



Together, We Can Make a Difference!

A CHURCH UNIT FOR PANCAKE DAY

These notes have been prepared by the **Children and Family Ministry Team** of Mission Resourcing SA to help messy church leaders to plan a special event related to the Pancake Day promotion of UnitingCare SA.

AIMS

To use the theme 'Together, we can make a difference' to explore how God's people working together and serving others makes a difference in people's lives.

To raise awareness of UnitingCare and their fundraiser, Pancake Day.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Lectionary readings for Transfiguration Sunday (the last Sunday before Lent, 19 February 2012) are:

- 2 Kings 2:1-12 (Elijah Is taken up to Heaven)
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9 (Jesus' appearance is changed — The Transfiguration)

A chain of thoughts from these readings highlight some important aspects of our theme:

- God is the one who is able to make a difference in people's lives: *'God is the mighty one.'* (Psalm 50:1)
- God's people serve together: *'Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice'.* (Psalm 50:5)
- Our service is one of the ways God reveals himself to people: *'We do not proclaim ourselves: we proclaim Jesus Christ and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus sake.'* (2 Corinthians 4:5)
- We serve as a response to what Jesus teaches us. *'This is my son, the beloved; listen to him!'* (Mark 9:7)

For other related Bible passages, see Appendix 1.

THEME ELEMENTS

LENT & ASH WEDNESDAY: In the traditional Christian calendar, Lent is the season of preparation for Easter (8 April 2012). It extends for 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday (22 February 2012). Lent is a time of prayer and fasting. Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, became a day for partying and



emptying pantries of anything that would not be eaten during the time of fasting. One of the best ways of using up a variety of foods is to make pancakes. Thus Shrove Tuesday became Pancake Day.

PANCAKE DAY: Since 2002, Pancake Day has been UnitingCare SA's leading fundraising event. You can find all the information you need by calling 1800 060 543 or online sa.pancakeday.com.au

UNITINGCARE: 'UnitingCare is one way the Uniting Church seeks to transform lives, community and society into places of hope and opportunity for everyone.' You can find out about UnitingCare at

unitingcare.sa.uca.org.au

MESSY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

A Local Petition

You will need: Information about a local issue, a petition (a few copies), pens

Is there currently a local issue with a petition circulating? Make available information about the issue. Have the petition there for people to sign.

Talk about: The local issue and discuss what other ways, the Messy Church, local church or local community could also get involved in making a difference in other issues or in the community.

Banner

You will need: a sheet of paper large enough for everyone at Messy Church to put a hand print on (eg A2 size), 2 – 3 different coloured paints, 1 -2 paintbrushes per paint colour, trays for paints, paper towels (or hand washing facility)

On a large sheet of paper, write in the middle, 'Together, we make a difference.' Individuals paint one of their hands and make a hand print on the poster around the writing. Hand prints may overlap, colours may mix.

Talk about: How might our hands be used by God? Discuss different ways we use our hands to work together, serve others, make a difference in people's lives. For example, give a hug, carry something together, bake a meal, tidy a garden. Consider how the handprints mixing together is like us working together. We can see signs of beauty, creativity and newness when we work together. Are these signs of God at work through us?

Donation tin/box

You will need: light cardboard with a box template outline, scissors, tape, textas OR money tins, paper labels with printed UnitingCare or Pancake Day logos, glue or tape, textas, scissors

Decorate the template/label with messages and pictures about the organisation/purpose you will be fundraising for eg UnitingCare. For the box: cut out the template, fold and tape it together into a box. For the tin: cut out the label, glue onto tin.

Talk about: the organisation you are fundraising for and have information about them for people to take home and find out more. Talk about how each of our 5c or \$1 can together make a difference for that organisation or project. Discuss how that organisation or project will make a difference in people's lives.

Who is the mighty one?

You will need: objects of various and increasingly heavy weights, an object that can not be picked up (not even attempted to be)

Start with the lightest and pick each object up. (Ensure people do not overdo this or hurt themselves.)

Talk about: the different ways we can use our muscles to help people, for example by carrying heavy shopping, pulling out weeds. Discuss how God is the mighty one. What can God do to make a difference in people's lives that we cannot?

