

# Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW008)

**The Big Story of God 8:  
Jesus came to give  
us life**

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## THE BIG STORY OF GOD 8

### JESUS CAME TO GIVE US LIFE

#### Service Aim:

To teach that Jesus came to give us life, and to encourage people to receive life.

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):

John 10:10, Luke 4:14-21, Matthew 13:44-46, Mark 10:46-52

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#### 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)
Memory Verse:	Presentation of John 10:10 using large wrapped gift containing scroll.
Talk:	Jesus came to give us <b>LIFE</b> . When Jesus was on earth He: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Taught</b> about life in the Kingdom of God,</li> <li>• <b>Healed</b> people to demonstrate the life of the Kingdom of God and</li> <li>• <b>Saved</b> us to new life in the Kingdom of God</li> </ul>
Bible Reading:	Matthew 13:44-46 (with pictures)
Link:	1) Jesus <b>taught</b> that life in the Kingdom of God is worth giving up everything for.
Song:	<u>Song about the Kingdom of God</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	2) Jesus <b>healed</b> the sick
Story-tell:	“Blind Bartimaeus” (Mark 10:46-52).
Link:	3) Jesus <b>saved</b> us to new life
Puppets:	“The detention”
Link:	When we choose to put our trust in Jesus, He gives us his gift of Life.
Response:	Commitment prayer
Prayers:	Lord’s Prayer
Summary:	Jesus came to give us <b>LIFE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Jesus was on earth He <b>taught, healed and saved</b> us.</li> </ul>
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.

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## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that you will be looking at the ministry of Jesus during the service. 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"<sup>1</sup> 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

## Memory Verse:

The Memory Verse is John 10:10 (*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*) One way of presenting the memory verse would be by asking the congregation who likes to receive gifts. Having received answers from a few people, then ask a couple of people the question: "What is the best gift that you have ever received?" After you have received the answers, show the congregation a large cardboard box wrapped in paper and decorated with a ribbon. Attached to the box is a tag that says, "To everyone, love from Jesus." Inside the box is a scroll (made from lining paper rolled onto a couple of rolling pins and held together by a rubber band), on which is written the memory verse; John 10:10. You could then say the following:

Look at this huge gift.....I wonder who it has come from and who it is for?

- Would a couple of people like to come and open it for me? (*Volunteers come forward*)
- Could you read out the tag and tell us who this gift is for and who it is from.

<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
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So this gift is for everyone and it is from Jesus.

- Let's unwrap it and see what the gift is. (*Volunteers unwrap box and pull out the scroll.*)

The gift seems to be a scroll.....let's see what is written on it. (*Volunteers unroll the scroll in front of the congregation*)

- The scroll says, "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John chapter ten, verse ten.*"
- So the gift that Jesus has come to give us is **LIFE**, life to the full.

Let's read this memory verse out together.....and shout out the word "LIFE" when we get to it.

- "*I have come that they may have **LIFE**, and have it to the full. John chapter ten, verse ten.*" Do you think we could say that again with our eyes shut?
- "*I have come that they may have **LIFE**, and have it to the full. John chapter ten, verse ten.*"
- Well done.....thank you helpers....please sit down.

## Talk:

This talk would benefit from illustrating the main headings with PowerPoint slides.

Jesus came to give each one of us the gift of **LIFE**.....

- Life that is lived out in **God's Kingdom**, where things are done His way.

Jesus came to give each one of us the gift of **LIFE**,

- which includes a **completely restored relationship with Father God** which begins now and goes on into all eternity.

Jesus came to give each one of us the gift of **LIFE**,

- which includes **freedom from sin and guilt**,
- **peace** with God,
- **love** that accepts us unconditionally,
- **joy** in our hearts whatever is going on around us and
- **hope** for the future,

While Jesus was on earth He:

- 1) **Taught** about life in the Kingdom of God,
- 2) He **Healed** people to demonstrate the life of the Kingdom of God and
- 3) He **Saved** us to new life in the Kingdom of God.

Today we are going to look at one example of what Jesus taught, one example of his healing ministry and hear how he saved us so that we can understand a bit better this wonderful gift of life that He came to give us.

### 1) Jesus taught:

When Jesus taught, he often used parables,

- which were stories with a spiritual meaning.
- Listen to these two parables from Matthew's Gospel.

## Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is Matthew 13:44-46. This could be read from a modern version of the Bible. If possible, as the reading is read, project pictures of treasure and of a large pearl to keep everyone's attention.

## Link:

Jesus came to give us something so precious that it is worth giving up everything else for. He compared life in God's kingdom with treasure and a very expensive pearl, that once found, is worth losing everything else to have.

- Have you discovered this life yet?

