

Bible Reader – the Short Take...

I have been developing a Bible Reader over the last several years. Dr David Larsen at TEDS likes the concept and has suggested that I try to get it introduced to some churches and see if there is a wider interest. This Reader is designed for reading in the corporate worship service. Each week's reading takes 5-10 minutes and over a 3-year cycle it will take the congregation through the Bible Story. Each week has a 1-2 chapter narrative reading (in the Bible order) and a shorter application reading from the Epistles, Psalms, Proverbs, or Prophets. The application readings give a biblical take on the Bible stories.

The Reader introduces people to the major Bible characters, stories and themes. People love stories and this capitalizes on the great ones in the Bible. The Intermountain EFC congregation is in our second 3-year cycle and I am preaching through it this time. During the first cycle it was very effective with no coordination at all to the rest of the service. I have included a longer proposal and a sample reader.

This runs against the church-growth grain somewhat, but:

1. It seems to be effective with post-moderns and others who are searching authentic spiritual experience.
2. It provides a uniquely evangelical way to scratch the "liturgical itch" that so many people feel, without getting involved in any other ecclesiastical traditions.
3. It provides one avenue to move into more community activities. I. e. instead of browbeating people so much about reading their Bibles at home, this approach says "since we're all here, let's just read it."
4. It provides an easy way to get people involved in up-front ministry reading the Scripture. Newer people considering deeper involvement usually feel very privileged to do this, and people who would never speak extemporaneously will often be happy to read.

If you are interested at all I will be happy to send the whole reader and spend as much time as you like thinking with you about how it could work at your church.

Thank you for considering this,
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