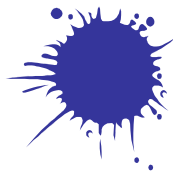


## UPDATE

Original was written 07/01/06

Interact now has set liturgy that sends it's participants out at the beginning of the main service. This builds on the idea of being a light to the world and participants leave behind a candle procession.

Interact now has registration cards, and weekly postcards to take home. Once registered, these postcards are sent home if a child or family does not attend. The postcards have a picture one side, the other side has space for an address, a bible reference, a short explanation of the story, and some questions to talk about at home. They are available to pick up as you leave interact or in the narthex through the week. There are often two designs.



## ST THOMAS CHURCH— INTERACT WORSHIP

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## ST THOMAS CHURCH— INTERACT WORSHIP











## INTRODUCTION PACK

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## An Example: leaders notes: Genesis 2

	Introduce puppet
	Bring up treasure box and lay out bible, cross and candle (lit) on table
	Introduce topic—God loves me (session 1), God made me
	Opening song—Great Big God : highlight line ‘Hold us in his hands’
	Pass collection bag around. Pray for collection
	Open treasure box— take out coat and put it on. Play part of traveler who describes what he finds on his journeys ...
	Script: God created this beautiful world we live in many, many years ago. He created the land and the water (shows the globe), the plants and the trees (holds up branches and leaves), and even the animals (shows the animals). But something was missing—people! God knew that he needed people to complete this wonderful world. So God took some dirt from the ground (holds up the brown clay)...
	At the end of the story hold up each of the items in turn and ask why you used each them. Be sure to ask puppet once.
	Freeform activity: playdough. Notice: Think about how god created us, could you create a person? OR mirrors and paper. Notice: Can you draw how you see yourself?
	Structured activity: bread men. Use ginger-bread man cutter to cut out human shapes from various breads. Use sandwich fillings to decorate (no peanuts!) OR Clothespin people to decorate (no peanuts!) OR Clothespin people with pipe-cleaner arms etc.
	Closing song: God loves you and I love you.

### Treasure box contents

Bible  
 Cross  
 Candle  
 Large coat—if it fits  
 inflatable globe  
 branches, leaves, flowers,  
 etc.  
 stuffed or plastic animals  
 bag of brown clay, or play  
 dough  
 clay figure about the size of  
 a Ken doll  
 Ken and Barbie Dolls  
 dog bone or plastic bone

## Interactive Elements

and one structured activity. For example; clay, plain paper, blank prayer responses, artists pictures of the story, dressing up box, or sand are freeform activities. Things that don't tell you what to do. A five year old may study a picture to find all the purple things, an adult may use it as a focus for reflection. Putting suggestion labels by freeform activities may be needed. Structured activities are therefore crafts, cookery, banners, board games. It will usually be a craft. 12 to 15 minutes at the most.



### Closing Worship

This can be cut but provides a good way of giving time for clearing up, and reemphasizing the teaching of the morning. Closing Worship should include a song - the same one as the beginning if it's new. It should also include a blessing or prayer. These are provided with actions for leaders. Ideally we should also say the Lords Prayer at this point. It is important to try and get everybody together before you need to go

into church. If there are any notices please wait till now before giving them out. Spare time can always be filled with another song. The challenge is to also chose a child who has done the structured activity who will be willing to hold it up in church. See below.



### Closing

Participants in interact church will rejoin the service at the appropriate time. If communion then in time to receive a blessing or the sacrament. Ideally there would be a time at the end of the service where interact church can share what they have been learning and share their efforts (see above). Also, ideally, to show the importance of both Worship experiences, the people in Interact Worship would be informed of what the teaching of the main service has been.

## Interact Worship

### Basic Idea

Interact Worship is an idea to replace the Sunday School slot at St Thomas church. Rather than having child classes or teaching we will have 'Child Orientated Worship' (COW). This differs from traditional Sunday School approaches as it presents a short service with interactive responses. This means that the child and the adult have a choice between adult orientated worship in church or COW in the hall.

### Short explanation

Interact Worship participants will start in the main service and return there for the end of the service. Interact Worship is aimed at children but, importantly, is open to teens, and adult members of the congregation.

Interact Worship should last about 30mins. It is split into 5 sections.

1. Opening Worship
2. The word
3. Application
4. Interactivity
5. Closing Worship

Roughly speaking 5mins is spent on Opening Worship, 10mins on the word and application, 15mins on the interactivity, and 5mins on the Closing Worship, although all sections are very flexible.

Interact Worship will appear more like a holiday club than a Sunday School to some people. It will not segregate age groups but will be aware of different levels of learning. It will require more set up on the day and further planning ahead than Sunday School. But importantly, it can be led by relatively few people.

Parts of Interact Worship rely on the fact that there will be a crèche running for those younger children who may need more distraction than teaching.

## How to Begin



### Welcome

In order to encourage unity in the church and in our approach to community it is important that Interact Worship starts and ends in the main service. We would leave (hopefully with a prayer, at least with a notice) after the choir has processed into church. This is more family and visitor friendly, especially with the building we inhabit.

Families are encouraged to sit together. By announcing Interact Worship both parents and children have a choice whether to join us, and so do any members of the church who may want an alternative Worship experience.



### Opening Worship

By starting in church, all the participants arrive at once. The area will have been set up before the service and children will be encouraged to sit on a rug - a defined area - and parents or adults who are joining us will have chairs surrounding them. A new addition may be the resident puppet. This character will not necessarily know anything

about the morning but will join in with all the activities like a 5 or 6 year old child. This is a very useful resource as it allows you to plant questions and answers if they don't appear on their own. If using a puppet it may be introduced now.

This is our service and the 'tools' for the session will be placed in a treasure box. From this box will be taken the cross, candle, bible and collection bag, these will be placed on a table to symbolize that this is our place of Worship. The treasure box also contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. We open with a simple prayer, having everyone repeat after the prayer, and a suitable song to open the session with, if possible connecting to the theme of the morning. During this time either pass the bag round or ask children to come and put their offering in the bag at the front. Opening Worship must be kept as short as possible. 5 to 7 minutes at the most.

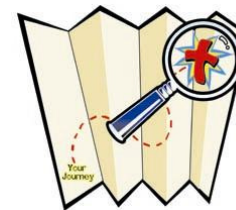
## The Teaching



### The Word

This is led from a platform or in front of the screen by one or more adults/ actors. It can be very interactive with props, costumes, (resident) puppet, or pictures on the screen. This section can also feature video clips or Power-Point told stories. If the narrative is unsuitable for any of these then stories can be told 'jackanory' style by placing a chair at the front of the room.

This needn't be daunting. A simple story could be told with added actions or sound effects. You could plant questions on the puppet to interrupt, or you could get those listening to tell the story to you and use clues along the way. If it is easier then combine the two sections on this page, or only do one. 5 to 10 minutes at the most.



### Application

Follow on from the word section, this is an opportunity to question those listening about their knowledge of God and of the message they have just heard. Large board game style questions, build a picture, bingo, talking to child actors if applicable, or sticker knowledge questions could be used dependant on time needed for 'interactive

activity' section. Most times this will be a very short section, and often will not be separate from the word section above. It is important though to have some application, at some point in the session. 2 to 10 minutes at the most.



### Interactivity

This is the most important aspect. As the child or adult gets to take the message they have heard and express something about it in a tangible way. Ideally you would have more than one way to express the teaching of the story. Generally you want at least one freeform activity,