

## Children and Families Ministry Newsletter



This is a free event, but please book by emailing [Hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz)

An event for anyone involved in children's ministry. Meet other children's ministry workers; be encouraged and energised; share ideas and discuss issues; have a chat, cuppa and cake.

Be inspired by passionate presenters from local churches, offering a range of exciting ideas and resources.

Topics covered include:

- ❖ Adults Proactively Keeping Children Safe  
(*everyday actions to prevent child abuse*)
- ❖ Godly Play and using 'I wonder' style questions to engage children
- ❖ Quiet reflections for children
- ❖ Children and family ministry resource ideas
- ❖ "A Minute to Win It" games
- ❖ Ideas Market
- ❖ Catch up with people, discuss ideas, swap contact details, arrange coffee dates!

### In this Issue:

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR....

- All of the families that we engage with (both through Sunday worship and in activities/events during the week): that they would be disciplined and nurtured in their faith.
- The ministries and opportunities mentioned in this newsletter.

Please ring or email us with your celebrations and prayer needs so we can all share in praying for your ministry!



## Intergenerational Worship

Our good news story this month is from these two wonderful worshipping kids, Breanna and Jakob, who were part of the worship team at the Wellington Diocesan Ministry Conference.

The Anglican Diocese of Wellington hosts an annual ministry conference for their leaders, and for the last two years, we have intentionally had an intergenerational focus - inviting all leaders and their families to El Rancho. Along with the regular ministry, teaching, workshops and training, there are also children and youth programmes, intergenerational sessions, and family fun.

We asked the siblings, Jakob (10) and Breanna (8), a few questions about why they enjoyed being a part of an intergenerational worship team, and this is what they said:

### ***What is your favourite worship song to sing/play?***

*Jakob:* [Happy Day](#) (The Greatest Day in History). I like it because it's upbeat and gets people on their feet.

*Breanna:* [I'm Gonna Jump Up and Down](#). It's a really full of fun, action packed song. I feel happy and excited when we do it.

### ***Why do you think it's good for kids to be in the worship team?***

*Jakob:* I think it's good for there to be kids because it means that we can do songs that all ages will like. It helps people learn teamwork, and if somebody hears kids are in the worship team it's more likely they'll want to come and check out church.

*Breanna:* I think it's good because kids get to be involved in worship and know the true meaning of it. It's not just talking about God; it's experiencing what he's like. And it gets them more involved in church.

### ***What does it say about God when kids are in the worship team?***

*Jakob:* God loves all ages, big and small.

*Breanna:* I think it means that no matter how old or young you are you can still follow God.

### ***Anything else you want to say about leading worship at the conference?***

*Jakob:* It was fun. I think I helped lots of people connect with God through worship.

*Breanna:* I really liked it because it lets everyone know that everyone can do worship!

What an encouragement to include our tamariki in our corporate worship times. Let us know how you are nurturing and growing intergenerational worship in your parish!

*This article was written by Diana Langdon from Strandz. Check out the Strandz website ([www.strandz.org.nz](http://www.strandz.org.nz)) for heaps of great ideas for Intergenerational Worship, Children's Ministry, and Family Faith.*

# Adults Proactively Keeping Kids Safe

## Everyday actions to prevent child sexual abuse

### A workshop facilitated by Bronwyn Kerr.

Emmaus Centre, St Christopher's Anglican Church, Tawa.

Sat 3 September 2016: 2pm - 3pm.

The workshop is free, however a donation/koha would be appreciated.

**Bookings essential:** hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz

We all know child sexual abuse is a risk in our communities, but it's too scary to think about.

This workshop covers everyday actions adults can take to help make a safe culture for kids. The workshop won't cover things like reporting (although that is important) and will focus more on 'this feels a bit dodgy but I'm not sure' type situations, and responding in the moment. Suggestions will also be given on how to have an awkward conversation with an adult whose behaviour is ringing alarm bells for you.

Come with your questions - Bronwyn has had a wealth of experience in this area and this is a great opportunity to prepare ourselves to assist vulnerable children in our community.



### Fathers' Day is this Sunday – 4th September!

It can often be a tricky day to navigate, getting the balance right to honour fathers and all the men in our church, regardless of whether they have children or not.

#### Some ideas:

- BBQ after church
- A special men's event for all the generations, eg. trip to the rugby, bonfire on the beach, church soccer match, fishing, movie night at church.
- Extreme crafts for the adventurous, from Messy Church

There are plenty of activities and resources available on the Strandz website to help your church mark the day: [www.strandz.org.nz/](http://www.strandz.org.nz/)

### OUR TRANSFORMING GOD

A LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY



Debbie and Colette strongly encourage you all to attend the Diocesan Leadership Training Day on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

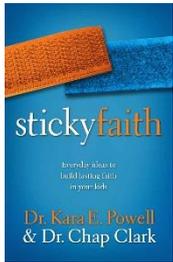
They will be running a workshop on **Intergenerational Ministry**, with some resources and ideas around Intergenerational prayer and intercessions.

