

The colour of our prayers

(Most suitable for using with primary age children in a church context where they are accustomed to praying together.)

Organise for four coloured banners, balloons or bunches of streamers (gold, green, blue, purple) to be placed or held in the four corners of your room. Each colour is to represent something that can be prayed for. First ask the children of what aspect of God the colours remind them and include their ideas with the ideas below. (You may also like to include other colours and ideas for a prayer focus.)

Gold could be for the Glory of God: Children can praise God for his glory and greatness seen in his creation and especially in Jesus' life. *(Group leader should encourage children to name some of the wonders of creation and in Jesus' life then lead the children to praise God for these things.)*

Green could be for New Life: Children can thank God for the new life he gives and ask him that he might be recognised and known by everyone, especially people in our families, schools and local communities. *(Group leader should first ask the children how God makes things new and different in our lives, then encourage them to thank God and ask that others might know that life.)*

Blue could be for the River of Living Water: Children can pray that God's Holy Spirit will flow through their lives and the lives of all those they know and love. *(Group leader should ask children how the Holy Spirit is at work in people's lives/their own lives, then encourage prayer for his activity in their and other's lives)*

Purple could be for the Majesty and Kingship of Jesus: Children can pray that Jesus will be recognised as Lord and Ruler over everything – their own lives, their families, and communities. *(Group leader should first discuss what it would look like for Jesus to be King over everything, then lead in prayer that people will desire Jesus to rule in their lives)*

Invite children to move to a colour and use it as inspiration for their praying. Children can pray, either silently or out aloud, joining in praying together with those in that group. A leader should guide them and encourage them to pray. Children could move around the room to each group.

Possible references are:

Gold: Habakkuk 2:14, 2 Corinthians 4:6

Green: Isaiah 42:9, Isaiah 43:18,19

Blue: Ezekiel 47:1-12, John 7:38

Purple: Isaiah 6:1, Philippians 2:9-11

Body prayers

Place three posters of body parts around the room. Each body part can be used as an inspiration for our prayers. (Other body parts could also be used.)

Feet : Children can pray for God to use their feet and the feet of others to take the good news of Jesus to others, and also to serve others by visiting those who are unwell, going on messages for people, doing shopping, delivering gifts. (Rom 10:15, Eph 6:15)

Hands: Children can pray that everything their hands 'do' will bring glory and honour to God, eg helping others, doing what their parents and teachers ask. (2 Timothy 2:15, Eph 6:17)

As they pray, they could stand in circles of about five people, and put their hands in the middle on top of each other. Whichever hand is on top can say a prayer either aloud or silently. When they finish praying, they are to place their hand at the bottom of the pile and the next person whose hand is on top prays.

Ears: Children can pray that they, their families and friends will hear the good news and respond, tuning in to Jesus. (Isaiah 35:5, Acts 17:20, 32)

They could take turns holding a microphone (real or toy) and saying a prayer either aloud or silently. When they are ready, they pass the microphone on to someone else to pray.

Invite the children to choose a body part to use as inspiration for their prayers.