

PRAYER: FAMILY TALK

AN ALL AGE ACTIVITY

Make a prayer tree in advance of the service. This can be very simple by using an empty bucket containing bare twigs which have sufficient 'branches' on which to hang labels.

Invite the congregation to say The Lord's Prayer together in their native language. Explain briefly what we are doing and how we are praying as we pray the prayer which Jesus taught us. Emphasise that prayer is a way of praising God, talking to and listening to him because we want to walk the Way of Jesus.

Then - Everyone in the congregation is given a label on which they can write or draw their prayer. Perhaps divide the congregation into three - one third to write a few words of praise and thanksgiving to God; one third to write a few words seeking God's forgiveness for our sin and the sin of the world; one third to write a few words of prayer for ourselves and other people. Drawing something is another option if people are unable to write – they can be helped by the suggestion that they draw a cross as an illustration of God's love for us all.

After a few minutes everyone is invited to hang their label on the tree whilst also supporting those who need somebody to hang the label for him/her. Explain that the action of writing and hanging the label is prayer in itself. Then saturate all that is represented on the prayer tree in a corporate prayer after people have returned to their seats or as they stand around the tree.

Cheapest way of producing labels – cut A4 card into labels, punch a hole in each, thread a piece of string so that the label can hang on the tree. An alternative suggestion is to write on a paper chain and form each chain into an individual circle to hang on the tree.

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