More info to come!

<http://movementonline.org.nz/3720/>

# Resources in the library

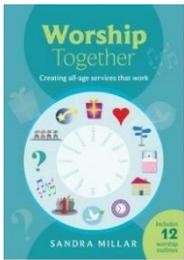
We have HUNDREDS of resources in the library available for borrowing: books on parenting, all-age worship, children's ministry curriculum materials, bible teaching resources, resources to equip parents to share their faith at home, ideas for talks, games and crafts, leadership, marriage, raising teenagers, and heaps more!



## **Sticky Faith: everyday ideas to build lasting faith in your kids**

**Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark**

So many children lose their faith as teenagers or young adults. This book contains practical strategies for parents to encourage their children's spiritual growth so that it will stick with them into adulthood and empower them to develop a strong, living, lasting faith.



## **Worship Together: creating all-age services that work**

**Sandra Millar**

A guide to the theory and practice of creating worship that really works for everyone - aged 3 to 103! The first part of the book outlines 'key components' of all-age worship, including shape and structure; making use of space and multi-sensory elements; allowing room for mystery and wonder; and drawing on universal stories. The second part includes 12 service outlines, one for each month of the year. These contain all you need to run an all-age worship service, whether your congregation is large or small, urban or rural.



## **Magic Places: the adults' guide to young children's creative art work**

**Pennie Brownlee**

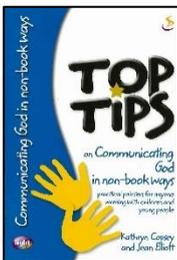
All children are born creative. Our task is to ensure they stay that way. This book outlines the nature of creativity and offers suggestions for fostering the natural unfolding of each child's creativity. It looks at children's developmental stages of creativity with pointers for appropriate support at each stage. The book clarifies the difference between so-called 'creative activities' and genuine creative play; and suggests ways to set up vibrant creative environments in the home, early childhood centres, and classrooms.



## **Innovative Tools for Children's Ministry**

**Group Publishing**

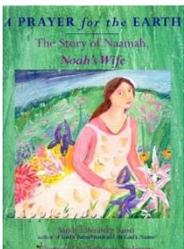
A searchable CD-ROM that makes building lessons easy! Just crack open this vault of innovative lesson elements to quickly and easily design an active learning, kid-energising lesson that's tailor-fit for your kids...your church...your teaching style. Includes 150 common Bible stories with complete lessons, 50 topical studies, 12 teacher training sessions. Each lesson includes games, craft, memory verse, application, creative prayer, preschool experience options, and more.



## **Top Tips on Communicating God in non-book ways**

**Kathryn Copey and Jean Elliott**

Ancient stained glass windows, PowerPoint presentations, games, senses, nature, art, storytelling, laughter, celebratory feasts - some non-book ways of meeting God are new for our time, some have been around for centuries. All of them ultimately lead to discovering the God we encounter in the Bible. This book challenges readers to use every means available to introduce children and young people to God, emphasising again and again the vital place of relationship-building.



## **A Prayer for the Earth: the story of Naamah, Noah's wife**

**Sandy Eisenberg Sasso**

When God tells Noah to bring the animals of the world onto the ark, in this story God also calls Naamah, Noah's wife, to save each plant on earth. Entrusted with this task, Naamah sets off to every corner of the world, discovering a fabulous array of growing things. She gathers seeds, bulbs, cuttings, spores and roots, and fills a room on the ark with every type of plant - from avocados and wheat to lilies and moss. Then, after 40 days on the ark, the most important part of Naamah's work begins. In this new story, based on an ancient text, Naamah's wisdom and love for the natural harmony of the earth inspires us to use our own courage, creativity, and faith to carry out Naamah's work today. Beautifully illustrated by Bethanne Anderson.

**We have plenty more resources available for borrowing!**

You can view our full catalogue by emailing [natalie@wn.ang.org.nz](mailto:natalie@wn.ang.org.nz), or pop in for a browse if you live nearby. If you would like to borrow any of the resources email Natalie to make your request.



## Kids take over the Cathedral with a Sustainable Wearable Arts Fashion Show

On Saturday 20 August, kids from around the Diocese came together for a Sustainable Wearable Arts Fashion Show – the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul was transformed with a runway, ‘Project Runway’ style screen, and amazing lighting and smoke effects. Bishop Justin was our MC for the night. Overall we had 50 costumes from a variety of parishes as well as pupils from Samuel Marsden Collegiate, with around 75 kids being involved in creating costumes.

The vision for the evening was to allow our children (school years 0-8) to raise their voices as kaitiaki of God’s earth; speaking into our Diocesan synod charge around climate change. Over several months, 10 parishes and schools took up the invitation to collect items that would ordinarily end up in rubbish or recycling, and create crazy costumes.

Our koha for the night went towards the Red Cross’s Pacific Disaster Relief Fund, in order to help the ongoing re-build from Cyclone Winston. We had Josese Rokotakala, a high school student from Tawa who was in Fiji when the cyclone struck, come and talk to us about his experiences and the ongoing need there. Thanks to the generosity of the audience we raised over \$1,000 to feed into this fund.

