

All Age Worship Service

(AAW008)

“Guide me in your
truth”

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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“GUIDE ME IN YOUR TRUTH”

Service Aim:

The aim of this service is to encourage people to make Bible reading a priority in their lives.

Biblical Reference(s):

John 8:44b, 14:6, 18:37b, James 1:22, Matthew 5:44, 7:4, Ephesians 4:29, 2Timothy 3:16, 1John 1:8-9, Psalm 25:5, 100, 119:11

Outline of Service:

Welcome:

Opening Prayer:

Opening Songs: A couple of songs of praise (See Appendix 1)

Drama: “Battle between Truth and Lies”

Readings: John 18:37b, John 8:44b, John 14:6

Talk 1: There is a battle over what we believe is truth.
 • God has given us the Bible and the Holy Spirit to guide us in truth

Credal Song: A credal song (See Appendix 1)

Puppets: “Real Men”

Link: Are we using our Bibles as our source of truth?

Reading: 2Timothy 3:16 (Message Version)

Link: The Bible teaches us how to live a life that will please God

Song: A song about the Bible (See Appendix 1)

Talk 2: We need to not only know biblical truth, but also apply it. (James 1:22)

Confession: Introduce with 1John 1:8-9

Songs: Songs of worship (See Appendix 1)

Talk 3: We need to feed on the truth daily

Drama: “Eating habits”

Link: Bible Reading resources available

Prayers Using Psalm 25:5 as a response verse with interactive use of Bibles.

Lord’s prayer

Final song Final song (See Appendix 1)

Blessing

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and to the theme of “Guide me in your truth.” This service could be used on “Bible Sunday”

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a Bible verse eg. Psalm 25:5 or
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs of praise as per Appendix 1

Drama:

The drama is called “Battle between Truth and Lies” and can be found in Appendix 2. The purpose of this drama is to set up the service, reminding people that there is a battle going on for truth. This drama works best if the two people engaged in the battle begin at the back of the room and move forward to the front of the room, ending front centre stage. As soon as the battle ends, the actors freeze as the readings are read.

Readings:

The readings work well if you present them in the following way:

Reader 1: *Jesus said: “The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*
John chapter 18 verse 37b

Reader 2: *Jesus said: “The devil was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*
John chapter 8 verse 44b

Reader 1: *Jesus said: “I am the way and the truth and the life.”* John 14 verse 6

Talk 1:

There is a battle for truth going on in each one of our minds,

- especially over what we believe to be true about God, His Kingdom and how to live a life that is appropriate for those who are His children.

We may not necessarily be aware of this battle going on,

- but it is going on nonetheless every day of our lives.

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
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It is really important that we discover what God's truth is in the situations we find ourselves in,

- because what we believe deep down will affect our actions.
- Let me give you a simple example.

Many people believe that it is OK to take other people's things....

- be it helping themselves to someone else's sweets at school,
- or taking home the company stationary for personal use,
- or even taking towels away from a hotel room they have stayed in.

They believe that stealing is OK, as long as they don't get caught.....because everyone does it.

Because they believe this, if they see something that they want,

- they will help themselves to it.

But is it true that stealing is OK?

- Or are they believing a lie?

It is really important for us to know what is true and what is false isn't it,

- if we are going to live lives that please God,
- and that are based on truth and not based on lies?

But where do we go to find out the truth about God, His Kingdom and how to live a life that pleases Him?

Will we find out truth by watching the telly,

- surfing the internet
- or reading the newspaper?

Will we find out truth by listening to the opinions of our friends and colleagues, or in some other way?

In our three readings this morning we heard Jesus say that He is the TRUTH.

- He doesn't simply tell us the truth, but everything about Him is true.
- So if we want to know what the truth is in any situation, we are to listen to what He says.

Not only that, but Jesus tells us that the devil is what He calls the "*Father of lies*"

- so the lies that enter our minds come from the devil.

God in His great love for us has given us two very precious gifts to help us listen to the truth that Jesus wants to teach us, and to work out when the devil is lying to us.

- He has given us the gift of His Word – the Bible
- And He has given us the gift of His Holy Spirit, who living inside us guides us into all truth.

So let's stand now and sing together some words of truth that we believe about God.

Credal Song:

A credal song as per Appendix 1

Puppets:

Following on from the Credal song is a puppet script, "Real men" (see Appendix 3). This script works with a boy puppet "James"² and an older man puppet "Grandad."

² You can purchase both a boy and a Grandad puppet from www.onewayuk.com
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The aim of the puppet script is to show that the truth we need to enable us to lead a godly life comes from the Bible and not from the TV, magazines and the internet.

Link:

The puppet script is followed by saying something like:

James was getting into a muddle about what a real man is because he was not looking to the Bible as his source of truth.

The question is:

- Are we using our Bibles as our source of truth?

