

United Church of Christ Connections in Gather 'Round Spring Quarter, 2008

For all ages

Those who desire an inclusive language version of Psalms used during this quarter may wish to use the Psalter in *The New Century Hymnal*, pages 621–731.

Multiage

Session 3

Ending and sending

5. Sing “Were You There?” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 229) or “The Lord Lift You Up” from the Gather 'Round CD as a sending song. The words to the latter song are on page 1 in *Together*. Invite the children to create actions to accompany the music, if they wish.

Middler

Session 3

Ending and sending

3. Invite the children to sing “Were You There” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 229), or “Fluye Espiritu Fluye” with the Gather 'Round CD. The words for the latter song are on page 3 of *Grow*.

Session 11

Connect to the story

1. Invite a musician to teach a song about spiritual gifts, such as “Many Are the Lightbeams,” (number 163 in *The New Century Hymnal*). The musician may substitute another song or sing “Halleluiah! We Sing Your Praises!” with the Gather 'Round CD.

Session 12

To Do

[last bullet] Learn the song, “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 498). Or choose a song from the Gather 'Round CD (see Ending and sending)

Ending and sending

5. Invite the children to sing “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 498). You may substitute an appropriate song from your church's hymnal or from the Gather 'Round CD.

Session 13

Gather 'round

5. As one child lights the candle on the worship table, invite another child to lead the call to worship. If available, use 823 in *The New Century Hymnal*. Or, choose one from page 1 in *Grow*.

Junior Youth

Session 1

Gather 'round

2. Sing "Be Now My Vision" together (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 451). The words are on page 8 of *Call*.

Responding

Make your own song.

Youth will use the song "Sermon on the Mount" on the Gather 'Round CD and create a new song about the mountain of transfiguration. Before writing a new song, they will listen to the song and follow the words on page 11 of *Call*. They will keep the phrase "on that mountain" and add words that refer to the event described in Matthew 17:1-9. They may also use ideas from any hymn already written about this scripture, such as "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 183, st. 1-3).

Ending and sending

2. Read Psalm 42:1-2 or sing a song based on these verses. One choice is "As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 481, st. 1).

Session 2

To do

[3rd bullet] Learn the tune of "Let Us Break Bread Together" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 330). The words are on page 8 of *Call*. The music for this song can be found in many hymnals or you can listen to this tune on the Internet by searching for the song's title. You will sing this as today's Bible story is read (see Hear the Bible story).

Hear the Bible story

Sing "Let Us Break Bread Together" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 330) after reading Matthew 26:29. The words are printed on page 8 in *Call*.

Session 3

To do

Learn the tune of "Were You There" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 229). The words for this song are on page 9 in *Call*. The music can be found in many hymnals (see Gather 'round).

Gather 'round

3. Sing "Were You There." The words for this song are on page 9 of *Call*. The music may be found in *The New Century Hymnal*, number 229. If you don't know the tune, read the words together as a prayer. Encourage everyone to imagine being there as you read or sing about the scenes of this passion story.

Ending and sending

2. Sing a song about Jesus' suffering such as "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 226). The words to this song are on page 10 of *Call*.

Session 7

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song of praise and worship such as "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" (number 73 in *The New Century Hymnal*) or "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises!" from the Gather 'Round CD. The words for the latter song are on page 10 in *Call*.

Session 11

Ending and sending

2. Sing a song of commitment, such as “Thuma Mina/Send Me, Lord” (*The New Century Hymnal* number 360).

Session 13

Gather 'round

2. Sing or read a song about God’s guidance. A good choice is “Guide My Feet” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 497).

Youth

Session 2

Planning Ahead

If you have youth who enjoy playing guitars, invite them to bring their instruments next week. Ask them to prepare to lead the song, “Were You There” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 229). This song can be found in many hymnals and is also available online.

Session 3

To Do

[last bullet] Learn the tune of “Were You There” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 229), if you do not already know it. The music can be found in many hymnals or on the Internet. The words for this song are listed in Ending and sending.

Ending and sending

2. Sing “Were You There” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 229). If you contacted some youth ahead of time to play guitar, ask them to lead the song at this time. Another option would be to read the words rather than singing it.

Parent/Caregiver

Session 1

Gather 'round

2. Sing a song about the cross of Christ, such as “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 193). Using a ball of clay as a base, stand up the cross in the bowl of pebbles as you sing.

Ending and Sending

3. Sing a song of discipleship and guidance, such as “Thuma Mina/Send Me, Lord” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 360).

Session 2

Ending and sending

4. Sing a song of discipleship and guidance, such as “Thuma Mina/Send Me, Lord” (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 360).

Session 3

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song about Jesus' passion, such as "Were You There?" (The New Century Hymnal, number 229, st. 1-3). Sing quietly and reflectively.

Ending and sending

4. Sing a song of discipleship and guidance, such as "Thuma Mina/Send Me, Lord" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 360).

Session 4

Gather 'round

3. Sing one or two favorite Easter songs together. (Numbers 230-245 in *The New Century Hymnal* are all songs about the resurrection.)

Ending and sending

4. Sing a song of discipleship and guidance, such as "Thuma Mina/Send Me, Lord" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 360).

Session 5

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song about God's call, such as "Jesus Brings a Message" from the Gather 'Round CD. The words are on page 118. Another good choice is "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 495).

Ending and sending

2. Sing "In the Bulb There is a Flower" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 433), or another song celebrating God's ability to transform our lives.

Session 6

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song about God's mission, such as "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 23).

Ending and sending

3. Sing a song of sending, such as verse two of "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 76), or "Santo, Santo, Santo" (from the Gather 'Round CD; words are on page 116).

Session 8

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song of mission, such as "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 495) or "Jesus Brings a Message" (from Gather 'Round CD; words are on page 118).

Session 9

Ending and sending

1. As you gather, sing a simple song about light, such as "This Little Light of Mine" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 524). How is the gospel like a light in the darkness? Into what darkness will you let your little light shine this week?

Session 10

Gather 'round

4. Sing a song about God's presence in the whole world, such as "God Reigns o'er All the Earth" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 21).

Session 11

To Do

Singing "Many Are the Lightbeams" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 163) is suggested for your gathering time. This song works well with piano or guitar accompaniment. Make arrangements ahead of time for someone to accompany the song (see Gather 'round).

Cut strips of paper for making a chain. The strips should be of as many different colors as possible (see Connect to the story).

Gather 'round

3. Sing "Many Are the Lightbeams" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 163) or "You've Got a Place" (from the Gather 'Round CD; words are on page 117).

Session 12

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song of discipleship, such as "Be Now My Vision" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 451), or "Guide My Feet" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 497).

Ending and sending

2. Sing a song about God's provision, such as "My Shepherd Is the Living God" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 247) or "You've Got a Place" (from the Gather 'Round CD; words are on page 117).

Session 13

Gather 'round

3. Sing a song about the Holy Spirit, such as "Fluye Espiritu Fluye" from the Gather 'Round CD. The words are on page 118. Another possibility is "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (*The New Century Hymnal*, number 286).