³ through Carey Baptist College on how Faith@Home had impacted families in New Zealand. Here's how some parents responded:

"I feel more capable through being better resourced. We realise we need to share a lot more with the kids about why we do things and what we believe."

"The initial momentum of the Faith@Home message needs to be maintained to keep people thinking about the partnership between church and parents. It's easy for things to slip back into old patterns."

This last comment highlights the importance, in the parents' eyes, of messages being repeated and impressed on parents, just as God had asked parents to impress His message in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

I believe the Faith@Home resourcing is having a lasting impact on the families in our New Zealand churches and my challenge for church leaders is: ***If we don't resource parents to pass on faith to their children, then who will?***

¹ Based on a resource called *Faith-full Families* by Lois Darborne. Kidology.

² Based on *Take It Home* by Mark Holmen and Dave Teixeira. Ventura: Gospel Light, 2008.

³ Contact Raewyn at candrmoodie@gmail.com for a full copy of the research essay.

FROM *silos* TO *success...*

WHAT REALLY MAKES CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY GREAT

DR BRIAN KRUM
BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES

The good news: there is a desire to succeed in children's and youth ministry. The bad news: most people do not have a clear idea of what success looks like. 'Success' best defined is: *to make disciples who make disciples.*

Making disciples of Jesus that make disciples of Jesus takes time. Ministry needs to be sustainable. Otherwise, we pour time, money, energy, volunteers, and a succession of staff into programs... only to see them wither away in a few years.

Sustainable ministry creates programs from practices that continue every year. Pastors, volunteers, and parents, work together planning collaboratively and strategically, so that children and youth can meet and grow closer to Christ.

Sounds good, right?

So how do we move into this definition of success? *We move away from silos.*

WHAT ARE MINISTRY SILOS AND HOW CAN WE MOVE PAST THEM?

Patrick Lencioni, in his book *Silos, Politics, and Turf Wars*, describes silos as "nothing more than the barriers that exist between

departments within an organization, causing people who are supposed to be on the same team to work against one another."

Silo-ing is happening when a church feels like a series of competing departments that simply gather in the same building, rather than feeling like a vibrant church community.

HERE IS A SIMPLE, OBSERVATIONAL TEST TO SEE IF YOUR CHURCH IS SILO-ED:

1. Is every ministry talking loudly?

Since every ministry is trying to communicate to the church, everyone struggles to rise above the noise. This creates more noise through never ending church announcements, email spam, posters, banner flags, foyer tables and newsletter inserts... all driving people to listen less.

The 'easy' fix: Establish the church's brand promise (values, benefits and experience). For events, determine who needs the loudest voice. This is based on how many people would be interested in attending or whom your church is trying to reach.

2. Do ministries have their own colours, fonts, logos, or name?

A church needs to be a Branded House and not a House of Brands. All ministries work together for the common good of the overall church brand. Of course there can be sub-brands in a church. But they should have a strong connection to the church's brand.

The 'easy' fix: Eliminate (or tone down) all brands that don't. If 'North Shore Church' has a Children's Ministry called 'Little Helpers' (with separate logo, colours, etc.), rebrand them to 'North Shore Kids' and make sure they use one of the churches colours and fonts (and even logo) as their own. That way the power of the church's brand adds value to the Children's brand. And vice versa.

SO HOW DO WE BREAK DOWN OUR SILOS?

Each 'fix' in the above test is 'easy', *if* there is an understanding about silos and a desire to de-establish them. Here are three practical suggestions to break down the silos in your church.

Step 1: Recognize silos are there for a reason.

Your silos are probably in place because they have been helpful to your church in the past. Churches build age and stage based ministries designed to work as silos, assuming that is what works best.

As you consider challenging silos, ask yourself the following:

- How do these silos benefit (or seem to benefit) our church?
- What would it cost the leader or person I'm working with to give up this silo-ed approach?
- How do I as a leader reinforce this silo-ed approach?

Step 2: Assume silos aren't personal.

Lencioni writes, "In too many of those companies leaders who are frustrated by the silo mentality mistakenly attribute it to the immaturity and insecurity of employees who somehow just refuse to get along with one another."

