



Authorised Mess — 1 CHRONICLES

Your details

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Bible book	1 Chronicles
Theme of session	Wild warriors, wild worshippers, working worshippers, wise worshippers
Notes	This sessions takes as its architecture the big story of the transformation of the people of Israel from a bunch of wild tribal warriors into a nation with a Godly king who leads them in passionate worship and gives them a vision and resources for a centre for worship, which the succeeding king realises and releases the people to work.

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Musical instruments	Make simple instruments from everyday items.	A large assortment of everyday items—for example, jar caps, plastic bottles, craft foam, curling ribbon, tissue paper, bells, paper plates, glue, scissors and so on. Instructions for some simple instruments can be found at: http://www.makingfriends.com/music/tambourine.htm ; http://www.makingfriends.com/music/finger_cymbals.htm ; http://crafts.kaboose.com/water-bottle-noise-maker.html .	1 Chronicles 15:28 describes King David leading wild worship with horns, trumpets, cymbals, harps and lyres.



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Older participants	Armies/toy soldiers	<p>(1) Provide several sets of armies—tribal fighters with bows and arrows or swords and spears are preferable to guns and tanks.</p> <p>(2) Set out a 'landscaped' area of blocks/boxes covered with cloth to create the topography east of the Mediterranean.</p> <p>(3) Provide labels for each of the tribes and encourage participants to work out how they would divide the land between the various tribes.</p>	Plastic army sets; cloths, blocks and boxes; tribes of Israel printed on labels; cities, pastures, tent dwellers.	<p>This activity reminds us that the early history of Israel was tribal, diverse and fairly loosely organised. 1 Chronicles begins with episodes of tribal warfare and settlement. We are both fascinated and troubled by the prevalence of violence in our sacred stories. However, we do well to remember that not all of our scriptures tell of the exploits of people as positive examples to follow, but some hold up a mirror to show human practices, and yet testify to the purposes of God despite our brutal methodologies.</p>



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Older participants	Block-building temple construction	Use your creativity together to construct a most magnificent temple. The aim is not to replicate the exact design of the temple but the 'over-the-top' splendour that David envisaged as appropriate to the goodness and beauty of God.	Blocks, aluminium foil wrap, sequins or coloured buttons, Blu-Tack.	1 Chronicles tells of David's vision for a beautiful temple for worship, and the resources he gathered in readiness for his son King Solomon actually to build it.
Older participants	Chronicles of Narnia	View some clips of the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> , providing a short parallel guide as a reminder of the types of stories in 1 Chronicles that are similar to those in the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> .	YouTube clips of the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> movies: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYcGFLgJ8Uo ; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zk-D7SuwICU&feature=related ; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fji_sGlpC9U&feature=related .	The word 'chronicles' will be known to most people, but especially to children through the popularity of the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> movies. The idea of a story stretching across many generations, of kings and queens, good guys and bad guys, and wars and celebrations is common to the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> as well as the book of Chronicles in the Bible. Familiarity with the genre of chronicles may make it easier to read at home.



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All ages	Count the clans	Get everyone to add their name and a stick-figure picture of themselves on the 'paper wall'. People who are from the same family or household should draw their pictures close together. People who are neighbours should connect their pictures with lines. People who work together, or are friends (and that could be everyone!), should connect their pictures with dotted lines.	Huge piece of butcher's paper stuck on the wall or large whiteboard and colour marker pens.	Much of 1 Chronicles is taken up with lists of the clans and tribes. There is a lovely sense of including everyone, and also celebrating the strengths and characters of each clan, but also the connection between the tribes, as part of an emerging community.
All ages	Dance	Provide a space and soundtrack to facilitate a bit of spontaneous dance.	YouTube clip of 'Undignified' at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hp7B5V-gpTQ&feature=related .	Capture some of the spontaneity, exuberance and whole-body worship of David's dance before the Lord in 1 Chronicles 15.



