

.Prayer resources

It is always hard to come up with new and exciting ideas so what we have decided to do is send a list of all the ideas on different ways on how to pray with children. As you know your group and know what they like and what works well then please feel free to use, adapt and to add to the list.

- **Prayer circle.** Sit the children into a circle (if you have a large group split into 5/6). Starting with a leader explain that you are going to pray and have a simple object to pass around so they know who's turn it is to prayer next. Encourage all the children to be quiet and say amen together. Explain to the children that if they are not confident about praying aloud then they can say one in their minds but it is better to speak them out so all can hear and agree with their prayer.
- Another way to do a **prayer circle** is the same as above but using a ball to roll to each other and when you receive the ball you say your prayer and then roll the ball to someone else.
- **Prayer Box.** Very simply give each child a piece of paper and ask them to write their prayer onto it. After they have finished writing fold the paper up and place the paper into a box. After every child has finished and the box has all their pieces of paper then finish with a prayer.
- **Copying prayers.** Either hand out the prayer on notes, or have a large copy that all the children can see. Then you get the children to say prayer together.
- **Prayer Drill.** Make up a few simple actions that will encourage the children to settle down with their heads bowed and eyes closed. Then lead the prayer and finish with a long Amen.
- **Parachute.** Get the children to write their prayers on pieces of paper. Then using a **play parachute** or an old sheet; screw up the prayers into paper balls and throw them on to the parachute. A leader can say a prayer asking God to hear our prayers, then 'mushroom' the parachute up in the air and when all the prayers have been bounced off the chute everyone can shout 'AMEN!'
- **Cross.** If you have access to a **cross** then it is good to give the children little post-it notes for them to write any prayers they have and stick them to the **cross**. You could also make a cross if there is no alternative.
- **Prayer Planes.** Give each child a piece of A4 paper and get them to write their prayer on to it. Once they have completed that they make a paper aeroplane and once all have done that you could throw them into the air and explain that it's like shooting your prayers up to God in heaven.
- **Candle Prayers.** Sit the children in a circle and place a large candle in the centre and get the children to say their prayers quietly. You could also have some tea lights for the children to come up and light there own candle. Only use this technique if you are confident that the group will not mess around or better still if you have the consent of the parents.
- **Prayer Card.** Write a simple prayer onto a piece of card and have each child read and sign the card as a way of saying they agree with what is written. You could also give individual cards out for the children to take home.
- **Prayer Flags.** Give the children the materials they need and tell them to write their prayer and decorate their flags which they can keep or make into a bunting banner which can be hung up somewhere.

Memory verse resources

It is always hard to come up with new and exciting ideas so what we have decided to do is send a list of all the ideas on different ways on how to present a memory verse. As you know your group and know what they like and what works then please feel free to use, adapt and to add to the list.

- Put the memory verse onto a piece of card and cut it up into eight/ten pieces to create a **jigsaw**. If you need more than one jigsaw then use different coloured card. Split the group into teams of four or five people. You could use the jigsaw in a few different ways:
 1. Place the **jigsaw** at one end of the room and the teams facing their cards at the opposite end of the room. Then you could do a number of **relays** either using a **dice** where the children all have a go at rolling the **dice** and every time they get a certain number for example, a 1 or 6 they can go and collect a piece of the jigsaw. If there is lack of space then just place the card face down in a circle and they can just turn over a piece of the card every time they get the correct number.
 2. Another **relay** idea is a simple **obstacle course** where the children each take turns to complete the course and by doing so they collect a piece of the **jigsaw**. It is always a good idea to cater for your group for example; if you have a lot of boys then a **football** theme could be used or for a mixed group use a **balloon** or something that they have to **balance** on their heads. If your group enjoy new challenges then you could make it harder by getting them to answer **questions** or you could introduce a **blindfold**. Alternatively you could get them to **run, skip, hop, crawl** or whatever you feel is possible and safe but do try to change it around a bit to keep the children's interest up.
- Another simple way to do the memory verse is to use an **anagram**. This method is best used if the memory verse you are using has more than 6 words, but do not try it if some members of your group struggle with spelling as they will find it hard to be involved in the activity. This can be done around the room. All you do is give each child a piece of paper and write each word (**anagram**) onto a card but make sure you put the order number on the card. You could have the children either in pairs or small groups but we suggest no more than four in a group.
- You could do a **code breaker**. This is where you write the alphabet down and you give each letter a number then, you use the numbers to spell out the words in the memory verse. This works well with a small group with someone leading it from the front but it can be used in small teams as well.
- A **hangman** theme is also a good way of working a memory verse with a small group of children but doing it this way especially with long memory verses can be tricky and confusing. You need to be confident that you can keep it quick or you will be in danger of losing the children and getting yourself into a muddle.
- **Hide and seek**. A very simple way of getting the children to find a memory verse. Make a jigsaw the same as above in different colours and hide round the room. Get the children into small groups and assign each team a colour and give them a few minutes to find their pieces of card and assemble the jigsaw. Or alternatively put the complete verse on a piece of card and hide it somewhere in the room and get the children to move about the room and you can direct them telling them if they are hot or cold. Hot near the verse and cold away from the verse. This method will only work with a small group. The next option is to only have a few words missing from a verse and hide around the room and all they have to do is find them and put them in the right order. This could work better with larger groups as it doesn't take as long.
- **Actions**. Some memory verses lend themselves well to some simple actions. We have found that asking the children to think of actions helps them to remember and take

ownership of the activity. Be aware that for long verses this method does not work as well and if you have a group with older children they tend not to join in because of the cool factor.

- **Singing.** It can be fun to sing a memory verse to a popular tune but it can be hard to push through if you are not confident with singing in front of other people.
- **Signs.** A good and simple way of getting the children to learn and remember a memory verse. Either put the verse on a long roll of paper or split up over a few pieces of card. All you need to do is get the children to repeat the verse a few times and then start to remove or cover up the words. It is also fun to get the children saying the verse in different styles for example; slowly or quickly, sad or happy etc.
- **Pairs.** Write the verse out over eight-ten cards and number them 1-? On the reverse side of the card either have colours or symbols that when the right two are turned around and match they remain turned round until the whole verse is revealed. Then learn the verse and ask one pair to turn their card over, then the verse is said again and repeat the process until all the cards are turned around and they know the verse without the words.
- **Booklets.** A very simple and effective way to encourage children to learn and collect memory verses is to design a simple booklet that the children keep and each week you can get them to write or stick in the memory verse you have learned. Alternatively you could create one large **book** and get the children either to write the verse in or do it yourself or give each child a small part of the verse to write, colour and get them to bring it together.

***Father may your holy name be
honoured***

***May your Kingdom come
Give us day by day the food we
need***

***Forgive us our sins, for we forgive
everyone who does us wrong
And do not bring us to hard
testing***

***You're wonderful and You always
will be***

The Lords Prayer:

Our Father in heaven
May your holy name be honoured;
May your Kingdom come;
May your will be done on earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done
As we forgive the wrongs that others
have done to us.
Do not bring us to hard testing,
But keep us safe from the evil one.
For the kingdom, the power and glory
are yours
For ever and ever

Amen!