

Sanctuary First

May 2012

Theme Summary No Matter What

The focus for this Sanctuary First is the Bible text “For God so loved the world”

Item	Notes
VIDEO:	“Do You Hear the People Sing” - Music and text from the Bible to illustrate the theme
PRESENTER:	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Love is the cause. Love can change hearts. All true love comes from God. He cares about the divisions and He longs to bring healing into our broken lives and nations.</p> <p>John’s Gospel we are told “that God so loved the world” that he gave his only Son. This text speaks to us about the width and depth of God’s love. It was the world that God loved:</p> <p>not a selected nation, not just good people, not just the people who loved him.</p> <p>It was everyone.</p> <p>The lonely, the sad, the bereaved, the lost, the religious, the not so religious,</p> <p>“God loves us each one as though there was only one of us to love’ Augustine</p>

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	We are called to share in a cause - the cause of God's love for the world - a cause which began with the Creation of the world and does not end until the New Creation. In between we walk in the footsteps of Jesus who shows us that God love us no matter what.....
VIDEO:	"No matter what" Dialogue between "small and large"
Songs:	Sing/Music: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever....
PRAYER:	Image of the last supper with a spoken prayer. The prayer "Lord is it I?" is attached.
PRESENTER:	<p>Story: Count Zinzendorf and the founding of the Order of the Mustard Seed, leading to the Moravian Missionary Movement and the inspiration for the 24/7 Prayer movement today.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Turning Point: The Story of Count Zinzendorf</p> <p>Count Ludwig Nicklaus von Zinzendorf was a man with a passion and a cause: "I have one passion; Jesus and Jesus only." In 1727 he initiated a series of prayer gatherings which were to last for 125 years, inspiring a missionary movement known as the Moravians, who in turn touched the life of John Wesley, leading to his conversion in 1738. The Methodist Revival that followed in the next 60 years has been credited with saving Britain from the bloodshed of the French revolution in 1791.</p> <p>Zinzendorf formed a group of friends into the Honourable Order of the Mustard Seed who lived by a simple rule of three vows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to be true to Christ 2. to be kind to people 3. to take the Gospel to all nations

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	<p>The members of the Order, who included people in the highest echelons of European society, and a 78 year old American Indian chief call Tom-Chi-Chi, each wore a silver ring inscribed with the words: "None live for themselves". Their influence was immense. That is the power of total commitment to Christ and his cause of revealing the love of God to the world.</p> <p>In the 1980's a young man by the name of Pete Greig stumbled on this story and was gripped by the vision and the vow. With a few friends he started a contemporary prayer movement which is known today as the 24/7 Prayer Movement - committed to prayer, Christian service and care of the poor.</p> <p>The impact of that movement on our generation has been extraordinary. It has given a generation of Christian young people a cause to live for. What do we risk by being part of our church today? It has been said that we cannot save and be safe at the same time. But we do try!</p>
PRESENTER:	What does it mean to put the passion back into our faith with "heart and soul"? What stops us? or others?
ACTIVITY:	<p>Break out time for reflective activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of Fire: What am I passionate about? What makes me angry or moves me? • Images of World Maps with speech bubbles: fill in the bubbles with "cries to the Lord" (use post-it speech bubbles?) • Images drawn on acetates and then washed off in basins of water.
DISCUSSION:	<p>Interactive: Radio 5 Live "Moan In" style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Christian Aid Week/ Amnesty International/ local charity or cause • Focus on the causes we give to - in interest, time or money.

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PRAYER:	Prayer: Show images from the week's news and/or relating to Christian Aid/Local concerns with music of Boyzone "no matter what they..."
PRESENTER:	We can make a difference - as individuals - but better together
VIDEO:	"The Power of One" (anti- apartheid story of Anglo-African boy in South Africa in 1930's)
MEDITATION:	<p>The Starfish</p> <p>In the morning early, I saw the folk from the village Combing the sand for starfish Which the waves had washed up And left vulnerable.</p> <p>These, the villagers would collect, kill, And sell for profit. That was their way.</p> <p>One morning I rose earlier, And walked on the sand by the water's edge.</p> <p>There in the distance, I saw a solitary figure Who was also looking for starfish.</p> <p>Whenever he found one alive or even just alive, He would lift it, kiss it, And lay it back in the blue water, There to be revived and to swim again. That was his way.</p> <p>Now I get up every morning, Earlier than the villagers, Early as the man. I, the strong, no longer stretch to survive: I kneel down to restore the weak.</p> <p>And I have found, Though some might mock me, That even far from the seaside, There are starfish on every street.</p> <p>(From John Bell's 'He was in the World – Meditations for public worship')</p>

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SIGN UP	<p>Mustard Seed Conspiracy</p> <p>In the spirit of the Honourable Order of the Mustard Seed (Count Zinzendorf), give each person an envelope with a seed in it and the text of Mark 4:30-32 about the mustard seed growing into a tree.</p> <p>Invite them to consider a "cause" to which they will be committed over the next six months.</p> <p>Give each person a piece of paper with the words: "As a commitment to the cause of God's love for the world, I will take up the cause of..... over the next six months, with the mustard seed faith that my little contribution in the hands of God can make a bigger difference than I know."</p> <p>They place the paper in the envelope along with the seed and put it in their Bibles at the pages with the words of John 3:16.</p>

Lord, is it I?

(Prayer to accompany an image of hands in a bowl)

"The one who has his hand
in the bowl with me
will betray me."

 "Lord is it I?"

So near and yet so far
sitting close
but drawing back.
So often at your Table
so often in your house
but inwardly
asking.....

 Lord, is it I?

Known as a follower
by friends and workmates
but too often silent
when love demands
a voice.

 Lord, is it I?

Your hand reaches out
to comfort
to feed
to lift up
but my hand stays
by my side
inert.

 Lord, is it I?

My hand in the bowl.
Your hand in the bowl.
A touch of skin.
A shiver of shame.
My hand pulls back.

Your hand moves
from bowl to cup....
"Poured out for the forgiveness of sins"
"Drink...."

Lord, it is I.