Card making

You will need: light card in various colours and sizes (no bigger than A4), textas or pens, stickers, other various materials eg decorative hole punches, crepe paper, pictures, glue, Bible verses that encourage (could be printed on stickers/labels or printed on paper to cut and glue on)

Make a card to give to someone to encourage them.

Talk about: The word encouragement means en = add and courage. When we encourage someone we are 'adding' courage to them. How can we encourage people? What are encouraging words and actions? How does being encouraged make a difference to you and others? Can you think of any other Bible verses that encourage?

UnitingCare stories

You will need: someone from a UnitingCare agency, for example a chaplain or a volunteer, who can share about the work of UnitingCare, some cushions or comfy chairs to sit on, coloured paper strips, textas and staplers or tape

Hear stories about UnitingCare or your local UnitingCare agency. What difference are they making in people's lives? Write a message or prayer on a paper strip to encourage your local UnitingCare agency and those they work with. Loop your strip with another to make a paper chain.

Talk about: ways you or Messy Church or your church could work with UnitingCare to make a difference.

Recipe books

You will need: light card, staplers, textas, assortment of recipes (Ask team members to type up or photocopy their favourite recipes. Photocopy or print one recipe per page. Pages need to be the same size eg all A4 or all A5. Provide multiple copies of each recipe for people to choose from. Recipes could either be of your regular Messy Church meals or variations on pancakes or recipes that all begin with P eg pizza, pancake, pastas or potato recipes.)

Choose up to 5 recipes that you like the look of and two pieces of light card. Gather them into a booklet with the light card for the front and back covers. Staple them all together (down side or across top) to create a booklet. Decorate the cover eg My Recipe Book or Favourite Recipes or Messy Recipes. You could write your Messy Church grace on one of the pages.

Talk about: food we can cook for others, times when people might be encouraged with a gift of food, foods we are thankful for, food that is easy to share (pizza cos comes in pieces or brussel sprouts cos don't like them) and food that is difficult to share (pizza cos it's yummy or a grape cos it's small).

Handshakes

You will need: two people!

Invent your own handshake with at least three different actions done in a particular order eg hand slide, fist pump, finger hold, pinkie link, wrist shake, high five...

Talk about: Handshakes are used to greet people, how else can we greet one another? Eg say hello, a kiss on cheek. How might a friendly greeting make a difference to someone's life? Who can we greet?

Penny Pancake Puppets

You will need: copied onto light card the Penny Pancake Puppet pattern (see Appendix 2), coloured pencils, scissors, a Stanley knife and cutting board



Penny Pancake is the mascot for UnitingCare Pancake Day.

To make a puppet:

- Use coloured pencils to colour the face.
- Cut out the face and base, following the heavy line around the outside of the pattern.
- An adult cuts along the dotted line under Penny's chin with a Stanley knife.
- Insert two fingers through the slit as Penny's legs and make her dance.

Talk about: Lent and Shrove Tuesday and why we make pancakes at this time. See information at <http://unitingcare.sa.uca.org.au/pancake-day/177-frequently-asked-questions.html#HowdidPancakeDaybegin?>

Invite people to bring their Penny Pancake Puppets with them to the celebration.

Pancake making

(You may want to save this for the celebration time so instead bake a cake or make individual trifles in plastic cups)

You will need: your favourite pancake mix/recipe and ingredients to make enough for everyone at Messy Church, an electric frying pan, slide, mixing bowl, spoon, plate with paper towel, small plates or serviettes, butter knives and an assortment of pancake toppings.

Follow the recipe to make your pancake batter. Cook a pancake and add a topping. Enjoy yourself or give to someone at Messy Church. Provide gluten and/or dairy free pancake mixes if necessary. Be careful with children around the frying pan.

Talk about: how the different ingredients don't make much on their own but when mixed together make pancakes. Compare how we can make a better/more effective difference when we work together than when on our own or in competition. Can you think of examples of working together being better? Eg at Messy Church we each bring different skills some welcome, some play, some make, some bake.

Listen and obey obstacle course

You will need: items to make an obstacle course eg chairs, ropes, cones, balls, balance beams, bikes, cushions, balloons ... a set of instructions, small prizes

One person (or leader) calls out the instructions for someone else to follow and obey. If done correctly, then gain a prize eg a sticker or pen.

