

L3

LAY LEADERS' LITURGY

Worship Resources

Sunday October 4, 2020



MediaCom
EDUCATION

Published by
MediaCom Education Inc
PO Box 610
Unley SA 5061
Australia

Phone 08 8371 1399
www.mediacomeducation.org.au

© 2020 MediaCom Education

All rights reserved. This publication is copyright. Other than for the purposes of and subject to the conditions of the Copyright Act, no part of it may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise) be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission from the publisher.

Acknowledgements

- 1 Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler's blog ameliakoh-butler.blogspot.com
- 2 Hey Kids altogether, Judi Hartwig, MediaCom Education
- 3 Communion resource from 'All God's People Worship', Mediacom Education

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Key Scriptures

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The Ten Commandments are given to Moses. These are the rules by which God's people can know God and live productive, fruitful and meaningful lives before God and one another.

Psalm 19:

The rules of nature reveal to us the ways of God and the law revives the soul.

Philippians 3: 4b-14:

Jesus' life of love reflects how God's rules bring life and uplift those around us.

Matthew 21:33-46.

In the parable of the tenants, those who disobey God's rules cause hurt when God's rules and this parable teaches us about God's goodness and patience.

Theme Focus

God's laws for good living and the fullness of life in Christ.

Decorations:

Flowers, greenery or a simple sprig to symbolise how nature reveals God to us.

Liturgy

Begin: Light a candle in a safe place, as a reminder of Christ's presence and our connectedness with others worshipping in different locations all over the world. The candle when lit, is a reminder that Christ is present in love.

Acknowledgement of Country¹

From the beginning of time, God created the lands and waters,
given into the care of the people of this land.

(Insert the name of the traditional Aboriginal people of the area, or simply use 'First Peoples')

We honour and respect those who have cared for the lands we are on,

now being woven together in this new sharing of story. Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler, ameliakoh-butler.blogspot.com

Psalm 19: selected verses *New Living Translation*

This can be read by yourself or someone else in the group:

The instructions of the LORD are perfect,reviving the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy,making wise the simple.

The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.
Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever.
The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair.

Together: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Sing music of Praise

Music Suggestions

A greater song	Matt Redman, Paul Baloche
May the words of my mouth	(Iona) – Youtube
For the beauty of the earth	Together in Song 137
The heavens shall declare	Together in Song 746
Let all creation dance	Together in Song 187
When I consider God's design	All Together Whatever 462
Morning has broken	Together in Song 156
How great thou art	Together in Song 155

Prayer

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth,
night and day,
and every living creature,
We praise you for every part of your creation.
We praise you for the creation of human beings,
made in your own image.
Thank you for charging us with the job of caring for the earth.
We praise you for sending your son Jesus to live among us,
to show us how to live in love.
We praise you for your love and welcome it today.

Amen

Adapted prayer from Rev Sue Ellis

Children's Talk - Reflect on why we have rules.

Use a rule book. This could be a sporting rule book or some other type of instruction sheet i.e. for a board game, etc.

Ask the group what would happen if people tried to play the game without knowing the rules. You might like to even try it!

Think of how chaotic things could get. Rules are created to so we can play together fairly, drive safely and for a wide range of other reasons.

One of the foundational stories of our faith is of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

How many of the Ten Commandments can you remember?

(At the end of this worship resource is a handout with the commandments from the Exodus reading. This handout can be distributed amongst group members.)

Ideas for Reflection

Invite people to reflect on how these ancient and modern words can help revive the soul and encourage Christian practices.

When have you decided to follow the rules later, but not yet?

What makes you want to put it off?

What are you missing out on by doing this?

... and share this story:

A business man known for his hard and fast lifestyle once said to Mark Twain, "Before I die, I am going to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud when I get to the top."

Without missing a beat, Mark Twain replied, "I have a better idea. You could just go home to Boston and keep them."

Alternative Children's Talk ²

Using building blocks, build a tower and invite children to build a tower with you.

Ask the children, what is the most important block in this tower?

