

Children's Books for Using in Church #4

If You're Happy and You Know It!

Cabrera, Jane. Holiday House, 2003. E Cab

An elephant, a monkey, and a giraffe join to sing different verses of this popular song that encourages everyone to express their happiness through voice and movement. Themes: Happiness, Celebration, Joy.

Mister Seahorse.

Carle, Eric. Philomel, 2002. E Car

After Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs on Mr. Seahorse's belly, he drifts through the water, greeting other fish fathers who are taking care of their eggs, all in unique ways. Themes: Care of young, Wonder of nature and God's creation, Father's Day.

Papa, Do You Love Me?

Josse, Barbara M. Chronicle, 2005. E Joo

A Masai father and his son explore their world and discuss lots of situations. As the young boy asks lots of questions, he learns that his father's love for him is unconditional. Themes: Father and son; Love of parent for child, Reassurance.

In God's Hands.

Kushner, Lawrence & Gary Schmidt. Jewish Lights, 2005 E Kus

While contemplating their problems in a synagogue, Jacob and David, one man rich, the other poor, come to realize their role in making miracles happen. Inspired by an ancient legend about bread, generosity, faith and God at work. Themes: Generosity, Giving and receiving.

What Is My Song?

Linn, Dennis, Sheila and Matthew. Paulist Press, 2005. J 248.4 Lin

Based upon a traditional African fable, this is the story of how every child comes into the world uniquely created with their own gifts and song. Includes a section for parents who nurture the "song" in their child. Themes: Identity, Life purpose and direction.

The Fruit of the Spirit is Jesus in Me.

Mackall, Dandi. Standard, 2005. J 227.4 Mac

Presents the verses about the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5, accompanied with colorful art of familiar childhood experiences. Themes: Living like Christ, Discipleship, the Fruit of Spirit.

The Gift of Nothing.

McDonnell, Patrick. Little, Brown, 2005. E McD

What do you give your best friend when they have everything? Mooch searches for the perfect gift and in the end, wraps up a big box of nothing, which he and his friend enjoy immensely. Themes: Gifts, Simplicity, Friendship, "Buy nothing day."

Copy this list for:

_____ Worship Planners
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Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

crlib@mennowdc.org 316-283-6300 www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

This Is the Lunch That Jesus Served.

Mackall, Dandi. Augsburg, 2006. J 232.955 Mac

A repetitive, light-hearted retelling of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Themes: Miracles.

So Shy.

Morrison, Vicki. North-South, 2005. E Mor

Jack is so shy that his only playmate is his shadow. But one day, he musters up courage to rescue a girl's cat and finds a new friend. Themes: Friendship, Courage.

These Are Friends of Jesus.

Neitzel, Shirley, Augsburg, 2006. J232.95 Nei

Each page features a different group of people who were impacted by Jesus: shepherds, disciples, teachers, children, sick, blind, etc. Themes: Friendship, Caring, Jesus' love for all.

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands.

Nelson, Kadir. Dial, 2005. E Nel

An illustrated version of the well-known song that began as a spiritual and is now sung in churches, camps, schools, and has been recorded by opera singers, country artists, and children's performers. Themes: God's love and care for all; Global awareness.

When I Feel Angry.

Spelman, Cornelia Maude. Whitman, 2000. E Spe

A little rabbit describes what makes her angry and the different ways she can control her anger. Themes: Feelings, Anger.

Three Pebbles and a Song.

Spinelli, Eileen. Dial Books. 2003. E Spi

As his mouse family endures a long, cold winter, Moses offerings of a dance, a juggling act and a little song prove useful in combating cabin fever and restless souls. Themes: Creativity, Imagination, Family life.

I Wonder as I Wander.

Swain, Gwenyth. Eerdmans, 2003. E Swa

This is a fictional account of the folk song's origin. A young girl writes a song that expresses her feelings about Jesus while dealing with the loss of her mother and traveling with her father, an itinerant preacher in Appalachia. Themes: Christmas, Song-writing, Children's expressions of faith.

You Wouldn't Love Me If You Knew.

Taylor, Jeannie St. John. Abingdon, 2003. E Tay

A young boy does something for which he feels he can never be forgiven and tries hard to only do good things. His mother forgives him and he feels happy after he realizes Jesus forgives him to. Themes: Forgiveness, Acceptance.

Words Are Not For Hitting.

Verdick, Elizabeth. Free Spirit, 2003. J 177.2 Ver

Encourages toddlers and preschoolers to express themselves using thoughtful and helpful words, not words that hurt. Themes: Conversation, Power of words, Being kind.

Praying With Our Feet.

Weaver, Lisa D. Faith and Life Press, 2005. E Wea

A young girl joins her parents and members of her church on a peace walk and along the way reflects on what she has learned about speaking out for peace. Excellent for any peace-themed event, retreat, walk or worship service. For adults, youth and children.

Mommy Stayed in Bed This Morning: helping children to understand depression.

Weaver, Mary Wenger. Herald Press, 2002. E Wea

David, a young boy learns about his mother's depression and it's effects on the family. Gentle, serious story that would work well in a Sunday morning service.

Circles of Hope.

Williams, Karen Lynn. Eerdmans, 2005. E Wil

After many futile attempts to plant a mango tree in honor of his new baby sister, Facile, a young Haitian boy finds the perfect solution – little ingenuity and a lot of hope. Themes: Perseverance, Hope, Looking toward the future, Love of Family.

The Lord is my Shepherd.

Wilson, Anne, Illustrator. Eerdmans, 2003. J 223.2 Lor

This book uses the words straight from Psalm 23, but with remarkable, contemporary illustrations. It could be used in a children's time in worship with no additional words or commentary, but pause for each two-page spread so children may absorb how the artwork illustrates the Psalm.