As a young youth pastor, I accused others in my church of not caring about children or teens and of being out of touch with the times. In all of my accusations I assumed another leader operated in a silo for personal benefit.

Instead, what might it look like for us to assume the best of other leaders? To assume they care about their ministry area and the overall church just as much as I do? Imagine how the silo discussion might go now.

Step 3: Take a step back and think big picture.

Lencioni identifies the key to breaking down silos as developing a thematic goal. He describes this as "a single, qualitative focus that is shared by the entire leadership team—and ultimately, by the entire organization—and that applies for only a specific time period."

Ideally, the leadership team at your church would initiate this step. Otherwise, consider rallying a group of leaders from different ministry areas around a common goal. Simply lead change by being that change together.

AND THIS IS JUST THE START...

The move into 'success' will not happen until we move away from silos first, because the steps to success can only happen collaboratively. We will look at these steps next time... ♦

Part 2 of this article will be published in the next issue of Connect.

intergenerational

Joel Hodson



THE power OF A SHARED STORY

ROSE LEE-NORMAN

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, SANCTUARY COVENANT CHURCH MINNEAPOLIS, USA

A shared story is powerful.

It creates identity, connection, and meaning between people who wouldn't otherwise be connected.

Creating this shared story, however, can be difficult. It's even more challenging when a community is diverse and this story is meant to include all generations. Sanctuary Covenant Church, an urban, multi-ethnic, multigenerational church in Minneapolis, has been on the journey of creating a shared

story through intergenerational worship.

Over the past four years, Sanctuary has worked to create Intergen Sundays.

Our two main goals for each Intergen Sunday are:

1. To create meaningful connections across generations.
2. To model our faith to our children and youth through worship.

We have had some wins and some losses as we've strived to figure out how to accomplish

these goals. Here are a few of our wins in creating a powerful story across generations:

1. DEFINE SHARED LANGUAGE: TELLING THE STORY

Last year a few staff members and I had the privilege of being a part of the Sticky Faith Cohort through the Fuller Youth Institute. This was a significant step in our process of creating a successful intergenerational story. Through the cohort we were able to solidify language to help our community understand why intergenerational relationships are important and how they are instrumental in contributing to lasting faith in young people.

I recently polled a broad section of our church and, while they were not all 100 percent cheerleaders of Intergen Sundays, they were able to clearly articulate the purpose of Intergen Sundays. This was a big win for us.

2. CREATE WARMTH AND CONNECTION: KITES FLYING HIGH

During one recent Intergen Sunday, our church was exploring the role of the Holy Spirit, so we decided to do the obvious: make kites! During the service, people broke out into intergenerational groups. Each group decorated a kite using symbols for the Holy Spirit. After the service, we all went out onto the lawn and flew our kites together. It was inspiring to watch this beautiful picture of warm intergenerational relationships unfold.

From our staff processing, we have learned that for an Intergen Sunday to be successful, we have to include an activity or way in which all generations connect with one another.

3. INCLUDE ALL GENERATIONS: EVERY VOICE, EVERY STORY

One major thing we learned through this process is the importance of including *all* generations. Our Intergen Sundays could

not be viewed as simply a youth or family Sunday—rather, the voices of our young adults and O50 (over 50 years old) needed to be represented clearly.

On a recent Intergen Sunday, we had our worship band play a well-known song and a talented choreographer and her children went down to the front and began to lead the congregation in a simple, upbeat dance. During this dance, each generation was represented and welcomed as we celebrated and worshipped together. It was such a diverse, intergenerational view of heaven that it brought me to tears!

At the same time, we have also learned that sometimes we need to offer children's ministry for our youngest children during the abbreviated sermon and activity time on these shared Sundays, and that's okay.

