

NewGround Sunday 2021 Resources

Worship Service Themes/Activity Suggestions

For the designated Sunday, we encourage deacons and worship planners to find ways to enhance the offering time in order to help promote the work of NewGround.

Here are some suggestions but feel free to find what will work best in your church!

1) **PRAYER:** Please pray for our current [NewGround partners](#), as they work to impact their communities with the love of Christ. Pray also for all churches across Canada, asking God to help each one be courageous and creative with ministry opportunities in their community. This can be part of a congregational prayer or prayer of dedication at the offering time.

2) **THE WORSHIP SERVICE:** Consider planning the worship service around the theme of “loving our neighbours” or being used by God to share the good news. We believe that God desires to work *in us* and *through us* to show His love to others. Some suggested bible verses or themes could be:

- Proverbs 11:11a (NCV); *“Good people build up and bless their city”*
- John 13:34-35 (NIV); ³⁴ *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*
- John 15:12, 16-17 (NIV); ¹² *“This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you...¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.*

3) **SHARE A STORY OR VIDEO:** Hearing from those directly involved with and impacted by a NewGround partner church or ministry can be very meaningful. Possible speakers could be: *a past or present NewGround partner in your area; a NewGround Committee Member; a Diaconal Ministries Canada Board Member, Diaconal Coach, or staff.* We suggest asking someone to share a story and/or testimony the week prior to the offering. Here are some highlights from our partners!:

- [MY House, Youth Centre](#) (Mission, BC) - short promo video of this ministry
- [Open Homes Hamilton](#) (Hamilton, ON) - a quick update on this ministry and how NewGround is supporting them
- [Christian Against Poverty Debt Centre](#) (Crosspoint CRC, Brampton, ON); Here’s a quick story to share: “With the financial assistance from NewGround, our church opened a CAP Debt Centre several years ago. NewGround also provided coaching and help with networking with another church with a CAP program. As the Centre’s manager, I am passionate about the opportunity to witness how God connects us to people in our community and to see Him at work in and through our church. I am very encouraged by

the volunteers and other ways the church members have been involved. One volunteer shared this: ‘I have seen first-hand that CAP has been a real blessing in the lives of clients as they found hope to overcome crippling debt. I have also experienced the unexpected blessing of new friendships through the CAP program. CAP is a very worthwhile ministry, and I will continue to pray that it will flourish and bless many more clients in our city.’ CAP connects us to what God is already doing in our community!”

4) **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** You’ll find weekly bulletin announcements on Diaconal Ministries’ website. Deacons are encouraged to use these both in written communications to your church members and during the worship gatherings.

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