

Session 4 A Willing Yes

Worship Setting

Continue adding to the worship setting. Leave portions of the “walls” from the Communion service in the worship setting. Place brown “lunch bags” with candies, crackers, and snacks in the worship setting. These will be used in the closing melodrama.

Centering Thoughts

Saying yes to generosity and service may challenge us to become as little children—to unconditionally and without a second thought share like the boy who offered his entire meal to feed five thousand people. His small gift blessed by Jesus fed the masses who experienced the miracle. This is referred to as reckless generosity. While the story may seem as if the child was reckless, perhaps he knew the value of the gift and giving. It may have been a representation of the child’s faith in Jesus and his willingness to offer all he had. Oh, that we could all be so reckless!

Acts of generosity are a response, a willing yes, to offer ourselves to the Prince of Peace as living sacrifices, as well as our time, talent, and treasure. This is a manifestation of the principles of a Disciple’s Generous Response. Generosity is a spiritual practice in response to God’s grace. A disciple shares generously so that others may experience God’s generosity. A disciple spends responsibly as a commitment to live in health and harmony with God and the world. Generous living also calls us to view all people as worthy fellow travelers on the journey. It is a call to community. It is to live a willing yes.

Praise Singing

“Standing on the Promises” R-2
“Of All the Spirit’s Gifts to Me” SP 12
“Light Dawns on a Weary World” R-3

Call to Worship: Psalm 90:1–2, 14–17

Song of Invitation: “Song of Shalom” SP 40

Prayer of Invitation

Song of Presence: “Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence” NS 31

Disciples’ Generous Response

An Illustration: “TOO Big” *see below*
Prayer

Song of Service: “O Jesus, I Have Promised” HS 463

Focus Moment

Share the book *Incredible You!* by Wayne Dyer (Hay House, 2005), ISBN 1401907822. This story affirms and encourages us to imagine, explore, and expect beauty in all its forms. It uses simple, uplifting rhymes to give us tools for creating happiness.

Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

See Centering Thoughts at the beginning of this service. Focus on the stewardship of life as well as generous living. Refer to the Focus Moment story about personal discovery as a way of getting to “Yes!” Also important are the scripture stories of the workers and the vineyard (Matthew 20:1–15 IV) and the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1–13). In these illustrations, people said yes to following the master. In the first illustration it was the workers in the vineyard who said yes, and in the other a small lad.

Community Experience

Create a spontaneous melodrama using the scripture story found in John 6:1–13. First assign people as the primary characters (Jesus, Philip, Andrew, the boy), and ask the congregation to play the part of the large crowd. As the scripture is read, have the actors act out the story using the lunch bags containing the snacks as “meals” for everyone. This is a wonderful way to get everyone involved.

Sending Forth Song: “You Shall Go Out with Joy”

SP 45

Benediction

Disciples' Generous Response
An Illustration: "TOO Big"
"I Am the Vine"

(scene: a large appliance box marked MINISTRY)

ONE: *(enters opposite, making notes on clipboard, circles appliance box, making notes, looks to heaven, deep breath)*

TWO: *(enters carrying shoe box marked MINISTRY, notices larger box, gasps)* Wow! Look at the size of that ministry! Who does that belong to?

ONE: It's mine.

TWO: Wow! I thought my ministry was big! There's no way you can handle a ministry that big all by yourself!

ONE: You're right.

TWO: So, where is everybody?

ONE: Everybody.

TWO: You know, where's all the people in your ministry team?

ONE: I'm it, for now.

TWO: You're not serious!

ONE: Why wouldn't I be serious?

TWO: You took on a ministry that big without anybody on your team?

ONE: That's right.

TWO: You're crazy!

ONE: Why am I crazy?

TWO: You can't start a ministry that big without anybody on your team! It's too big for one person.

ONE: Well, you're right about that.

TWO: But you don't seem terribly worried.

ONE: I'm not.

TWO: You should be. That ministry is so big it will bury you.

ONE: I doubt it.

TWO: How can you be so calm? There's no way you can do that ministry by yourself!

ONE: I'm not doing it by myself.

TWO: But you said....

ONE: I said I didn't have anybody else. But that doesn't mean I'm alone. Every ministry starts out with two people.

TWO: Two people.

ONE: Well, if this ministry is from God, then God's my partner.

TWO: That sounds pretty arrogant.

ONE: I'm just claiming promises from scripture.

TWO: What promises?

ONE: Second Corinthians 3:5 "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

TWO: Oh. So, you think that holds true even for a small ministry like mine? (*offers shoe box*)

ONE: It HAS to.

TWO: What do you mean, it HAS to?

ONE: Well, even if I'm doing the ministry and people refer to it as MY ministry, it's not really mine.

TWO: Whose is it?

ONE: According to Jesus, it belongs to him.

TWO: How can you say that?

ONE: He said in John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

TWO: Oh. So, what you're saying is, if I'm doing my ministry without relying on Jesus, I'm making a mistake?

ONE: A big mistake.

TWO: But if I do my ministry relying on Jesus, doesn't he get all the credit?

ONE: Well, you get SOME credit.

TWO: What credit do I get?

ONE: You get credit for trusting him.

TWO: Oh. Well, I still don't know how this works. You have a huge ministry. How are you going to get it moving?

ONE: I ASK for help.

TWO: From who?

ONE: From the vine.

TWO: You mean, you pray.

ONE: That's right. I was just writing down my prayer list and praying for my needs when you came along.

TWO: Then what?

ONE: Then nothing.

TWO: Nothing.

ONE: "Be still and know that I am God."

TWO: I don't buy it. I have a small ministry but I feel like I have to DO something. But you....

ONE: "Be still and know that I am God."

TWO: And that works?

ONE: If it's God's ministry it works.

TWO: I doubt it.

THREE: (*enters with Four*) Wow! You've sure got a big ministry there.

FOUR: (*enters with Three*) We were just talking about getting involved in a ministry.

THREE: Yes. We were.

FOUR: Can we help you with this ministry?

ONE: (*smiles to Two*) Sure! Thank God you're here!
(*Four and Three lift box, carry it offstage*)

ONE: (*follows*)

TWO: Excuse me?

ONE: (*stops, turns*) Yes.

TWO: What was that Bible verse again?

ONE: John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (*exits*)

TWO: (*follows*) Boy. Ain't that the truth!

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