



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





COLOURS OF CREATION

INTRO

This wild church is a great introductory session to the idea of meeting with the creator God in creation.

This session celebrates all that we can see, hear, smell, touch, taste and experience, in the natural world, and shares the story of the creation of the world.

NEED TO KNOW

Bible Passage: Genesis 1

Season: Any, better suited to times of year when you will find growing things!

Location: Anywhere you can find plenty of examples of colourful, growing things

Weather: Dry is better for this one!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose the most appropriate activities from the list below:

- **We're going on a colour hunt:**

Challenge participants to find as many different colours as they can in the locality; picking up where appropriate and photographing where not. Can we find a whole rainbow? What surprises you most? What's your favourite colour?

- **Colour-matching:**

Give participants a set of coloured cards in assorted colours and challenge them to find the best matched object in the natural world. Who can find the most unusual colour?

- **All the senses:**

Invite participants to find a space where they can absorb the natural environment; seeing, hearing, feeling, smelling (and perhaps!!) tasting what is around them. Where do we feel closest to creator God?

STORY

This retelling of the story of creation is designed to quickly tell the story, using actions and inviting everyone to join in. Invite participants to use their fingers to count each of the days, and copy the simple actions for each day as detailed below:

“Day 1: light, day and night.
(mime opening eyes wide, waking up and going to sleep)

Day 2: heavens above and earth below,

(pointing up to the sky and down to the ground)

Day 3: land and seas

(using hand motions to mark a straight land and a wavy sea)

Day 4: sun, moon and stars
(mime actions to mark the shapes of these)

Day 5: birds of the sky and fish of the sea.

(mime birds flying and fish swimming)

Day 6: animals and humans
(mime your favourite animal, and point to yourself)

Day 7: rest!
(mime sleeping)

SONGS

- He’s got the whole world in his hands (traditional)
- Father God created the world (Ishmael)
- Lovely Jubbly (Ishmael)
- Who put the colours in the rainbow? (Paul Booth)
- All things bright and beautiful (Cecil Frances Alexander)

PRAYER

Creator God, we thank you for your beautiful creation; everything we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell.

As we are gathered here today, I want to thank you for ... (invite people to call out their responses).

Amen

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1