



**Intergenerational worship service for the start of the school year**

In South Australian schools Term 1, 2009 begins on 27 January, the Tuesday after the Australia Day long weekend.

The thought that many families may be away for the weekend before school starts may discourage you from having a special service to launch the new school year. On the other hand, here is a great opportunity to link both ‘Australia Day’ and start of school in a single event for all families in your community — those who regularly worship with you and others who are not regular worshippers.

## Theme

**‘God alone is the mighty rock that keeps me safe’**

The theme comes from the Psalm for the Third Sunday after Epiphany — Psalm 62:5–11.

In the service we explore that assurance as we

- bless children at the start of the school year
- celebrate Australia day
- introduce the Faith Five approach for at-home family worship time.

## General Notes

### USING THIS RESOURCE

These notes have been prepared by the Resource Centre for Children’s and Family Ministry of the Uniting Church (SA) to help congregations plan worship involving children and families. You may make as many copies of the notes as needed for your worship planners and leaders.

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Read through all the material. Discuss it as a planning team. You may use the entire sample service, or any of the ideas that are appropriate in your situation.

If you use the resource, we would appreciate your letting us know what you do. Send a brief email to [rccfm@bigpond.com](mailto:rccfm@bigpond.com)

Bible quotations are from the Contemporary English Version.

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## ALL-AGE WORSHIP

All-age (intergenerational) worship is, first and foremost, worship — an encounter between God and God’s people; a dialogue in which God speaks and people respond, both in the worship service and in their lives.

Intentionally *intergenerational* worship

- allows this dialogue to take place through several of the senses, movement and activity
- focuses on a theme that connects with the lives of the worshipers. It reinforces the theme by exploring it in several ways
- encourages interaction and dialogue among people of the various generations represented in the worshipping community
- differs from worship that is planned by adults for adults, and differs from worship for children alone — planned either by adults or by children
- takes seriously the understanding that people of all ages worship together in the body of Christ. People of all ages can also plan worship, invite people to worship, and lead worship
- provides worshipers (young and old) with an experience and thoughts they can remember and talk about in their homes. It may provide resources to support that conversation
- recognises and values the children present in the worshipping congregation and ‘the child within’ each adult.

## PLANNING

An all-age worship service is best planned by an intergenerational team, working with the pastor/minister/priest or lay ministry team. If possible the team should consist of at least three people: one representing the youngest, one the middle and one the oldest third of the congregation.

The team may also draw on people who have special abilities, eg in the areas of hospitality, music, drama, visual arts and technology.

Planning as an intergenerational team can be a valuable experience for all involved.

Suggested planning steps:

1. begin with prayer, and trust God’s Spirit to guide your planning
2. look through these notes to see how they can help in planning the kind of service you want to hold

3. use these notes and other resources to develop a worship outline
4. flesh out the outline, considering your own people and facilities
5. work out details with worship: who does what, when and how.

## INVITATION AND ADVERTISING

The first people to notify about your service are the members of your congregation. Begin early to let them in on the excitement of what is being planned. Encourage them to catch the vision of celebrating with others in the community.

Let parents and grandparents of school-aged children know that the service is especially for them. Let people who do not have children in their lives know that their presence is important and they will not be left out.

Beyond the congregation, you have two means of promoting the service:

### Invitation

Personal invitations from church member families — to families who have children at the same school and to neighbours — is the most effective way of encouraging people to join you.

Your church could provide members with invitation cards to give people when they invite them. The invitation could include: a ‘mighty rock’ logo, details of date and time, an outline of what will happen and space for the person who is inviting to add their signature and an encouragement to come with them.

### Advertising

Consider making up a notice/invitation and posting it where as many people as possible will see it, eg

- where families enrol and collect school supplies
- where people shop
- where people gather to play (or watch) cricket
- on a notice board outside your church
- in your local newspaper

Be sure to include the date, time and location of the service in all your promotional material.

## GUESTS & HOSPITALITY

Special guests at this service will be school children and their families. Some may come

with family or friends. Others may come in response to your advertising.

- Why do they come?
- What are they looking for?
- What do you have to offer them?
- How can you plan for these guests as well as for the congregation?

