

MINISTRY MINUTE



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CREATIVE WAYS TO PRAY WITH CHILDREN

One of the greatest things we can do for the young people in our ministries is to teach them how to talk with God. When putting together a time of worship for children it is important to make sure prayer has a prominent place. Below are a dozen different ways to make prayer an important part of worship. Give some of these ideas a try or feel free to add your own twist to them.



1. **Sentence Prayers:** Begin a sentence and have different children complete it, one thought at a time. For example, “God, we thank you for...”, “God please help...” Responses can be audible or silent.
2. **Singing Prayers:** Talk directly to God, not just about God. Lead children in worship songs that use personal pronouns. As children sing, add verbs to the ones already known. For example, “Jesus, I adore you and I lay my life before you”, “Jesus I love (thank, praise) you”, or “I love you, Lord and I lift my voice”, “I (thank, praise) you, Lord.”
3. **Litany Prayers:** Read a series of sentences on a particular topic. Following each phrase, have the children respond in unison with something such as “God is good, God’s love is forever.” Psalm 136 is a good example of this type of prayer.
4. **Scripture Prayers:** Use a small portion of scripture from a children’s translation as a prayer. Try Psalm 9:1-2; 17:6-7; 19:14; or 1 Chronicles 29:10-11.
5. **Position Prayers:** Children can experience prayer sitting, standing, kneeling or lying down. For a prayer of thanks have the children stand or sit with their heads bowed. For a prayer of confession, have kids kneel or sit on the floor and hug their knees. For a prayer of praise, have the children stand with arms raised. Get the children to think of their own prayer postures and encourage individual expression.
6. **Prayers in Motion:** Young children are interested in things their bodies can do. Stretching, bending, smiling, breathing, and flexing actions can be prayers. Children can stretch as they say Thank You to God for growing.
7. **Signed Prayers:** Sign language can enhance the spoken word and create a profound experience when children become familiar with some of the signs. Check out a sign language book or find someone who can teach basic signs to the children. Some worship music books have signing instructions included as a resource.
8. **Colouring Prayers:** While instrumental Christian music is playing have children colour a prayer. Encourage them to move their crayon in time to the music. When the music finishes have the children share their picture as a prayer.
9. **Letters to God:** Have children write letters to God and share them as prayers, audibly or silently.
10. **Group Prayers:** Divide children into small groups to share sentence prayers.
11. **Finger Prayers:** Have children draw or trace a hand shape on a piece of paper. Provide them with prompts for each finger to guide their prayers. Encourage them to write the prompts on the fingers as a reminder of what they can talk with God about.
12. **Prayer Requests:** Have children share prayer requests and record them in a journal. Keep track of prayers that are answered too. Teach children how God answers prayer.