We also had Amilie Paynter from Blueprint Church come and share with us her dress which won the People’s Choice Award in the ‘real’ World of Wearable Arts show in 2006 – made from recycled weed mats and 5c coins.

The variety of costumes was amazing – we ended up having 5 sections – ‘From the Depths of our Imaginations’ (mythical creatures, characters, Sci-Fi etc.); ‘Techno-Whizzes’ (i.e. robots, futuristic themes); ‘Off to the Ball’; ‘Birds of the Air and Beasts of the Field’ – i.e. living things on land and sky – and finally ‘Under the Sea’. Particular highlights were the parish of Pauatahanui who created a giant fish and had a powerful message around washing cars on the grass to avoid chemical run-off into the inlet; also the mermaid costume created by Charlotte Lubransky (aged 11) which was amazingly detailed, with the theme of ocean pollution, and with materials sent in from friends all around New Zealand.

Every child went home with an eco-goody bag containing recycled crayons, seed bombs, re-usable cloth sandwich bags for lunchboxes, and a variety of activities.

More info on Movement: <http://movementonline.org.nz/3709/>

Watch the video highlights here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5KQTxLn\\_Us](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5KQTxLn_Us)



# Storypath

Connecting Children's Literature With Our Faith Story



## Lectionary Links

A valuable tool for anyone wanting to help children connect with the lectionary readings. This website posts books written for children or adolescents that link thematically with the lectionary readings for every Sunday of the year!

It also highlights particular ways that those books could be used for preaching or teaching with the lectionary texts.

This could be great for Sunday School, All-Age services, or perhaps as sermon illustrations – adults love stories too!

Posts are written one month in advance, so there is plenty of time to find the books in advance – most are available from local libraries.



Go to: <http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links/>

## Vacancy: Children's programme coordinator – St Hilda's Island Bay

Based at St Hilda's Anglican Church, 311 The Parade, Wellington.

The role requires:

- 2 hours a week on a Sunday morning (10-12pm) within primary school term-time.
- 1 hour per month meeting with mentor to discuss the role, curriculum, children and families.
- Leadership of Sunday morning children's programme; partnering with parents and volunteers.
- Maintenance of personal spiritual formation and professional development.
- Management of related budget, equipment and resources.
- Previous experience and references essential.

We pay a living wage.

For a full job description contact Mark Henderwood, [m.henderwood@massey.ac.nz](mailto:m.henderwood@massey.ac.nz)

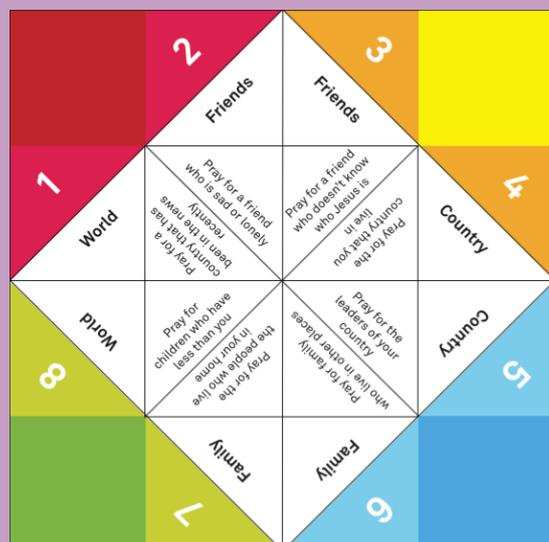
## Prayer ideas from Strandz

Running out of prayer ideas?

How do we get the generations praying together?

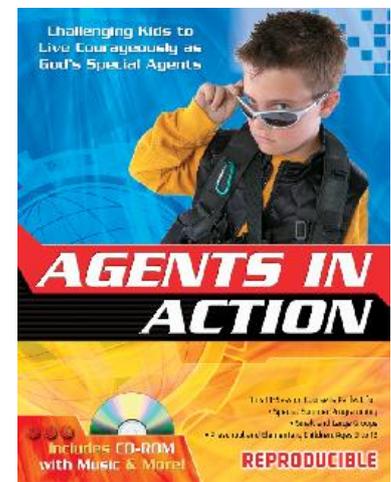
Here are some of our favourite ideas:

- [Prayer Origami](#) (pictured): [www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/prayer\\_origami\\_printable.pdf](http://www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/prayer_origami_printable.pdf)
- [Prayer Stations](#): <https://theresaecho.com/interactive-prayer-stations/>
- [Encircling Prayer](#) (video): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=psXuJKslUHU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psXuJKslUHU)
- [Labyrinths](#): <https://labyrinthociety.org/activities-for-kids>
- [Praying in Colour](#): <http://prayingincolor.com/>
- [Prayer Placemats](#): [www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/prayer\\_placemats.pdf](http://www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/prayer_placemats.pdf)
- [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#): [www.prayerspacesinschools.com/](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/)



# AGENTS IN ACTION

## Curriculum available to borrow!



Hayley Balmer from Tawa-Linden Parish has just finished using the Agents in Action Curriculum for the second time (the last time was five years ago). They won't use it for another five years, so wondered whether any other parish from the diocese would find it useful to borrow!

