

Giving You Everything?

11-14

BC18

Age 11-14

Solomon

Bible Verses: 1 Kings 2-9, 1 Kings 6:1-38, 1 Kings 7:13-51, Romans 12:1, 2 Chronicles 2:1-2, 2 Chronicles 2:5-6, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 and 2 Chronicles 6:1-2.

The aim of this session is to encourage young people to think about worship & giving, looking at King Solomon's attitude as an example.

Leader's notes

We all know that as part of being a Christian we should be committed to giving and we should be committed to worship. But what does this actually mean for young people today? Is it just about putting some money in the offering or giving a bit to charity every now and again, and just singing a few songs in church? And then that's it. Job done?

It's very easy to stick 'giving' and 'worship' into a box, and only get it out on special occasions. We need to help our young people understand that there is so much more to these issues than maybe first meets the eye. They can be fun, they can be relevant, different, unexpected, individual, collective and more importantly completely natural.

In Romans, Paul tells us, "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to work and walking around life and place it before God as an offering." (The Message)

So this is the challenge, to give everything, absolutely everything, each tiny little detail and every part of our lives – to God. So when we're eating breakfast, we can worship God. When we work at school, we can do it for God. When we hang out with our mates, when we play football, go to the cinema, listen to music, have a shower, go to sleep – whatever we do, it can all be giving worship to God.

This session aims to get young people to think about worship and giving and what it means to them. We need to ask tough questions like: What do we worship? Is there anything that takes priority over God? Why do we give our time and money to things? Are our motives right?

We also want to really encourage young people to worship in ways that work with how God made them, to be able to think outside the box, to get creative.

King Solomon was a mixed up kind of guy! He was perhaps the wisest man who ever lived – but he also had his flaws, made his mistakes, he let people and God down.

But, he knew the score when it came to building a temple that really did God justice. The temple was a massive deal in the Old Testament; it was a symbol of God's holiness, of forgiveness, and of God's covenant with Israel. So when Solomon got to work on the temple he didn't do a rushed job. He spent 7 years creating a temple that was the best thing since sliced bread. The people who made it were inspired by God, by the beauty of his character, and used the skills and creative gifts he had given them to reflect this. This temple would seriously put the new Wembley Stadium, the Taj Mahal, the Eiffel Tower, anything made by man today, well and truly in the shade.

So let's see how we can be inspired by King Solomon, by his attitude, and the temple he built. What

God-given gifts and skills do we have that we could use to worship God in a similar way? How can we give, and what can we give to bring glory to God, like Solomon did? What would our 'temple' look like?

Should you work with young people unfamiliar with Christianity then you may find the following activities useful:

Getting Started: Special Talent?

Digging In: Anything You Want; Passing On The Baton

Response: Remember Relay

Who's First?

Getting Started

10 mins

Illustrations

Read out story 'First Harvest'.

Ask the group the following questions:

If I gave you £2500 and you could spend it on absolutely anything you wanted, what would you spend it on? What do you think of Sue's reaction to what to do with the money?

Would you consider giving any of the £2500 away? Who would you give it to?

If you gave some money away, why would you be doing it? Because you wanted to, or because you thought you ought to?

Do you see the money and things you have as yours, yours to do what you want with?

How easy or hard is it to think of **everything** you have, money, time, and talents – as something that comes from God and in a way, belongs to God?

Does this affect the way you think about these things?

The Point: To think about how we view money and 'stuff' we have, does it belong to us or to God? To also consider our attitudes towards and our motives behind giving.


Equipment

Copy of the story 'First Harvest' (see Who's First? Sheet attached).

Give Him Your Best

Digging In

25 mins

 Craft Ideas

Read: **2 Chronicles 2:1-2** and **2 Chronicles 2:5-6**. This will set the scene (**v1-2**), explain why Solomon

was building a temple (v5) and why it was going to be so amazing and beautiful (v6).

Explain that, for Solomon, the act of building such an amazing temple was an act of worship, it was his way of expressing how much he loved God. He used the best of everything, it was big, it was special and there was a lot of gold involved. It was a job he took very seriously, and he gave everything he had to make it just right.

Challenge your young people to think about how they can use what they have to worship God. What are they good at, and what do they have access to? Pass around the paper and pens and give them a few minutes to note down some of their skills and passions that they could offer God. It could be creative skills and talents, but it could also be character traits such as kindness or being helpful.

After a few minutes, ask the young people to swap their papers and add to their friends' lists. Sometimes the people around us notice special skills and qualities that we may not have thought about.

Encouraging the young people to share their lists with the rest of the group, and finish by saying a prayer asking God to help us use these gifts and skills for Him.

The Point: To help children associate things they like doing with worshipping God. To help them understand that worship is not all about singing and that we can worship God at all times.

Equipment

Bibles, paper, coloured pens

The Stand

Response

10 mins

 Music

Hand out a copy of 'The Stand' lyrics to each person in the group. Tell them that you're going to just take 10 minutes out to think about what it means to give God everything we have and everything we are to Him. It's important to take time to do this quietly and ask God how we can do this.

Explain that you're going to play 'The Stand' - a song that includes the lyric "All I am is yours". Ask them to think about what this might mean for them as individuals as the song is playing.

Click here for [The Stand - Hillsong - YouTube](#)

When the song finishes ask them to keep quiet and just spend some time silently asking God to help them give Him everything and maybe ask Him how they can do this. If they want to they can write down anything on the lyric sheet that seems important or relevant right now and take it away with them.

Give an opportunity for anyone to feedback if they wish, but not if they don't want to!


The Point: To take some quiet time out to respond to God, asking Him for help how to give Him everything.

Equipment

The YouTube link attached and the means to display it The PDF attached below printed out one between two

Wise Words - A Drama About Wisdom And The Meaning Of Life

Warming Up

 Drama