Consider these questions — and your answers — before you begin planning a special start of school event.

It is especially important to provide guests — young and old — with a warm welcome and a comfortable environment. This is the responsibility of all members of the congregation, but you may designate specific people to take on specific duties.

Your **HOSPITALITY TEAM** may include people of all ages, possibly family groups. They will plan for and ensure the comfort of guests. They will:

- be aware of the safety features of the worship space, eg location of alternate exits, location of first aid equipment, identity of people with first aid training
- greet people as they arrive
- help people to get settled (possibly showing them to seats, introducing them to someone sitting near them, telling them where to find toilets and other facilities, giving them a worship leaflet)
- Pay special attention to the very young, the very old and people with handicaps. Seat them where they will be able to see/hear, but not feel conspicuous. You may provide a quiet activity bag or play item for very young children
- keep alert to needs of people during the service, and assisting as required
- provide fellowship food or activity after the service (with something special for children who may not want to stand around while adults have a cuppa).

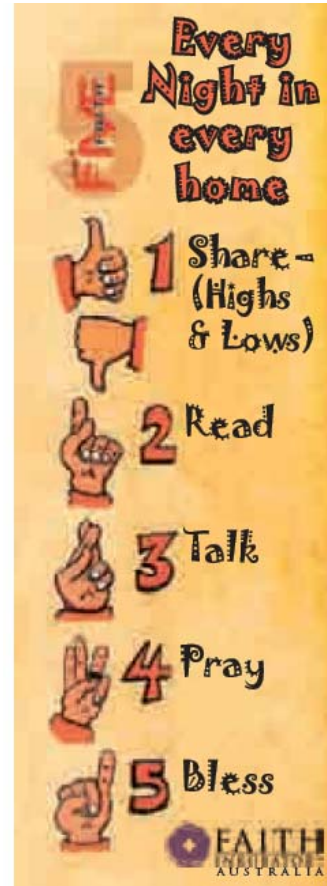
If you plan to make follow-up contact with guests, the hospitality team may obtain guests' names, contact details, special needs, requests or other information.

## AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day — our last chance for a break before school starts controlling a family's schedule, and it's a special cricket match.

It is more than that. Australia Day, celebrated on 26 January, is the official national day of Australia. It commemorates the establishment of the first British settlement on the continent.

It can be a day for considering: the good and the bad things that began on that day, who we are as a nation, where we are heading, what we want our children to know about their country's past and what it means to be an Australian today.



## FAITH FIVE

Faith Five is a simple, effective plan that is promoted by Faith Inkubators — with the slogan 'every night in every home'.

Faith Five acknowledges the importance of the home as the place where faith is lived out and nourished and the importance of parents as mentors, role models and teachers of faith.

The five basic Faith Five steps are shown in the box.

A Faith Five

bookmark, like the one shown here, is available from:

Lutheran Tract Mission

175 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA, 5006

Email: [tracts@lll.org.au](mailto:tracts@lll.org.au)

Phone: (08) 8360 720

[http://tracts.lll.org.au/new\\_resources.php](http://tracts.lll.org.au/new_resources.php)

Search for 'Faith 5'

For more information about the Faith Inkubators approach and products see [www.faithink.com.au](http://www.faithink.com.au)

## ANALOGY

The idea that God is like a rock is an analogy.

Analogies are a kind of reasoning that finds likeness between two apparently different things. Analogies force us to stretch our understanding and use our God-given imagination. Each person interprets an analogy differently, depending on the

person's experience with the things being compared. As a person's experience grows, their understanding of the same analogy will change.

Preschool children think in concrete terms. And what could be more concrete than a rock? They do not generally have the capacity to think in analogies. 'Like' is a feeling (I like chocolate) rather than a comparison (chocolate is like mud).

We cannot expect the children we are honouring at the start of their school years to understand the concept the way adults understand it. What we can do is give them an enjoyable, memorable experience that is somehow connected with both a rock and God who loves and takes care of them.

When we suggest that God is their rock, we give them

- a concept that they may remember and come to understand
- a thought-triggering link: when they see a rock they may be reminded that God loves and takes care of them

If the concept is reinforced at home (and elsewhere) in the following days, months and years, it will become more and more meaningful to them.