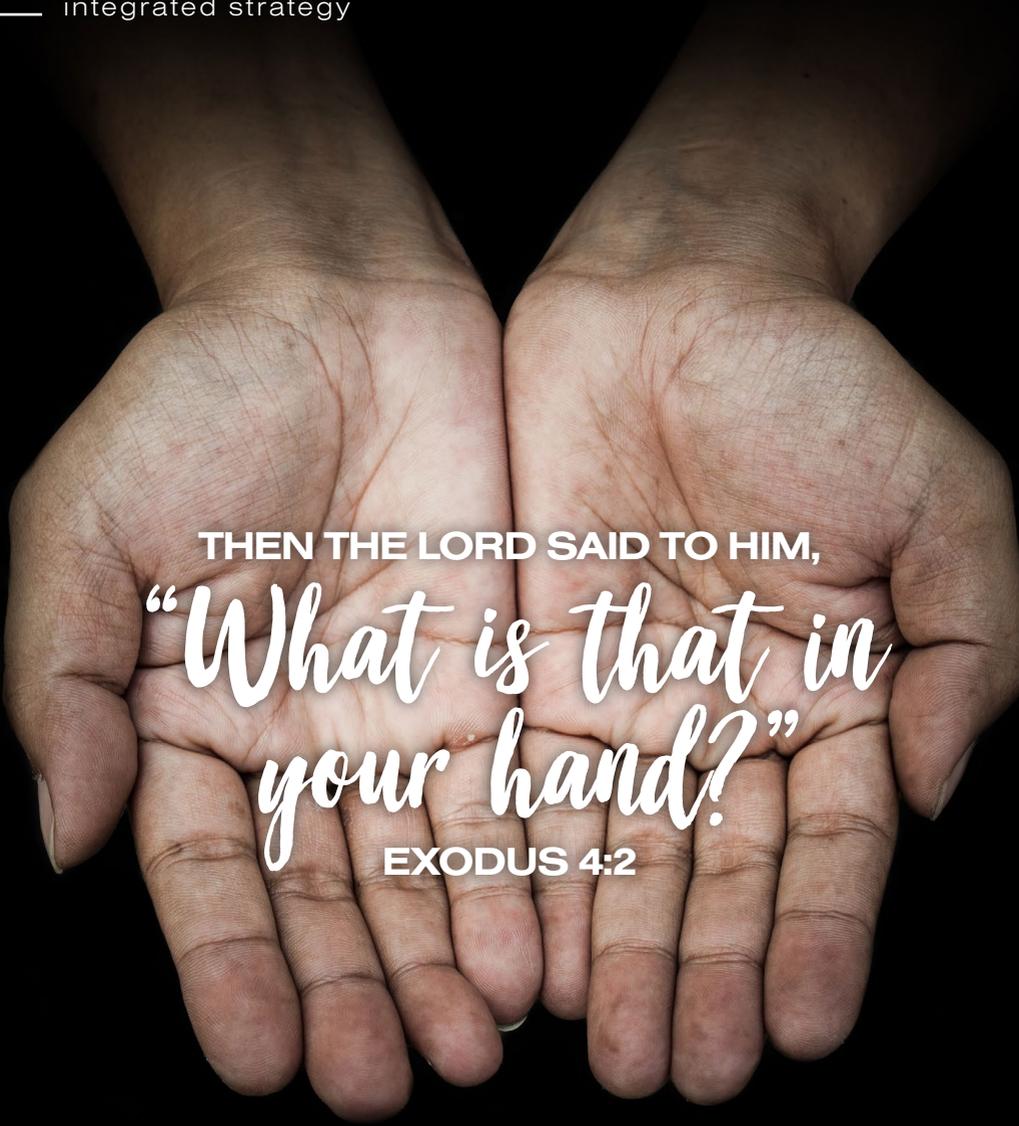
While we have had many ups and downs in our experiments with Intergen Sundays, my encouragement to other leaders is to create a *shared* story: **define** shared language for your community, **create** a space of warmth and connection, and **include** all voices in your story. ♦

This blog post was taken from the Fuller Youth Institute website.

Take outs:

The article mentions three things that are part of developing a shared story:

- *Define shared language for your community: what could this look like in your context?*
- *Create a space of warmth and connection: how would you do this?*
- *Include all voices in your story: what would you need to do in order to facilitate this idea?*



THEN THE LORD SAID TO HIM,
“What is that in
your hand?”
EXODUS 4:2

ABBEY REEVE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR WHĀNAU
GLEN EDEN BAPTIST

“So, how would you like to have a conversation about family ministry in West Auckland?” This was the beginning of a conversation that saw Aaron and I start at Glen Eden Baptist Church as the Children’s Ministry Leader (Aaron) and Associate Leader, Whānau (me!) in January 2018.