After you have received responses, pull out the bottom block of the tower and watch the tower fall down.

Share with the children that the bottom block is the most important block as all the other blocks rest on it. When it is taken out, all the blocks fall down.

Jesus is a bit like that first block. If we build our lives on Jesus – listen to the stories about him, try to live as he taught us by being kind to one another, then our lives will be strong and good.

Prayer

Dear God, Thanks you for Jesus. Help us to build our lives on what he has taught us. Amen

Judi Hartwig, 'Hey Kids'

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
forgive us the times we have not followed your ways of love.
Forgive us the times we fail to put you first,
bowing instead to our money, our possessions,
and the expectations of other people.
Forgive us the times we create idols for ourselves,
only to discover their shallowness and emptiness.
Forgive us the times we dishonor your name or are careless with our words.
Forgive us the times we place our work and our own ways above all else,
busying ourselves rather than giving time to you, ourselves, our families, and friends.
Forgive us the times we are not careful with your creation,
doing it harm by our thoughtlessness or ignorance.
Forgive us the times we are not loyal and loving in our relationships.
Forgive us the times we might be tempted to take what is not rightfully ours.
Forgive us the times we lie, or gossip, or falsely accuse, to save our own reputation.
Forgive us the times we are not content with what we have,
wanting more and giving way to greed.
For all these times, loving God, we are sorry.
Help us to follow your ways of love.

Amen.

Rev Cheryl Wilson

Assurance of Forgiveness

God made a covenant with Moses to be faithful and loving.
That covenant was fulfilled in Christ, in whom we find forgiveness and grace.
Our sins are forgiven

Thanks be to God!

Sing

Music Suggestions

Rain	Patty Griffin
Forgiven	Sovereign Grace music
Forgive our sins as we forgive	Together in Song 635
O, For a closer walk with God	Together in Song 576
Dear Father, Lord of humankind	Together in Song 598
Create in us a clean heart, O God	Together in Song 712

The Word for Today

Matthew 21: 33-46. The Parable of the Tenants

Jesus tells another parable to his disciples.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard.

He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower.

Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.

When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.

Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way.

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'

So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

New International Version

Ideas for Reflection

When have you found rules useful?

When have you experienced rules as restrictive, or irrelevant?

When we are children, we are expected to do as we are told, because we trust adults to know what is best for us. As we grow up, we might question the rules and assumptions we have learned, or at least stretch the boundaries! As adults, we might come to a state where we do the right thing out of a sense of personal integrity and social responsibility. We follow the rules not only because we have to, but because we want to, and we realise it is (usually) for a greater social good.

God's Torah (law, instruction) formed the basis for Jewish living, guiding how they related to God and to each other. The Ten Commandments, given in covenant with Moses, reminded the ancient Israelites that they were God's people, and God would be faithful. The rules were to help the people live in good relationship with each other, and with God, in love.

Sometimes, however, rules become rigid and unbending, and the original purpose is forgotten. Rules that are designed to nourish us and protect our freedom can become limiting and restrictive. Hundreds of years later, Jesus challenged the legalism of the Pharisees and the focus they had placed on the law.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them,” (Matthew 5:17) Jesus told them, while healing on the Sabbath and eating with outcasts. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

The Ten Commandments are not just words engraved on stone for an ancient people hundreds of years ago, to be followed blindly. They are rules of love, which embody how we are called to live, and very powerfully shape our relationships with God and with each other. They challenge us to put God and others first. It is this self-giving, transformative love which can change our lives, and our relationships with those around us. Following God’s rules of love help us grow in wisdom, righteousness, and truth.

Rev Cheryl Wilson

Imagine

Imagine you are in a beautiful land of which God has given you the care.

Imagine an abundance of fruit and flowers of every imaginable colour. The sun is shining and a gentle breeze rustles the leaves. The air is fragrant with the scent of the land, the trees and the bush. You feel a sense of satisfaction in all the work you have done, as you gaze at the basket of bush tucker you have collected. It’s rewarding wandering around the land and collecting seasonal fruits and picking colourful leaves and flowers. Even though you don’t actually own the land, it starts to feel as if it’s yours. After all, you’ve put so much work into it.

