



Talk 1



These talks are short, snappy and presented in bullet-point format to help those who might not have the time, resources and experiences to develop their own talks.

It may be that you have your own talks that would work equally well or that you would prefer to use.

If you have used a talk that has worked well for Young People's Sunday, we would love to hear about it and put it on this web site if you were willing.

All One!

Ask the congregation what their favourite piece of music is. Better still ask a few people of different ages and backgrounds to bring and play their favourite tunes.

Ask people what they think about each others choices.

Introduce the idea that the type of music we like and listen to is a question of personal choice not an issue of right and wrong.

There are many things in life that are like this: the food we like, the places we like to go to, the sports we watch, the teams we follow, the clothes we choose to wear.

This is also the case with how we express our faith in worship. In church some may like liturgy, some, loud worship music, some quiet music and some no music, Some like lots of noise, others quiet opportunities for reflection and space. Some appreciate food, drink, laughter, children running around, interaction and fun whilst others prefer the solemnness and sanctuary of a still sacred space. Some like short sermons, some long sermons (ok maybe not). Most of the things we do are a matter of personal taste and preference.

Difference and diversity is a good thing. It reflects the richness of a creator God and enables us to learn from those who are different to us. Unity is also good and it is sad when our differences interfere with our sense of togetherness. The motto, 'seek first to understand' (Stephen Covey) is a useful one.

Age is a diversity issue, but it shouldn't be a cause of disunity. Different generations should seek to understand each other and celebrate their commonality.

Expressing unity needn't necessarily mean that we all do the same thing when it comes to worshipping God. The temptation is to presume that we all come together on a Sunday and all do the same thing. This often means that we all end up frustrated!

Why not just celebrate our differences under the banner that we are all 'one in Christ'. Take a look at Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11.

Different cultures, tastes and expressions of preference don't need to conflict with our common humanity. We all have the same ultimate needs: love, encouragement, acceptance and forgiveness. What age, gender, race or culture we come from shouldn't get in the way of each of us being a valued part of God's creation.

The call for the Christian is that we give up our preferences for those less mature, aware and grounded in the faith. This is a mark of Jesus-centred discipleship. On this YPS perhaps those of us who are adults should think more about giving up our preferred way of doing things and give preference to how young people would like to do things.

Maybe a good starting point would be to ask them what they think and ask them how they would like to do things?