As we began to make ourselves at home and connect with our families, we were able to take some time to think and dream about how we would best impact the community around us. We have a thriving Sunday ministry thanks to the legacy of awesome Children’s Ministry Leaders before us and had been given the challenge to ‘start again’ moving forward in how we reached others with the hope of Jesus.

For us, the best place to start was by looking at ‘what was in our hand’. We needed to see where God had naturally placed our ministry and who He had placed around us to minister to. Instead of going full force with the standard formula or doing what we have always done for the sake of doing ‘something’, we needed to be brave and not do anything until we were clear on God’s direction.

We needed to see where God had naturally placed our ministry and who He had placed around us to minister to.

When reflecting on the demographics of our suburb, we can see more and more young families moving into the area as the cost of housing is more affordable. There are 25 early childhood centres either functioning or about to open. Our trust is one of those centres with our gorgeous ‘Eden Cottage’ Kindy. It became more and more clear that what was in our hand were pre-schoolers and their whānau.

Now that we had the ‘who’ we were able to be more intentional in the ‘what’. We restarted our mainly music session, keeping the group to a maximum of twenty families so our conversations and pastoral care can be intentional. We restarted our Coffee Group knowing this is an amazing space for our community to connect into our church. Aaron and I consider ourselves as the ‘Pastors’ of any of the families who come to these groups but don’t yet attend church on a Sunday. We work off a parish mentality—that GEBC is their church that they are welcome and can come to when/if they need us.

We wanted to create a community that is welcoming to everyone no matter where they are on their faith journey.

Another new initiative we started was F3 (Family, Fun, Faith). F3 runs once a month on a Sunday afternoon in our Kindy. Families (all ages) are invited to come together to connect with others, learn together, eat together, and build community. We wanted to create a community that is welcoming to everyone no matter where they are on their faith journey, in a space that was kid friendly (and safe... no gates or doors to escape out of!), and an alternative to early morning Sunday.

This is all a start to a 10+ year plan that doesn’t fit into 500 words! We believe we can change Glen Eden if we invest and champion families here in our community. We are planning for a generational change, starting the journey with our under 5’s and their whānau. We believe if we are faithful with ‘what is in our hand’, God will bring the miraculous! ♦

We believe if we are faithful with ‘what is in our hand’, God will bring the miraculous!

MODELLING *spiritual disciplines*

GARETH DAVIES
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
KUMEU BAPTIST

Parents and leaders of children, did you know you have small cameras and microphones placed around your homes and ministry spaces? No, the GCSB has not bugged you (I think); I am referring to the eyes and ears of the children in your care. Children are behavioural sponges,

constantly observing and absorbing what those around them are doing and saying. How many parents have heard their children say something undesirable only to realise they were the original source?

I am relatively new to children's ministry, but I have come to see how my own home can be a test plot for the discipleship practices I seek to encourage in the parents of our church. My wife and I have established family prayer rhythms, and look for teachable moments and opportunities for spiritual conversations. But when it comes to Bible reading habits we've had to be patient, given that our eldest daughter has just learned to read in the past year. Of course we have looked at stories from children's Bibles together, but I've been excited for the stage my daughters can explore the Word for themselves.

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you

sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.” (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).

This was what Moses said to Israel before they entered the Promised Land. He wanted desperately for them to remember who they were, to whom they belonged, and how they were called to live, in light of that belonging. Moses wanted the revelation and instruction of the Lord to be ever before them as a reminder. They were to be a nation fluent in the story of their formation as the people of God. Their identity as those welcomed to the living God was not an accessory; it was the main thing! As such, it was to be what they dwelled on, what they discussed, and what they impressed on their children. And notice *why* Moses directed the people in this way: so that their lives and the lives of their children (and therefore of their descendants also) would be long and flourishing. The dynamic presence of God’s Word among them was to create a vibrant faithful nation and a legacy of living faith for generations to come.