Talk about: whether it is easy to listen and obey, who else we (should) listen to and obey eg parents, teachers, police officers and what the consequences are of not listening or not obeying. Talk about how Jesus taught people the importance of serving one another and how when we obey Jesus' teaching to serve others we can make a difference in people's lives.

MESSY CHURCH CELEBRATION

Setting up the church or worship space

You will need: 8 actors, the dramatic skit of the Pancake Parable from Appendix 3 and the other items as listed on page 1 of the skit.

Invite people to bring their Penny Pancake Puppets with them to the celebration.

Song selection

For a service with the theme: 'Together we can make a difference', it would seem appropriate to choose songs from the *All Together* music books, such as those below.

The lyrics of some of these songs are more individual (I/me) than corporate (we/us). To emphasise the 'together' aspect of this service, you might consider making some changes. For example, in the Prayer of St Francis, for 'make me a channel of your peace' substitute 'make us channels of your peace'.

All Together Now

- 31 Freely, Freely
- 37 Bound by love
- 45 I just love you with the love of the Lord
- 65 A new commandment
- 68 This is my commandment
- 93 Pass my love around
- 95 Prayer of St Francis

All Together Again

- 109 God gives
- 155 We believe
- 180 A time for building bridges
- 188 Reaching out with open arms
- 189 Thanks for life
- 191 The servant song
- 192 Spirit of peace

All Together Everybody

- 284 Come in, come in and sit down
- 298 Let's go out
- 308 We are called to follow Jesus

All Together OK

- 344 The new road
- 362 I believe, I do
- 373 Bound by love
- 401 Follow me

All Together Whatever

- 450 When Jesus Christ worked here on earth
- 482 His love within the world
- 503 Show me heaven

Talk

Perform the dramatic skit from Appendix 3 instead of a preached message.

If you'd prefer a talk then any of the texts from Appendix 1 could be used as a basis.

As Messy Church is an all-age worship service then the talk should be an all-age talk. This means it's short and simple — generally no more than three points. Stories, illustrations and interactive dialogue can be helpful.

Prayer response

WORSHIP LEADER: *Jesus taught his followers a prayer that we sometimes call the Lord's Prayer, because Jesus is our Lord and master. The prayer includes a part that goes: Give us today our daily bread.*

I guess that today, we could say 'pancakes' instead of 'bread'.

TECH TEAM displays a slide with the words 'Give us today our daily pancakes.'

WORSHIP LEADER: *When I say, 'Give us today our daily . . .', please hold up your Penny Pancake puppets and say . . . 'pancakes'.*

Have a go.

Give us today our daily . . .

PEOPLE: . . . PANCAKES.

(Names) are going to lead us in some prayers about our daily pancakes.

Prayer leaders come forward. Each says their own pancake prayers or they can use these prayer thoughts.

PRAYER LEADER 1: *Our Father in Heaven. You give us all the food we need each day. Help us to be thankful and to remember your goodness and generosity when we pray:*

Give us today our daily . . .

PEOPLE: . . . PANCAKES

PRAYER LEADER 2: *Our Father in heaven, you provide not just our food, but everything we need for a good life: home, family, friends, work and even entertainment. Help us to remember your goodness and generosity when we pray.*

Give us today our daily . . .

PEOPLE: . . . PANCAKES.

PRAYER LEADER 3: *Our Father in heaven, in spite of your goodness and generosity, there are some people in the world (even here in our community) who do not have a fair share — not even what they need. Help us to remember them when we pray:*

Give us today our daily . . .

PEOPLE: . . . PANCAKES.

PRAYER LEADER 4: *Our Father in heaven, your Son Jesus taught us to love like you love; to be generous, like you are generous; to help others as you have helped us. Please make us want to make a difference in people's lives and show us how to do so. Help us to think of this when we pray:*

Give us today our daily . . .

PEOPLE: . . . PANCAKES.

PRAYER LEADER 5: *Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for UnitingCare and the people who are organising Pancake Day as one way for all of us to work together to make a difference in people's lives. Help us make a difference in people's lives on Pancake Day and whenever we pray:*

Give us today our daily . . .

PEOPLE: . . . PANCAKES.

PRAYER LEADER 5: *Amen.*

WORSHIP/PRAYER LEADER may add petitions about specific concerns of the congregation and community.

