

Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW007)

The Big Story of God 7: God is with us

© Jane Hulme 2015

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



THE BIG STORY OF GOD 7

GOD IS WITH US

Service Aim:

To encourage people that God is with us and to become increasingly aware of His presence.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

Biblical Reference(s):

Exodus 25:8-9, John 1:1-14, 14:9b,15-17, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, 27:50-51, 28:20, Philippians 2:6-7, Hebrews 10:19-22, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Revelation 21:3

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Drama:	“The life of King Swatup”
Link:	God wants relationship with people
Bible Reading:	John 1:1-14
Song:	<u>Song worshipping Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk:	<p>God is with us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtain – God meets with his people from a distance • Crib – Jesus came and “lived among us” • Cross – Jesus opened up the way into God’s presence • Body – The Holy Spirit lives inside every believer • Calendar – A day is coming when God’s dwelling place is among us • Learn to be aware of God with us
Response:	Being aware of God’s presence using a candle and Jesus’ promise.
Prayers:	With candles
Lord’s Prayer	
Summary:	<p>God wants relationship with each one of us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is with us, by His Spirit. • Learn to be aware of him during the day for He has promised to never leave us.
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

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.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is “God is with us.” If you are using this service as part of the series: “The Big Story of God”, explain that too.

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,
We welcome you here today.

**Help us Lord to worship you,
To listen to your Word,
And to pray in faith,
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.
Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Drama:

The Drama is “The life of King Swatup” and can be found in Appendix 2. The purpose of the drama is to show that knowing about somebody is not the same as actually knowing them.

At the end of the drama say something like:

Link:

In the drama you just saw, Yaffa knew King Swatup personally.

- She didn’t simply know about him.
- She knew him, because she had a relationship with Him.

Amazing as it sounds, God’s desire is for relationship with us,

- to be with us,
- so that we can know Him and He can know us.

At different points in the Big Story of God we see God coming to live with His people,

- to dwell with us, in different ways.

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
© Jane Hulme 2015

One of the most amazing ways was when God came to earth as a human being, as the person of Jesus.

We are going to hear about that now as we have our Bible reading.

Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is John 1:1-14. This could be read from the dramatized Bible² or a modern version of the Bible. If possible, as the reading is read, project a picture³ to keep everyone's attention.

Song:

A song worshipping Jesus as per Appendix 1

Talk:

You will need the following props for this talk: A "veil" (piece of bluey/purple/red material⁴) hanging at the front of church between two poles. At one point in the service you are going to rip the material from top to bottom, so make a small cut in the centre of the material so that you can easily do this. You will also need a simple crib, a cross, a Christian person and a large calendar.

Visual Aid of the Veil.

God came to dwell among his people when they were living in the desert, after Moses had led them out of Egypt.

- God told the Israelites to build a special tent called a tabernacle where he would come and be with them.

But because God is so holy and people are sinful, people couldn't simply go and meet with God face to face, or they would have died.

- God instructed them to make a large veil inside the tabernacle.
- This veil separated the presence of God in the very holy place from the priests, who came to speak with God on behalf of the people, in the holy place.

The veil would have looked a little like this..(*point at the veil*) although very much thicker.

- So although God's presence was with the people, the people were separated from Him.

Years later, when God's people had moved out of the desert, they built a temple in the city of Jerusalem where they could go and meet with God.

- That temple, like the tabernacle in the desert also had a large veil that separated the presence of God from the priests who came to speak with God.

Visual Aid of the Crib.

God then did something truly amazing, which we have just heard read from the Gospel of John.

² The Dramatized Bible – Michael Perry (available from www.amazon.co.uk)

³ A good PowerPoint image can be found at: <http://www.heartlight.org/cgi/powerpoint.cgi>, typing in the "Search the backgrounds" box – John 1:14.

⁴ Voile material works well and this can be purchased on ebay at www.ebay.co.uk Simply put, "Two tone crystal organza voile" into the ebay search bar and choose the burgundy and blue option.

God actually took on human flesh and came to earth as Jesus,

- being born as a baby in Bethlehem. (*Show the crib*)

God chose to come and live among us.....as some Bible translations say, “*he pitched his tent among us*”

- Years earlier a prophet called Isaiah had said that God would come as a baby and he would be called “Immanuel”, which means “God with us.”

Now everyone could see what God was actually like as they spent time with Jesus.