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Word-based	Word transformations	Transform the words wild to work , and then work to wise changing only one letter at a time. (wild - weld - meld - mold - fold - ford - word - work - wore - wire - wise)	Paper and pens.	The book of Chronicles charts the transformation of the people of God from wild warriors, settling down to become workers, to having a wise leader as king.
Word-based	Poem pairs	Create two-word alliterative poems from the stories of 1 Chronicles—for example, 'David danced', 'wifey watched', 'king killed', 'cool choreography', 'family farms'. Illustrate the poems with a simple sketch or cartoon and add a chapter reference to 1 Chronicles. If the stories of 1 Chronicles are not well known, provide some children's Bible storybooks with the relevant pages tagged for easy reference.	Individual coloured sheets of A4 paper (one poem per sheet), coloured markers, illustrated Bible storybooks.	1 Chronicles is a retelling of stories that can be found mostly in other places in the Bible (1 or 2 Samuel and a little of Nehemiah).



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Food-based	Temple cake	Use lamington rectangles as bricks 'mortared' together with icing to make a magnificent temple— simple courtyard shape wall, filled with Jelly Babies people.	Lamingtons or similar 'cake bars' (bought or baked), icing, jelly babies. A recipe can be found at: http://www.lamingtons.com.au/ .	David imagined a glorious temple for worshipping God. It didn't turn out to be his role to build it—just to use his imagination and envision it and start gathering resources.
Explores global aspect of faith	Playdough prayers of peace	Add land formations such as hills, mountains and valleys to the map to make it 3D. Stick the peace flags as prayers into the plasticine, remembering that we can only pray for reconciliation and peace if we put aside judgement.	Map of Middle East (region between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea) printed from Internet; plasticine/playdough in landscaping colours— green/yellow/brown/blue; toothpicks with small white paper flags saying 'Peace'.	The book of Chronicles tells its stories against a background of tribes trying to settle in a land that is contested and unsettled. War is never completely out of view. The tribes struggle to make peace with the surrounding tribes and even with each other sometimes.



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Opens up great art	Captions and crowds	Study the pictures and ask for observations. David seems isolated in these images in comparison to the 'busy-ness' of some of the older images. Using the same colourful 'block' style as McBee, add some other characters dancing with David. Alternatively, add some speech bubbles, imagining what the bystanders might be saying or thinking as they watch David's wild exuberance.	Good quality prints of Richard McBee's paintings of David—see, for example, http://www.richardmcbee.com/site/index.php?option=com_flexcontent&task=view&flexcontentid=16&Itemid=7 .	We are told what David's wife thought of his wild worship dancing— she disapproved. However, it seems that God didn't agree with her. What other responses might there be to expressive worship?
Really messy	Footprint dance art	Create a mural on the groundsheet, inviting participants to step into tubs of coloured paint and then 'dance' a design on to the sheet with their feet. This can be an abstract expression of wild worship, or something more representational or narrative in style.	Large ground sheet, paints, tubs, soapy water, paper towels.	Connect to David's creative, exuberant dancing before God.



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Celebration suggestion

You will need:

- Toy or cardboard cut-out swords/shields with one of the verses from the Appendix (see below) stuck to each one.
- Toy or cardboard cut-out musical instruments with one of the verses from the Appendix stuck to each one.
- Toy or cardboard cut-out tools with one of the verses from the Appendix stuck to each one.
- Slide shows of the verses—you might not want to use all of the verses provided for each section but just select a few.
- Sound bites of 'Bob the builder'.

1 Chronicles continues the story of the Hebrew people after their escape from Egypt, having trekked through the desert for many years and finally arriving in a new land to live. You can imagine this unruly bunch of people—from a history of slavery, being treated like dirt, to becoming desert wanderers and then arriving in their new land a bit scruffy and not very well mannered. They had been a 'nothing' people: slaves, oppressed and then wanderers in the wilderness. But over time, they were transformed, changed, by God: from wilderness wanderers to wild warriors, to wild worshippers, to working worshippers and finally to wise worshippers.

We are going to do some transformations as we read about their stories together from the Bible but I will need some of you to help.

In the first part of 1 Chronicles the wanderers in the wilderness are transformed into wild warriors! Let's have some volunteers to be transformed.

