



## **Celebration Service**

### **Living Life to the Full**

#### **Welcome**

- Welcome members of the Boys' Brigade (+), families, members of the congregation and any visitors or guests.
- Explain the purpose of the Celebration Service, for example:

"We are gathered today to give thanks to God for the life He has given us and for the many ways our young people have grown, served, learned and enjoyed life together throughout the past year."

- Introduce the theme, for example:

"Jesus said, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10). During our time together, we will reflect on what it means to live that full and abundant life as members of the Boys' Brigade (+) and as part of this church community."

- Share any practical information that will help people feel welcome and at ease, such as:
  - the location of toilets and other facilities;
  - who to speak to if assistance is needed;
  - crèche facilities;
  - arrangements for refreshments or activities after the service;
  - any guidance regarding photography or recording.

**Optional:** If appropriate, you may wish to invite anyone attending a Boys' Brigade (+) Celebration Service for the first time—whether as a member, family member, church attendee, or guest—to give a wave. This can be a straightforward way of recognising newcomers and highlighting the church's welcome and outreach to the wider community.

## **Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

You came that we might have life and have it to the full.

As we gather to celebrate this past year, we thank you for every blessing, every friendship and every opportunity to learn and grow. Help us to follow you more closely and discover the abundant life you offer.

Amen.

## **Song (see Additional Resources)**

### **Presentation: "Life to the Full This Year"**

A short presentation which could include photos, videos, short testimonies and highlights of:

- Camps
- Community service
- Competitions
- Fundraising
- Faith activities

You could invite members (pre-selected and rehearsed) up to the front to answer questions like:

- What was your favourite activity this year?
- What was the funniest thing that happened this year?
- What have you learned?
- Where have you seen God at work?

## **Song (see Additional Resources)**

### **Celebration of Achievement**

This section could include the presentation of major awards, such as the President's Badge or King's Badge, together with the recognition of leaders receiving Long Service Awards. To ensure these achievements receive appropriate prominence—and to help keep the service to time—it may be best to focus on the most significant

awards. You could also briefly acknowledge the range of other awards presented during the year and explain how these are celebrated at regular meetings, an awards evening or other company events.

You could consider creating a special award linked to the service theme, recognising a young person who has demonstrated "life to the full" through their participation, character, service to others or contribution to the Company over the past year.

## **Enrolment/Rededication**

Examples of formats and wording for this section of the service can be found [here](#)

## **Song (see Additional Resources)**

## **Dramatised Reading**

*You will need 6–8 young people to form a circle, 3–4 young people to act as the sheep, one person to be the guard, one person to play the robber and one person to play Jesus. You will also need a Narrator. Jesus will need some small packets of Haribo (or similar) for the second part of the reading.*

*Form the circle with everyone facing outwards apart from the guard who should be part of the circle nearest the congregation but facing inwards. The sheep should stand inside the circle, representing the sheepfold. The thief should stand on one side of the 'stage' and Jesus on the other.*

Narrator: Jesus then said, 'I tell you this: A shepherd keeps his sheep in a safe place with a wall round it.

*Everyone forming the sheepfold turns to face inwards.*

There is a gate into that safe place.

*The gatekeeper turns to face the congregation.*

Anyone who gets into that place by another way, not through the gate, is not the shepherd. That person is a robber. He comes to take away the sheep for himself.

*The robber creeps up to the rear of the sheepfold, slips in and 'grabs' a sheep, taking them out through the way they entered. Sheep bleats plaintively.)*

But the shepherd goes in through the gate. The person who watches the gate opens it for the shepherd. The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice. He calls each of his own sheep by their name and he leads them out.

*Jesus approaches the sheepfold and the gatekeeper steps out of his way (and off the stage) to create a gap Jesus can enter through. Jesus says the name of the young people who are acting as the remaining sheep and they follow him off the stage.*

When he has brought out all his own sheep, he goes in front of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger. They will run away from a stranger because they do not recognize his voice.'

Jesus told this story like a picture to teach the people. But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So, Jesus spoke again.