Do we give as much priority to reading our Bibles as we do to watching telly, or surfing the internet?

- Or do we not even bother to read them and leave them unopened on our bookcases?
- Let's hear what the Bible says about itself.

Move straight into the next Reading.

Reading:

The reading is 2Timothy 3:16, which works well using the Message version of the Bible: *"Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another – showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way."* (2Tim3:16)

Link:

So, God has given us the Bible to:

- show us truth,
- help us see our sin,
- correct our mistakes
- and to train us in how to live life His way,
- so let's make sure that we put the effort into reading it.

Song:

A song about the Bible as per Appendix 1

Talk 2:

As well as reading our Bibles and understanding what we read,

- we also need to put what we read into practice if we are going to grow as Christians...
- There is little point reading the Bible and then completely ignoring what it says.

St James says in chapter 1 verse 22:

- *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."*
- So let's see how that works out in practice with a few examples.

1) In Matthew 7:4 Jesus says: *"Ask and it will be given to you"*

- Do you pray and ask Jesus for what you need,
- trusting that He will give it to you, or do you worry? (PAUSE)

2) How about in Ephesians 4:29 where Paul says “*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*”

- Are you careful about what you say about other people, either to their face or on social media, like Facebook? (PAUSE)

3) How about in Matthew 5:44 where Jesus says: “*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*”

- That’s a tough one isn’t it?
- Who is your enemy at school, at college or at work?
- Do you want the best for them? Do you pray for them? (PAUSE)

I wonder what biblical truth you might be struggling to really believe and so put into practice in your life?

- Maybe that is something you can think about this week and ask the Lord for His help.

If we are going to grow as Christians, we not only need to read our Bibles,

- but we also need to put what we read into practice so we are going to put a Bible teaching into practice now.

Confession:

Read out 1John 1:8-9 and say something like:

The Bible tells us to confess our sins and then God will forgive us, so let’s put the Bible into practice and confess our sins to God saying together:

**Lord we admit that we have done things we shouldn’t have done,
And not done things we should have done.
We are sorry and ask you to forgive us.
Please help us to follow your ways of love.
In Jesus’ name. Amen**

Follow this prayer with a prayer of Absolution.

Songs:

Songs of worship as per Appendix 1

Talk 3:

So having established that it is really vital for us to read our Bibles, and put what we read into practice,

- how do we read them?

The first thing is to make sure that you have a good modern translation.

- The New International Version is a favourite for many people, but there are plenty of other good versions around like the Contemporary English Version (CEV), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) and the Good News Version.
- Make sure that you have a version of the Bible that you can understand.

The second thing is that you need to pray and ask for the help of God’s Holy Spirit before you read your Bible.

Thirdly you need to decide when and where you are going to read your Bible.

- It is really important to get into a good Bible reading habit. Watch this.

Drama:

The drama is called “Eating Habits” and can be found in Appendix 4. The purpose of this drama is to help people see the need for a regular Bible reading habit.

Link:

You will find a resource sheet of Bible reading resources in Appendix 5. You might like to have a selection of Bible resources on sale or to give away after the service, so that people can purchase Bibles, Bible reading notes etc. You might like to say something like:

In your service sheet today we have included a sheet which gives some ideas of resources that you might find helpful in your Bible reading.

- *If you don't already have a regular Bible reading habit, can we encourage you to begin this week and develop one?*

Prayers:

Introduce the prayers by encouraging people to pick up a Bible – either one that they have brought to the service, or one that is in the pews/chairs in church. Explain that at the end of each prayer you will all pray Psalm 25:5 as a response. A form of prayers you could use is shown below:

Let us pray together:

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

Hold up your Bible as we thank the Lord for it. (*People hold up their Bibles*)

Father thank you so much for your Word and that it is our guide for life.

Thank you for the truth it contains. Help us value this precious book.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Now hold the Bible open in front of you. (*People open their Bibles*)

Father help us to all find a time each day to read your Word.

Help us get into a good Bible reading habit and not to give priority to less important things.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Now put the Bible down. (*People put their Bibles down*)

Father help us not to be people who are simply readers of your Word.

