



Teaching and Learning at Church

Written and photographed by Daniel Giles



Teaching and Learning at Church



At church, the celebrant reads from the Bible.
The Bible teaches people about God and Jesus.



The celebrant gives a talk (called a sermon or homily) to help me understand the Bible. This usually happens after the Bible reading.



During this time, I may sit quietly and listen.



The Good Samaritan

The Samaritan was a man who lived in the city of Samaria. He was a good man and he was very kind. One day he was riding on his donkey along the road. He saw a man lying on the ground. The man was hurt and he was in pain. The Samaritan stopped and he helped the man. He put the man on his donkey and he took him to a town. The Samaritan was a good man and he was very kind. He helped the man and he was a Samaritan.

Did you know?
The Samaritan came from the city of Samaria in central Palestine. In Jesus's story, the Samaritan and Samaritan did not get along. The Jews treated Samaritans as enemies. The Samaritan who stopped to help the injured man was the only Samaritan who showed that it was a Samaritan who stopped to help the injured man. Jesus used the story to teach the importance of being kind and caring to everyone, no matter what their race or religion they come from.

Otherwise, I can do a quiet activity, such as reading a book.



Sometimes, I might do an activity with a group of other children to learn about God.



At other churches, the homily or sermon may take more or less time than at my church.



Homilies may take less than ten minutes.
Sermons can take a much longer time.



Some celebrants give their homily or sermon behind a lectern.



Other celebrants may move around while giving a homily or sermon.



Celebrants give homilies or sermons to help people worship God by learning more about Him.

Notes for parents



This resource has been created to assist people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and their peers in understanding the social situation of attending church services. This booklet focusses upon abstract religious concepts (such as prayer) and the structure of church routines. The underlying theme is that while churches may conduct their services in many ways, they exist for a single purpose: to 'know, love and serve God'.

This resource is suitable for preparing a person with an ASD to confidently attend a church service.

About the author/designer



Photo © Michael Nix

The series *What Happens in Church* has been created by Daniel Giles – an honours student at La Trobe University (Bendigo) and an individual living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This project has been inspired by his various passions of: graphic design, photography, assisting other people with ASDs and most importantly, living out his faith in God.

Daniel is pictured above with another project he created for people with ASDs titled *Facing Our Feelings*.

Acknowledgements

This project is dedicated to the God who desires for people with ASDs to know, love and serve Him (as He does of all humanity). This resource could not have been produced without Him.

God has also worked through a number of people listed below (and those who are not mentioned here) to help produce this project.

Thanks to people who have helped me realise my dream, including:

Graphic Design Staff – La Trobe University, Bendigo
(especially for their invaluable support during my studies)

Lindsey Gale – Coordinator of CBM Australia's *Luke14* Program
(and her dedication towards including people with disabilities into church communities)

People from both theological and disability-support backgrounds who have assisted in proofreading my work and providing guidance from a professional perspective, including:

Mrs Tricia Blanks – Chaplaincy Coordinator
La Trobe University, Bendigo

Staff from Catholic Education Sandhurst

Mrs Cheryl Sullivan

The following people and church communities who have kindly provided venues, people and practical support for my photography, including:

St Matthew's Anglican Parish, Panton Hill

Donvale Presbyterian Church

St John's Anglican Parish, Diamond Creek

Faith and Light – Assisi Community, Bendigo
(Photos taken at St Joseph's Catholic Parish, Quarry Hill)

St Luke's Anglican Parish, Frankston

Kennington Catholic Parish (Bendigo)

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish (Bendigo)

Ms Leanne Egan and Mr Timothy Algie

Other people for providing photos, including:

Mr Michael Nix
(assisted by Miss Elizabeth Flemming)

Mr Richard Gibbs

Copyright © Insightful Design 2011

E: insightfuldesign.giles@gmail.com

W: www.insightfuldesignblog.wordpress.com

This publication may be printed or photocopied in its original form exclusively for personal use or use within church communities.

Not for resale or commercial use. All other rights reserved.