

CREATIVE PRAYER IDEAS

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED
2 - 4 MARCH 2012

Below are a few ideas of how you can make your prayer times fun and interactive. You may have already come across one or two of the ideas and are of course welcome to incorporate your own ideas too.

KOREAN PRAYER:

Korean believers like to pray in groups. The whole group prays out loud as individuals but at the same time, on a specific subject. If preferred, the group can also pray in silence together. The leader signals with "Ready, Go!" or a bell. After two minutes the leader signals with a bell or a word and the group moves on to the next prayer topic.

DRAW-A-PRAYER:

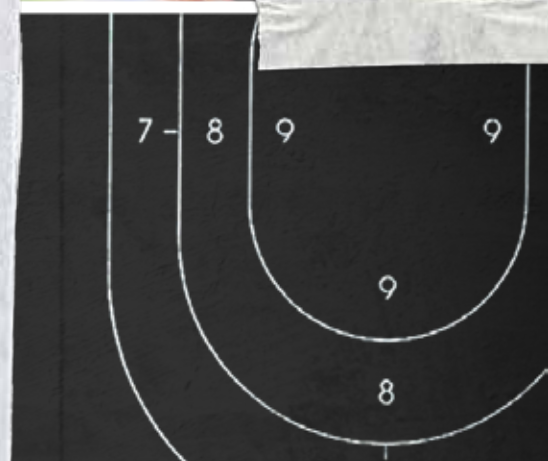
This is a very simple idea for a prayer station: Set out paper, markers, and crayons and invite participants to express their prayers through drawn images.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

The Lord's prayer is an obvious place to start when we pray, but surprisingly we do not always think of it! Jesus gave us a brilliant model for prayer. Begin by reading the whole passage in Matthew 6:5 -15. Here Jesus advises His listeners on how to pray. It is easy to repeat the Lord's prayer in parrot-style because so many of us were taught to pray it at an early age, and perhaps we haven't really thought about its meaning! However, the Lord's prayer includes all aspects of prayer: praise, thanks, praying for God's will, the confession of sins and asking for forgiveness and help to forgive others, asking for what we need, and for help in situations of temptation. Think of this prayer in terms of how you can pray it with persecuted Christians in mind.

Mount a large poster with the words of the Lord's prayer split into sections in your prayer space. Encourage participants to take some time to:

1. Read each phrase.
2. Think about it.
3. Rewrite each phrase in his/her own words.



SHOCK WAVE

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED

"Let it not be said
I was silent when
they needed me."

William Wilberforce.



UNDERGROUND_SA



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GROUP PRAYER:

As a group, pray "conversationally". Imagine the group sitting at a table, talking with Jesus about a concern or country. Rather than one person telling Jesus everything about the need, while everyone else is left out of the conversation, several people can each tell Jesus about different aspects of the need.

- For example, one pastor, (we'll call him Sebastian), has been put in prison. Sebastian's sentence could be as long as 15 years. His health is deteriorating, his wife has been left alone to raise four children, and the rest of the church is now under intense pressure as they lack their leader. One person prays for one aspect of the situation. While that person is praying the others are listening to hear what God wants them to pray about as well. This may include prayer for healing, peace, clear-headedness, reliance on God, etc. Each person limits him/herself to praying for just one aspect of the need. This is how we work together as a team!

When all aspects of the prayer need has been covered, move on to the next need.

MUSIC SPACE:

Play worship or reflective music in the prayer space. Each participant can sit and reflect quietly, using the lyrics of worship songs as inspiration for their prayers. E.g: "Blessed be your Name, on the road marked with suffering; though there's pain in the offering..." - Matt Redman. Alternatively, or at the same time, have a slideshow of peaceful images in your reflective space, such as images of nature. Perhaps add Scripture verses to the slides that will encourage the participants to pray for peace and God's hand over a country and its people.

CANDLE IN THE DARK:

You will need tealight candles, paper and pens, a noticeboard or a large piece of cardboard. As a person comes into the prayer space, He/she takes a piece of paper and a tealight candle. After praying, the candle is lit. Then attach the paper, with a prayer written on it, to the board above the candles.

PRAISE THE NAME:

For this prayer activity you will need to form small groups. Each group receives the name of a person or country to pray for. In the groups, turn a piece of paper sideways (landscape style) and then fold the paper into as many columns as you have letters in the name that has been given to the group. For example, if the name is Vietnam, the page will need seven columns at least. At the top of each column put the respective letters of the name: V I E T N A M. Then hand the paper around in the group. Each person gets the chance to write down an attribute of God that starts with one of the letters from the name the group has been given. Do this until each letter reflects at least one attribute of God. Spend the rest of the time in the group in praise to God for his attributes using the sheet that was passed around.

POST-IT PRAYER:

Write prayers on post-it notes and then stick it to a wall or even a drawn image, for example, someone kneeling in prayer, or the shape of a country, etc. Alternatively the notes can be stuck on a map of the world, on the specific country the prayer relates to.

FACEBOOK:

You can also organize online prayer by posting your prayers on your own or your youth group or the Underground SA Facebook wall! If you are a group, others can "LIKE" in agreement with the prayer and then the next person can post a prayer and the rest "LIKE" in agreement and so on...



Should you stumble upon a really great prayer idea during Shockwave 2012, for individuals or groups, please let us know by sending an e-mail to undergroundsa@od.org We would love to hear from you!