



A New way

Good Friday Intergenerational Meeting

“So, friends, we can now – without hesitation
– walk right up to God, into ‘the Holy Place.’
Jesus has cleared the way ...”

Hebrews 10:19-21, The Message

Consider and prepare

This is an intergenerational segment that can engage **EVERYONE**. You can build connection within your community by including participants of all ages and abilities.

The key message for this segment is that God loves us so much that he wants us to live close in his presence. When Jesus died on the cross, he gave us a path to hope. Jesus provided a new way for us to come close to God.

Please think about the needs and abilities of people in your gathering and tailor the activity accordingly so that everyone is included.

Pray that all who engage with this activity will also experience the fullness of what it means to be close to God.

You will need:

- A chair
- About 10 cards (depending on how many participants you have) with simple questions written on them. For example:
 - What is your favourite colour?
 - What sports do you like to play?
 - How many brothers and sisters do have?
 - What suburb do you live in?
 - Do you prefer sweet or salty foods?
- A small table or container for the cards
- Materials for several different tasks. For example:
 - Bowls of water and soap for washing
 - Paper towels for drying
 - Hand sanitiser
 - 'Surgical gowns' – make your own by cutting holes in garbage bags
 - Gloves
 - Face masks
 - Face shields
- Lively music to play while volunteers are doing the tasks (optional)

Interact

1. Choose a volunteer to answer some questions. (Choose someone who will be confident to read and answer simple questions.) Invite them to sit on a chair at the front where everyone can see them.
2. Explain that the goal is to be able to ask your volunteer a question. Before anyone can get close to the volunteer and ask a question they must first get cleaned up. Explain the steps you have prepared for them to do. For example, wash hands, dry hands, sanitise etc.
3. Choose a participant to complete the tasks. You might like to play some music as they perform these tasks. Once they have finished the tasks, they can select a question and hand it to the volunteer to read aloud and answer (this allows for participants who are not confident readers to take part). Allow several people to have a turn. NOTE: If you have a less mobile participant, consider taking the supplies to them to complete the task.
4. Thank your volunteers and participants.

Listen

- Before Jesus came into the world, people felt that they had to make themselves perfect BEFORE they could come near to God. They thought they needed to be 'clean' inside and out.
- They knew God was PERFECT and they were NOT!
- So, they tried to follow rules and do things to make themselves better and cleaner. They tried to make themselves 'good enough' to come close to God.
- But they kept making mistakes, they kept doing wrong things and they never felt that they could be 'good enough' to be near to God.
- God loves people so much that he wants us to come close and stay close. God wants us to understand and know him, to ask questions and share our lives with him.
- So, God gave us a new path to him. He made a NEW way. Hebrews 10 says, "So, friends, we can now – without hesitation – walk right up to God, into 'the Holy Place.' Jesus has cleared the way ..." (Hebrews 10:19-21, The Message).

- If you have time, choose a new volunteer and allow participants to ask a couple more questions without having to do tasks.
- God sent Jesus to make things right between us and God, so that we can live with God now and always, just as we are. We can stop worrying about being perfect, knowing that God will help us to live like Jesus if we stay close.

Wonder

- I wonder if you can think of a time when you felt close to God?
- What do you think it feels like to be close to God?

Pray

- Jesus has created a way for us to be close to God all of the time. That means we can listen and talk to God wherever we are.
- You can pray aloud so that everyone can hear, or you can pray quietly so only God can hear you.
- You might like to:
 - Thank God for being near to you
 - Ask for help to stay close to God
 - Tell God anything that is on your mind

