

## Supplementary All-Age Material

### It was necessary to walk through Samaria (cf. John 4:4)

#### I. Prelude/preparation

The Preparation centres around using the symbolism of water and flame to remind us of our unity. Use one or more of these ideas to involve the gathered congregation in the Preparation:

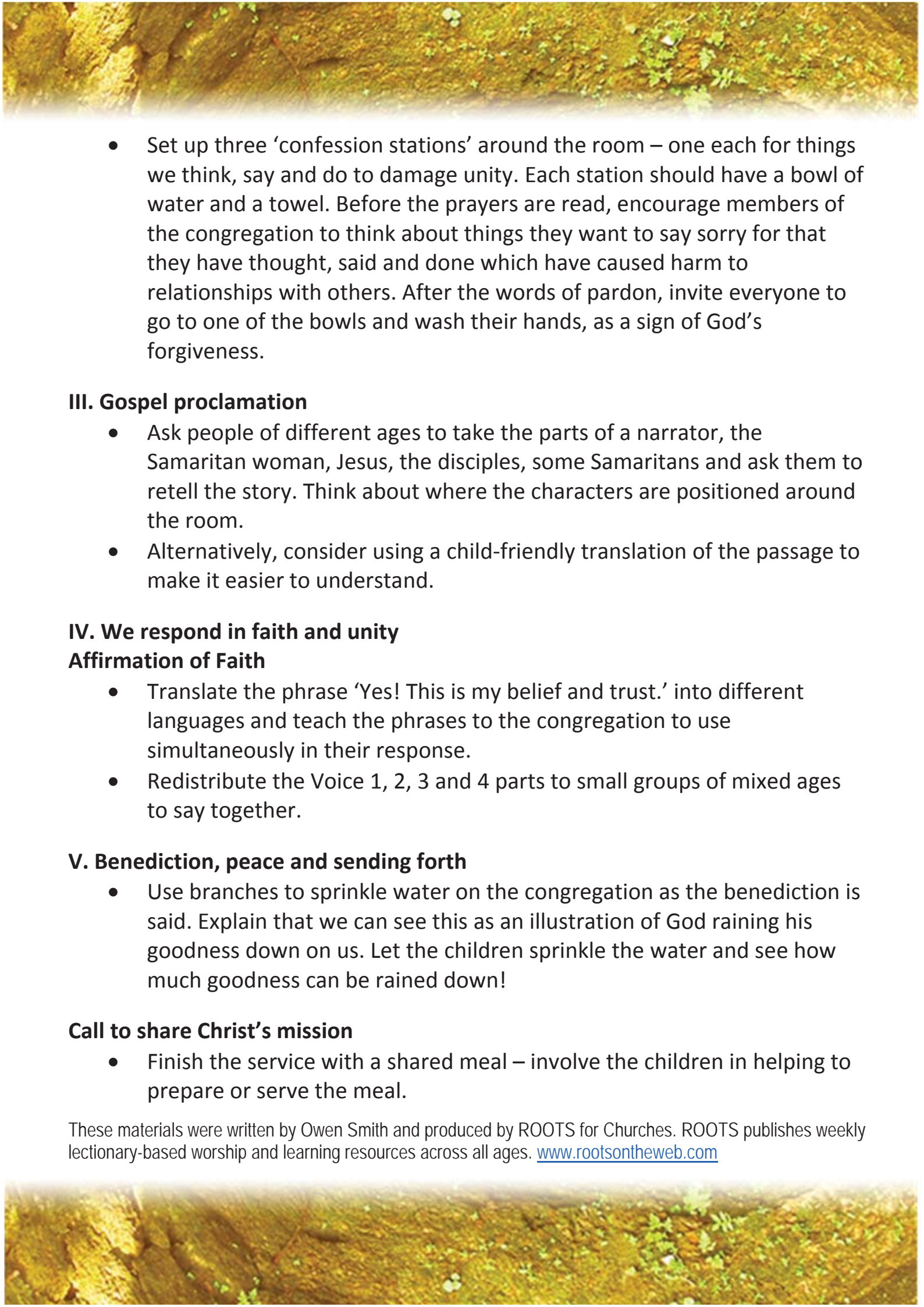
- Ask selected members of the congregation, young and old, to bring up glass jugs of water coloured with different food colourings. They pour the water into glasses placed at the front of the worship space. You could make each glass a colour of the rainbow and use the image of water to remind those present of God's promises to all of us.
- As people enter the church before the service, invite them to write their name on a piece of paper chain. Link the paper chains and ask a few people to bring up the chain during the Preparation as a symbol of the links that exist between the different church communities at the service.
- Give everyone a tea light as they arrive. As part of the Preparation, light the candles held by people at the back and ask them to light the candles of the people in front of them. Pass the flame to the front of the church, asking someone near the front of the church to light the candles on the Communion table and elsewhere. Be careful to supervise children with candles.

#### II. Opening

##### Confession of Sin and Kyrie

The confession is divided into sections about the different ways in which we let ourselves down and fall short of God's expectation. You could add some visual imagery and participation with these suggestions:

- Use projected images to illustrate each of the sections to support understanding of the quite 'wordy' petitions.

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- Set up three ‘confession stations’ around the room – one each for things we think, say and do to damage unity. Each station should have a bowl of water and a towel. Before the prayers are read, encourage members of the congregation to think about things they want to say sorry for that they have thought, said and done which have caused harm to relationships with others. After the words of pardon, invite everyone to go to one of the bowls and wash their hands, as a sign of God’s forgiveness.

### **III. Gospel proclamation**

- Ask people of different ages to take the parts of a narrator, the Samaritan woman, Jesus, the disciples, some Samaritans and ask them to retell the story. Think about where the characters are positioned around the room.
- Alternatively, consider using a child-friendly translation of the passage to make it easier to understand.

### **IV. We respond in faith and unity**

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

- Translate the phrase ‘Yes! This is my belief and trust.’ into different languages and teach the phrases to the congregation to use simultaneously in their response.
- Redistribute the Voice 1, 2, 3 and 4 parts to small groups of mixed ages to say together.

### **V. Benediction, peace and sending forth**

- Use branches to sprinkle water on the congregation as the benediction is said. Explain that we can see this as an illustration of God raining his goodness down on us. Let the children sprinkle the water and see how much goodness can be rained down!

### **Call to share Christ’s mission**

- Finish the service with a shared meal – involve the children in helping to prepare or serve the meal.

These materials were written by Owen Smith and produced by ROOTS for Churches. ROOTS publishes weekly lectionary-based worship and learning resources across all ages. [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)