I have a habit of reading the Bible over breakfast, formed before I had children. I like

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.”
Deuteronomy 11:18-21

how I can receive spiritual kai along with my physical kai. This has been a little trickier with the advent of children but I’ve largely managed to stick at it, and a recent development made me glad for it.

I recently sat down for breakfast with my girls, who as usual were eating their porridge. But on this day, when they saw me open my Bible, they got up and went to the book case. The eldest came back with a pocket CEV, asking, “What should I read, Daddy?” I was caught off guard at her sudden enthusiasm but suggested she start in Mark’s gospel. The youngest found a leather-bound devotional book that looks as good as a Bible to her and began thumbing through it, imitating her sister. I later saw that my eldest had started a collection

of notes, recording her observations and questions just like I do when I read the scriptures.

I wonder, how can we actively model the spiritual practices we wish to see developing in the children in our care? We can teach the *how* of these practices, and we are right to do so, but are we demonstrating the importance of such practices through our own example? It might be unplanned, like in my example, but what do children see of how we live out our faith in God? What are the metaphorical hands, foreheads, doorframes and gates that will speak to your ‘village’ of your identity in Christ? ♦

Leap to flame

**ANNETTE OSBORNE
SCRIPTURE UNION NZ**

***"We read under the eye of God until the heart
is touched and leaps to flame."¹***

These words provide a beautiful picture of what reading the Bible can be. We read in the presence of God. We read until the words on the page connect with the core of our being. And we read until the Word of God

bursts within us, like a bonfire on a cold winter's night. What an exciting approach to the Bible, one that can enthuse all ages. We come to the text assured that God wants to meet with us in its pages. God wants to be with our children and to speak directly to their hearts. And when God does, the impact of this will spread like wildfire.

As we consider what this might look like in practice, let me share with you the experience of one young girl who attended a SUPAkidz children's camp in January this year. At the camp I used an ancient method of Bible reading called *Lectio Divina*, an approach you might like to try. This involves reading the text slowly and thoughtfully, working through four steps. The four steps are: *lectio* (reading), *meditatio* (meditation), *oratio* (prayer) and *contemplatio* (contemplation). I phrased it this way:

- Read
- Reflect
- Respond
- Rest

It was early morning as the young girl sat in a camp hall alongside the other children and leaders. In front of her was an open Bible, a pen and paper.

READ: I began by *reading* slowly from Philippians 1, pausing, and then reading it again. I asked the campers to listen carefully and pay attention to any words that jumped out.

REFLECT: Next I asked them to *reflect* on what they had just heard. What words, pictures, or ideas were in their mind?

Were there words that seemed special or important? How did these words make them feel? "Do you think God might be saying something to you?" I asked. They were given time to write or draw these things on their piece of paper.

RESPOND: I invited the campers to sit in silence for a few moments. During this silence they could talk with God. I encouraged them to ask God a question, to thank God for something or simply to talk with God about how this passage made them feel. They could also choose to sit and think.

REST: The last step was to invite God to talk with us. Sometimes we hurry onto the next activity and forget to listen. So, I gave them the chance to sit in silence and listen. They might hear God speak, or they might have a picture in their mind, a line from a song, or a feeling. I assured them that if nothing happened, that was okay too.

For this one young girl, this time exploring Philippians 1 turned into an experience where the words on the page burst into flame! God spoke clearly to her from one verse in particular, touching her heart in a powerful way that has stayed with her long after camp. She was convinced, to the core of her being that God loves her. How amazing is that! It should come as no surprise that when we read slowly and take time to listen, that fires start breaking out all over the place.

People of all ages are rediscovering ancient ways of connecting with God through the Bible. I will be exploring some of these ways in my Mind the Gap workshop at our upcoming WAY2GO Children's Ministry Conferences. Come and join me to find out more! ♦

¹ Dom Columba Marmion



Resources

HOW EFFECTIVE IS YOUR TEACHING BY ITSELF?

