

Sanctuary First

Theme Summary — Stones

A LABYRINTH STYLE SET UP WITH 5 STATIONS

(Rationale : stones have been used from time immemorial to mark significance. We can recognise/appreciate the significance accorded by others. As human beings, we all experience significant events, milestones. We too can accord significance to stones.)

A stone can stand as a symbol for something in our lives; a little rock for an irritant, a large pebble to represent the importance of something.

Labyrinth is an interactive installation for spiritual journeys. This Labyrinth style set up will allow people to think about the different types of stones and reflect on the areas they represent in their life. Participants walk round each station with a mp3 player and headphones, in their own relaxing soundworld, at their own pace. Each track contains meditations, instructions and music relating to a part of the labyrinth

Use the supplied MP3 Files at each station.

The Labyrinth can be walked together as a group and the audio files are played at each station using a CD player or as individuals by using MP3 players.

Item	Notes
STATION 1	STONES An area is set up with all different types of stone, showing the variety that there is. Large, small, smooth, jagged, white, colourful.

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STATION 2	STANDING STONES This stations has images of rock formations from around the world, either projected on to a wall, or on a computer screen or just printed out. These images loop continuously in this station. Use the “rock formations” video for this.
STATION 3	REMEMBRANCE STONES This station will have milestones set up around the room with different stages of life written on them ie. birth, death, marriage, etc.
STATION 4	STEPPING STONES AND STUMBLING BLOCKS In this station there will be stones of varied sizes. In the middle of the room will be a pool of water.
STATION 5	JESUS THE LIVING STONE In this station the focal point will be a pile of stones – a cairn – with other stones scattered around the room.

RECORDED AUDIO ON THE MP3 FILES

STATION 1 - STONES

Stones are the bones of the earth.

So much of our life is around and about them and we don't even notice.

The route you take to school or work or here tonight, determined by the shape of the earth. The stones.

The tiny irritant stone in your shoe.

Maybe even the sparkly bright diamond on your finger.

The bricks and mortar of this building.

Stones.

Monument, pathway, paving and stumbling blocks.

Empty your mind.

Then touch a stone.

Rough or smooth, cold or warm.

It will hold your hand heat for a moment.

And move on and discover the living stones.

STATION 2 - STANDING STONES

When I say the word "stone" what do you think of?

There are many stones and rock formations that have stood strong and immovable for centuries.

What are the strong and firm rocks throughout the world?

In Psalm 18 it says that "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

As you listen to this piece of music, think about:

What is solid and firm that you place your feet on? and on what do you trust?

STATION 3 - REMEMBRANCE STONES

Remembrance stones are stones that are used to mark occasions, a memorial for something or someone.

Joshua 4 says "Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' 7 tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

Look at the milestones in front of you and take some time to reflect on the milestones in your own life

STATION 4 - STEPPING STONES OR STUMBLING BLOCKS

Some stepping stones are bigger than others and can become an obstacle in your path.

Think about situations, people and events that have been good and have helped you move forward.

Now think about the situations, people, events that have been obstacles or stumbling blocks.

Is there something that worries you that you feel guilty about, something that you can't seem to fix.

In Psalm 55 it says "Pile your troubles on God's shoulders, he'll carry your load, he'll help you out. He'll never let good people topple into ruin. "

Take a stone and hold it in your hand. Think about the situation, person that you want to give over to god. Listen to the music and when you are ready place the stone into the pool of water asking God to help you with this and asking God to turn the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.

STATION 5 - JESUS THE LIVING STONE

"Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor.

Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it."

Are you ready to trust in God, to build your life on Him?
In front of you is a pile of stones. This represents us presenting ourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life.

As the music plays think about the commitment you are about to make to follow and to trust in God.

Pick up a stone and write your name on it. When you are ready add your stone to the pile of stones in front of you.

Shall we pray

Shall we pray that out of rough stone becomes beauty.
Life shaped under God's hand for God's purpose.
That faults, grains and fishers are not plastered and painted over.
But smoothed and polished and seen by all, as a pattern of God's grace.
That we take our place on pathway or on pillar.
Where ever we best serve God's purpose.

As you leave I pray that God would:

Circle you
keeping protection near
and danger afar.

Circle you
keeping hope within keeping doubt without.

Circle you
keeping light near
and darkness afar.

Circle you
keeping peace within and Keep evil out.

AMEN