

# Working with mixed ages – leader's notes

Thank you so much for using our training videos. Our vision for them is that they equip you, as a leader, with content which you can use with your team. We hope that this will save you time in preparation, releasing you to do what only you can do: establish and grow your team, build community and apply the teaching to your unique context together.

This page is for you to read and use as you lead the training. The next page is a handout which you can print out for your volunteers attending the training. Finally, we have an 'Overview for leaders' which provides links to organisations, resources and information you might find helpful.

## Ways to use this training

- Listen to it yourself, like a podcast.
- Send the link around to others in your team for them to watch/listen.
- Organise a team training event, using the video and these discussion questions.
- Share the link in any online forums, Facebook groups etc. where there are other leaders.

## Working with mixed ages

Many churches have Sunday groups with mixed ages. When you have a group with a wide range of ages it can feel difficult to know how to pitch what you teach or even what to do to ensure everyone gets something out of the session. This video suggests ways for reviewing what you do currently, introduces a 'family' model for mixed age groups and gives ideas for shaping your sessions. We think about:

- **Take a step back** – work out what are the important things you want to include, consider whether what you do now works and ask how you are feeling about what you do currently.
- **See Sundays differently** – not as a classroom but as a family, what a 'family' approach might look like and three reasons why this is a powerful approach.
- **Work out your programme** – choose your structure, use conversation starters and know how you want kids to connect with God.

## Discussion questions

Below are some suggestions to help you discuss the ideas with your team – please use or discard them – you know your team best!

- Do you have any comments or questions about the video? What stood out to you the most?
- Does our current approach work for the kids we have? Why or why not?
- Do you think the 'family' approach might work for you, the kids and your church?
- What are the important things you'd like to include in every Sunday session?
- Think about the children or young people you usually have in your group. What sort of activities might they enjoy and learn from?
- What is our next step?