- Jesus even said to his followers that anyone who had seen him had seen His Father in heaven. (John 14:9)

Jesus living on earth entered into all the different aspects of being human.

- He experienced joy, grief, hunger, thirst, betrayal, pain, homelessness, temptations and even endured death on a cross, after being arrested on false charges.

Visual Aid of the Cross. (*Show the cross*)

But the question we might ask is: “Did God give up on living amongst human beings when they killed His Son on the cross?”

Remarkably He didn’t,

- because the cross was all part of God’s greater plan of drawing us back into relationship with himself.

Something very significant and symbolic happened when Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

- The huge veil in the temple in Jerusalem split in two from top to bottom, like this. (*Rip the veil from top to bottom. It might be easiest to have two people either side of the veil pulling hard so that it rips down the centre.*)

This ripping of the veil showed that the barrier of sin that kept God and man apart had been dealt with by Jesus’ death on the cross,

- Now the way was open for people to be able to draw near to God and to enjoy His presence.

Visual Aid of a Christian.

So how do we experience the presence of God today?

- The first thing to say is that when we come to Jesus, confess our sins and receive his forgiveness, the door is then opened for us to draw close to our Heavenly Father.

The second thing is that we need to become increasingly aware of the truth that God is always with us wherever we are.

- When we go out for a walk and see the beauty of creation, let’s be aware that the Creator is with us.
- When we are at work, let’s be aware that the Lord is with us and wants to help and guide us.

When we are in church, let's be aware that the Lord is with us. Maybe you can imagine him walking up and down, encouraging us, blessing us, challenging us.

And finally we experience the presence of God because He chooses to come and live inside followers of Jesus, by His Spirit. (*point at the Christian*)

- Isn't that incredible?

That means that we are never alone.

- That means that He is with us whatever is going on in our lives.
- That means that He is with us when we are awake and when we are asleep.
- That means that the beautiful and loving presence of God can fill our ordinary lives every minute of every day.

Visual Aid of a Calendar.

But even more wonderful than that is what we have to look forward to (*Hold up calendar*)

- The last book of the Bible, Revelation, tells us that one day we will see God face to face, when God lives with His people forever.
- Then there will be no more bad stuff happening on earth, like death, sickness and suffering because God will be fully reigning as our King.

As we wait for that day, let's remember that God loves us, wants relationship with us, and has promised when we become followers of Jesus, to always be with us.

Response:

Pass around votive t-lights in plastic holders⁵. On the outside of the plastic holder is a sticker that has on it the words: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Suggest to people that they take these t-lights home and put them somewhere that will remind them that Jesus, the light of the world, has promised to always be with them.

Light a large candle (that is visible to everybody) and say something like:

As we light this candle, we remember that Jesus, the light of the world is here with us.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus' last words on earth were: "*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:20). That is the promise written on the side of your little light.

As we are quiet for a few moments, let's become aware that Jesus is here with us.

PAUSE

Now ask yourself silently the question, "At what points this week will I especially need to know that Jesus is with me?"

PAUSE

Let's pray: Lord Jesus help us to be more aware of your presence with us.

Help us know that you are with us wherever we are. Amen.

⁵ You can purchase these online at <http://www.dmhay.com/collections/votive-lights> choosing either 2hr, 4hr, 6hr, 18hr or 24hr variety.

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family etc. Pray for people / nations who are going through a difficult time. At the end of each prayer the congregation pray:

Lord Jesus may *N*(name of person) know your presence with them and that they are not alone. Amen.

As the above phrase is prayed by the congregation, a candle is lit.

Lord's Prayer:

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

God wants relationship with each one of us.

- He is with us, by His Spirit.
- Learn to be aware of him during the day for He has promised to never leave us.

Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **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) Opening songs. Ideas include:

- Be still and know that I am God
- My God is everywhere (Becky Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Only one thing I ask of the Lord (Maggi Dawn © 1992 Thankyou Music)
- Open the eyes of my heart Lord (Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- Praise is rising (Brenton Brown, Paul Baloche © 2005, 2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves, © 2004 sixsteps Music)

ii) A song worshipping Jesus. Ideas include:

- Holy, holy, I will bow (Reuben Morgan © 2005 Hillsong Publishing)
- O come let us adore Him (John Wade)
- Oh what a day (Becky Drake, Nick J Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- To be in your presence (Noel Richards © 1991 Thankyou Music)
- We bow down and confess (Viola Grafström © 1996 Thankyou Music)
- We bow our hearts (Brenton Brown © 2008 Thankyou Music)

iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- C.L.A.P, clap your hands (David Mudie, Paul Crouch © 1996 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Come down O love divine (Bianco da Siena, Richard Frederick Littledale)
- Draw me close to you (Kelly Carpenter © 1994 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Father God I wonder (Ian Smale © 1984 Thankyou Music)
- God in my living (Tim Hughes © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Standing on this mountaintop (Jason Ingram, Matt Redman, Tim Wanstall © 2011 Chrysalis Music Ltd.)