## WORSHIP SPACE AND VISUALS

A clean, tidy and attractive worship area can help guests and regular worshipers feel that this is an inviting place to be.

Visual arts can enhance various aspects of the service by illustrating what is presented and discussed. So involve people with artistic talent and your technology team (if you project images electronically) in creating a memorable visual impact that will enhance your presentation of the Good News.

Uluru (Ayers Rock) is an iconic symbol of the Australian continent. We can also use it as a symbol of God, the 'mighty rock where we find safety'.

For this service you might:

- use a 'mighty rock' logo on banners, posters, service brochures, etc.
- show a DVD clip or slides of Uluru as people arrive
- have a mighty rock (the largest flat rock you can manage to get into the church) at the front of the worship space. The worship leader can stand on the rock while speaking to the congregation

- display Australian flags, and or banners from the schools in your area
- invite children to wear school uniforms or encourage everyone to wear Aussie-type gear.

## MUSIC

Most of the worship music will be congregational singing. Be aware that some guests may not be familiar or comfortable with the practice of congregational singing. Invite people to sing along when they are comfortable doing so, or just to listen.

Consider ways of involving children too young to read or sing the words, eg

- choose at least one song that young children are likely to know, eg something from Colin Buchanan
- show visuals along with words if you use PowerPoint, or include some illustrations in worship bulletins
- teach actions for some key words in the song and ask everyone to do the actions as they sing, or use some Auslan signs, which you can find at the Auslan sign bank: [www.auslan.org.au](http://www.auslan.org.au)
- teach one or two repeated lines so everyone can sing these lines
- give children a percussion instrument to play or a flag to wave during a song.

Your regular music team (instrumentalists and a song leader) will lead most of the music. However, you may also like to invite a children's band or choir (from your church, a local school or the community) to participate with a special 'performance' item.

Use your regular system for displaying words/music — books, service bulletins, OHT, PowerPoint.

Before the service you could play recorded music or have instrumentalists play softly tunes that will be used in the service.

Choose music that emphasises the theme of the service from your regular music source/s.

If you use primarily contemporary music, include at least one traditional hymn that the older generation can share with younger people, eg:

- 'My hope is built on nothing less' with it's refrain: 'on Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand'.
- 'If we will trust in God to guide us' (Nerman/Schubert) a new translation of the old hymn (All Together OK #384)

If you use primarily traditional hymns, include at least one contemporary song.

Some contemporary songs to consider —

### Australia Day

- Here we are (Mann) ATOK OK #361
- 'The Great South-Land (version 2) (Bullock) go to Geoffbullock.com — Click 'music', click 'music' again, scroll to 'Great Southland'.

### The Mighty Rock

- Blessed be the Lord (Bullock) AWC #5
- I go to the rock (Rambo) ATE #213
- I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever (Fullmore) SIS #404
- I'm so secure (Morgan) ATW #470
- Jesus is a rock in the weary land (Traditional/ Axel Stordahl)
- Jesus is the rock (bop shoe bop, shoe bop, whoo!), by Larry Norman
- Jesus is the rock (Dyson) KCO 20 Year Celebration Songbook
- Lord, you are my solid ground (Dalton) AWC 2 #65
- Remember God's Love (David McGregor)
- Rock of the ages (Bullock & Zschech) AWC #92
- Rock solid with Jesus (Newton) KCO 20 Year Celebration Songbook
- The steadfast love of the Lord (Makedonez) AWC2 #83
- The steadfast love of the Lord (McNeill) SIS #414
- You are my rock (Bullock) AWC # 126

### David and Goliath

David and Goliath (Steve Case)  
<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dovecot/SongPages/DavidAndGoliath.htm>

ATA = All Together Again  
ATOK = All Together OK  
ATW = All Together Whatever  
AWC = Australian Worship Collection  
SIS = Scripture in Song

The songs may be found in other sources.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

People of different ages can be part of the team that leads worship.

