

## Workshop 1 – Faith with Under Fives in Mixed Age Groups

### Links and ideas from the Zoom Chat

#### Suggestions of things to twiddle/fidget with:

- A lot of children, all ages, even teenagers and adults I have found are concentrating better while twiddling with something, as long as it is not distracting to others
- Playdough, blu tac
- Soft toys
- Something that doesn't make a noise
- Doodling can also be helpful for some
- Something like wool that they can tie, plait etc
- Great ideas here <https://theadditionalneedsblogfather.com/2017/06/22/fidgets-fiddles-focus-and-fun/>
- We also use wooden twisty toys that have elastic through them

#### More on the theme of children growing in faith:

- Yvonne Morris <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/youthandchildren/children/>  
God is part of my story and I am part of God's story  
'I am testing things I thought when I was younger and leaving some of them behind.'
- See more on spiritual styles at [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

#### Recommended reading:

Great Book by David Csinos *Children's Ministry that Fits, Beyond One-Size Fits All Approaches to Children's Spirituality*, Wipf & Stock, 2011,  
<https://wipfandstock.com/children-s-ministry-that-fits.html>

J Fowler *Stages of Faith*, 1981; NB not age determined

#### Resources recommended:

- A really good resource for U5s is <https://truewaykids.com/>
- [www.spiritualchild.co.uk](http://www.spiritualchild.co.uk) website and Spiritual Child FB group
- Christian Aid have a great resource for engaging younger children. There's a circular "story mat" with pictures from Bible stories running around the outside, a pack of sessions to explore and lots of photographs. It's mainly for over 5s, but can be adapted for under 5s - especially the mat
- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/join-in/big-justice-story-sack>

#### Resources for Advent

- Try the Jesse Tree activity in Roots for Advent: <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/adventchristmas2020>
- I've just bought a family one from Eden by Bekah and Steve Legg called *All Together*
- The URC has put together some weekly activities for families <https://urc.org.uk/advent-hope-and-joy>
- Families on Faith Adventures @ Home <https://urc.org.uk/families-on-faith-adventures>
- <https://www.wewonderpod.com>

#### A request for help

If anyone has any children's worship that they've recorded that they wouldn't mind our church using would you email me [youth@stjohnsurc.org.uk](mailto:youth@stjohnsurc.org.uk) if we could use a song or two? we're really struggling for that right now, bless you all

If you look at the Chelmsford Methodist channel on YouTube there are services called Reality Kids made just for children.

#### Resource used in closing worship

<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/24485/name-s-of-jesus-advent-calendar>