Help us to do what it says so that we can grow in our walk with you.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Lord's Prayer:

Finish the prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

As you go into a new week, go equipped to live a life that pleases Him,
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs of praise. Ideas include:

- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Clap your hands (God is here) (Becky Drake & Nick Drake © 2008 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Come, you thankful people, come (Sam Hargreaves © 2009 RESOUNDworship.org)
- I will enter His gates (Leona von Brethorst © 1976/1983 Maranatha! Music)
- I will praise the Lord with all my heart (Simon Parry © 2009 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Praise is rising (Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown © 2005 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- Praise my soul the King of heaven (Henry Francis Lyte)

ii) A Credal Song. Ideas include:

- I believe in Jesus (Marc Nelson © 1987 Mercy Publishing/Thankyou Music)
- In Christ alone (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- This I believe (Matt Crocker & Ben Fielding © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- We believe in God the Father (Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music)

iii) A song about the Bible. Ideas include:

- All Scripture is God-breathed (Ishmael © 1987 Thankyou Music)
- He's a Rock (Deuteronomy 32:4) (John Hardwick © 2005 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Lord for the years (Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1976 Timothy Dudley-Smith)
- Speak O Lord (Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music)

iv) Songs of worship. Ideas include:

- For God so loved the world (John Hardwick © 1993 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Great is your faithfulness (Chris Tomlin © 2002 sixsteps Music)
- I have hidden your word in my heart (Mark Gisbey © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- I want more of you (Chris Jackson © 2009 POWERPACK)
- Jesus my King, my wonderful Saviour (John Millard Harris adpt Andy Bromley © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus, you are mercy (Brenton Brown & Don Williams © 2005 Thankyou Music)

v) A final song. Ideas include:

- Be thou my vision (Mary E Byrne & Eleanor H Hull)
- From the breaking of the dawn (Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- May God's blessing be upon you now (Chris Kipling © 2008 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- May the mind of Christ my Saviour (Arthur C. Barham-Gould)

Appendix 2 – Drama: “Battle between Truth and Lies”

Cast: 2 people, one represents “TRUTH” and the other represents “LIES”
Props: White outfit and plastic sword for “TRUTH” and black outfit and plastic axe for “LIES.” Notice saying “TRUTH” pinned back and front onto the person who represents “TRUTH” and notice saying “LIES” pinned back and front onto the person who represents “LIES”

.....
(Enter “TRUTH” and “LIES” from the back of the church down the centre aisle having a sword/axe fight with big gestures. “TRUTH” is pushing back “LIES” most of the time although “LIES” needs to push back truth also. They make their way swiftly up the centre aisle to the front saying things like:)

TRUTH: Truth is stronger than lies

LIES: You will never win

TRUTH: Truth will overcome lies

LIES: People prefer lies

TRUTH: Then they’ll suffer

LIES: Who wants truth?

TRUTH: Some seek me

LIES: Not many

TRUTH: Truth brings peace

LIES: Who wants peace?

TRUTH: Plenty of people

(By this point TRUTH and LIES have reached front centre of the church)

LIES: I will never give in

TRUTH: I know..... *(thrusts sword into LIES who collapses on floor and TRUTH stands over LIES as the victor and shouts:)* YOU ARE DEFEATED!

(TRUTH and LIES freeze as Bible readings are read)

Appendix 3 – Puppet Script: “Real men....”

Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and his wise old “Grandad” puppet who helps to sort him out. Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

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Enter Grandad and James

- James: Owww.....ouch.....aaahhhh.....my muscles are complaining
- Grandad: It’s not just your muscles that are complaining James.....what have you been doing?
- James: I did fifty sit-ups, fifty press-ups and I ran two miles yesterday...and now everything hurts
- Grandad: That’s impressive James.....what are you training for?
- James: Nothing.....
- Grandad: So why the sudden interest in exercising James.....this is most unlike you?
- James: Real men Grandad are uber fit, very strong and have loads of bulging muscles....
- Grandad: Ri..ght.....who told you that?
- James: Oh a bloke I saw on TV last night.....he was talking about how to be a real man.
- Grandad: I see
- James: My friend Bill also wants to be a real man Grandad
- Grandad: Does he now?
- James: Bill told me yesterday that real men shave their heads.....so I was wondering Grandad.....could you shave my hair off for me please?.....dad has an electric razor we could use.
- Grandad: I don’t think your mum or your dad would be very happy with me if I did that James.....
- James: Please Grandad.....I really want to be a real man.....
- Grandad: I can see that James.....but if you are going to do something as radical as shaving off all of your hair, I think that we need to check in with your mum first.

- James: She won't understand Grandad.....and she'll say no.
- Grandad: Well seeing as we have some time, how about we go and help your mum get the tea James?
- James: That reminds me of something Grandad.....Eric told me today that it says on the internet that real men only eat steak and chips and drink at least eight pints of beer each day.....so
- Grandad: No....your mother is not about to buy you steak for your tea....or give you one pint of beer, let alone eight pints!
- James: But real men don't take arguments from their women Grandad according to "Men's weekly"....they **always** get their own way.....
- Grandad: I think that this has gone far enough James.....I can see trouble ahead if this continues.....
- James: But Grandad.....
- Grandad: No buts James.....Now what is all this talk about being a real man?
- James: Well me and my friends were chatting the other day and we decided that we wanted to be real men Grandad.....like Danny Muscles and Edwin Glamour.....
- Grandad: I see....
- James: So we have been watching programmes on telly, reading magazines and looking on the internet to find out what we need to do to become real men
- Grandad: OK.....but you know James that you have been looking in the wrong place to find out the truth.
- James: Have I Grandad?
- Grandad: You won't find out how to become a real man by looking at the telly, or by reading magazines.....
- James: Won't I?
- Grandad: Because you see James....that the realest man who ever lived on earth was Jesus...
- James: Jesus?
- Grandad: Yes Jesus.... and if you want to find out the truth about what a real man is actually like then you need to read your Bible.....
- James: Really?
- Grandad: And in your Bible you will discover that real men are loving and kind, patient and forgiving, self-sacrificing and powerful.....and they change the world....