Duration: 13 weeks

The curriculum is a book and is reproducible.

Hayley can also make available all the planning tools they developed to go with it:

Posters, bookmarks for children with memory verse, planning sheets with craft ideas, info sheet for parents.

Below is an overview that Hayley made for parents. If you would like to borrow this resource, or find out more, contact Hayley at [hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz)

Life Focus	Bible Story	Memory Verse	Mission
My unselfish actions help me live like Jesus and get along with my family	Abraham's Unselfish Action (Gen 13: 1 - 18)	'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.' Matt 20:26	Serve Others
When I feel like fighting, I can stop and ask for God's help to know how to make peace	Isaac Makes Peace (Gen 26: 12 - 33)	'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.' Matt 5:9	Live in Peace
Obedying God's command to be honest helps others trust me.	Jacob's lies lead to trouble (Gen 27: 1 - 26)	'Do not steal, do not give false testimony.' Matt 19:18	Be Honest
When I'm afraid or worried, I can trust in God to help me.	Gideon needs Proof (Judges 6 - 7)	'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.' John 14: 1	Trust in God's Care
God promises to be with me, no matter what happens now or in the future.	Ruth	'I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matt 28:20	God is always with you
I can pray to God for help in saying no to temptation and living in right ways.	David resists temptation (1 Sam 24: 1 - 22; 26)	'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Matt 6:13	Help me to do what is right
Treating others kindly, even while protecting myself, helps me show God's love to others	Elisha's surprise (2 Kings 6:8 - 23)	'I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' Matt 5:44	Love others and pray for them
God's Word can help me make right choices and build good habits.	Sow and Grow (Mark 4: 1 - 20)	'If you love me, you will obey what I command.' John 14:15	Love God and obey His commands
I can be generous with my money and possessions to show my thankfulness for God's gifts to me	Bigger, Better Barns Luke 12: 13 - 21	'Freely you have received, freely give.' Matt 10:8	Be glad and give to others
Obedying God's command to treat others like I want to be treated will help me make and keep my friends	Widows in need Acts 6: 1 - 7	'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matt 7: 12	Treat others the same way you want to be treated
My actions and words can be a witness for Jesus, helping others see and understand what it means to be a Christian.	Lydia Hears Good News Acts 16: 6 - 15	'Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.' Matt 5: 16	Your good actions help others learn about God
Because God forgives me, I can show mercy and forgive others who have treated me wrongly.	Philemon's Choice Philemon	'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.' Luke 6: 36	Be merciful
Remembering my love for Jesus helps me talk to others in ways that show His love to them	Word Power James 3: 2 - 12	'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' John 13: 35	Love Jesus and show His love to others

# Whispering in Church

## by Carolyn Brown

Whispering in church is OK – even good and necessary!  
Do not apologize for it!  
Instead, learn to do it very well.

Whispering is good because it connects children learning to worship with their adults who know how to worship. Parents can no more worship “beside” their children than they can eat “beside” their children. Instead they must worship and eat “with” their children coaching them along the way. During childhood both are team sports and whispering is how the coaches and players communicate in the sanctuary.



**The trick is to cultivate the art of whispering in church.** At first most whispering needs to be done by the adults because young children have only stage whispers that can be heard for several rows. Adults can lean in with instructions, observations, and questions to think about. As children develop their ability to whisper quietly, they can also ask questions, make observations, and reply to their adult.

### What do you whisper about?

- ❖ Call attention to something that is coming, “this is the prayer where we all tell God what we’re sorry about.”
- ❖ Encouragement to participate, “we’re going to pray the Lord’s Prayer. You know it. You can pray with us.” Or “look at the last line of this song. It’s the same every time. Sing it with me.”
- ❖ Suggestions about things to listen for, “Jesus is going fishing in this story. What do you think he’ll catch?” or “there are A LOT of alleluias in this song!”
- ❖ Connect to something at home, (just before the Doxology) “my favourite blessing this week was our picnic yesterday. What was yours?”
- ❖ Share your love of worship, “this is one of my favourite songs. I like...”
- ❖ Cultivate the art of the no-answer question, “How do you think Jesus felt when that happened?”

The whispering need not be constant. Several whispered comments or questions spread throughout the service are needed by younger children. One comment on something that especially hits home is enough for many worship savvy older children.

Surprising benefit: When parental whispering is mostly about sharing worship rather than correcting worship behaviour, it enriches the worship of the adults as well as the children. We have to stay alert and pay attention. Actually, instead of getting in the way of our worship, it tends to make us better worshippers.

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.nz/2012/10/whispering-in-church.html>



## Prayer Space ideas!

A prayer activity is a simple installation that provokes/inspires prayer and personal reflection.

Great for All-Age services, Sunday school, chapel spaces etc.