- Call up some volunteers of any age, to receive a sword or shield. If they are not a confident reader, give them an 'armour bearer' to help them to read.
- Each person then reads a verse: you could also display the verses one by one on a slide show using sword and shield shapes as 'text boxes' for the verses.
- Get everyone to let out a wild warrior cry of 'Attack' whenever the word 'soldiers' appears.
- At the end of the reading, invite a little bit of 'wild warrior action' and sound effects.

Now we are going to transform our wild warriors into wild worshippers!

- Call up some volunteers of any age, to receive an instrument. If they are not a confident reader, give them a 'roadie' to help them to read.



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- Each person then reads a verse: you could also display the verses one by one on a slide show using musical instrument shapes as 'text boxes' for the verses.
- At the end of the reading, invite a little bit of 'wild worshipper action' and sound effects—you could perhaps play a quick burst of extreme music such as wailing guitars.

How wonderful—wild worship that happens in the streets, spontaneously, noisily and outrageously! But as we keep reading through 1 Chronicles, we find that King David imagines that this wild worship might turn into art, and furniture and architecture—that his people might use their skills to become working worshippers as they build a temple. So let's turn our wild worshippers into working worshippers.

- Call up some volunteers of any age, to receive a tool. If they are not a confident reader, give them an 'apprentice' to help them to read.
- Each person then reads a verse: you could also display the verses one by one on a slide show using tool shapes as 'text boxes' for the verses.
- Get everyone to shout out 'Work' whenever the word 'build' appears.
- At the end of the reading, invite a little bit of 'working action' and sound effects—you could perhaps play a quick burst of 'Bob the builder'.

King David began to get things organised, ready for building the temple, but it was his son Solomon who finished it.

Later in 1 Chronicles, we find that Solomon is also given great wisdom and so leads the people to become wise worshippers. Now we are going to finish with some wise worship words from 1 Chronicles—you can join in all of the 'doing' words highlighted in bold.

Appendix: Bible verses (CEV) to stick on props

(Don't stress over the names! For fun, you could substitute in the names of people in your community!)

Verses for wild warriors (swords and shields)

1 Chronicles 5:18: The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh had 44,760 **soldiers** trained to fight in battle with shields, swords, bows, and arrows.

1 Chronicles 5:24: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel were their clan leaders; they were well-known leaders and brave **soldiers**.



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1 Chronicles 7:2: Tola was the father of Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel, who were all brave **soldiers** and family leaders in their clan. There were 22,600 people in Tola's family by the time David became king.

1 Chronicles 7:4: Their families were so large that they had 36,000 **soldiers** in their clans.

1 Chronicles 7:7: Bela was the father of Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri. They were all brave **soldiers** and family leaders in their father's clan. The number of **soldiers** in their clan was 22,034.

1 Chronicles 7:9: The official family records listed 20,200 **soldiers** in the families of this clan, as well as their family leaders.

1 Chronicles 7:11: They were family leaders in their clan, which had 17,200 **soldiers** prepared to fight in battle.

1 Chronicles 7:40: These were the descendants of Asher, and they were all respected family leaders and brave soldiers. The tribe of Asher had a total of 26,000 **soldiers**.

1 Chronicles 8:40: Ulam's sons were brave **soldiers** who were experts at using a bow and arrows. They had a total of one hundred and fifty children and grandchildren. All of these belonged to the tribe of Benjamin.

Verses for wild worshippers (musical instruments)

1 Chronicles 13:8: David and the crowd danced and sang praises to the Lord with all their might. They played music on small harps and other stringed instruments, and on tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

1 Chronicles 16:8: Praise the Lord and pray in his name! Tell everyone what he has done.

1 Chronicles 16:9: Sing praises to the Lord! Tell about his miracles.

1 Chronicles 16:23: Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord. Day after day announce, 'The Lord has saved us!'

1 Chronicles 16:25: The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise! He is the only God worthy of our worship.

1 Chronicles 16:27: Give honour and praise to the Lord, whose power and beauty fill his holy temple.

1 Chronicles 16:28: Tell everyone of every nation, 'Praise the glorious power of the Lord.'

1 Chronicles 16:29: 'He is wonderful! Praise him and bring an offering into his temple. Worship the Lord, majestic and holy.'