Appendix 2 – Drama – “The life of King Swatup”

Cast: Three contestants (C1, C2, C3) and quiz master (QM)
 Props: A large chair for the Quiz master with a table in front of them. A smaller chair for the contestant set up opposite the quiz master. Three chairs for the contestants to one side. Some sort of timing device that “pings” after 15 seconds. “Mastermind”⁶ theme music.

.....
 (“Mastermind” music plays as 3 contestants walk on and sit down, followed by the quiz master)

QM: Good morning/afternoon and welcome to a new edition of Mastermind. We have three contestants today who unusually have all chosen the same subject. They will be answering questions on the “Life of King Swatup”. So if I could have the first contestant please.

(C1 moves over to sit in the contestant’s chair)

QM: Your name please

C1: Esmerelda

QM: You have fifteen seconds to answer questions on “The life of King Swatup” starting from now. What was King Swatup’s first dog called?

C1: Mmmm.....pass

QM: Which subject did King Swatup achieve a grade A in at GCSE?

C1: How am I meant to know that?.....pass

QM: When did King Swatup last eat fish?

C1: What a ridiculous question.....I’m guessing now.....last year?

QM: No I’m sorry, it was three years ago at a banquet with King Harald of Norway. He was so ill afterwards he vowed he would never eat fish again.

Esmerelda, I’m afraid you didn’t get any of the questions right and you passed on two. King Swatup’s first dog was called upswat and he achieved a grade A GSCE in physics. May I ask why you chose this subject when you didn’t seem to know anything about King Swatup?

C1: I thought I did know about him.....but obviously not enough. I hadn’t had a chance to read his book.....that was my mistake.

QM: Could we have our next contestant please.

(C1 leaves the chair and C2 sits down)

QM: Your name please

⁶ “Mastermind theme music can be found at www.youtube.com putting “Mastermind theme tune” in the search bar.

- C2: George
- QM: You have fifteen seconds to answer questions on “The life of King Swatup” starting from now. What was unusual about King Swatup’s birth?
- C2: He was born on a train travelling at over 100mph at the time.
- QM: That’s right. Next question. What is King Swatup’s favourite food.
- C2: Mmmm....that’s more tricky. I have read so much about him....but I’ve never actually met him. Could it be steak?
- QM: No. I’m afraid it is tripe and onions. And for your next question, what makes King Swatup bad tempered in the morning?
- C2: How am I meant to know that? I’ve never even spoken to the man. Pass
- QM: George you have scored one point and you had one pass. What makes King Swatup bad tempered in the morning is a cockerel next door that starts singing at 5am. I must admit that I am very surprised that you have never met King Swatup. It might have been a good idea to have at least had a chat with him before this morning.
- C2: I know. I thought that reading his book would be enough.
- QM: I see....next contestant please.
- (C2 leaves the chair and C3 sits down)*
- QM: Your name please
- C3: Yaffa
- QM: You have fifteen seconds to answer questions on “The life of King Swatup” starting from now. Where was King Swatup when his first child was born?
- C3: At a film premiere evening.....I remember it well.
- QM: Correct. What insect is King Swatup frightened of?
- C3: Frightened of? I would say phobic of! Wasps. If one comes anywhere near him he gets in a total panic – knocking things off tables, shouting....
- QM: *(Interrupting)* Right thank you....yes wasps is the correct answer. Final question. I have to say this is rather hard. What is King Swatup’s pet hate?
- C3: Oh that’s not hard. It’s being lied to. He cannot bear it.....it will put him in a foul mood for days.
- QM: Correct. Well done Yaffa – you have scored three points. I am most impressed. How did you know so much about King Swatup?

C3: I know him very well actually.....we have been married for the last twenty years.

QM: Aaah.... So Yaffa knows King Swatup personally.....that's how she did so well in our quiz today. Next week we will be back on air, same time, same place. Good morning.

(Music plays as QM, and C1, C2, and C3 walk off)