Go to: [www.prayerspacesinschools.com/topten](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/topten)





## Free Sunday School lesson: What is the Fruit of the Spirit?

Use this Sunday school lesson with kids of all ages.

**Main teaching point:** God gives us the fruit of the Spirit to help us show others what his love looks like.

**Younger children** will discover what each fruit of the Spirit looks like, and learn how to recognize qualities of the fruit of the spirit when they see them. **Older children** will discover how to grow and nurture the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and realize the importance of each quality. **All children** will understand that the fruit of the Spirit is given to us as a tool, equipping us to show God's love to those around us, fulfilling God's commands.

View the lesson online:

<http://childrensministry.com/fruit-of-the-spirit-sunday-school-lesson>



## Connectible

A few weeks ago, a group of us sat huddled at St Johns College in Auckland writing material for Connectible - an online lectionary resource sharing platform. Strandz is overseeing the content management and creation for the site, so if you are using the lectionary each week and are putting together some resources for your parish, please let us know! We would love to share tried and tested material from our NZ churches, that could encourage and equip the wider church.

[www.connectible.nz/](http://www.connectible.nz/)

### Churches Education Commission: opportunity to serve on Trust Board

CEC is looking for a strategic person to take up a place on the Wellington Regional Trust Board. Could this be you? Or perhaps you know someone who would be perfect in this ministry?

CEC provides Christian Religious Education (CRE) Programmes (previously known as Bible in Schools) to State primary schools throughout New Zealand. They also enable Chaplaincy in Schools (under Life walk Trust) and various outreach programmes.

They are looking for a person who has a vision for ministry to children/youth, is adaptable, forward thinking, can work well in a relational/team setting, and ideally is familiar with funding lines/education processes.

If this sounds like you (or you know a person you could pass this onto), please call Dianne Thomas Bryan on 027 584 8428, or email [dianne.thomasbryan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dianne.thomasbryan@xtra.co.nz) for more information.

# All-Age Prayer Service

Here is a great All-Age service plan from **Scripture Union**. It was written to be used for Pray Day (August 5<sup>th</sup>), but could be easily adapted for any Sunday...

10.20 am	<p>Morning tea &amp; Introduction:            Show a globe/map of the world, talk about how people all over New Zealand are going to be praying today (including us!).            Briefly explain each prayer station.</p>
10.30 am	<p>Prayer stations:</p> <p><b>Prayer chains:</b>            write prayers on slips of paper, join them up to make a paper prayer chain.</p> <p><b>Post it prayers:</b> (focus: Syria/Ukraine/Christchurch)            write prayers on post its, stick them to maps of Syria/Ukraine/Christchurch</p> <p><b>Finger paint:</b> (focus: repentance/forgiveness)            using “no mess finger paint” children can write/draw things they are sorry for. Leader can illustrate God's forgiveness by erasing the pictures/words.</p> <p><b>Helium balloons:</b> (focus: requests)            write/draw prayers on paper &amp; tie them to a helium balloon. Release the balloons at the end of the session.</p> <p><b>Stones:</b> (focus: praying for friends/family)            CH pray quietly for someone they know while holding a stone. When they have finished praying they add their stone to the sculpture - each stone will represent one person lifted in prayer to God.</p> <p><b>Collage:</b> (focus: thankfulness)            using magazines etc, cut out pictures of things we can be thankful for &amp; glue them onto a big piece of paper around the words “Dear God, Thank you for loving us and providing us with the things we need. Amen.”</p> <p><b>Quiet space:</b>            have adults available to pray with CH who would like prayer. Children can come to this Quiet Space at any point in the programme.</p>
11.20 am	Worship
11:30:00	<p>Closing Prayer:            (on overhead - read together)  <b>Father God, Thank you that you hear our prayers. Please help us to watch and wait patiently for your response. Amen.</b></p> <p>Go outside &amp; release balloons!</p>

**Resources:** slips of paper, stapler & staples, pens, pencils, post-it notes, maps/photos of MPs, resealable bags, paint, helium grade balloons, string, helium, stones, hot glue & gun, newsprint, scissors, glue sticks, magazines, CD (Karakia?)

Quiet space set up: lamps, cross, pictures of nature?, picture of Jesus?, bean bags? ...

# Links and Ideas

**Lessons for pre-schoolers:** <http://childrensministry.com/sunday-school-lessons/preschoolers>

Free preschool Sunday school lessons for use in your church, home, class, or group.

**Ten Top Prayer Activities:** [www.prayerspacesinschools.com/topten](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/topten)

Prayer space ideas for thankfulness, peace, sorry, forgiveness, please, worry, self-identity, questions, the world, and injustice.

**All-age Service Plans:** [www.premierchildrenswork.com/Resources/All-Age-Service-Plans](http://www.premierchildrenswork.com/Resources/All-Age-Service-Plans)

All-Age service outlines based on Bible passages.

**Free Minecraft-themed programme:** [ministry-to-children.com/minecraft-vbs/](http://ministry-to-children.com/minecraft-vbs/)

Written for holiday programmes, but could be adapted for Sunday School or mid-week clubs.

