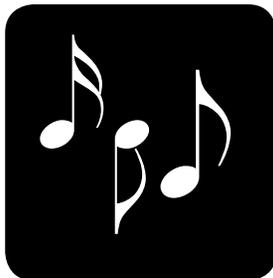


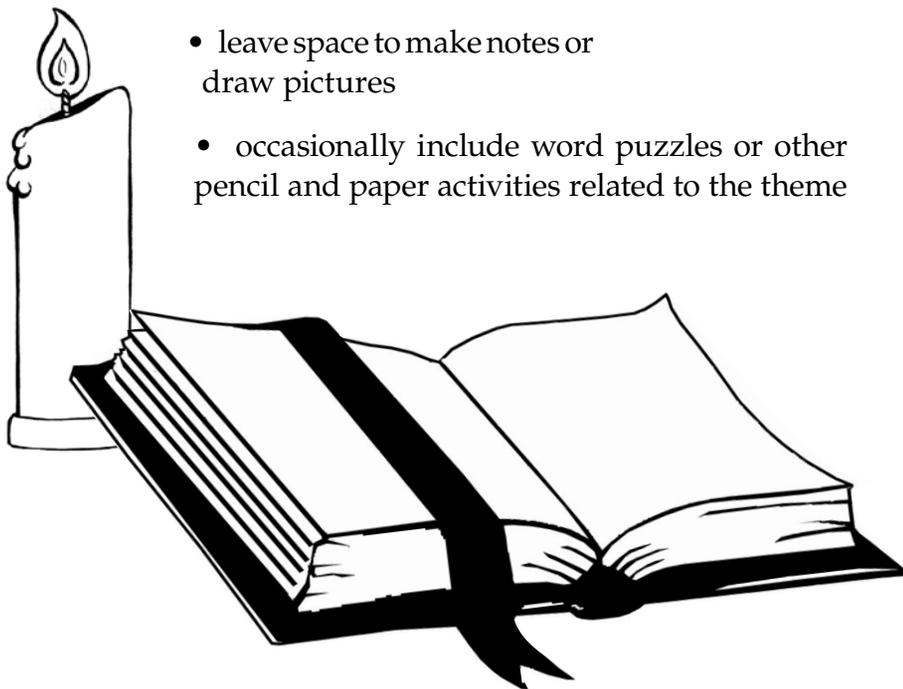
Worship bulletins

Here are some suggestions for designing weekly worship bulletins that are inclusive of all ages:

- include visual symbols for the different parts of the worship service (for example, prayers, spoken words, singing, scripture readings, sermon, offering)
- print the words for the prayer that Jesus taught, the creed, and/or other pieces that are spoken in unison



- leave space to make notes or draw pictures
- occasionally include word puzzles or other pencil and paper activities related to the theme



Including Children in Worship



Ideas for worship planners and leaders

Worship that includes children includes...

movement

drama

all the senses

music



Worship that recognizes the needs of children can make the message even more meaningful for adults. Worship that includes both adults and children is planned to meet a wide range of experience and ability. Worship will be more participatory. Periods of silence may not be quite as silent. The prayers may be shorter and include more voices. The sermons may contain more stories and/or drama. These “intergenerational” worship services offer gifts for worshippers of all ages.

God calls for worship that involves our whole being...and that means the body as well as the mind and the spirit. Using all our senses in worship enriches our participation in worship.

Hints for worship planners and leaders



- involve children in leadership: greeting, collecting the offering, reading scripture, participating in prayers, pouring water into the baptismal font, carrying in the bread for Communion/Eucharist
- invite children to design bulletin covers or inserts
- create children’s worship bulletins (see page 4)
- add symbols to the worship bulletins (such as images: of a candle, Bible, music notes, praying hands) to help non-readers follow the worship more easily
- provide book markers for children to mark places in Bibles and hymnals



- invite children to carry in the candle and Bible at the beginning of the worship service
- create opportunities for children to move during the service
- invite children who play musical instruments to accompany singing
- repeat children’s hymns for several weeks in a row to give non-readers a chance to learn the lyrics
- lead unison readings slowly to help new readers; use repeated litany responses to include non-readers
- use prayers and readings that include hand and body motions
- include experiences of children in sermons and prayers