Final blessing

Our loving God has shown us unselfish love through his only Son, Jesus. In your service of God and your neighbour, may you receive countless blessings. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Amen.

APPENDIX 1: OTHER RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES

ON CHARITY

The second great commandment: Love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

The final judgment: what we do for others we do for Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46)

The golden rule: treat others the way you would like them to treat you. (Luke 6:31)

We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:18-20)

God blesses people who are merciful and those who make peace (Matthew 5:7,9)

Give secretly (Matthew 6:1-4)

Jesus tells rich young ruler to sell everything he owns and give it to the poor — before following Jesus (Luke 18:18-25)

Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

Zacchaeus responds to Jesus by giving half his property to the poor. (Luke 19:1-10)

ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Jesus' healing miracles, eg these which extend our understanding of whom God's love extends to.

- Mark 7:24-30 Jesus heals the daughter of a Greek woman.
- Mark 10:13-16 Jesus blesses little children
- Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals a blind man.

Jesus' feeding miracles, particularly

- Luke 9:10-27 in which Jesus uses what one boy contributed and fed a crowd.

Saul/Paul's changed by his encounter with Jesus (Acts 9:1-19)

The good news shows how God makes people right with himself. (Romans 1:17)

Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Revelation 21:5)

ON WORKING TOGETHER

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. . .

Suppose someone falls down. Then his friend can help him up. But suppose the man who falls down doesn't have anyone to help him up. Then feel sorry for him! . . .

And a rope made out of three cords isn't easily broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10,12)

Jesus prays that all his followers will be one with each other (John 17:20,21)

Leaders appointed to serve the church (Acts 6:1-7)