**Handling our worry (prayer activity):** [www.faithinhomes.org.uk/handling-our-worries/](http://www.faithinhomes.org.uk/handling-our-worries/)

We all worry at times. Whether the issue is big or small, it can cause us to feel unsettled. God promises that he cares about our worries and will never leave us, but sometimes it may not be easy to remember or we may feel that we are alone. How can we remind ourselves and trust that God will surround us and our worries?

## Articles

**The spirituality of children:** [www.patheos.com/Topics/Spirituality-of-Children](http://www.patheos.com/Topics/Spirituality-of-Children)

Many believe children have an innate spirituality that defies religious categories. Their questions and confidences seem to imply an awareness of the ineffable in ways that adults have tuned out. How can we understand this in light of our own traditions? What can children teach us about the world and the possibility of the divine?

**Kids want what we teach them to want:**

[www.christianitytoday.com/women/2016/june/kids-want-what-we-teach-them-to-want.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2016/june/kids-want-what-we-teach-them-to-want.html)

We can't simply teach our children to know the right thing or to act in right ways. We must help them to love right things. The trick is that the only way to cultivate right desires is to practice our way into them....

**Hide and Seek: what do we know about a child's spiritual life?**

[www.premierchildrenswork.com/Past-Issues/2016/June-July-2016/Hide-and-Seek](http://www.premierchildrenswork.com/Past-Issues/2016/June-July-2016/Hide-and-Seek)

Children connect with God in amazing, unusual ways. Yet often, in churches, we try and train it out and 'normalise' them into our own form of spirituality. But how do children connect with the spiritual world? What do we need to pay attention to and what can we learn?

**What is stressing our kids?:** [www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-16/young-australians-in-their-own-words/6937784](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-16/young-australians-in-their-own-words/6937784)

Why, at a time when we're healthier and wealthier than ever as a nation, are our kids feeling so anxious? Young people are rarely heard talking frankly about their place in the world, the responsibility they feel to tackle the world's problems, the peer group pressures they face if they want to be popular, the demands to succeed at school and get a good job, and the often damaging effect that social media has on their lives.

**Talking about prayer with children:**

<http://guardiansofancora.com/support-for-you/parents/support-your-children/prayer/>

Explores what is happening when we ask God questions – and how listening is part of the conversation.

**Welcoming Rainbow Kids (book chapter):**

[books.google.com.au/books?id=lugWCQAAQBAJ&pg=PT50&lpg=PT50&dq=welcoming+rainbow+kids](http://books.google.com.au/books?id=lugWCQAAQBAJ&pg=PT50&lpg=PT50&dq=welcoming+rainbow+kids)

Supporting LGBTQ Children, Parents and Family Members. Offered at Weaving Our Gifts, 2015, Melinda Melone prepared this to introduce respectful language to use in regard to the LGBTQ community, issues to consider as a catechist, safety tips, and further resources to be knowledgeable and compassionate with the children and families of the LGBTQ community among us.

**Welcoming Rainbow Kids (powerpoint):** <https://cctheo.org/news/welcoming-rainbow-kids>



## Every kid needs a champion

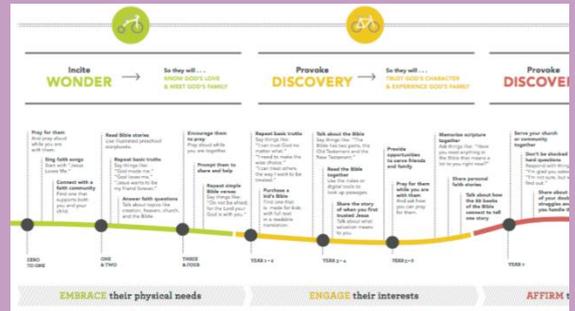
Rita Pierson, a teacher for 40 years, once heard a colleague say, "They don't pay me to like the kids." Her response: "Kids don't learn from people they don't like." This 8 minute TED talk is unforgettable watch.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFnMTHhKdkw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFnMTHhKdkw)

## Authentic Faith timeline

How do we grow authentic faith across the ages? Strandz has been digging into some of the Phase material over the last year, looking at how we can help families to strategically form faith in the lives of their kids. This helpful timeline highlights questions and activities you can include along the way. View and download the timeline here:

[www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/authentic\\_faith\\_infographic.pdf](http://www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/authentic_faith_infographic.pdf)



PO Box 22368  
Khandallah  
Wellington 6441

## ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON NORTH

DISTRICT 9940

## SCHOLARSHIPS 2016-2017

Do you need assistance to help pay for your tertiary education, vocational training or life-skills programme?

Then apply now!

Grants are available to students of any age who come from the Greater Wellington area and who can demonstrate financial need.

The amount awarded varies but typically is in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000

Application forms can be obtained from our website

[www.wellingtonnorth.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonnorth.org.nz)

Applications close 31 October 2016.

