



Children's Sermon

Pre-Planning

In advance, invite one of the following to join you for the Children's Sermon:

- Young Adult Volunteer (if one is serving in your area or if you know of a YAV who has served previously)
- Past Presbyterian Youth Triennium participant (either a recent or long-ago Triennium participant)
- Youth from the congregation
- If no one in your congregation has ever been to Triennium, choose someone who's willing to talk with the youth about their experience of faith when they were a youth (and modify the questions below)
- A volunteer or staff person who can speak about working with children at risk, like a ministry serving low-income communities

If you have children who read, print out strips of paper with the questions and cut out those that pertain to your guest.

If children attending the Children's Sermon are not readers, use these questions for yourself as the leader, and invite children to add any questions they might want to ask the guest.

Children's Sermon

Good morning!

I've invited a special friend to join us this morning. (*Introduce guest*)

Today we are receiving the Pentecost Offering in worship. The Pentecost Offering celebrates how God's Spirit works in the lives of young people. The money collected from the offering will go to help children at risk, youth, and young adults. The money supports programs like Young Adult Volunteers and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

As I think about this offering, I think about Psalm 71:17, which says, "You've taught me since my youth, God, and I'm still proclaiming your wondrous deeds!" (CEB) The Pentecost Offering provides experiences for youth and young adults to grow in faith. Growing in faith is a lifelong journey and I've invited _____ here today to tell us a little about some experiences that have been really meaningful and about times for growth in their life of faith. I wonder if you would help me interview him/her! I have some interview questions here. Who would like to read one?

Hand children who volunteer strips of paper with the questions and have them ask the guest their questions.

When the questions have been asked, ask children if they have any additional questions to ask the guest.

Children's Sermon *(continued)*

Close in prayer together:

Dear God, your Spirit inspires us in our faith. Thank you for _____ (*guest's name*) and for all the ways you are working in his/her life. You also call each of us to grow in faith together. Thank you for all the experiences we have that help us know how to love and follow you. Amen.

Choose a set of questions based on the guest you are inviting (you might share these questions with the guest beforehand so he/she has time to reflect on a short answer to each):

Questions for interviewing a Young Adult Volunteer:

What is a Young Adult Volunteer?

Where did/do you serve as a Young Adult Volunteer?

What types of things did you do as a Young Adult Volunteer?

How did you grow in faith through being a Young Adult Volunteer?

Questions for interviewing a Presbyterian Youth Triennium participant:

What is Triennium?

What did you like most about going to Triennium?

How did you grow in faith through the Triennium experience?

What do you hope to get out of attending Triennium?

Questions for interviewing a youth:

What has helped you grow in faith?

Children's Sermon *(continued)*

What do you do to learn more about God and live out your faith?

What advice do you have for children about following God?

Questions for interviewing a volunteer/staff person of ministry serving low-income communities:

What ministry do you volunteer/work for?

How do they/you serve the community?

Has your work taught you more about God and how to live out your faith?

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