## Song:

A song about the Kingdom of God as per Appendix 1

## Link:

Let's see if you remember our Memory verse:

- *"I have come that they may have **LIFE**, and have it to the full. John chapter ten, verse ten."*

Jesus didn't simply teach about life in God's Kingdom.

- He backed up His teaching with amazing works of healing, which were signs of God's reign.
- We are going to hear now from a man called Bartimaeus.

## Story-tell:

Present the story of Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). One way of doing this would be with someone "story-telling" it, which you can find in Appendix 2.

## Link:

What an amazing day that must have been for Bartimaeus, to be healed from his blindness.

- Jesus healed many other people during his three years of ministry, and He continues to heal people today, as he shows the life of the Kingdom of God, where God is reigning.
- I wonder what you would say to Jesus if He stood before you now and said, *"What do you want me to do for you?"* **PAUSE**

So today we have heard that Jesus came to give us LIFE.

- **Taught** about life in the Kingdom of God and
- He **Healed** people to demonstrate the life of the Kingdom of God.

But, the most important part of Jesus' ministry was to make this life available to us by **saving** us from our sins.

- You may not realise it but our sins cannot go unpunished by a just and holy God.
- When we do something wrong, we are actually breaking God's holy laws and we deserve to be punished.
- What is amazing is that Jesus came to take that punishment for us.
- Has anyone ever taken a punishment for you, either at school, at home or at work? Watch this.

## Puppets:

The puppet script is called "The detention" (Appendix 3). It has been written to help people engage with the fact that it is costly for someone else to take the punishment we deserve.

## Link:

Jesus didn't simply take a detention for the wrong things we have done.

- He gave up his life for us when he was crucified on a cross over two thousand years ago, taking the punishment for sin that we deserve to take,
- saving us from God's anger and from spending eternity without Him.

The book of Corinthians says this about Jesus taking our place: *"God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God."*

(1 Corinthians 5:21)

That's amazing isn't it? When we choose to put our trust in Jesus and in what He did for us, He gives us in return the gift that we have been hearing about all service,

- His gift of LIFE.
- Let's say our memory verse again. *"I have come that they may have **LIFE**, and have it to the full. John chapter ten, verse ten."*

## Response:

The response involves presenting people with a choice of receiving Jesus' gift of life or not. Jesus' offer of the gift of life presents us with a choice.

- We can either say, "yes please" or "no thank you."

If we say, "yes please" we need to be willing to turn away from our own way of living, so that we can receive Jesus' gift of life and walk in a new way, the way of the Kingdom of God.

- Remember the parables that we heard earlier...that if we find real treasure, it is worth giving everything up for.

If you would like to begin that new life today, please join me as we pray the following prayer together.

**Lord Jesus, thank you that you offer me the gift of life.  
Thank you that you died on the cross to pay for my sins.  
Please forgive me for living a self-centred life.  
I turn away from everything I have done and said that was wrong.  
I now receive the gift of life that you offer me.  
Please come into my life and be my Lord and my God.  
Fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I can live for you.  
Amen.**

Invite any who have made a step of commitment to a Christian Basics course or to meet with you after the service so you can encourage them.

## Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family etc.

The prayers could be:

- i) Praying for people the congregation know, who aren't yet Christians that they would be able to "see" the Gift of life that Jesus holds out to them.
- ii) Praying for people the congregation know who are sick that they would be healed.

## Lord's Prayer:

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

## Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

Jesus came to give us the gift of LIFE.

- Let's say the memory verse together one last time: *"I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full. John chapter ten, verse ten."*

When Jesus was on earth He:

- **Taught** about life in the Kingdom of God,
- He **Healed** people to demonstrate the life of the Kingdom of God and
- He **Saved** us to new life in the Kingdom of God.

## 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:

- Come, now is the time to worship (Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
- Come on let's celebrate because our God (John Hardwick © 1995 Hardwick, John)
- How lovely on the mountains (Leonard E. Smith © 1974, 1978 New Jerusalem Music)
- I see the King of glory (Brooke Ligertwood © 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- Jesus is the name we honour (Philip Lawson Johnston © 1991 Thankyou Music)
- Open the eyes of my heart Lord (Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- Rejoice the Lord is King (Charles Wesley)

### ii) A song about God's kingdom. Ideas include:

- Name above all names (Neil Bennetts © 2000 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Our God reigns (Martin Smith © 2005 Curious? Music UK)
- Over all the earth you reign on high (Brenton Brown © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
- Seek ye first the kingdom of God (Karen Lafferty © 1972 CCCM Music)
- The kingdom of God (Bryn Rees)

### iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- God is the One who wants the best for me (Alan Price © 1998 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Hear the call of the kingdom (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend © 2006 Thankyou Music)
- How wonderful, how glorious (Dave Bilbrough © 1994 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus my King, my wonderful Saviour (Andy Bromley, J M Harris © Words: 2005 Thankyou Music)
- One shall tell another (Graham Kendrick © 1981 Thankyou Music)
- The Spirit lives to set us free (Damian Lundy © Words: 1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd)
- Water you turned into wine (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2010 SHOUT! Music Publishing)



## Appendix 2 – “The story of Blind Bartimaeus” (Mark 10:46-52)

**Cast:** Storyteller dressed in a long tunic with belt.

**Props:** Blindfold, begging plate

Storyteller: Good morning,  
My name is Bartimaeus and I live in Jericho. I am a follower of Jesus, and I want to tell you my amazing story.

I was known as blind Bartimaeus because I had been blind since the day I was born. *(Put on blindfold)* It wasn't easy making a living I can tell you....no-one wanted to hire a blind man, so I'd have to beg for my money each day, sitting by the roadside. *(sit down and hold out begging plate)*

Whenever I heard someone walking past me on the road, I would call out, *“Please spare me some coppers kind sirs... so I can eat tonight”*

You can imagine that plenty of people gave me a hard time, calling me names and even spitting on me.

And then one day I heard that a man called Jesus was in town. According to the people I heard talking about him, he was teaching about God's kingdom and healing the sick. I wondered if Jesus might be able to help me.

Later that day I heard a tremendous noise. It sounded like a huge crowd was walking down the street, leaving Jericho. I shouted out, *“What's going on?”* A young boy shouted back, *“Jesus is leaving town”*

I suddenly realised that Jesus was going to be walking down the road right past me. I just knew that I had to see him so I began to shout as loud as I could, *“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me”*

That didn't seem to go down too well with the crowd who told me to shut up but I knew that I had to meet Jesus so I shouted even louder, *“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.”*

The next thing I knew was that someone was shouting at me: *“Get up. Jesus wants to speak to you”*

I didn't have to be told twice. I threw off my cloak, jumped up *(Stand up)* and before I knew it I was standing in front of Jesus. *(Walk forward a few steps)*

Jesus then said to me, *“What do you want me to do for you?”*

Before I could even think I said, *“Rabbi, I want to see.”*

Jesus said, *“Your faith has healed you,”* and suddenly I could see Him smiling at me.....for he had healed me of my blindness. *(Remove blindfold)* I couldn't thank him enough and from that day on, I have followed Him. *(EXIT)*

## Appendix 3 – Puppet Script: “The Detention”

### 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 female friend “Lucy” – a girl puppet, who is also a follower of Jesus. 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 James and Lucy*

- Lucy: What’s all this I have been hearing about William having a week of detentions? I thought it was you who covered all the girls’ toilet seats with cling film not him?
- James: I know...I feel really bad. I thought it would be really fun to hear about all the girls wetting the floor....
- Lucy: Well for your information....it wasn’t fun at all. Janet was sent home because she was in such a state having wet all down her new trousers, and Isobel...well I am not going there....the mess was awful.
- James: I know, I know, I have heard all about it.
- Lucy: Everyone thought it was you.....but Jenny told me that William is doing the week of detentions. How come?
- James: William is one kind boy. I told him that if Mr McCleary knew it was me.....I would be expelled.
- Lucy: Why?
- James: I was on a final warning after the locust incident in the Biology room
- Lucy: Was that when you set free all of the locusts as some sort of animal rights protest?
- James: Yes it was. So William told me that he would go and tell Mr McCleary that he had done it.
- Lucy: That was really kind of William James. Didn’t he know that he would get punished for it?
- James: Of course he knew he would get punished
- Lucy: Wow that is an amazing sacrifice James.....I hope you are grateful

- James: I am really really really grateful. I mean he has saved me from being expelled. I don't know how I can show him how grateful I am.
- Lucy: Perhaps you should think about doing his homework.....although on second thoughts that might not be such a good idea
- James: Oh Lucy you can be so mean sometimes.
- Lucy: Sorry James
- James: I wish I could think of something I could do for William.
- Lucy: A good start would be to go and say, "thank you"
- James: Yes of course I will thank him.....but there must be something more I can do.
- Lucy: Maybe William doesn't want you doing lots of things for him James....maybe he simply wants your friendship and your loyalty.
- James: You could be right there Lucy...I have never been particularly friendly with William, which makes it even more amazing that he was willing to take my detentions for me. Now I will make him my best friend.
- Lucy: *(turns away from James as if to speak to William)* Watch out William.....being friends with James is going to be costly. I hope you are prepared!

*Exit James and Lucy*