

RESOURCING THE LOCAL CHURCH



FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## Creative Prayer Ideas

A collection of ideas to help children engage with prayer

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Praying creatively can be such an important way of helping our children learn how to pray, discover what it is to talk to God and have a relationship with him. Here are some of the best ways we've discovered that children can engage with prayer creatively.

**Throw away prayers** - confession - give each child a piece of paper for them to write or draw something they want to say sorry for, which they throw away in the bin or tear up when you have helped them to say sorry to God.

**Handprint prayers** - make handprints or give each child a hand shape. On each finger they can write something they want to pray for e.g. a friend for each finger.

**Popcorn prayers** - a time of quiet open prayer for children to simply shout out things they want to thank God for as they pop into their heads.

**Plaster prayers** - give each child a plaster and ask them to write on their plaster the name of someone they know who is sick or unwell.

**Choose a country** - have a map or globe and create a fun way for children to choose somewhere in the world to pray for. Find out some of the things the children could pray for for that country.

**Teaspoon prayers** - Give each child a plastic teaspoon and ask for ideas for things we use teaspoons for - tea/eating/feeding babies/baking. Explain that teaspoons are given the initials TSP. This can help us when we pray by using each letter -

T: Thanks: Get ideas of what we can say thanks to God for.

S: Sorry: Get ideas of what we can say sorry to God for.

P: Please: Get ideas of what we or others may need to ask God for.

**Bead prayers** - choose a coloured bead for each member of your family. Make it into a bracelet and then pray for your family and encourage them to keep doing this when they wear it.

**Planting seeds** - plant a seed in a little tub and attach a label with 'help me to grow' and pray with the children that God would help them grow in the ways he wants them to.

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**Post-it note prayers** - Get children to write or draw on post-its - get shaped ones to go with the theme or the season e.g. a sun for summer time. Have this themed in some way e.g. write their worries down and then leave them at the cross.

**Paper chain prayers** - Children write/draw their prayers on strips of coloured paper and they are attached together in a paper chain.

**Paper people prayers** - cut out paper people and let the children draw or write on the people someone they would like to pray for.

**Cookery** - focussing on a particular topic, find a creative way to ice/decorate biscuits or buns . Use the discussion making these to lead you into a time a prayer.

**Bubble prayers** - Get the children to blow bubbles and as they blow them let them pray for something e.g. to say sorry, or give God their worries and as the bubbles burst they disappear.

**Hand prayer** - each finger represents someone to pray for:

Thumb: someone close to you e.g. mum, dad, brother, sister etc.

Pointer/index finger: Those who point us to Jesus e.g. leaders, ministers, missionaries.

Longest/middle finger: those in authority e.g. government or other important people, or their own leaders.

Weak finger: pray for those who are sick or hurting.

Little finger: finish by praying for yourself.

**Praying for each other** - lead the children in praying for each other relating to the theme of the stories that day e.g. get them to put a hand on someone else's shoulder and all say the same prayer after you for the person they are praying for.

**Pray!** - give the children an opportunity to pray aloud or into themselves in whatever way they are comfortable with.