1 Chronicles 16:34: Praise the Lord because he is good to us, and his love never fails.

1 Chronicles 16:35: Say to him, 'Save us, Lord God! Bring us back from among the nations. Let us celebrate and shout in praise of your holy name.'

1 Chronicles 16:36: 'Lord God of Israel, you deserve to be praised for ever and ever.' After David finished, the people shouted, 'Amen! Praise the Lord!'



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Verses for working worshippers (tools, hammers, saws)

1 Chronicles 28:10: The Lord has chosen you to build a temple for worshipping him. Be confident and do the **work** you have been assigned.

1 Chronicles 28:20: But you must see that everything is done according to these plans. Be confident, and never be afraid of anything or get discouraged. The Lord my God will help you do everything needed to finish the temple, so it can be used for worshipping him.

1 Chronicles 22:16: You have plenty of **workers** to do the job. Now get started, and I pray that the Lord will be with you in your **work**.

1 Chronicles 22:19: Obey the Lord your God with your heart and soul. Begin **work** on the temple to honour him.

Verses for wise worshippers (with verbs highlighted)

1 Chronicles 28:8: My friends, you **are** the Lord's people.

1 Chronicles 28:9: **Worship** God and **obey** him with all your heart and mind. He **knows** all your thoughts and your reasons for **doing** things, and so if you **turn** to him, he will **hear** your prayers.

1 Chronicles 16:10: **Celebrate** and **worship** his holy name with all your heart.

1 Chronicles 16:11: **Trust** the Lord and his mighty power. **Worship** him always.

Meal suggestion

- ☀ Meatballs, mini pittas, raisins, salad—similar to the food that David gave every person in 1 Chronicles 16:3.
- ☀ Temple cake (made in the activity).

Faith in Homes suggestion

Make a dice using the template below with the following faces:

- 1: Wild warrior
- 2: Wild worshipper
- 3: Worship@work
- 4: Wise worshipper
- 5: What went well?
- 6: What went wonky?

Add colour to the faces with colour markers, glitter glue or appropriate small stickers, but make sure the words are still visible!



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This cube is designed to help families reflect and share the ways in which they might see their lives as expressions of worship. It could be used at a meal or snack time. The idea is for each person to have a 'throw' of the dice and respond to the prompt that turns face up, telling about a time in their day or week which is an example of the category they rolled. Other family members may help the person identify something if appropriate. So, for example, having rolled 'Wild worshipper', dad might say 'When I went for a run this morning the sky was filled with a shining gold sunrise and I thought "Wow, awesome work, God!" ' Or having rolled Worship@work, Jennie might say 'At assembly today we heard about the way our school was partnering with Oxfam in Cambodia and I thought "I think we're getting on board with what God wants to happen in the world." '

- 1: Wild warrior—Tell of something that has happened in which you were wild, or in conflict.
- 2: Wild worshipper—Tell of a time that you stopped and thought about how great God is, and the thing that inspired you to think about God.
- 3: Worship@work—Tell of a time that you saw or did something that reminded you of the way God wants the world to work: loving our neighbours and/or enemies, bringing peace, justice or mercy, demonstrating or telling the truth, speaking up for those who need support.
- 4: Wise worshipper—Tell of a time that you learnt something. All knowledge and wisdom comes from God, so let's remember when we have learned something to acknowledge God.
- 5: What went well?—Tell of something that you were happy with in your day
- 6: What went wonky?—Tell of something that didn't go so well.

Other guidelines:

- The role of others in listening without judging is very important.
- Let the person whose turn it is to speak say as much or as little as they like.
- Questions to show your interest or to deepen your understanding of what the person is saying are helpful. Criticism and judgement, or modifying what the speaker is saying, are not helpful. If issues need to be addressed, save it for a separate time.
- Invite visitors to take a turn.
- You may like to designate one night of the week for this and give everyone a turn, or take turns on different days of the week. Always keep it fun and optional. Relaxed routine is great for developing community; rigid rules are great for safety.



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	Wild worshipper		
Wild warrior	Wise worshipper	Worship @work	? went well What
	What went wonky ?		