A team of worship leaders may consist of:

- **WORSHIP LEADER** — This may be the minister/priest/pastor or a lay person or two people sharing the role. In a secular setting this person might be considered the compere. The worship leader is responsible for connecting with the worshipers and leading them through the worship.
- **MUSICIANS**, including song leader, singers, instrumentalists. The musicians lead the congregation in singing and may present one or more 'performance' items or musical background for quiet parts of the worship.
- **READER** — This person (or a group of people) reads the text that comes directly from the Bible. Although they may actually work from a printed script, it is a good idea for the reader to hold a large, open Bible or stand at a lectern with a large open Bible, to distinguish what they read from other spoken or read material.
- **PRAYER LEADER** — An individual or a group of people prepares and leads prayers.

### ROCKY THE CLOWN —

A clown can add a special dimension to your service. In this case the name 'Rocky' (or Roxy) or is appropriate.

Rocky can simply 'be there', just hang around, support the children and encourage their participation.

Or (depending on the abilities of the person playing Rocky and the clown persona being developed) he/she can play a more active role, eg greet people as they arrive, serve as a co-Worship Leader/host, or a co-Music Leader.

Rocky needs to be sensitive to the fact that some small children may be afraid of clowns. 'Coulrophobia' is an abnormal or exaggerated *fear* of *clowns*.



### SERMON

Ideally in an intergenerational worship service the sermon is aimed at all ages.

However, if there is an AO (adults only) sermon, children can be given a quiet activity to do in church during the sermon. The activity for the younger children could be a simple colouring-in picture and/or puzzle.

Give children an activity sheet and coloured

pencils. Provide a clipboard (or piece of cardboard). Alternatively they can sit/kneel on the floor and use the pew as a table.

Older children's activity can be a 'listen-for' questionnaire linked directly to the sermon.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the minister recalls the children's attention with a reference to their activity and/or a question and/or idea to discuss in family groups.

## TAKE HOME

A great benefit of an intergenerational service is that people of all ages (particularly parents and children) share an experience to talk about at home. For that reason it is helpful to provide them with something to take home.

Consider giving families:

- five smooth stones
- a card with the text of Psalm 62 and/or the Australia Day prayer(see next column)
- a Faith Five Bookmark (see page 3 for details).

## REHEARSAL

Because this service may be different from your usual worship pattern, and may involve a number of different people, a rehearsal will be necessary.

A complete walk-through will pinpoint any logistical problems, allow the worship leader/s to fine-tune instructions and ensure that the service itself runs smoothly.

The rehearsal time should also include

- prayer
- a reminder that this is not a 'talent show'. This is 'worship'. They are both worshipping for themselves and leading others in worship.



Only God gives inward peace  
and I depend on him

God alone is the mighty rock  
that keeps me safe  
and he is the fortress where I feel secure.

God saves me and honours me  
He is that mighty rock where I find safety.

Trust God, my friends, and always tell him  
each one of your concerns.

God is our place of safety.

Don't trust in violence  
or depend on dishonesty  
or rely on great wealth.

I heard God say two things:  
'I am powerful, and I am very kind'.

**Psalm 62:5-11 CEV**

## AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER

God of Australia ....

We bring you our gratitude  
for the diversity and wealth  
of this land and its people;  
for its weathered old mountains, fertile valleys,  
and vast plains;  
for its riches of mine and agriculture,  
forest, and grazing lands;  
for the first Australians, who know and love this  
continent  
with an intimate, profound sensitivity;  
for the courage, vision and sacrifice of the  
early settlers;  
for the diverse races who now call Australia  
home:

For these and all your gifts  
we offer you, O Lord, our joyful, thankful  
hearts.

Bruce Prewer, in *Australian Prayers*



## Some Theme Ideas

See notes on 'Visuals' (page 4) and 'Rocky the Clown' (page 5).

### BIBLE TEXTS

In the Old Testament, rocks were often used to mark places of worship and to remind people of God's mighty acts, eg 'Someday your children will ask, "Why are these rocks here?" Then you can tell them how the water stopped flowing when the chest was being carried across the river. These rocks will always remind our people of what happened here today.' (Joshua 4:6)

Deuteronomy 32:4 and Psalm 62 speak of God as a mighty rock. Psalm 62 is full of the Good News that God is powerful and kind, God saves and honours me.