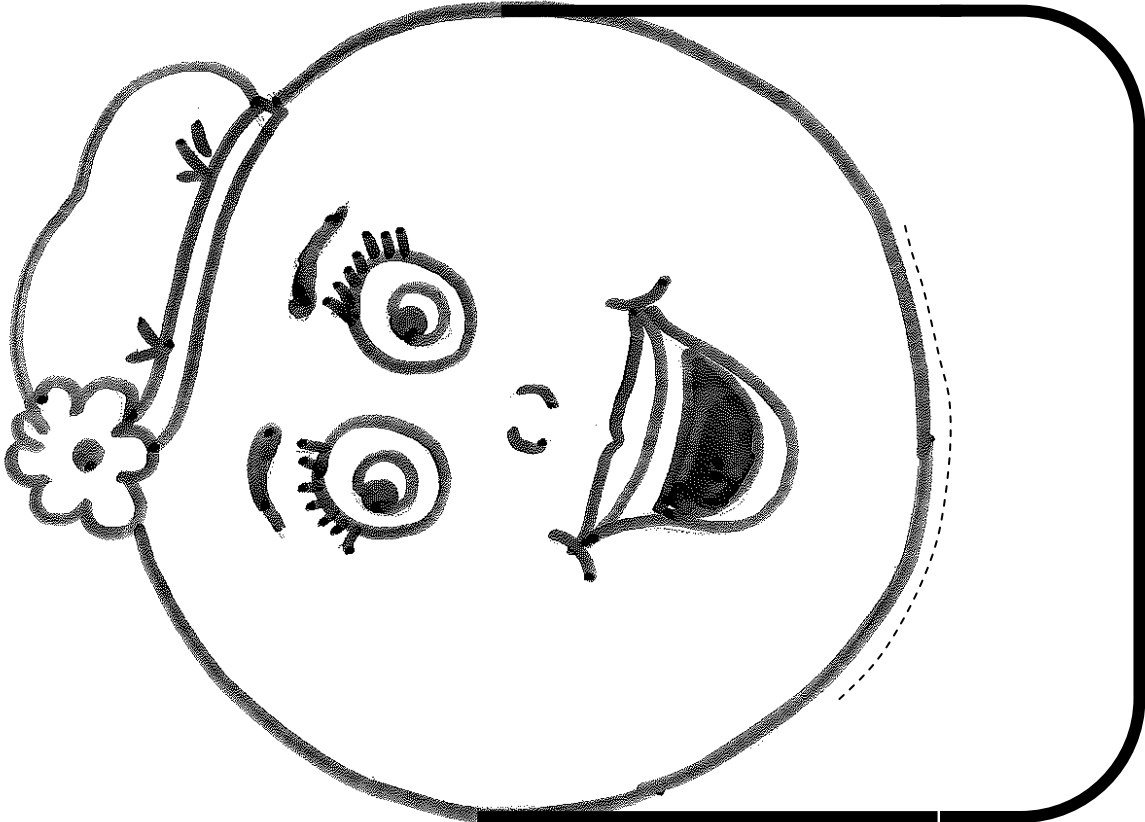
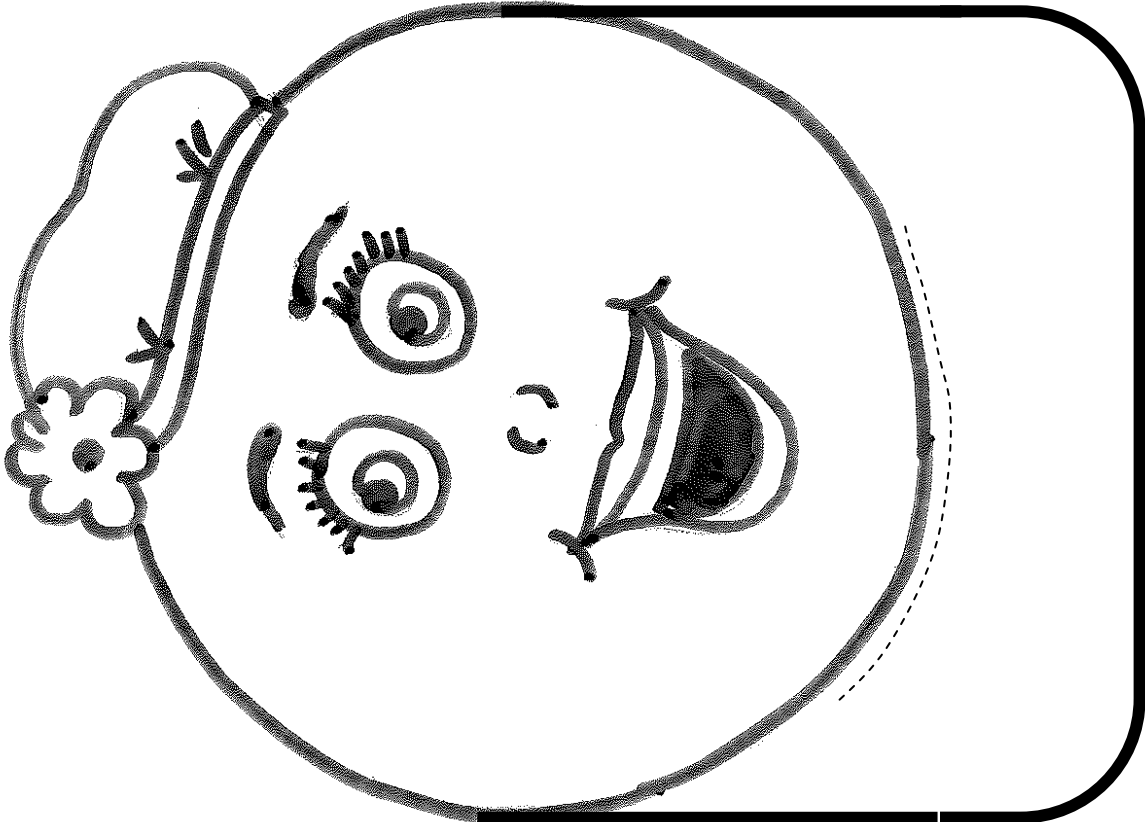
The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way that is for the good of all. (Ephesians 4:1-7)

Image of the church as a body: *[Jesus] is the Head. He makes the whole body grow and build itself up in love. Under the control of Christ, each part of the body does its work. It supports the other parts. In that way, the body is joined and held together.* (Ephesians 4:15,16)

The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all. (Proverbs 22:2)

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in peace! (Psalm 133:1)

APPENDIX 2: Penny Pancake Puppet Pattern



APPENDIX 3: *Drama*

PANCAKE PARABLE



(or 'The Real Master-Chef')

This sketch is modelled on the *MasterChef* television program. You can develop it in as much detail as you wish along the lines of the program.

The suggested dialogue is that — suggested. Once the actors have a basic understanding of the theme, encourage them to improvise.

