

## 10 Creative Prayer Ideas

### 1. Balloon prayers

#### Thanks

Give everyone a small piece of paper and a balloon. Have several colours of balloons. Ask the children to write or draw something they are thankful to God for e.g. family, school, friends, or an answered prayer. Roll up the piece of paper and insert it into the balloon. Tell the children to blow up the balloon but don't tie it. Explain that on the count of 3 they will all let off the balloons together and then the children must find a different coloured balloon. Get into groups with a leader. Extract all the pieces of paper from the balloons and read them out together. Have a short prayer time and encourage the children to pray a line or two using the information on the paper e.g. Thank you God for our families. Thank you God that you heal people when they are sick etc.



#### Sorry

As a whole group, talk to the children about how God has given each of us a conscience and when we do something wrong, our conscience is pricked and we feel bad. Sometimes we are very ashamed of what we have done. We all do wrong things that we aren't proud of. Often we wish we had acted differently. God wants us to come to Him when we do wrong, talk to Him about it and say sorry and He will forgive us. But He doesn't want us to hold on to feeling bad and ashamed. God forgives us if we are truly sorry and we can let go and start afresh. Have a balloon already blown up for each child. Use different colours of balloons (this is an easy way to group the children afterwards). Tip all the balloons out into the room and let the children run around and catch one. Have a bible reference written on each balloon. Tell the children to go to the same coloured area as their balloon. Have a leader stationed at each area. Have a short prayer time together reading the verses (linked to God's forgiveness) and praying. Encourage children to pray aloud if they can. You could give a prayer starter such as "Lord Jesus I am sorry for ....."

## **Please**

Sometimes our worries can seem huge and overwhelming but God tells us to give our problems and concerns over to him "Cast all your cares upon Him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Invite the children to think of a worry or concern they have. Share a few ideas together. Give everyone a balloon and ask the children to blow them up but not tie them. Younger children will need some help from adults. Ask the children to say a one line prayer out loud or quietly- if they don't have any concerns ask them to pray for somebody else who shared their idea. Tell the children when we give our worries to God we can let go of them and they become smaller. Let the children let go of their balloon and let it whizz around the room getting smaller and smaller.

## **2. Prayer Balls**

Buy some cheap plastic balls (e.g. ball pool balls or table tennis balls). Using a permanent marker, write the initials of each child on the balls. You can include the leaders. It's good to let children see that adults need and value prayer. If leaders are willing to share something about themselves this helps the children to connect with them.

You might want to use this idea as a way to pray for your children as part of an on-going programme. Pick out 3-4 balls each week, read out the initials and work out together who the initials belong to. Ask the chosen children if there is anything they would like prayer for. Have a few questions ready which might help them to share. Don't put too much attention on those who are very shy. The prayers could be led by an adult or by a few volunteers from the group of the children who are invited to come up and pray for their friends.

Another method would be to give every child a ball and ask them to pray for that person. The children could be divided into groups with a leader who helps them with prayer starters.



### 3. Prayer aeroplanes

Give each child an A4 sheet of paper and ask them to write or draw a prayer. You may want to give younger children guides e.g. divide the page into 3

Thanks

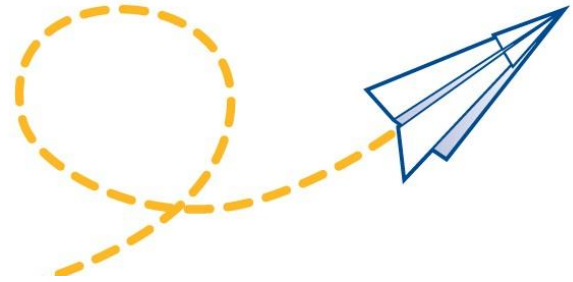
Thank you God for....

Sorry

Lord I am sorry for.....

Please

Lord please help....



Explain that when we pray, our prayers go straight to God's ears and he hears each one of them. Show this visually by writing the word GOD on a large sheet of card or paper and placing it on the floor. Ask the children to throw their paper aeroplane to land on the card. Let them have a few goes. Emphasize to the children that our planes might miss the mark but our prayers won't – they always reach God.

### 4. Paper chain people prayers

Make paper chain people- (these can be pre-cut for little ones but older children will enjoy making their own).

Allow about 8 figures per child. On the heads write the names of everyone in

their family. Children can include grannies and granddads aunts and uncles etc. Older children can write a prayer for each person on the bodies. Younger children can write a simple prayer across the bodies e.g. Thank you God for all my family. Amen



### 5. Tasty prayers

“Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.” Psalm 34:8

Have bowls of fruit cut up –try to have quite few different types so that everyone finds something they like. Talk about God’s creation and how he made good things for us to eat. Ask the children what their favourite fruit is and why they like it. Encourage the children to pray thank prayers to God for their favourite fruit.



### 6. Spaghetti Praise Prayers

Have a brain storming session with the children about words to describe God. You could read a verse such as Isaiah 9:6 to help the flow of ideas. Write the words up for everyone to see.

Give the children some cooked spaghetti and encourage them to make a word that describes God. They could then pray a prayer using that word. Photos could be taken of the spaghetti words and displayed.



### 7. Jelly Baby Prayers

Pass the bag of sweets around and allow the children to pick a sweet. They should then pray a short prayer about the category linked to that colour.

Categories could be as follows:

Green – environment/animals

Yellow-work/school

Orange – other countries/mission

Red - family

Pink – friends

Purple – church



### 8. Mexican Wave Prayers

Divide your group into 3-4s and give each group a piece of paper with 3 prayer starters e.g.



We praise you God because you are \_\_\_\_\_.

We ask that you will help \_\_\_\_\_.

We thank you for \_\_\_\_\_.

Ask each group to fill in a word or two at most for each.

Get into a big circle with each group staying side by side. The leader begins the prayer and points to each group in turn when it comes to the missing word. Each group shouts out their answer and also raises their arms Mexican wave style. The prayer will go round the circle 3 times. To finish everyone could shout out AMEN together and raise their arms.

### 9. Circle prayer

Ask the whole group to stand or sit in a big circle. The leader calls out different categories and those who are in that category go into the centre of the circle. Then everyone else prays for them.



The categories could be:

- family (e.g. everyone who is a brother, sister, cousin, grandson, etc.)
- schools (e.g. name the local schools one by one that the children attend)
- holidays (e.g. everyone who is travelling to UK, Europe, America etc.)
- exams and tests (e.g. school tests, music exams, sport competitions)

You can find out more information from the children in the centre if need be and then choose some volunteers to pray or all shout out their own one line prayer together. Remember to follow up next time by talking about how the children got on in their various situations.

**10. How was your week prayers**

This is a simple straight forward one but is important to connect with children and help them to realise that prayer should be part of our daily routine. Spend 5 minutes at the beginning of your time with the children to ask them how their week was. It's very important for leaders to share stories about their lives too. Have a timer so that you don't run on and on with this. Choose 2-3 children and 1 leader each week to tell something about their week and then pray for each of the situations, giving thanks, or asking for God's help. If you find that the same children are volunteering stories each week and some are not participating, have a prayer box and encourage children to write their name and a prayer request and drop it in the box. This could be done at the beginning of the group and a short prayer time could take place at the end to give the leader time to read the prayers and choose 2-3. Encourage the children to pray for each other rather than prayers always being led by the adults. Reassure the children that leaders will pray for the other prayer requests too.