The psalm is credited to King David. As a young person, David used a rock (or five smooth stones) when he faced the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

In the New Testament, Jesus said he would build his church on the rock of Peter's confession. 'You are the Christ, the son of the living God' (Matthew 16:13-19).

Jesus also spoke of building our houses/lives on solid rock rather than sandy ground (Matthew 7:24-27).

### STEPPING STONES

A stepping stones experience can introduce the idea of a rock being a safe place to stand in the midst of dangers.

You could use a portable swimming/wading pool filled with water or 'slime' and possible some dangerous-appearing wildlife. Place large 'stepping stone' rocks at intervals so

that people can walk across in safety.

Far simpler would be to simply paint/draw a dangerous area on a a brown paper roll. Paint rocks, or use real rocks on top of the paper for people to walk on.

### FIVE SMOOTH STONES

As people arrive, give them 'five smooth stones' or they select the stones from a bucket of stones. Stones designed for garden use can be bought from bargain stores.

If you are giving the stones to young children, be sure they are not so small that children can swallow them. For children age three and under, give the stones to the parents and ask them to supervise children's use of the stones.

During songs children can be encouraged to use their stones as percussion instruments. They can simply click two stones together or you can provide a suitable container to make a shaker.

### AUSTRALIA'S OTHER MIGHTY ROCK

Uluru, also referred to as Ayers Rock, is a large sandstone rock formation in the southern part of the Northern Territory 450km from Alice Springs. Uluru is sacred to the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara, the Aboriginal people of the area. It has many springs, waterholes, rock caves and ancient paintings. Uluru is listed as a World Heritage Site.

(from Wikipedia)



## A Sample Service

(Spoken 'script' is in *italic*, comments and instructions are in plain type.)

### 1. ARRIVAL

As people arrive, the hospitality team greets them and gives each person five small smooth stones packed in a disposable plastic takeaway food container with a lid.

They also give out any books or papers needed for the worship.

As people enter, a CD of Australian bush mood music plays and slides of Uluru and/or other Australian rock formations are projected on a screen.

### 2. WELCOME & INVOCATION

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Welcome to this special celebration of Australia Day and the start of a new school year.*

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting, and acknowledge the important role indigenous people continue to play within our community and our nation.*

*But most important, we are here to worship God — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit — in this great southland of the Holy Spirit.*

*Let's begin by singing.*

### 3. SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads the congregation in singing 'The great South-land' version 2 (Bullock)

### 4. PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA

**PRAYER LEADER:** *Let's pray for our nation, Australia.*

A young person (or a group of several people representing different generations) leads their own prayer for Australia or reads the Australia Day prayer (see p. 6)

### 5. FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL STORIES

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Some of you here will be going back to school in the next few days. Some of you may be starting a new school. Some of you may be going to school for the very first time.*

*The start of a new school year is a special time. [Names] are going to tell us what it was like for them.*

Three people (an older person, a middle aged person and a young person) each tells a 'high' (something good) and a 'low' (something bad or uncomfortable) from their first days at school. The anecdotes should be brief and possibly humorous.

If possible project photos of the speakers with their school classes while the stories are being told.

This segment could be presented like a TV talk show with someone interviewing the 'guests'.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Thanks, folks. Those are great memories. I wonder if the students going to school this week will have similar experiences.*

### 6. PSALM

**BIBLE READER:** *There's something in the Bible that is really good to know on the first day of school — or any other time.*

*I'm going to read it out loud. Those of you who know how to read, can follow the words on the screen.*

*Are there some people here who don't know how to read yet?*

*You have a special job: listen very carefully and when you hear me say the word 'rock' shake your container of rocks until I hold my hand up.*

*Let's have a practice:*

*You'll shake your rocks when you hear me say moment while kids shake their rocks). And **Stop** (loud and clear) when I put my hand up.*

**BIBLE READER** reads the following verses from Psalm 62, which are also displayed on screen.

Only God gives inward peace  
and I depend on him.

God alone is the mighty **rock**  
that keeps me safe.  
and he is the fortress where I feel secure.

God saves me and honours me.  
He is that mighty **rock** where I find safety.