THE PEOPLE

- Two hosts (George and Gary in the script)
- Five contestants: Adam, Bethany, Charlie, Donna and Eddie (several age groups; all wearing aprons)
- One special guest Master Chef

All actors use their own names.

THE SETTING & PROPS

Have a work bench/table set up where it can easily be seen by all worshippers.

On the table have 5 cloches (or box tops), covering five glass bowls.

In one bowl eggs

In another bowl..... milk

In another bowl..... sugar

In another bowl..... plain flour
(mixed with baking powder)

In another bowl..... oil

The amount of each ingredient required will depend on the number of people in the congregation.

Hidden under the workbench have the equipment needed for making pancakes, electric

frypan/s, a bowl/s, a wooden spoon/s, a spatula/s, five serving plates. Also have safe power connection for the electrical equipment.

Make sure anyone preparing food has hair tied back and clean hands.
Have hand disinfectant available.

PART 1

INTRODUCTIONS & CHALLENGE

Hosts enter and stand to one side of the bench. They speak to one another (using their own names):

GARY: Well George, isn't this exciting. We're down to our final five contestants.

GEORGE: And don't we have an amazing challenge for them today. Shall we let them in?

Contestants enter and stand in a line on the other side of the bench.

GARY: Well, Adam, Bethany, Charlie, Donna and Eddie. The pressure is on. You are our final five contestants. You've come a long way; but tonight you are going to be facing the most difficult challenge yet.

GEORGE: Are you ready?

Contestants nod their heads.

GEORGE: I said, are you ready?

CONTESTANTS (loudly): Yes, Chef!

GARY: George, do you want to explain their challenge.

GEORGE: It is a big one, Gary.

Contestants, each of you may choose one core ingredient. Your challenge is to produce the best possible dish — to feed all the people here.

GARY: Do I understand that right? They have to make enough to feed *all* these people?!

GEORGE: That's right. All those people will be the judges for this challenge.

GARY: All right, contestants. You each get one core ingredient. And you will produce a brilliant dish to serve to all these judges.

GEORGE: Do you understand?

Contestants nod their heads.

GEORGE (louder): Do you understand?

CONTESTANTS (loudly): Yes, Chef.

Two contestants steps aside and speak to the congregation:

ADAM: I'm a bit apprehensive. This is a really big crowd, and the core ingredients don't look all that big.

BETHANY: I know I can do this. I just hope I get the right core ingredient.

PART 2 THE CORE INGREDIENTS

GARY: Are you ready to see what your core ingredients are? George has five cards, numbered 1-5. The number on the card you pick will determine the order in which you choose your core ingredient.

George takes the cards to the contestants who each pick one.

GARY: Contestant #1, please step up to the table and choose your core ingredient.

The contestant who has drawn card #1 stands behind the table and uncovers one of the cloches to reveal the bowl of ingredients.

The sequence and the following dialogue can be pre-arranged, or let the contestants actually be surprised by what they receive.

GEORGE: What have you got?

CONTESTANT #1: Just eggs.

GEORGE: Are you happy with that?

CONTESTANT #1: Eggs are good.
But I can't do much with *just* eggs.

GARY: Contestant #2, please step up to the table and choose your core ingredient.

Contestant #2 stands behind the table, uncovers one of the cloches to reveal the bowl of ingredients.

GEORGE: What have you got?

CONTESTANT #2: Just some — I think it looks like flour.

GEORGE: Do you want to taste it?

CONTESTANT #2: Yes, please.

After tasting: Yes, it's flour. Flour is good. But I can't do much with *just* flour.

Follow this pattern for the other three contestants/ingredients.

PART 3 THE REAL CHALLENGE

CHARLIE steps around the table and speaks to audience: Now we all have our ingredients. This is going to be tough. I'm pretty sure Donna is the one to beat. But I'm up for it.

Charlie returns behind table.

DONNA steps around the table and speaks to audience: I'm getting a bit worried. I can't see a pantry. I really don't know what I can do with my one ingredient.

Donna returns behind table.

GEORGE: Remember, your challenge is to feed all these judges something spectacular with your one ingredient. You have 20 minutes. And your time starts NOW.

Contestants speak among themselves:

EDDIE: Hang on. How can I make a decent dish with just _____.

