

Infertility Friendly Services

Handling your listeners preoccupations and bringing their thoughts to God.

Preoccupations – What you bring

- What are you thinking of right now?
 - Physical comfort: your seat; hunger or thirst, tiredness?
 - What you were doing just before you got here?
 - What you'll be doing when you leave?
- When people come to your services, they will bring all sorts of preoccupations with them.

Preoccupations - Focus on God

- Your job is to acknowledge these thoughts & help people hand them over to God, so they can worship without distraction & hear God's message.
- You need to do 3 things:
 - Acknowledge feelings
 - Avoid triggering distracting trains of thought
 - Address issues so people can hear God's message

Preoccupations - Acknowledge

- **ACKNOWLEDGE:** Warn people if a difficult topic will come up next week.
- **ACKNOWLEDGE:** At special services overt mention of difficult feelings might be made e.g. Mother Day.
- **ACKNOWLEDGE:** Make space at the beginning of services for people to notice their own feelings.
- **ACKNOWLEDGE:** Make space during preparation to notice your own feelings.

Preoccupations - Avoid

- **AVOID:** Trigger words will distract people e.g. barren, birth, infertility
- **AVOID:** Re-read your scripture passages & sermon notes with an eye out for triggers. **CUT** where you can and, where you can't cut, **ACKNOWLEDGE** the stress & guide back to your main point.

Preoccupations - Address

- ADDRESS: Consider Issue centred sermons.
- ADDRESS: Allow the bible to introduce tricky topics. When a difficult issue comes up in a reading, pray about it, then talk about it.

Preoccupations

Pray and trust God to guide you.