It can be far more effective when teaching, for children to be 'in' the story, as opposed to only hearing the story. Spreading your teaching across more sensors can widen the experience and reach children that otherwise would not have taken in the message. Here are a few ideas that won't blow the bank but can be very effective:

BIG IMPACT, LITTLE EFFORT

This should be your motto when planning your teaching environment. When an idea pops into your head, ask yourself the question: how big will the impact be vs the effort needed to prepare it? Sometimes something as simple as water can be more effective than three days preparation of a craft activity.



COLOURED FABRIC

Use big pieces of fabric to create any environment. Green for grass, brown for land, blue for water etc. These are easy to drape, arrange, hang and bundle to create the perfect atmosphere.



CARDBOARD BOXES

Fellow church leaders... cardboard boxes are your friend!!! You can turn them into anything. Track down your local bicycle shop to get the best boxes in town. They are big and sturdy, clean... and FREE. Go online for ideas on using cardboard boxes and make some excellent props that cost next to nothing.

SMELL IT, TASTE IT, FEEL IT

Why not have a sound effect when the walls of Jericho fall down or a pot of lentil soup when teaching about Jacob and Esau. Sometimes a story is remembered by a smell, a taste or a sound.

DEATH BY COLOURING

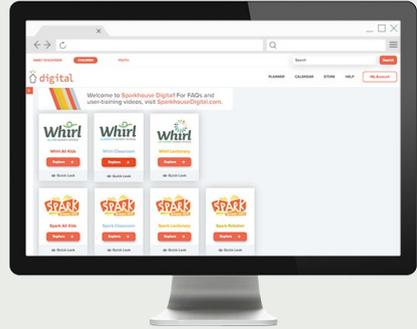
Yes, having colouring pages to support your lesson is an easy creative option, but next time you reach for the pencils ask yourself if you can do it differently. Pinterest is always a great 'go to' for ideas.



SPARKHOUSE ONLINE IS NOW SPARKHOUSE DIGITAL!

Spark House deliver resources that help churches engage and build faith in their community with innovative Bibles, curricula, and workshops from birth to adult.

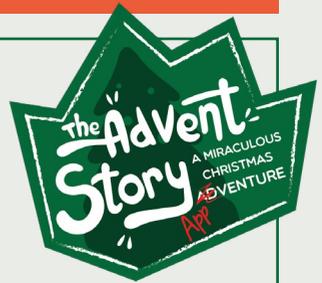
Their curricula, including the popular Holy Moly, is now available in a digital bundle for a great price. You get access to multiple options for different ages, including a really great intermediate/youth resource called Re:form.



Children's Ministry preparation has never been easier. Get unlimited access to your favourite Sparkhouse CM curricula, including leader resources and exclusive extras, with your subscription. **Check it out at: www.wearesparkhouse.org**

THE ADVENT STORY

Due to popular demand the Advent Tree will be back this year, but with a twist! This year families will get to experience the miraculous story of Christ's birth through the eyes of young Oliver and his Grandma. Every day families get to unlock another chapter in the story on our brand new app, The Advent Storybook. The Advent Story product includes a pop-and-slot tree, an Advent calendar with 24 decorations and the storybook app. A combination of old and new as never experienced before! The Advent Story launches in September and will cost \$6 each (including the tree, a calendar with 24 pop-out decorations and codes to unlock the app stories).



MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE CUP

Download our free Mother's Day coffee cup craft from www.baptistcfm.org.nz/seasonal. Have the children make mum a hot drink (or cold one) and use these creative double message cups. Super easy to do!!



Editor's pick



HOW IMPORTANT IS THEOLOGY ANYWAY?

I wonder how many of you fit this scenario? You are working in Children and Family Ministries and loving your job. You enjoy being with the kids on Sundays and inspiring the volunteers.

You love the crafts and the stories and the fun. But when it comes to knowing what theological concepts the kids should be learning, or how to explain communion or the Trinity, or even understanding the needs of 21st Century families you feel a little out of your depth; or even a lot out of your depth! If this is you, you may be wondering what you should do. Do you:

- A. Ignore these feelings and hope for the best?
- B. Pretend that you know what you are doing and hope no one asks?
- C. Decide to get the best possible training so that the children and families in your church and community are getting the best you can give them?