ADAM: You think you have problems. Here I am with just _____.

BETHANY: Maybe we didn't understand the instructions. Gary, can you help us, please?

GARY: What seems to be the problem?

CHARLIE: Sorry, chef. We don't know what to do. Each of us has just one ingredient. Where's the pantry? I can't fix much of a dish.

DONNA: Neither can I.

GARY: This is a first, George. This challenge seems to have stumped our contestants.

GEORGE: Let's let them in on our secret.

GARY: We have some help for you — the world's greatest Master Chef. He's winner of every conceivable cooking competition. He's the head of his own worldwide chain of restaurants — (Master Chef's own name).

**PART 4
HELP FROM THE MASTER CHEF**

MASTER CHEF enters: Good day contestants.
How are you going?

ADAM: We're not.

BETHANY: We're stumped.

CHARLIE: We can't do it.

DONNA: This is so embarrassing.

EDDIE: None of us is going to win this one.

MASTER CHEF: Let's see what you've got.

Master Chef walks along the table, checking each of the ingredients.

MASTERCHEF: it looks to me as if you've got a great collection of ingredients.

ADAM: But . .

MASTERCHEF: All you need to do is work together. Together you can make . . .

CONTESTANTS: PANCAKES!

GEORGE: Time is moving on. You'd better get cracking. Chop. Chop.

**PART 5
THE COOKING**

Contestants begin working together. One person warms up the electric frypan and adds oil. Another gets out the bowl. Others add their ingredients into the mixing bowl. Another mixes, etc.

Contestants place small spoonfuls of batter onto the heated frypan.

MASTERCHEF: To make round pancakes, drop the batter off the end of the spoon — rather than the side.

One contestant flips the pancakes. Another moves the cooked pancakes to a paper towel-covered serving platter.

NOTE

In the television program there would be a commercial break at this point and the show would continue after the lapse of a period of time in which most of the cooking takes place.

Making pancakes does not take long, but you might want to have your own 'commercial break' at this time. Make announcements about Pancake Day, Uniting Care or your Congregation's plans for Lent. Or have a music break with the congregation singing and having a stretch.

As the fifth platter of pancakes is nearly ready ...

GARY: Your time is nearly over. You have fifteen seconds to plate up your spectacular dish for the judges. Ten seconds to go.

GARY, GEORGE (and AUDIENCE) . . . nine . . . eight one.

GEORGE: Time's up!

GARY: Step away from the bench.

**PART 6
THE JUDGING**

GEORGE: It's time to serve the judges.

ADAM takes a platter, and speaks : I didn't actually think we could do it.

He moves around the congregation, giving each person one small pancake.

BETHANY takes a platter and speaks: I'm reasonably confident we have produced a winning dish.

She moves around the congregation, giving each person one small pancake.

CHARLIE: We did it!

He distributes pancakes.

DONNA: We couldn't have done it if we hadn't worked together.

She distributes pancakes.

EDDIE; We would have been stuck if it weren't for _____(Master Chef).

He distributes pancakes.

Contestants all return to the table and line up in front of it.

GARY: to the congregation: It's time for your score. On a scale of 1-10, how many of you give the contestants ten out of ten? Raise your hands please.

How many score them nine out of ten?

How many eight out of ten?

GEORGE: That's enough. I reckon they have all earned the right to go through to the next round.

GARY: because they listened to (Master Chef) and worked together to do something they couldn't have done alone.

Contestants cheer and hug one another.

GEORGE: Thanks to our special guest chef today (Master Chef).

Contestants cheer and run to surround him.

GARY: Well done, contestants. We'll see you tomorrow in the *MasterChef* kitchen. Get a good night's sleep and be ready for your next challenge.

Contestants leave. As they go:

EDDIE: I can't believe what just happened.

DONNA: I can't wait to see what they have for us tomorrow.

George, Gary and Master Chef walk off together.

They (or a crew) switch off appliances, clear off the table and possibly move the bench out of the way for the rest of the service.

THE END

RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE PANCAKE PARABLE

There are some risks involved in presenting the Pancake Parable dramatic skit beyond those involved in your normal worship service. Consider the risks and how you can manage them before deciding to incorporate the drama into your worship.

Please see the information available on Risk Management and Safety at sa.uca.org.au/event-planning-guide