

Sanctuary First

SEPTEMBER 2011

Theme Summary

Borderlands

In this service we are going to explore the idea that God is often encountered in the areas of life where people normally would refuse to be by choice. We are going to suggest that it is often:

when people are afraid to go forward,

where people feel they are at their wits end,

when they've reached their limits.

God in some amazing way is encountered in the midst of dead ends.

Item	Notes
VIDEO	Albert Intro
SONG	Sing a song about facing hardship
PRESENTER	There is something spiritual about the desert places, or the borderlines, we need to open our eyes to see the mystery and recognise God in the lonely places. Take a moment and reflect on the borderlines between light and dark, where seas crash against land, where sky touches horizon, where wind shapes the landscape.
VIDEO	Meditation
GROUPS	<p>Ask people to discuss and suggest the kind of hard issues that friends and family and neighbours might well be facing on their own today. Then invite the groups to take a stone and place it on the large map in the front where borderlines are drawn.</p> <p>(Have a pre-prepared map with lines drawn out which separate the areas of tension and worry in all our lives. Anger Stress fear Broken dreams, failed relationships, illness, loneliness, work, family issues.)</p> <p>People are invited to place a stone on one of the lines on the map. The stone represents the barriers surrounding all our lives.</p>
SONG	Sing a song recognising our brokenness and our divisions and hurts.
PRESENTER	Come with me to the borderlines or borderlands of fear and mistrust where walls are built high to keep some in and others out. Is God here?

Item	Notes
VIDEO	<p>Walls of Shame</p> <p>(The video clip highlights the walls of shame that are all around the world, walls aren't just built with bricks and mortar)</p>
PRESENTER	<p>These walls become borderlands or borderlines between people and ideas between war and peace between hatred and fear.</p>
GROUPS	<p>Break in into groups and discuss the following questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do you feel when you see the walls dividing communities? 2. How about the unseen walls we build up between each other walls around class colour religion and educational abilities? How do these walls make us feel? 3. What are we doing to stop these kind of walls being built higher? 4. How can we take these walls down?
LEADER	<p>Let us come back to the first pictures we saw in the service. We suggested that God could be discovered in the borderlines the remote places, the places where people refuse to go the places where people struggle to see hope.</p>
VIDEO	<p>Borderlands</p>
LEADER	<p>We invite everyone to promise to do something to take walls of prejudice and hate down. A wooden or paper cross (something that people can walk on) is placed over the map and everyone is invited to come forward and walk the way of the cross. As they walk over the cross they lift up their stones. They walk towards another cross and place their stones at the foot of this cross.</p>
SONG	<p>Final song about God who meets us in the place of pain?</p>