



God's People: His story, our story. Creative Using Art or Using Music

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

You might use either or both of these activities to help people identify that;

- God's people do experience hard times and have difficult experiences.
- God uses seemingly insignificant people and places to continue his work in the world.
- There is continuity in the faith journey of God's people from the earliest times through to today.
- As individuals, churches and Parishes we are part of God's plan now and into the future.

When using this activity make sure you explain to the participants what is to happen. People get very worried about their creativity, or lack of it! Ensure that everyone knows and understands that the responses they make are personal to them, that the end result does not need to look like anything, nor does any creative writing need to be particularly coherent or laid out in any particular way. This is between them and God. At the end, if they wish, there will be time to share what they have written/made, but only if they want to.

If you are using Art.

You will need:

- A meeting room with tables and movable seating.
- Bibles or printed copies of the verses to be discussed.
- Digital projector, laptop and screen or printed copies of pictures.
- Paper, pens, pastels, crayons, paint, clay etc.
- Flip chart and pens.

Before you meet together:

- (a) Consider room and it's layout. You will need easy clean tables and a good number of chairs. Initially there is a time of study and discussion, followed by time for creative



responses through the media provided and at the end there will be a plenary/worship. Place some chairs into a semi-circle, as well as around the tables.

- (b) Prepare 2 people to read 1 Samuel 1:24 - 2:10; and Luke 1:46-55. The delivery of both passages needs to be full of joy.

If you are using Music.

You will need:

- A meeting room that has reasonable acoustics.
- Bibles or printed copies of the verses to be discussed.
- CD/ MP3 of the Magnificat. (*There are many versions available but some ideas include works by John Rutter, Mendelssohn Bach, Ralph Vaughan Williams*),
- CD player /computer with speakers or similar.
- Paper and pens
- Flip chart and pens.

Before you meet together.

- (a) Prepare 2 people to read 1 Samuel 1:24 - 2:10; and Luke 1:46-55. The delivery of both passages needs to be full of joy.

How to for both Art and Music:

1. Read **1 Samuel 1:1-18**
2. Discuss in small groups the issues surrounding Hannah emotionally, within her own family and culturally.
3. In small groups talk about how Hannah might view herself as part of God's story.
4. Read Luke 1:26-38.
5. Discuss in the same small groups the issues surrounding Mary emotionally, within her own family and culturally at this time.
6. In small groups talk about how Mary might have viewed herself as part of God's story prior to this announcement and post the announcement.
7. Come together to share thoughts.
8. Now read 1 Samuel 1:24 - 2:10; followed by Luke 1:46-55

Both Hannah and Mary responded to their situations, in praise and worship, their situations weren't easy for themselves or their families but faith in God underpinned all that they did.



Using Art:

1. Ask the participants to choose a medium through which to respond to Gods love and faithfulness to this Parish. *(Include the opportunity to respond through creative writing as well as other media.)* Give them 30-45 mins for this.
2. Brainstorm using flip chart and pens answers (and dreams) in response to this question. 'In the future how might the Parish journey with God, his answers to prayer and their part in his story be celebrated?'

Answers could be used to help the development of a Parish plan.

Using Music:

1. Explain the piece you will be playing and ask participants to reflect on the readings whilst listening to it.
2. Play your chosen piece and allow a time of silence following it.
3. Ask participants to write down some of their responses.
4. Give people opportunity to share any insights they had.
5. Hannah and Mary only understood Gods plan in a limited way, but they each came to him with a 'servant heart'. God used them both in an amazing way,
6. Ask, how happy do you feel about the idea of trusting God and playing a part in his plan? (Allow time for participants to respond, writing down their thoughts.)
7. Discuss together what evidence you believe there is of trust in and journey with God in the life of your Parish?
8. Brainstorm using flip chart and pens answers (and dreams) in response to the following question. 'In the future how might the Parish journey with God, his answers to prayer and their part in his story be celebrated?'

Answers could be used to help the development of a Parish plan.