If you answered C (and there is no other right answer!) then we have just what you need to action that desire. Carey Baptist College currently offer the best training available in New Zealand for CFM pastors and leaders. Here are the CFM courses we recommend for the second semester of this year:

1. THE FAMILY AND NZ SOCIETY—DR. CARLTON JOHNSTON

This course examines the family, and family life, in contemporary New Zealand from theological, biblical and sociological perspectives. It is designed to address the issues facing families today and their implications for church ministry. Topics include family trends, life stages, discipleship, family ministry and missional engagement.

The lectures are run as a Block Course, September 2-6, with course work completed by distance over the semester (July-November).

Here's what Diana Langdon, the Anglican Strandz Enabler says about this course: "This course offers a unique opportunity to reflect on what it is like to grow up as child in Aotearoa New Zealand, and how our churches can nurture the faith of a wide variety of families in our communities. Taking time out to look for the stories being told by current statistics and research helped apply my theological understanding of family in the real world. Our knowledge of the relational, cultural and generational differences of families in New Zealand will shape how we minister and share the good news of Jesus today."

2. REFLECTIVE FIELD EDUCATION—RACHEL ROCHE

This course is based on the reading-action-reflection model of internship. The course includes: weekly ministry praxis in your own church, fortnightly meetings with a supervisor, online reflections with other students, evaluation, feedback and support from the coordinator.

Pin the dates

<p>2 MAY 6 MAY 8 MAY 9 MAY 14 MAY</p>	<p>Cupcake and a chat by mainly music 10 - 11am From the perspective of Children & Family Ministries staff (or volunteers), how is mainly music doing in your setting? Whangarei Kamo Clark Road Chapel Auckland Northcross Community Church Auckland Lighthouse Hub Tauranga City Church Tauranga Hamilton Chapel Hill Community Church Register at: www.mainlymusic.org/shop/events/cupcake-and-chat</p> 
<p>8 MAY 31 JULY 23 OCT</p>	<p>Children's Ministry Network Gatherings Wellington RSVP to Liz Eichler: liz.e@sunz.org.nz</p> 
<p>18 MAY 27 JULY 14 SEPT</p>	<p>CBM Training Auckland – Come and learn the 'How to' of children's ministry Auckland – Tool Time Auckland – Master Storytelling \$75pp contact: info@cbm.org.nz www.cbm.org.nz/th_gallery/nz-training</p> 
<p>24 MAY 25 MAY 27 MAY 28 MAY 29 MAY 30 MAY</p>	<p>Leading Incredible Volunteers brought to you by Salvation Army Christchurch Auckland Hamilton Napier Palmerston North Wellington</p> <p>Speakers: Adam Duckworth and Margaret Spicer Register at: www.incrediblevolunteerstour.co.nz</p> 
<p>25 MAY 8 JUNE 22 JUNE</p>	<p>Way2Go Conference Journey Together 9:30am - 4pm Scripture Union's Children's Ministry Training Dunedin Mosgiel Presbyterian Church Auckland Church Unlimited, Glendene Wellington Samuel Marsden Collegiate School \$90pp, \$80p/p in group See website for details: www.sunz.org.nz, 0508 423 836</p> 
<p>15-17 JULY</p>	<p>Godly Play Core Training Auckland For more information and to register, contact Elke Keeling: keelingelke@gmail.com</p>
<p>14 SEPT</p>	<p>Children and Families Conference Christchurch More information to follow Contact: Rachel Sangster: rachel.sangster@unlimited.org.nz Robin Humphreys: robin@kidsfriendly.org.nz</p>
<p>24-27 JUNE</p>	<p>Lead Conference Together Hutt City Baptist Church, Wellington Register at: www.baptist.org.nz/lead</p>

*“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our
God, the Lord alone. And you must
love the Lord your God with all
your heart, all your soul, and all
your strength. And you must commit
yourselves wholeheartedly to these
commands that I am giving you today.*

*Repeat them again
and again to your children.*

*Talk about them when you are at
home and when you are on the
road, when you are going to bed
and when you are getting up.”*

Deuteronomy 6:4-7