James: Oh, I want to be like that Grandad.....

Grandad: Good....so let's find some time to do some Bible study together.....

James: Thanks Grandad.....I'm so glad that we've had our chat....I wasn't looking forward to taking the caterpillar challenge....

Grandad: The caterpillar challenge?

James: According to Lewis.....real men have to eat a large caterpillar while singing "twinkle twinkle little star" in front of their class at school without getting caught by a teacher

Grandad: Oh James!

Exit James and Grandad

Appendix 4 – Drama: “Eating Habits”

Cast: Four people called, “Gorge,” “Snacker,” “Starver,” “Routine”
Props: A table covered with a table cloth. Plate with a mountain of food on it, a packet of crisps, a Snickers bar, mobile phone, a normal plate of food, two sets of knives and forks

.....
(Enter Narrator)

Narrator: Here we have four people with different eating habits.

Let me introduce you to “Gorge”

(Enter “Gorge” with a massive plate of food which he puts on the table. He then sits down at the table and begins to slowly eat it with a knife and fork)

“Gorge” thinks that the best way to fuel his body is to eat a humungous meal once a week and then not bother eating for the rest of the week.

The problem with this way of eating is that he will probably end up with bad stomach ache on the day he eats and feel hungry on the days that he isn’t eating.

(“Gorge” carries on eating until the end of the sketch)

Let me introduce you to “Snacker”

(Enter “Snacker” carrying a packet of crisps and a Snickers bar. She puts the snacks down at the table and then as she stands near the table picks at them – eating first a crisp, then a bite of Snickers)

“Snacker” thinks that snacking is the best way to fuel her body. Lots of small, quick snacks, eaten on the move, as she never has time to sit down for more than two minutes at a time.

The problem with snacking is that she never feels really satisfied after a snack and often feels hungry.

(Exit “Snacker”)

Let me introduce you to “Starver”

(Enter “Starver” carrying a mobile phone. She looks away from the table and looks at her mobile phone)

“Starver” thinks that she doesn’t even need to eat for her body to function well. She may see other people eating, but thinks that eating isn’t for her so she doesn’t bother.

The problem with this approach is that her body will starve and she may not live very long.

(“Starver” collapses onto the floor)

Let me introduce you to “Routine”

(Enter “Routine” with a normal sized plate of food which he puts on the table. He then sits down at the table and begins to eat it)

“Routine” thinks that the best way to fuel his body is to eat three regular meals - not too much or not too little - enough to keep his body in tip-top condition to meet the challenges that each day brings.

Bible reading habits are not dissimilar from eating habits.

What do you think is the best way to feed your spiritual hunger?” *(Exit all)*

Appendix 5 – Resource Sheet for Bible reading

“The Source of Truth”

Ways to get the most out of your Bible

Translations:

There are many good, modern accurate translations of the Bible. We recommend:

- The New International Version (NIV) for everyday use and study
- The Message – a transliteration which can be helpful when reading large chunks of Scripture.

Bible Apps:

You can download the free Bible App to make God’s Word a part of your daily life here:

<https://www.bible.com/en-GB/app>

Bible Study Notes:

Daily Bible study notes come in different types. Try a few to find which suits you best.

- Scripture Union supplies a variety of notes. Go to the Scripture Union site at www.scriptureunion.org.uk/ and in the “shop” look under “Bible reading guides” to find Bible reading notes for children, young people and adults. Some of Scripture Union’s Bible reading notes are downloadable as an app.
- CWR supply a variety of notes for adults, children and young people. Have a look here: <http://www.cwr.org.uk/store/t-subst.aspx>

Bible Reading Plans:

Gateway web site provides a variety of Bible reading plans including a plan that takes you through the Bible in a year. (There is also a Bible Gateway app.) Have a look here:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/?version=NIV>

Useful Books:

If you want to go deeper with your Bible study we would recommend:

- Tom Wright series of commentaries on the New Testament eg “Mark for everyone.” (ISBN - 978-0281052998).
- “The Bible Book – a User’s Guide” by Nick Page (ISBN 978-0007119677). This book gives you a brief summary about what the main points are in each book of the Bible and some interesting comments about life in Bible times – well worth having.