Trust God, my friends, and always tell him  
each one of your concerns.

God is our place of safety.

Don't trust in violence  
or depend on dishonesty  
or rely on great wealth.

God alone is the mighty **rock**  
that keeps you safe,

I heard God say two things:  
'I am powerful, and I am very kind'.

God alone is the mighty **rock**  
that keeps us safe.

**Psalm 62:5-11 CEV**

## 7. SERMON

**MINISTER/PASTOR/PRIEST** stands (or sits) on a large rock at the front of the church and presents a brief interpretation of Psalm 62:5-11.

Look at each phrase and consider how it shapes a person's thinking about experiences as they start school (or go to work or live out their life in other situations).

If possible, refer occasionally to the 'highs' and 'lows' stories told earlier.

Display the words of the psalm for people to follow as you speak.

Invite the child/ren starting school for the first time (and their parents) to come forward and sit around the rock. Encourage them to touch the rock when you say the word 'rock'.

## 8. SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads the congregation in singing a children's song, eg 'Jesus is the rock' (Dyson)

## 9. PRAYER

**PRAYER LEADER/S:** stand on or near the rock.

*Let's pray:*

*Dear God,*

*Thank you that we can come to you and tell you each one of our concerns.*

**'rock'** (say it loud and clear, pause for a *Thank you for assuring us that you are not just a theory or a feeling. You are as real as this rock.* (Touch the rock.)

*You are as strong and dependable as this rock.* (Touch the rock.)

*You are powerful and you are kind.*

*When we feel afraid or unsure of ourselves, help us to remember that you are always with us to keep us safe and secure.*

*Amen.*

## 10. BLESSINGS

**MINISTER/PASTOR/PRIEST:** *Now, [name of children starting school or 'boys and girls'], I'd like to bless you. That means I'm going to ask God to be with you and keep you safe and secure.*

*At the same time, I want to bless all the school children here, wherever you are sitting.*

*Parents, please put your hands on your children's heads as I speak the blessing.*

### Blessing of children

*God, our mighty rock, I ask you to be with each of these children as they go to school. Calm any fears or anxiousness they may be feeling. Keep them safe. Bless them with many friend and good teachers. May school be exciting, fun, and provide them with good learning so that they can grow up to love and serve you and others. Amen.*

*Children, can you please put your hands on your parent's heads as I speak a blessing to them.*

### Blessing of Parents

*God, our mighty rock, you are powerful and you are kind. Bless the parents of these children with peace and the certainty that you keep their children safe and secure. Give these parents wisdom, patience, and an abundant measure of love, so that they can continue to parent their children well and pass on the faith that you have given them. Amen.*

Dismiss the school-starting families to return to their seats.

## 11. SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads the congregation in singing a song, eg 'You are my rock' (Bullock)

## 12. INTRODUCE STORY

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Boys and girls, has anyone ever asked you what you want to be when you grow up? Tell your parent or another grown-up sitting near you how you would answer that question.*

Allow a minute or two.

*Grown-ups, can you remember what you thought you would be when you grew up. Tell a child or someone sitting near you what it was.*

Allow a minute or two.

*Now, grow-ups, here's another question for you. Did you become what you thought you would become. If your answer is 'yes', stand up and take a bow.*

*If your answer is 'no', just put your hand up.*

*Thanks.*

*God, who is powerful and kind, sometimes has plans for our lives that we can't see until they happen.*

(Refer again to the words of Psalm 62, displayed.) *The words we have been thinking about from the Bible were written by a very famous king — David. When David was little, he thought he would be a shepherd like his father, not a king.*

*Here's a story about David, before he became king. Listen and see what happened to David that made him sure that God is a mighty rock that keeps us safe.*

### 13. STORY: DAVID AND GOLIATH

The Bible account of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) is an exciting story. It is too long to read directly from the Bible in this service. It's also quite violent.

Emphasis in presenting the story should be on God as the rock that allowed David to face danger. The story will also introduce the 'five smooth stones' theme.