*Jesus comes back on the stage and stands in the same place as the gatekeeper).*

He said, 'I tell you this: I am like the gate for the sheep. All other men who came before me were like robbers.

*Robber walks across the stage looking very guilty.*

But the sheep did not listen to them. I am like the gate. Everyone who comes in through me will be safe. They will be free to come in and to go out.

*Jesus stands aside and the sheep return happily to the sheepfold).*

And they will find plenty of food.

*Jesus scatters some packets of Haribo's both in the pen and outside. Some of the sheep pick these up and start eating them inside the sheepfold. Others come out again an pickup and eat the ones outside.*

The robber only wants to take away my sheep. He wants to kill them. He comes only to destroy them. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

*The robber returns and stands facing Jesus with his back to the congregation as the final verses are read.*

## **Message -"What Makes a Full Life?"**

What you'll need

A rucksack containing the following items: a water bottle, a map, a compass, a torch, a photo, a first aid kit and a rubber chicken\*

\*your final item doesn't have to be a rubber chicken and you could replace this with something else that would be "useless" on the journey but a rubber chicken will be something people remembered (and are easily available at relatively low cost online).

*If you need to shorten this section, you could potentially leave out the Compass and/or First Aid Kit.*

## **Introduction**

*Invite someone to come up and try on the backpack. Ask them to guess what's in it.*

Many of our members will know that if you're heading off on camp, an expedition or even just a day out, you need to think carefully about what you pack.

If you forget something important, you can have a pretty miserable time!

Today we're thinking about Jesus' words:

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

But what does a "full life" actually look like?

Many people think a full life means having lots of money, lots of possessions, lots of success, or lots of followers online.

But Jesus had something much deeper in mind.

Let's see what we might need for the journey.

## **1. Water Bottle – We Need Refreshment**

*Take out the water bottle and ask the person who tried on the rucksack to hold it.*

One thing you never leave behind on an expedition is water.

Without it, you won't get very far.

Life can be exciting, but it can also be tiring. School can be demanding. Work can be stressful. Relationships can be difficult.

We all need something that refreshes us.

Jesus offers more than physical refreshment. He offers peace, forgiveness, hope, and strength for each day.

A full life isn't one where we never get tired; it's one where we know where to find renewal.

## **2. Map – We Need Direction**

*Take out the map and ask someone to come up, unfold it and hold it up.*

If you're walking somewhere new, it's helpful to know where you're going.

Otherwise, you can spend a lot of time wandering around in circles.

Life can feel a bit like that sometimes.

People ask:

- What should I do with my life?
- What really matters?
- How should I treat others?

Jesus doesn't just offer us a destination; he shows us the way.

He teaches us how to live—with kindness, courage, humility and love.

A full life isn't simply being busy. It's moving in the right direction.

## **3. Compass – We Need Something to Keep Us on Course**

*Take out the compass and ask someone to hold it. Ask the congregation to point in the direction they think North is and then ask the person holding the compass to point where the compass tells them that North is (you make need to help them).*

A map is useful, but it's not much help if you don't know which way you're facing.

That's why a compass is so important. It helps you find your bearings and keeps you heading in the right direction, even when the path isn't obvious.

Life can be like that too.

Most of us know the difference between right and wrong. We know the kind of person we want to be. But sometimes we can lose our way. We get distracted by what other people are doing, we make mistakes, or we find ourselves under pressure to fit in.

Jesus helps us find our true direction.

Through his teaching, his example, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he helps us make good choices and stay focused on what really matters.

In the Boys' Brigade, we talk about habits such as obedience, reverence, discipline, and self-respect. These are not just good qualities; they help point us towards the kind of life God wants us to live.

A full life isn't about drifting wherever the crowd takes us. It's about having a clear sense of direction and choosing to follow Jesus, even when the route isn't always easy.

#### **4. Torch – We Need Guidance**

*Take out the torch and ask someone to come up and turn it on and shine it at the congregation.*

A torch isn't very exciting when the sun is shining.

But when things become dark, suddenly it becomes one of the most important things you own.

There are moments in life when we face disappointment, uncertainty, grief, failure or fear.

