



**FRUITFULNESS
ON
THE FRONTLINE.**



Ordinary Time

The Christian year includes a “non-seasonal” time known as the Ordinary Time, which lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas and when we focus on instructing Christians on how to live out their Christian faith in their daily lives.



Series Introduction

The phrase, 'In Christ, In Colossae', the title of Derek Tidball's book, helpfully describes the nature of Christian existence in the world - with Christians taking their identity from the place where they live and work (in Colossae) as well as their identity as those who are 'in Christ'.

Colossae was a town of faded glory, and the majority of those living there would have been ordinary men and women who farmed crops, looked after sheep, dyeing wool, selling wool and textiles, some of whom would have been slaves, essentially scraping a living.

There are lines to be drawn between members of the church at Colossae with their various 'frontlines' and the 21st Century congregation - and encouragement to see that Paul's letter orients us, as it did the Colossians, around the word of the Gospel and the lordship of Christ, showing who Jesus is, what he has done, and how that works out in the everyday lives of ordinary people.



Aims

- To recognise that there are competing images of fruitfulness in society that capture the imagination of the Christian community;
- To recognise the centrality of Jesus and his gospel in bearing fruit on our frontlines.
- To help members bear fruit in their lives that is fundamentally different from the fruit of the empire;
 - Justice, righteousness, generosity, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, etc.

Movements of a service

GATHERING God's people

Engaging with the **WORD**

Celebrating the **GOSPEL**

SENDING God's people



Service planning

Fruitfulness on the Frontline:

Working For Christ - Colossians 3:17-4:1

Read Colossians 3:17-4:1. What are the key themes in this passage?

What songs, bible passages and interactive elements can you think of that could help your congregation engage on these themes?

How can you help your congregation express what it means to be a christian community, especially in light of these themes?

What focus would you like your congregation to have as they leave the service and enter into the world?

Service planning

Engaging with the **WORD**

Key message/themes:

- Don't act like the rest of the world!
- You can't always change your circumstances, but you can focus on who you serve.

For children:

- 3 min "what is the big idea?" for youth/children
- Activity/Craft: Russian doll (Core figure as a christian, make different jobs/life stages to dress your figure in.



Service planning

Celebrating the **GOSPEL**

- Kids to share their craft/activity with the rest of the service
- Frontline sharing from a main home carer.
- Another more older parent or carer to pray for the person giving their testimony.



Service planning

GATHERING God's people

SENDING God's people

Songs (Family service)

- This little light of mine
- We are the light of the world



Service planning

what a service could look like...

- 11:30** **welcome:** Start with a short picture quiz with different professions shown and asking the kids to guess what job's people have. If some of your congregation have interesting Jobs with a uniform, you could included them in there!
- 11:40** **Songs:**
This little light of mine, We Are the light of the world, God of this City
- 12:00** **Bible reading and Sermon:** (Col 3:17-4:1) Get a family and other readers to read out the different sections of the passage.
3 min "big idea and activity for kids whilst rest of the message happens
- 12:35** **Kids share what they have made to the rest of the service**
- 12:40** **Frontline sharing by carer and prayer from congregation**
- 12:50** **Sing "This little light of mine" once more to close the service**
- 13:00** **Benediction and close**