

Sanctuary First

February 2013

Theme Summary

“The Garden of God”

Scripture focus:

Gen 1:1 – 2:2, 3:8 God created the heavens and the earth and took great pleasure in doing so. And he created people and gave them his earth to look after and enjoyed it with them.

Background:

God seemed to be in the habit of walking in the garden in the cool of the day, a picture of enjoyment and rest, a place where he would expect to find Adam and Eve and perhaps have a companionable word with them. Those feelings of being in a beautiful place, of enjoying rest after a hard days work, of treasuring easy companionship are parts of being human we've inherited from God and are worth keeping on our personal horizons.

Setting the scene: Garden setting as much as possible.

These ideas form the basis of the service with space to add in ideas, songs and resources which may work locally. The intention is to allow quite generous time for the three stations.

PRESENTER	<p>God created the heavens and the earth and took great pleasure in doing so. And he created people and gave them his earth to look after and enjoyed it with them. Afterwards, God seemed to be in the habit of walking in the garden in the cool of the day, a picture of enjoyment and rest, a place where he would expect to find Adam and Eve and perhaps have a companionable word with them. Those feelings of being in a beautiful place, of enjoying rest after a hard days work, of treasuring easy companionship are parts of being human we've inherited from God and are worth keeping on our personal horizons.</p>
VIDEO	<p>Creation story Gen 1:1-2:2</p> <p>Bible words with images behind it.</p> <p>After Gen2:2, screen fades and words come up 'and God walked in the garden at the cool of the day to look for Adam, but Adam was hiding because he had sinned.'</p>
VIDEO	Wonderful World - it is and it isn't
<p style="text-align: center;">STATIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Background music to include 'An army of ordinary people'. Ideally people should move through all three, the first one is best in groups of 3 or so.</p>	
STATION 1	<p>National Geographic site: Green guide sustainable food quiz</p> <p>Energy quiz – what you don't know about energy</p> <p>Personal energy meter</p>
STATION 2	<p>Through history, the churches have been leaders and often forerunners in society. Priests saw the importance of education and free schools were started, monasteries illustrated best practice in gardening, use of herbs for medicine, art etc etc. What could your local church be leading in? See/print news articles on line 'Junk for Jesus: a church built out of trash' ref Colston Milton Parish in Glasgow, 'guerilla gardening in Possil. Consider solar panels on church roofs, starting an allotment plot on spare land, a local community hydro scheme if near a reservoir, how to maintain your bicycle workshops.....</p> <p>Mark ideas up on a big chart</p>

STATION 3	<p>You are made in the image of God - therefore YOU ARE creative.</p> <p>Try something new like making sculptures of flowers from cut dogwood stems & fuse wire, drawing some with oil pastels on big paper, printing using the edge of cardboard pieces bent into petal/leaf shapes and dipped in paint.</p>
PRESENTER PRAYER	<p>Creative prayer using perhaps any artwork created plus suggestions from people could be marked on large prayer flower petals (ie oval shapes) which are built up on a board into sunflower shapes to form a corporate prayer</p>
VIDEO	<p>Now is the Cool of the Day. Based on song by Coope, Boyes & Simpson</p> <p><i>Finishing with the words on screen "and God walked in the garden at the cool of the day to look for Adam..."</i></p>