## The God Spark

There is a Jewish creation myth that goes something like this:

*In the beginning, God created a huge clay vessel, and God blew the fire of love into this vessel, but God's love was so strong, that the vessel shattered into a trillion pieces and creation was born. Each of us is a shard of clay with a spark of God inside. It is our duty on this earth to fan that spark into a flame.*

We can relate to that story when we see the flames of love that light up this world, people who have strived to live in loving kindness.

Then we think of the time when the great fire of God, Christ Jesus, joined us to show us the way.

In the mystery of his love, our own sparks are kindled and we see the light of God in everything.

© Made for Love: Spiritual Reflection for Couples by Joy Cowley (Pleroma Press, 2015)



# The Big Little Bible app

Designed especially for 8-10 year olds

Aimed at helping parents and grandparents share the Bible with 8-10 year olds, the Big Little Bible is designed as a stepping stone for children making the transition from Bible story books to a full Bible.

Created by the New Zealand Bible Society.

**Download it for FREE!**

Google Play (Android): [play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nz.org.biblesociety.stories.android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nz.org.biblesociety.stories.android)

iTunes (Apple): [itunes.apple.com/nz/app/the-big-little-bible/id1075546637](https://itunes.apple.com/nz/app/the-big-little-bible/id1075546637)

## Cluster Facilitators

The following areas have Cluster Facilitators – these people are your first port of call for advice, trouble-shooting, pastoral care, networking, etc:

<b>Urban Wellington:</b>	<b>Alison Camplin</b>	<a href="mailto:chaplain@wellingtoncathedral.org.nz">chaplain@wellingtoncathedral.org.nz</a> Parishes: Northland, Willis Street, Cathedral, Wadestown, City Mission
<b>Lower Hutt:</b>	<b>Lyn Napier</b>	<a href="mailto:iandlnapier@gmail.com">iandlnapier@gmail.com</a> Parishes: Lower Hutt, Eastbourne, Waiwhetu, Wainuiomata, Petone
<b>Greater Porirua City:</b>	<b>Hayley Balmer</b>	<a href="mailto:hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz">hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz</a> Parishes: Tawa-Linden, Titahi Bay, Porirua, Whitby, Pauatahanui
<b>Kapiti Coast (Kapiti – Levin):</b>	<b>Colette Stevens</b>	<a href="mailto:colette.stevens@slingshot.co.nz">colette.stevens@slingshot.co.nz</a> Parishes: Kapiti, Waikanae, Otaki, Levin
<b>Wanganui:</b>	<b>Christine Goodin</b>	<a href="mailto:christinegoodin@xtra.co.nz">christinegoodin@xtra.co.nz</a> Parishes: Christ Church, Eastern Wanganui, Castlecliff, Gonville.



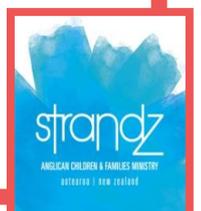
connectible

**Connectible** is an online resource sharing website, created by the Diocese of Dunedin. It is a FREE online curriculum for the whole Church and it is ready for you to try out!

The system follows the Lectionary to help you easily find the resources that connect with a key Bible reference for each Sunday. Each week there are set of components that connect together. Use all of them or only a few.

This is a resource sharing website, so if you have good idea, share it! Please have a look through the site then click on the 'Give Feedback' button to add in your thoughts.

Check it out at <http://connectible.nz/>



## FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS IN WELLINGTON



An opportunity to network with other children's ministry leaders, and share resources, ideas, good coffee, and encouragement.

Join us at 1pm on the second Thursday of the term at the Scripture Union offices, Oxford Tce, Newtown.

Contact Liz at [Liz.E@sunz.org.nz](mailto:Liz.E@sunz.org.nz) for more information or to sign up to the mailing list.

Hosted in partnership with local churches



## Children and Family Ministry Facebook Group

An online community for anyone involved in ministry to children and families in the Anglican Diocese of Wellington.

Ask each other questions, post ideas or resources you use, discuss articles, find out what other parishes are doing... and anything else you want!

[www.facebook.com/wn.children/](http://www.facebook.com/wn.children/)

(you will need a Facebook account – it's free to sign up.)

### Dates for your Diary:

- September 3: Tawa LINK Children's Ministry Training Day
- October 8: Dio Leadership Training day
- October 25&27: Children's Ministry Network Workshops
- November 5: Diocesan Hui

### Tell us what you're up to!

We would love to hear about ministries and events around the Diocese that engage with children and families, and profile them in this newsletter!

If you would like to share what is happening in your parish, please email Natalie at [natalie@wn.ang.org.nz](mailto:natalie@wn.ang.org.nz).



