

Prayer Week 2009 - 24th-31st May - IDEAS FOR GROUPS

Many groups relegate prayer to something that an adult does at the end of their meeting and then wonder why the group don't seem to engage. Here are some ideas for a more interactive approach to try with your group during or around prayer week.....

Under 11

Pray for the world

Sit the group in a circle and put a map of world on the floor in the middle. Roll a marble or small ball onto it. Wherever it stops, pray for nearest country.

You might want to give an example prayer like "Father God please look after all the children who live in"

At the end say "Yesss!" (or Amen). Everyone who wants to can have a turn.

Pray for our community

Give everyone a piece of A4 paper and make some coloured pens available.

Ask them to think of one important building in the place where they live and to draw it. While they're doing this, discuss with them the things that take place in that building - meetings, conversations, etc. Make sure you focus on both the positive and negative. When they've finished, invite them to hold the pictures up to God and quietly (in their heads) ask Him to cause good things to happen in this building.

You might want to lead a short prayer line-by-line that everyone can repeat.

Engaging with God

Paint or draw on large roll of paper/wall words or pictures that show what God is like.

Collect brushes/pens in and stand quietly in front of this sheet containing everyone's pictures. Encourage everyone to look at them and say "thanks" to God for each quality and "Yes" (Amen) at the end of each prayer.



11-14

Pray for the world

Bring a pile of this week's newspapers - not those with dodgy pictures in!

Encourage the group to take one each and find stories of bad stuff that's happening across the world.

Explain that God knows each and every person involved and cares very much about what happens.

Give out some coloured pens and post-it® notes and ask them to write short prayers for the people who come of worst in each story.

They should then stick these to the newspapers. If the group are unused to prayer, get them to write or draw what they want God to change the situation to.

Pray for our community

Get hold of a set of Jenga® bricks or similar (some supermarkets have their own cheaper version).

On each brick write down a profession that helps people (police, teachers, lollipop ladies etc), various members of the family (parents, grandparents, children etc) and those who are disadvantaged (the poor, addicts, unemployed etc).

Play the game as usual but as each person takes out a brick, they pray for those written on it.

If your group is large, have more than one set and play in groups.

Engaging with God

Get everyone to sit comfortably or lay on cushions. Put on some quiet background music (without words). Read Psalm 139 slowly, a bit at a time, from a modern translation.

Leave space between each phrase or section for people to think about it. Explain that this prayer was written thousands of years ago but is still prayed today by millions of people.

Hint: Don't rush this!

14-18

Pray for the world

In advance, find some facts about China - these might be positives eg. about changes and development or they might be negatives eg. about poverty and persecution. Write them on paper and spread them around. In the middle of the group set 2 bowls of sweets - one of sour sweets and the other just sweet. Give each person a pair of chopsticks.

Encourage the group to read the facts then pick up a sour sweet and pray for God to change the negative things. Then they can take a sweet sweet and give thanks for the positives.



Prayer for our community

Set out 2 large sheets or rolls of paper on the floor with plenty of pens or paints.

On one, invite the group to draw or write things that happen in your community which God is pleased about. On the other write/draw things that displease Him. Encourage them to pray for God to change the first sheet and give thanks for the things on the second.

Engage with God

Ask group to be completely still and quiet. Point out that this is often difficult because we have loads of other "stuff" going on in our minds - worries, plans, conversations, unfinished coursework etc. Get them to write down what these things are on post-it® notes.

Now encourage the group to imagine put these things down on the floor "in front of Jesus" one at a time. As they put each one down, they ask Him to show them what He thinks of it. They can take time to talk to Him about it.

Want more?

Check out the Energi e website for more prayer resources
Also check out resources available at www.24-7prayer.com and www.proost.co.uk

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