



Facilitators Guide – Praying People

This workshop was created by Emma Ridley from GodSpace & Carlingford Baptist. The workshop includes a short video, opportunities for prayer and discussion.

Resources:

- Download video from website.
- Handout at the end of this document
please print copies for your venue
- Prayer resources (optional)

Watch the examples of prayer experiences [13:40-19:05].

Choose & prepare activities considering your space. E.g.

- sticky-note prayer (sticky notes and pens)
- pass-it-on prayer (ball, string or teddy)
- imaginative prayer (Reflect App)
- 5 finger thank-you prayer (paper and pens)

Setting Up Your Space

- You will need space to watch and discuss the video in small groups. Consider space (or moving chairs) to do the **pause and move** activity. **Prayer activities** can be done seated, in a circle or in 'stations' - your choice.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE (1 HOUR)

Your intro: (2mins)

- let participants know this is a workshop about engaging children and young people in prayer experiences.
- Everyone will receive a link to the video to watch it again and share with their team.

Video Intro (2mins)

[0:00-2:20] Introduction to prayer

Pause & Move (5mins)

Instruct people to place themselves along a line (or in the room) based on how they respond to the statements.



Statements:

- Do you prefer: a set time to pray or spontaneous prayer?
- Would you feel comfortable leading a group in prayer (aloud)?
- Should prayer be – respectful and filled with awe (acknowledging God's holiness) or casual and intimate (like chatting with a close friend)?
- How equipped do you feel to explore prayer with children and young people?

Video (12 mins)

[2:20-13:40] General considerations | praying – when and how?

Pause & Chat (10 mins)

- If possible, form groups with people who work with the same age-group.
- Give participants 3 mins to discuss the video content. Then distribute the handouts with the age-sensitive considerations, for the groups to discuss further. Discussion questions are in the video and on the handouts.

Video (9 mins)

[13:40- 22:05] Examples of prayer experiences | resources for prayer

Pause, Pray & Chat (20 mins)

- Provide time for participants to explore some of the prayer ideas from the video.
- Provide time to discuss and wrap up the session. Discussion questions are in the video and on the handouts.

Finish – THANK YOU!!



PRAYING PEOPLE

CONNECT 2024

Age-Sensitive Considerations*

BUBS & TODDLERS



- Support strong attachments / relationships
- Be responsive – wonder, celebrate, comfort
- Comment on God in the everyday
- Include them in the rhythms of God’s community
- Engage in moments of shared attention – point & talk, bounce & sing, play & explore

YOUNG CHILDREN (AGES 3-8)



- Keep prayers short and simple.
- Provide prayer scaffolds or templates
- Use concrete language and focus on the present situation, needs and interests.
- Spend time modelling and explaining prayer

OLDER CHILDREN (AGES 8-12)



- Explore how to pray in different situations and different styles of prayer.
- Discuss how God might answer prayer in different ways.
- Use Bible-based prayers and reflect on real-world experiences of people who pray.
- Be open to questions about prayer.

TEENS & YOUNG PEOPLE



- Invite peers to pray for each other.
- Consider options for recording prayers (with permission) and observing changes over time
- Explore how prayer is a way of expressing trust in God.
- Provide opportunities to choose how to pray, prepare prayer resources etc.

Pause & Chat Questions

- What caught your attention?
- What might be most helpful to consider for your age group?
- Is there anything else you’ve found useful for your age group?

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* Adapted from Spotlight on Prayer article in *GodSpace Green* 2022

EXAMPLES & RESOURCES

GETTING STARTED - PRAYER WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Sticky Note Prayers

- A small space to write or draw a prayer

Pass-It On Prayers

- Group/circle - short prayers aloud or silent

Template Prayers

- Model or 'fill-in-the-blanks' prayer

Imaginative & Reflective Prayers

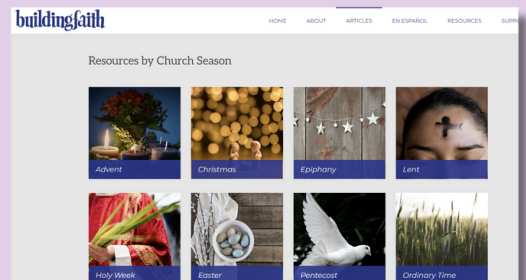
- Reflect on or imagine a Bible story/passage



GODSPACE Student Magazines have great examples



BUILDING FAITH



REFLECT: CHRISTIAN MINDFULNESS APP

App Store / Google Play

7 ways to pray with children

1. Teach about prayer at all times

- Teach these things about prayer incidentally through every day activities
- We can talk to God at any time and tell him anything
- There are no right ways to pray. We don't have to be heard by God. God can hear all our prayers, all the time
- The Lord's Prayer shows us to praise, thank, confess and ask for things

2. Small group prayer

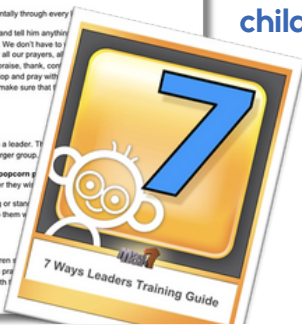
Up to 10 children can sit in a circle with a leader. They don't feel pressure like they may in a larger group. An example of a small group prayer is popcorn prayer where people pop in and pray whenever they want. Alternatively, they can pray while sitting or standing and squeeze the hand of the person next to them.

3. Pair Share prayer

Divide the children into pairs. The children want to pray for. Their partner can then pray for them in a quiet place with them.

4. Whole group prayer

MAX 7 7 ways to pray with children



BAPTIST MISSION AUSTRALIA

Creative Prayer Ideas



Baptist Mission Australia

Serve Support Who we are

CREATIVE PRAYER IDEAS

- Individual
- Small Group
- Large Group
- Children
- Youth/Young Adults
- Adults
- Prayer Stations

This is a collection of over 40 ideas for all ages and group sizes. We encourage you to adapt and customise for your context.

Individual

Small Group

Large Group

Pause & Chat Questions

- Is there a prayer style you personally connect well with?
- Anything you'd like to find out more about?
- What are some things to consider before trying one of these prayer experiences in your context?