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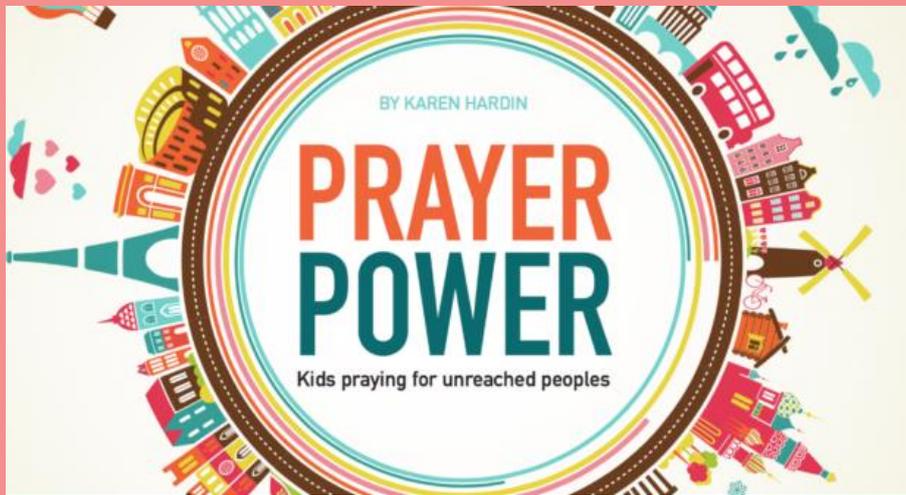
young persons office

Remember we are here to serve you! If you need ideas, resources, specific training for you and/or your team, an opportunity to debrief or chat, give us a call or an email. We'll visit you, send resources out, and seek answers to questions for you. Whatever you need, try us! If we can't help you, we'll find out who can!

Colette Stevens, Northern Children and Families Enabler: 04 471 8581, [colette@wn.ang.org.nz](mailto:colette@wn.ang.org.nz)

Debbie Smith, Children and Family Ministry Developer - South Diocese: 04 471 8586, [debbie@wn.ang.org.nz](mailto:debbie@wn.ang.org.nz)

Natalie Moreno, Administrator and Resourcer: 04 471 8588, [natalie@wn.ang.org.nz](mailto:natalie@wn.ang.org.nz)



**Children’s prayers have no limits.** Their prayers can travel to the far corners of the world, penetrating unreached communities and effecting boys and girls they’ve never met. How can we equip our children to become powerful intercessors for the unreached?

#### **Make It Biblical**

Start with a familiar passage: John 3:16. We often teach children to personalize this verse by substituting their own name for “world.” “For God so loved Nathan, ...” Revise this activity to underscore God’s loving plan to include people from every culture on earth in His eternal family. Recite John 3:16 with your group, replacing the word “world” with the name of an unreached group. “For God so loved the Tajiks, ...” Explain that God had all peoples in mind when He sent Jesus, even those who are still waiting to hear about Him for the first time.

#### **Make It Personal**

Children can’t relate to millions of unreached peoples, but they can identify with one boy or girl. Here are two resources that equip children to intercede for the unreached in specific ways:

- 1) The Kids Around the World series ([cmmmpress.org](http://cmmmpress.org)) includes videos that showcase 11 different unreached cultures from a child’s viewpoint. Each set includes activities (language, games, crafts, foods, geography, history) that enable children to experience a bit of daily life in the featured culture. Bible lessons teach about the religious beliefs of the unreached group and prayer activities provide hands-on ways for children to intercede.
- 2) The WEAVE website ([weavefamily.org](http://weavefamily.org)) includes a monthly story of an unreached child with a cultural activity, recipe, discussion questions, and prayer requests.

#### **Make It Engaging**

Children learn through involvement. Here are some prayer activities that engage their minds, bodies, and hearts:

##### **Kids Like Me Prayers**

Lay a large world map on the floor. The children will take off their shoes and sit around it. Choose children to take turns standing on countries with many unreached peoples. China, Indonesia, India, North Korea, and North Africa are good ones to start with. Let each child pray for the boys and girls who live there, using one of the following categories. Example: “God, please help the kids in India who like soccer to come to know you.”

Categories: same age/same hair colour/same sport or hobby/same eye colour/same school year/same favourite school subject/same name/same favourite colour/same number of siblings

##### **Disaster-Related Prayers**

Tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, and famine often hit areas with large numbers of unreached peoples. God uses these situations to soften hearts and cause the unreached to cry out to Him. Here’s a way for children to pray during this time of spiritual openness:

In a bag, put items that represent needs (suggested items below). Tailor this to the specific situation. Lay a large world map on the floor. The children will take off their shoes and sit around the map. Tell the children a little about the disaster that occurred. Locate the country on the map and place small bandages on it. Choose a child to pull one item out of the bag. Talk about what it represents (below). The child will then pick up a bandage from the map and replace it with the chosen item. Pray for God to provide for the need represented. Example: “God, help kids injured in the Haiti earthquake to have the medicine and doctors they need.”

fruit = food, notebook = school, cup = clean water, toy house = home, empty pill bottle = healthcare, family picture = loving adults, Bible = Jesus

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God has given us the privilege of discipling children in our homes and churches. Let’s help them become mighty prayer warriors who can intercede for the unreached with compassion, hope, and perseverance.

Read the full article here: <http://kidzmatter.com/prayer-power/>