

FOLLOW THE LEADER PRAYER

This is a prayer activity that you can set up for your junior highs and let them complete it individually or with a partner. Take time to place 10-12 markers and prayer suggestions around your community for them to find. Give your students a map with the route highlighted. Have a set start and finish point (e.g. the corps building) and encourage them to see if they can find all of the markers you have placed. Greet your students as they return and invite them to share about their experiences. Have some refreshments available - they'll be ready for them!

Markers could be small flags with prayer idea written on them, a brightly painted rock with a ziplock bag under it and the prayer idea written on a piece of paper inside, or a small colourful paper sign (prayer suggestion written on it). Remember to go back and pick up your markers afterwards!

Here are some suggestions to choose from (or feel free to come up with your own ideas):

1

Post a flag at a local small business that has been around for years. Thank God for _____, and for helping it thrive and survive over the years especially during this pandemic.

2

Place a flag at a colourful garden in your church's neighbourhood. Find out the name of the gardener. Ask God to bless _____'s flowers that they would always bring cheer to those who stop and "smell the roses".

3

Place a flag near a roadside drain. Thank God that we have access to clean water when so many in our country and other places around the world don't have it. Ask God to help you remember that trash has its place.

4

Have a flag in front of a Seniors Care Home. Thank God for our seniors and the contributions they have made to our community. Thank God for their care workers and that finally they can spend time with loved ones again.

5

Put a flag next to an abandoned shopping cart. Thank God for the food he provides you. Invite Him to challenge you to support your local food bank so others will have food to eat. Be sure to follow up on that challenge!

6

Place a flag beside a hydro pole or those green power boxes on people's lawns. Thank God for energy that powers our homes, business and charges our electronics. Think about those who don't have access to electricity and try to imagine what your life would look like without it.

7

Put one of your flags with a graduate lawn sign. Stop and pray for the graduate who lives here. Ask God to be with all graduates as they make plans for their future. May they connect with someone who will tell them how God loves them and wants to live life with them.

8

Place a flag next to a fire hydrant. We're blessed to have first responders in our community. Some are paid for their work and others volunteer. Give thanks for them and ask God to keep them safe when they are out on a call.

9

Place a flag at the entrance to a cenotaph, war memorial or cemetery. Although we hate to think of anyone having to go to war, we are thankful for those who have fought for the rights of others. Ask God to show you how you can support those who face racism and discrimination.

10

Put a flag near a crosswalk light (the kind with sound). Thank God for our lights that help with those who are visually impaired when they cross the street. Thank God for giving you your senses. Spend a moment with your eyes closed, what can you hear and smell?

11

Have a flag positioned near a recycling bin. Our world is becoming more aware of the environment, but we still have a long way to go. Pause and be still, let God show you ways that you can help care for the environment. Be sure to put those ideas into practice.

12

Place a flag near the entrance to a playground, soccer, or baseball diamond. Not everyone has such great activities to fill their spare time. Give thanks for this place and invite Him to bless the people and families who get to hang out here.

13

Put a flag on the lawn of the public library. Books are amazing because they can take us anywhere and we can learn so much from them. Pray for those who don't have access to all the knowledge and information you do.

14

Put a flag at the edge of an empty overgrown lot or abandoned home. Nothing looks as sad as a place that is unloved. It's sad when people feel unloved. Pray that God would make you aware of kids your age who feel lonely - then spend time getting to know them.

15

Place a flag near a repair shop. All of us are broken in some way. We've been hurt by the words or actions of others or by the choices we make. Share with God ways that you've been hurt and invite Him to "repair" or heal that hurt.

16

Place a flag outside a laundromat. Let God know how thankful we are that there are places we can go to clean our clothes. Invite Him to help you clean up your life by confessing to Him something you have done that has hurt someone else. (Psalm 139: 23-24)

17

Put a flag beside a bike rack. Bicycles are a great way to get around. Thank God that you have the freedom to get around your town whether you are walking or riding a bike. Not everyone in the world has that freedom.

