



Children's spirituality

Aims:

- To establish the difference between religion and spirituality, and examine how we can foster spiritual growth
- To enable clergy/ministers to explore the development of faith and spirituality in children

Predicted outcomes:

- A focus on child development in the areas of faith, cognition and social/personal development, with suggestions for ways forward in each
- An examination of collective worship that encompasses different faith stages and religious belief

Methodology

A range of whole group and small group activities employing discussion and creative exercises; also time for silence, guided reflection, prayer and bible input.

Sample session (approx 1 ½- 2 hours)

- Outline of Westerhoff and Fowler's theories of faith development as they applies to KS1 children
- Practical tasks to help us re-enter that stage of faith development
- Development of an act of collective worship which includes new learning

Sample half day (3 hours)

- As above, plus
- Personal reflection on faith development
- Closer study of the different aspects of children's spirituality

Sample day (5 hours, could be two half days)

- As above, plus
- More details regarding faith development
- Reflection upon learning styles/ personality type / socialisation and how these affect learning
- Examination of the role of children's Christian education ('Sunday school')