



AN INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS WILD CHURCH?

wild church is an informal gathering of church in nature. Many denominations, churches and congregations are finding opportunities to meet with creator God in His creation and find that these often an attractive and accessible gathering for those who do not engage with more traditional models of church, including those who are beginning to explore faith. These gatherings are usually intergenerational, giving all ages the opportunity to meet with God together.

Wild Church can take many forms, and these resources are designed to offer some ideas to help kickstart your thinking.

SUGGESTED FORMAT

We have tried this resource in this format, but feel free to adapt to your context

- Gathering time
- Introduction
- Introductory activity or several activities
- Story
- Prayer
- Songs
- Refreshments





SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLOSH

INTRO

This wild church may take many different forms, depending on your location, which could be a stream, river, pond, ocean or even a muddy puddle!

This session is designed to explore what Jesus meant when he talked about the water of life.

NEED TO KNOW

Bible Passage: John 4:4-14

Season: Any, depending on your activities and location

Location: A wet and watery place; from a paddling pool to ocean, stream, pond or river

Weather: Depends on your activities and location: wet or dry!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose the most appropriate activities from the list below, depending on your setting:

- Puddle jumping
- Raindrop racing
- Pond dipping
- Stream strolling
- Pooh stick racing
- Ocean gazing
- River cleaning
- Waterfall discovering
- Rockpool peering
- Water pistol squirting
- Splash pool splashing
- Paper boat sailing
- Shoreline de-littering
- Fresh water drinking
- Quayside crabbing
- Well dressing
- Jugs pouring
- Plant watering
- Paddling pool playing
- Ice skating
- ...?

STORY

Begin by asking participants if they can think of any stories in the Bible which feature water. Creation? Noah and the ark? Jesus' baptism? What else?

Explain that today's story took place when Jesus walked on the earth. Depending on your group, you could ask two people to prepare to act out the story in advance or just ask for two volunteers who can mime the story as you share it.

"One day, Jesus was travelling through Samaria. It was the middle of the day, hot and he came to a well for a drink. A Samaritan woman was there, and he asked her for a drink of water from the well. She was surprised that Jesus asked her to get him a drink, but he said; 'If you knew who I was, you would have asked me for living water.' She didn't understand, what was this living water? Jesus said: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst again."

I wonder what the woman thought of this? I wonder what difference the water of life would make for us?

SONGS

- My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)
- Water of life (Christian Stover)
- Down the mountain (Andy Park)

PRAYER

Invite everyone to drink a glass of water and to think about what it means to come to Jesus for his water.

Pray for the group, thanking Jesus for the life he gives us.

But whoever
drinks the
water I give
them will
never thirst.
John 4:14a