

Worship Development 10

Starter: *(in pairs)*

Relate your first memory of being in Church – how did it feel?

Reading: 1 Timothy 4:12-16

Comment: When a group of young people explored what helped them to worship the following comments were made:

- A circular seating plan gives a sense of being a community at worship.
- Spoken prayers with music in the background create a good atmosphere for communicating with God.
- Singing 2 or 3 songs in one group enhances the sense of worship by allowing greater flow of related ideas.
- When Bible passages are presented in a personal way it brings them alive.
- Drama, especially with humorous content, brings home the message in a memorable way.
- Interactive messages are better than a sermon.
- Multi-media presentations aid any aspect of worship and the message.
- Worship only works when you feel the presence of God.
- Worship should express passion.
- Worship needs to be relevant to us.

Reflect on the reading and these comments on your own and then discuss in groups of 3 the following questions:

1. Are the preferences expressed in these comments confined to young people?
2. Try to summarize what young people are looking for in worship. Is this encouraging?
3. What has been your experience of any of the suggestions made in the comments? Was it a good experience?

Youth Worship

4. Do these comments explain the absence of young people in our traditional worship? What can we do to accommodate the needs of young people in our worship?

After discussion in small groups, share your thoughts with the whole group.

Application: Few people lead youth worship, but many have younger people in their congregations and adults who identify with the same needs.

In groups of 4, consider this traditional service format and transform parts of it to assist young people present in worship.

Call to worship
Hymn
Prayers of adoration and confession
Hymn
Readings (pick one from Sunday's lectionary)
Hymn
Sermon
Hymn
Prayers of Intercession
Hymn
Blessing

Worship: Use a section from each group's contribution to create a suitable closing worship. Pray for the young people of your church or circuit.

Follow up:

- 1 *Youth Worship takes place at 8.00pm on the first Sunday in the month at Side Door, Laceby Road, Grimsby. You are welcome to come along and experience some of these ideas in practice.*
- 2 *Invite some young people to your group or LP meeting and ask them to lead a discussion about their needs in worship. [Please only do this if you intend to take notice of what they have to say].*