There are a number of options for presenting the story, eg

- Read the story from a children's Bible story book, eg 'David and Goliath', by Martha S Jander, (Arch Book). Possibly display some of Richard Wahl's illustrations from the book.
- Watch a DVD of the story, eg 'David and Goliath', cartoon version, (Animated Bible Classics). The running time is too long to show the entire story. Briefly explain some background and then cut to the DVD.
- A skilled story teller tells the story, possibly showing some illustrations, eg carefully selected Lego illustrations from [www.thebricktestament.com](http://www.thebricktestament.com) (go to Old Testament/King Saul/'Goliath attempts to limit bloodshed' and 'David decapitates Goliath').

### 14. SONG

**WORSHIP TEAM** leads the congregation in singing 'If God is on our side' (Schmidt & Schubert, *All Together Now* #21)

### 15. FIVE SMOOTH STONES

Very quickly debrief on why David felt safe and secure in the face of a really dangerous situation. David had faith that God was very powerful and very kind.

*David took five smooth stones and a slingshot when he stood up to the giant Goliath.*

*I think you have five smooth stones, too.*

*Stones are little rocks. So when you touch these stones you can think about God, our mighty rock.*

*(1) Hold up one stone: The stone can remind you that you can depend on God, our mighty rock, — as David did.*

*(2) Hold up a second stone: It can remind you that you can always tell God, our mighty rock, each one of your concerns — as David did.*

*(3) Hold up a third stone: It can remind you that God, our mighty rock, keeps us safe — as he kept David safe.*

*(4) Hold up a fourth stone: It can remind you that God, our mighty rock, is powerful — as he was for David.*

*(5) Hold up a fifth stone: It can remind you that God, our mighty rock, is very kind — as he was to David.*

### 16. SONG

**WORSHIP TEAM** leads the congregation in singing I go to the rock (Rambo)

### 17. FAITH FIVE

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Parents, we'd like our kids to go to school every day, knowing that they can rely on God to be strong and kind and to keep them safe and secure.*

*We need to keep on reminding them about God, and how God is working in their lives.*

*One easy way to do that is to use the same five smooth stones (the five steps) we used here today.*

*Every day — bedtime is best, but any time it will work for your family — take five minutes with these five smooth steps.*

(1) One of the people who told stories in #5 comes forward, holds up a stone and explains:

*The first step is to talk to one another about the highs and lows of your day.*

(2) The BIBLE READER comes forward, holds up a

stone and explains:

*The second step is to read something God says to us. You could use some of the words we have looked at today or any other words from the Bible.*

- (3) The PREACHER comes forward, holds up a stone and explains:  
*The third step is to talk about what God says and how what God says relates to the highs and lows of your day.*
- (4) The PRAYER LEADER comes forward, holds up a stone and explains:  
*The fourth step is to pray for one another — about your highs and lows and what God has said to you.*
- (5) The person who led the blessing of children and parents comes forward, holds up a stone and explains:  
*The fifth step is to bless one another.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *These five steps are known as the 'Faith Five'*

Review the steps as the same people hold up their stones:

- 1: Highs and lows
- 2: Bible
- 3: Talk
4. Pray
5. Bless

*It's pretty simple. And to help you remember the steps, and to encourage you to put them into practice, we're going to give each family a bookmark with the Faith Five steps on it.*

## 18. OFFERING

Announce and collect the offering in your usual way.

As the offering is collected, play the song: 'Five Smooth Stones', by Brian Duncan, from the album 'Mercy'. Show again pictures from the David story or pictures of Australian rocks, eg the Olgas (also known as Kata Tjuta) or Remarkable Rocks.

## 19. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP LEADER** makes any needed short announcements. Include a reminder about using Faith Five steps at home.

## 20. PRAYERS

**PRAYER LEADER/S** lead the congregation in general prayers.

Pick up any concerns mentioned in announcements

Pray for the nation's concerns of the day.

Pray for leaders of Australia, your community and your local schools.

## 21. BENEDICTION

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *God is your mighty rock. God will keep you safe and secure as you go from here to your homes, your schools, your places of work and recreation. Go in the assurance of God's power and kindness. Amen.*

## 22. SONG

**MUSIC TEAM** leads the congregation in singing a closing song, eg 'Here we are' (Mann).