

Taupo Baptist – Intergenerational Service – The Clothes We Wear By Tim Fletcher

Mike and I worked together to create an intergenerational service around the theme of clothing; based on Rom 13: 14 “...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.” We had the kids in for the entire service, the congregation was divided into small groups and I was quite intentional about the groups being intergenerational. We had a few worship songs beforehand, and I gave everyone a heads-up that things would be a little different.



Below is the script that I wrote for each of the four characters that the congregation needed to guess. I also have the powerpoint and answer sheet that we used too.

We had a woman in her wedding dress, an indian woman in her sari, a fisherman in his waders, a boy in his hunting gear and a head prefect in his school uniform. I dressed in a bike helmet, dressing gown, waterproof over trousers and a bowtie just to contrast, and my daughter who co-hosted wore pyjamas, a hockey goalie shoe, and her school uniform. We tried to use the group activities to help tell the story and get the message across rather than just through ‘spreaching’.

(If you would like to see these resources, please email Jan at

childrensministry@baptist.org.nz)

The buzz in the room, the connections that were taking place and the ideas being shared were so exciting. I think next time we’ll be clearer about the key ideas and in bringing them together at the end, but otherwise it was great. We finished with morning tea and there were lots of families that hung around afterwards.

I’m not saying we have it sorted – but we are having a crack at it...

I know some others are exploring intergenerational services so they are welcome to use this if they want.

Scripts

Joseph –

You feel really special when you are given a gift of such value. I feel so valued, and so excited! He gave me this because I am so precious, so loved, his favourite; I tell everyone about it. I always knew I was my father's favourite; my mother's the wife he most loved, and this just proves it. I'm not going to be embarrassed about it, I'm not going to be ashamed of my father's gift. How others feel about it is their problem, not mine. This is so unique, it's incredible colours and the craftsmanship was unbelievable. I'd never seen a gift like it, I'm so blessed that this coat is mine.

Esther –

I never asked to be chosen. There were many of us; beautiful, lovely - we turn heads. Selected for the king because of how we look. Nothing about who we are, or where we are from; I guess to the King those don't matter. For months they lavish on us treatments of beauty, specialty foods, oil of myrrh, perfumes and fine clothing. I'm being prepared for the King, who is looking for a Queen. I hope I gain his favour.

Adam and Eve –

He looked at us, at our pitiful effort to cover ourselves. Oh, the pain in His eyes! Once he found us it was that look of pain that brought home to us just what we had done. Even when things looked so different we hadn't realized the mistake we had made, but we did feel the shame. And it was that shame that we had to do something about. Now, we admit that a few fig leaves sewn together are not much, but it was our best in the situation. We had never known such shame, such a desire to hide from God. But it was His desire for us that led Him to choose to cover us – it was his incredible love and provision that caused Him to clothe us. To cover our sin and remove our shame needed His efforts not ours. These garments of skin, while a sacrifice bringing blood and death, also mean life and hope for us.

Lazarus –

He called my name, that was what woke me up. He was calling me. I get up to find the one calling - who loves me, who knows me, who cares. I'd know His voice anywhere. Once I'm up I notice the strong smell of spices and oils that I remember usually means decay and death, but to me, at this moment, means life and freedom and hope. While I am fully alive - never felt better in fact, there's cloth on my face, and I'm covered in linen strips. His words, I will never forget - "Let Him be free of these clothes of death". I'm fine with that, I don't need them anymore.