18

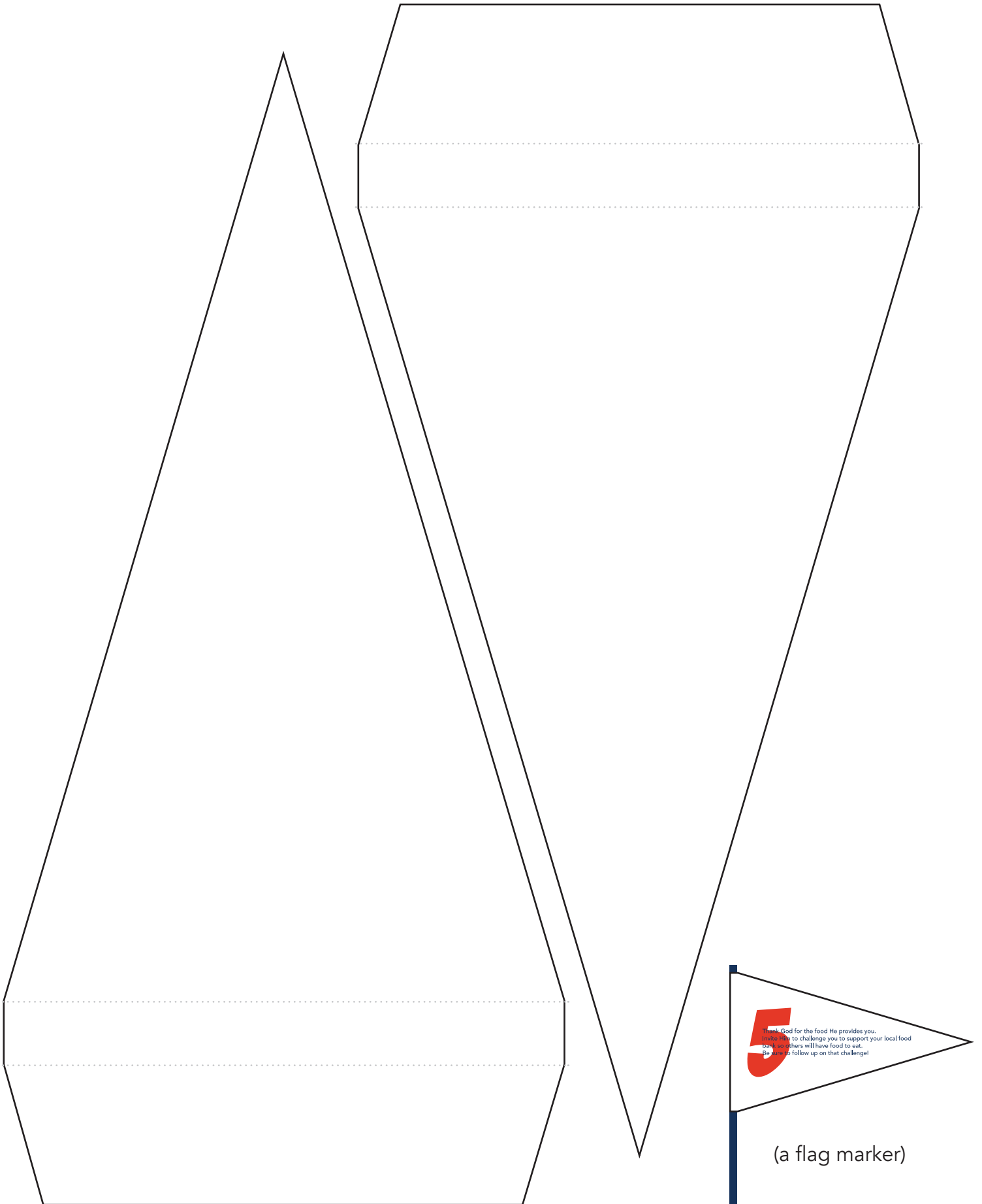
Put a flag near a bus stop. If anyone is waiting for the bus, tell them you are praying for your community. Then ask if they have something you can pray for. If no one is at the stop, thank God for public transportation that is available to anyone who needs it.

19

Place a flag next to a public phone booth. Public phones are a great thing when you face an emergency. Prayer is also a great way to call for help. Share with God a situation you need His help with.

20

Place flag next to a pile of discarded bricks or rocks. As people we try to prove ourselves by handling problems on our own. In Psalm 62:5-6 we read that God alone is our rock, our salvation, our fortress, and that in Him we will not be shaken. Pray for the people you notice around you, and yourself, that all of you would learn to build your life on Him.



5

Thank God for the food He provides you.
I want you to challenge you to support your local food
bank so others will have food to eat.
Be sure to follow up on that challenge!

(a flag marker)