

dessert.

Bible picnic

AIMS

To explore the Bible outdoors, whilst sharing a picnic together.

INTRODUCTION

Would you like to explore the Bible outdoors for the end of the summer – or even the autumn. This could be anything from extreme Bible-ing, where you read the Bible in a range of highly inaccessible places (like extreme ironing but don't take the clothes, the ironing board or the iron) or something as straightforward as a Bible picnic. After all, eating together outside often features in the Gospels, so why not try it your selves.

STRUCTURE

This is probably best planned by a small group. You will need to arrange

A date, venue and time for the picnic (check your public liability insurance if necessary)

1. Some Bible input for the picnic
2. Some food for the picnic – which could be bring your own, bring and share or more elaborate depending on local circumstances.

Waverley Group of United Reformed Churches in Huddersfield recently held a Bible picnic in a local park. You will find a pdf of the leaflet they used on the website which shows you what their Bible input material was like. Depending on your context you could use:

- Bible passages from a particular translation of the Bible
- Bible stories from a Children's Bible
- Remembered versions of Bible stories.

At the planning stage assign Bible passages/stories to particular local places. In this case they were matched up with places in the park: i.e. the war memorial, the fountain, etc.

On the day, make sure everyone has the leaflet so they know where to go. Depending on the complexity of the route and those taking part you may want some stewards to help with directions. Of course you might also need a plan for what to do if the weather is wet. Then you might want to have your Bible picnic indoors or arrange another date.

What they said

Thirteen people took part in the Waverely Bible Picnic. It was a sunny day and folks seemed to enjoy the event.....

- 'some of the words, especially those shared at the war memorial, had quite an impact, and it seemed that was down to them being read aloud';
- 'one of the highlights of the afternoon was to see the mix of people in the park'.

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EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

You might want to alter this to make a Bible walk or a overnight Bible camp or some other way of doing something with the Bible outdoors. Please send in your ideas to share with others.

If you want more desserts please revisit the menu.

Acknowledgements

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