

FAQs

'His Presence' - Singing Bible Time

What is His Presence?

His Presence is a collection of 5 tracks which together give a program and structure for your group time with small children. This material gives a framework so you can partner with Father God, Holy Spirit and Jesus as He encounters them. You can adapt and add to it as you want to and as Father God shows you.

What settings can I use this material in?

It is perfect for baby/toddler groups and Sunday School settings. His Presence is obviously a Bible based, Christian resource but one that most parents, who are happy to come to a church-based group will hopefully be happy to be part of.

What age group is this for?

I would suggest any age from 0-3 years is perfect. I have used the welcome song with 3-5 year olds too and they LOVE it!

Why call it His Presence?

This program was born out of a desire to bring the littlest of children into God's presence. His Presence is about drawing and allowing little ones to come close to Jesus. The songs have been written by gifted and anointed musicians and worship leaders.

How long does the program take?

This is really up to you, the minimum time using 5 tracks with a story is approximately 15 minutes. However, with extra material added it can take 20 - 30 mins. This depends on how wriggly the bottoms are on that day and how long you worship for at the end.

How do I get hold of the music?

You can buy this from the Love to Listen website (www.lovetolisten.org) as a download. You will be buying 7 tracks, comprising of the 5 core tracks and 2 extra instrumental tracks.

Is this just for a church to use?

No...grown ups can use this material one on one with their children at home and/or as their family prayer times with their little ones.

Can you give me any guidance or support?

Yes! I (Sam) have added some videos to the 'His Presence' YouTube Channel to help you.

The Introductory video gives you a general overview of my heart for this material. The 'action' video is what it says, His presence in action with real live children! This gives you an idea of how this might look as you run the program with the children.

The final video shows you how to sign the songs using Makaton signing. Michelle Mark is an experienced teacher of Makaton and helps us learn the signs. She is also available for extra support via email.

Is a Bible story included?

I haven't included one as this is an area you can make your own. Looking through the baby Bible with the little ones is very powerful. Letting them find things and sharing that with the leader and the group models some of the important values we hold in our relationship with Jesus very powerfully.

We read God's word, we hear God talk to us through the word and we share our testimony with one another. As we share with the children, we can add promises from God into our conversation e.g. God is good, God loves us, God cares for us, God made you etc. However please do add a Bible story or a promise from God to focus on, older children will especially value this.

How can I make this material suit my group's needs?

This material can be used as you wish. I go from Gathering Song through to The Blessings song without breaks, and most times with some bouncy worship added at the end. I would suggest you put the Gathering song and Welcome song at the beginning.

The gathering song can be any song of your choice, but one that is used always at this time so children recognise the song as a signal for tidying up and gathering together.

FAQs cont.

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The Blessing song is a good way to finish as by then the children are moving around and it's a lovely way to focus them for prayer. This is my suggestion, please do make this material suit your groups needs and the way Father God is asking you to do it.

What do I need to get started?

You just need a heart to see children encounter their Father in heaven, a few props and the music. You are ready to go!

What props do I need?

- A cardboard tube, wrapped in something durable (sticky plastic)
- A baby Bible, ideally enough for each child to have their own. Preferably something age appropriate and all the same.
- Some stickers. I use gold heart ones but anything that all the children will love and symbolizes Father Gods love for them.
- Something to play the music on. Ideally something to have by you so you can pause and play when needed without any bother.
- Any extras you want to bring to the story time.

My top tips

- Share this material with your teams and chat it through with them so everyone understands and is prepared. This is very much a team led program, so all leaders are involved rather than a one man show!
- If you find your team are cautious about using a new format, maybe introduce a little at a time. Start with the welcome song and build up as your team gain confidence with the material.
- I have found that this material quickly gives leaders confidence and freedom as there is a supportive structure with flexibility to make it your own.
- Please remember in the Welcome song to welcome Jesus, Holy Spirit and Father God into the room. We sign a welcome wave, this sets an expectancy and helps us all remember God is with us all the time.
- You can also add an encounter station* suitable for this age group as a further way to bring the children into His presence.

*Encounter stations are creative and hands on ways to help any age child or adult encounter God. Laura Griffiths leads the way with this and has written this book I'd recommend. You can then get creative and develop your own encounter stations too!

Please feel free to get in touch with me anytime if you have any questions! I will be more than happy to help!

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