

Sunday School Promotion Sunday, September 12, 2010

Passing on the Faith

By Abe Bergen

The following worship service has been written to celebrate the beginning of the new church school year. Please use it as is or adapt to fit your congregation.

Call to Worship:

Leader This is the day that the Lord has made

Congregation: Let us be glad and rejoice in it.

Leader This is a day of new beginnings – new classes, new teachers, new lessons.

Congregation: We are grateful for new beginnings.

Leader This is a day to commit to new learning opportunities, to open our minds and our hearts to what God wants us to learn.

Congregation: We are grateful for new learning opportunities.

Leader This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: We are glad and rejoice in it.

Hymn: Sing Praise to God who reigns, HWB #59

Scripture: Psalm 1:1-3

Hymn: O God, your constant care, HWB #481

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Message: Passing on the Faith

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.” (v. 52)

Hymn: Teach me, O Lord, HWB #487

A Service of Dedication:

Leader: Passing on the faith is an important calling. Our relationship with God existed before birth and can continue to be nurtured in many and unique ways throughout one’s lifetime. This lifelong journey is nurtured when the congregation and home become intentional in teaching, modeling, and encouraging all in their faith journey.

Congregation: We are grateful for the freedom and opportunity we have to nurture faith. We confess that we often take this privilege for granted and become lax in our expectations and efforts. Forgive us for not making faith nurture a priority in our homes and congregations.

Leader: The congregation and the home intentionally partner together to shape faith in people of all ages.

Persons living in households: We need the congregation to train, support, and provide spiritual care for us as we attempt to follow Christ faithfully in our homes and daily life.

Christian Educators (teachers, education committee members, club leaders, etc.) Because it takes more than Sundays alone to grow in relationship with God, we need homes to partner with us in this task by taking time for God every day of the week.

Leader: The congregation has a primary role to strengthen and support families and households in their faith-shaping responsibilities.

Christian Educators: We will teach with passion and conviction. We will do our best as we prepare our lessons. We will strive to get to know our students and engage them in the learning process.

Children and Youth: We will respect our teachers and look forward to learning about God and God’s ways for us.

Young Adults and Adults: We will respect our teachers and risk learning in ways that help us to grow as Christian disciples.

Leader: The Christian home has the primary responsibility to form faith in children and youth.

Parents of Children and Youth: We accept this awesome responsibility and commit ourselves to share our faith with our children and teenagers. We will talk about God when we are at home and when we are away – at mealtime, at bedtime, during car time, during playtime, during sick time – anytime and all the time.

Leader: A vibrant lifelong faith is nurtured when we celebrate God’s activity in the world through corporate and personal worship; as we participate in congregational life, God’s gathered community; as we interpret God’s Word through reflection, exploration and discovery, and as we join in God’s activity in the world by serving others in acts of compassion, peace and justice.

All: And God calls us to a lifelong adventure. This year we want to commit ourselves to growing in our understanding of that call and living out that calling in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

Closing Prayer:

God, we thank you for calling us as partners in this important endeavour of nurturing faith in each child, teen, young adult, and adult present here. Thank you for Christian educators who give of their time and talent to teach others. Thank you for parents who have laid a

foundation of faith through their modeling and sharing. Thank you for our church leaders who provide curriculum and training opportunities for our congregations. Bless all our efforts – both individual and corporate – so that many will grow in their commitment to you. Amen.