Jesus never promised that life would always be easy.

But he did promise to be with us.

A full life isn't a life without difficulties; it's a life where we don't face those difficulties alone

#### **5. Photograph of Friends and Family – We Need Community**

*Take out a photo and ask someone to come and hold it. (You could show the photo on a screen at the same time).*

One of the best things about the Boys' Brigade isn't the badges, competitions, or activities.

It's the people.

The friendships.

The leaders who encourage us.

The people who help us when things are difficult.

God never intended us to journey through life alone.

A full life includes friendship, belonging, and serving one another.

That's one of the reasons organisations like the Boys' Brigade and churches like ours matter so much.

## **6. First Aid Kit – We Need Healing**

*Take out the First Aid Kit and ask someone to come up and hold it. You could ask them to open it up and find a plaster.*

If you're going on an adventure, eventually someone will need a plaster.

That's just how life works.

We all get hurt sometimes.

Not just physically.

Sometimes we experience disappointment, regret, guilt, or broken relationships.

Jesus came to bring healing.

He offers forgiveness when we get things wrong and grace when we fall short.

A full life isn't about being perfect. It's about knowing God's love even when we aren't.

## **7. Bible – We Need Jesus**

*Take out the Bible and ask someone to come up and hold it up.*

Everything else we've packed is useful.

But this is the most important thing.

The reason we gather as a Boys' Brigade Company isn't simply to have fun, learn skills, or earn badges.

It's because our object begins with:

"The advancement of Christ's Kingdom..."

At the heart of all we do is Jesus.

When Jesus spoke about life in all its fullness, he wasn't talking about having more things.

He was talking about having a relationship with him.

Knowing that you are loved by God.

Knowing that your life has purpose.

Knowing that you belong.

Knowing that even when life is difficult, you never walk alone.

## **8. We Don't Need a Rubber Chicken**

*Take out the rubber chicken and ask someone to come and hold it.*

Now, before I finish, I have one more thing.

Would anyone pack this for an expedition?

Probably not!

Why?

Because it takes spaces and doesn't really have much use.

Sometimes we carry things through life that aren't helpful to us:

- anger,
- resentment,
- fear,
- selfishness,
- worry.

Jesus invites us to leave those things with him.

He came not to burden us with useless things but to give us life.

## **Conclusion**

*Ask everyone to help you put everything back in the rucksack (apart from the rubber chicken!) and return to their seats.*

This year we have celebrated achievements, badges, camps, friendships, service and growth.

These are all wonderful things.

But Jesus reminds us that the fullest life is found not in what we own or achieve but in following him.

As we look ahead to another year of Boys' Brigade, may we continue to grow in friendship, service, faith, and purpose.

And may we discover more and more of the life that Jesus came to give—

“Life to the full”

## **Song (see Additional Resources)**

### **Thank You**

Thank everyone for coming and remind them of any arrangements for refreshments or activities after the service.

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you came so that we might have life in all its fullness.

Thank you for the journey we have shared together this year—for friendships made, challenges overcome, lessons learned and opportunities to serve others.

As we continue our journey through life, help us to trust you as our Shepherd and guide. When we are uncertain, give us direction. When we are distracted, help us stay on course. When we face difficulties, give us courage and hope. When we fall short, remind us of your forgiveness and love.

Bless every member of our Boys' Brigade Company, our leaders, families, and this church community. Help us to encourage one another and to grow in faith, service and friendship.

May we discover more each day of the abundant life that you offer and may all we do bring glory to your name.

Amen.

## **Additional Resources**

### Songs with actions

“Praise” by Elevation Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YQLAUqUZII>

“Celebration” by Forrest Frank

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTUGqEzJCu4>

“My Lighthouse” (Rend Collective) by Shout Praise Kids

<https://youtu.be/np-lwYpln4Q?si=5ZAgANL6XrKZnkYE>

Other possible songs to consider:

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Build Your Kingdom Here

Lord for the Years

### Video Resource

Brigade President, Dez Johnstone, unpacks what living life to the full means to him:

<https://vimeo.com/743327852?fl=pl&fe=cm>