Through the trees a long way off, you can see someone approaching. You recognise the owner’s son, coming to see how you have cared for the land.

How are you going to receive him? Are you worried he might disapprove and spoil your creation? Will you welcome him or reject him? If you welcome him, how will you work with him in the care of the property? If you reject everything he has to say because you want things your own way, what impact might this have on the land and on you? What might be the outcome either way?

Ideas for Reflection

Are you ready and willing to make that choice?

What change will that choice make to your current faith practice?

Rev Sue Ellis

(Distribute some leaves from the worship table and reflect on your response to these questions.

When you are ready, finish with a this short, simple prayer:

Loving God

May we always remember that you only want what is best for us.

Help us to receive you and to surrender to your will for our lives.

Amen.

Sing

Music Suggestions

Fragile	Sting & Stevie Wonder -Youtube
A new commandment	<i>Together in Song 699</i>
The power of your love	<i>Together in Song 685</i>

Prayers of the People

Invite members of the congregation to think of the different relationships they have with people, in many different contexts.

How might loving God, and loving them, become their priority?

Pray for each of these people and situations. This can be done individually or in groups or one person can note down everyone's suggestions and prayer on everyone's behalf.

Holy Communion

Sing

Music suggestions

Remembrance	Matt Redman
Bread for the World	<i>All Together Whatever 473</i>
Bread of the world in mercy broken	<i>Together in Song 512</i>

Communion liturgy ³

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty ...

I am the living bread that came down from heaven Whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (*John 6:35, 51*)

In the desert, our ancestors were fed the manna.

You fed them and they were satisfied.

Thanks be to God, who feeds the hungry and meets every need.

Jesus said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life ...

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,
and let the one who believes in me drink ...

I am the true vine ..."

(*John 4:14; 7:37, 38, 15:1*)

In the desert, our ancestors drank water from the rock.

They drank and their thirst was quenched.

Thanks be to God, who satisfies every need.

On the night of his betrayal,
Jesus took a loaf of bread and after blessing it,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said,
"Take, eat; this is my body".

Then he took a cup,
and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying,
"Drink from it all of you;
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is poured out for many of the forgiveness of sins.
I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day
when I drink it with you in my Father's kingdom."
(Matthew 26:26-29)

The bread of heaven is broken for us.
We shall feed on the food of eternal life.
The cup of salvation is given for us.
The gift of eternal life given for all.
The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.
We break this bread in the name of Christ.
We shall feed upon the bread of life.
We raise this cup, sign of covenant grace.
We shall drink and be satisfied.

Holy Communion is shared.

extracted from 'All God's People Worship'

Prayer to Follow Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for this meal that connects us together
as your people across the whole world.

Fill this worshipping community with your forgiving love, that each one here may live by your
commandments of love and by your grace, be witnesses of that love in every way.

Amen

Closing Song

Music Suggestions

If you had a vineyard
Love is his word, love is his way
Lord Jesus Christ
The trees of the field

Sinéad O'Connor - Youtube
Together in Song 534
Together in Song 526
(on Youtube with lyrics)

Blessing

As you go, may the peace of God keep you
in the knowledge of the power of Christ's resurrection
and be with you as you live out
your Christian faith in the week ahead.
The Blessing of Almighty God, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you,
now and forever more.

Amen.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt have no other God before me.
2. Thou shalt not make any graven idols
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain
4. Remember the sabbath and keep it holy
5. Honour thy father and mother
6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not gear false witness against thy neighbour
10. Thou shalt not covet they neighbour's goods

1. Make God first and foremost in your life
2. Grow your relationship with God on your experience of God
3. Always speak respectfully about God
4. Keep one day a week as a holy day
5. Respect your family
6. Respect the dignity of every life
7. Be faithful in your marriage
8. Respect the rights of others
9. Be truthful in all you say and do
10. Be satisfied and grateful for all you have.