



10 prayer activities to do at home with children

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer event (from 21st - 31st May 2020), uniting churches from over 65 different denominations in 178 countries around the world. We'd love all Christians in our local area to join in.

There are ten easy activities here to do at home with your children, one for each of the days of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Have fun!

1. Water of Life

Materials: A large bowl, two smaller bowls of water, small cups, the two prayers below written on separate sheets

'I will pour water onto the thirsty land' (Isaiah 44:3)

In the Bible the love and power of God is often described as water. Water can be really refreshing when we are thirsty, and it helps things grow. God wants all children to be refreshed by him and to grow well.

Prayer 1: Spirit of God, as we pour this water please fill all the children in our family / home / church / community. Amen

Prayer 2: Father God, refresh all children and give them new life and a new love for you. Amen

- Read the two prayers and decide which one you prefer
- Take a small cup and fill it from one of the smaller bowls
- Slowly pour the water into the large bowl, saying the prayer as you do so



2. Pebble People

Materials: small pebbles

'...and the whole family was filled with joy.' (Acts 16:34)

God's ideal is that children enjoy being part of a loving and caring family. Families come in all shapes and sizes, and sometimes families are not happy or safe places.



- Think of a child and family known to you.
- Pick up a stone and place it on the mat, saying, 'This is a child'.
- Pick up another stone and say, 'This is the child's mother (or carer)'.
- Pick up another stone and say, 'This is the child's father'.
- Pick up two more and say, 'This is the child's family'.
- Pick up two more and say, 'These are the child's friends'.
- Look at your pile of stones, and quietly think of all the people involved in a family.

3. Blessed are...

Materials: post-it notes, pens, the quotes from the Beatitudes displayed on sheets of paper

Beatitudes quotes:

- Happy are those who want to do what God says
- Happy are those who are not proud or boastful
- Happy are those who are kind to others
- Happy are those who are pure and live a good life
- Happy are those who work for peace

One day Jesus spoke to his followers about how they should live. He said that people could find real happiness deep down if they lived the right way. It is important that we all learn to live in the way Jesus described. Some of the things Jesus said are on display here.

- Read the things Jesus said can make people happy inside.
- Think about which you would like to be like.
- Write your name on a post-it note and stick it near these sayings of Jesus.



4. A family prayer in the morning

Father God, we thank you for our family and we ask that you will help us to grow closer to each other and closer to you.

We also remember those people who are not with us today, especially... [*say their names*].

PAUSE

Father God, we thank you for the place where we live and we ask that you will help us to spread your love to our friends and neighbours.

Let's think of five people and ask that they will come to know how much God loves them. (*You could write down their names and put them up somewhere to remind you to pray for them every day.*)

PAUSE

Father God, we thank you for the time we spend together and we ask that you will be with us throughout the rest of the day.

Let's think of the things that we are going to do later today and bring them before God now.

PAUSE

Lord, thank you that you listen to all our prayers. Amen.



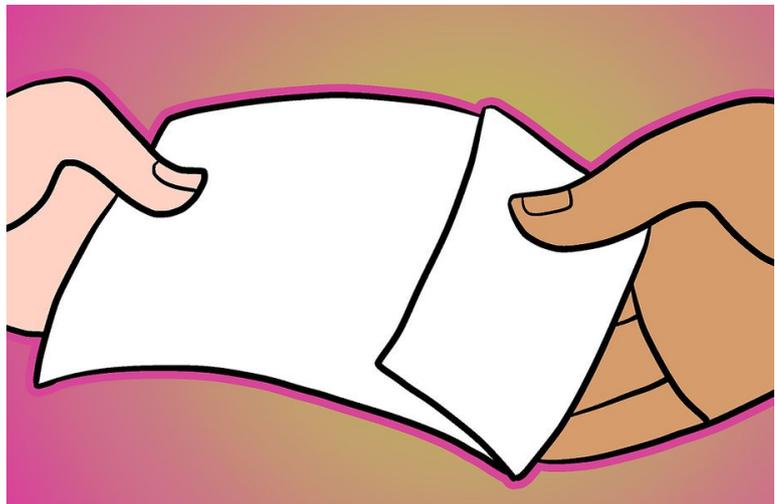
5. Praise poster

Read Luke 1:26-55 (the *Magnificat*) and pick out the phrases that describe God. Give each person a sheet of paper and ask them to write out one of the phrases in large, colourful lettering. Stick all the finished phrases together under the caption, *We can praise God because...*



6. Fold a prayer: prayer consequences!

Give everyone a piece of paper and ask them to write a one-line prayer request at the top of the page. When they have done this they should fold over the paper. Then pass the paper to the left. Each person should now have a different piece of paper on which they can write another one-line prayer and fold it over again. If they wish, they can write the same prayer again. The paper should be passed on several more times until five or six prayers are on the page. Then everyone should stop, unfold and read their paper. Invite everyone to spend a few moments silently offering these prayers to God.



7. Fruit of the Spirit

Materials: some small cups and nine small cartons or beakers of fruit juice - orange, apple etc

'The Spirit of God produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' (Galatians 5:22-23)

Put labels with the name of one the fruits of the Spirit by each carton/beaker of juice.

- God's Spirit is full of good things to help us live as true followers of Jesus.
- He understands that we do wrong at times, saying things we shouldn't, getting into trouble.
- Look at the words and think about what they mean. Which do you need more of in your life?
- God wants to help us. He can hear our thoughts and he wants to help you now.

When everyone has had time to think, invite the children to take a cup and pour a little juice from the fruits of the Spirit they would like more of, drink it, and remind them that God is with them.



8. The Way Forward

Materials: a map (any map will do) which will be cut into pieces

We are all on a journey, a long journey through life. It is not easy for us to find the right way, as there will always be choices and difficult decisions to be made (cut up the map into a few pieces).

We need each other and God to help us follow the path that God has got ready for us.

Encourage everyone to take a piece of the map, holding it quietly and thinking of their lives so far.

What decisions have you had to make recently? Were they easy? Did you ask for help? What happened?

All of us (and God) can help us follow the path He has for us. Piece together the map and ask God to guide us in our lives.



9. Bubble prayers

Materials: bubble-blowing tubs

'I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.' (John 14:13)

Jesus promises to hear our prayers and act on them. As we name Jesus and ask him to be with the people we are praying for today, we can be sure that Jesus hears our prayer.

Blow a bubble, and say *Jesus, be with ... [name]*

Watch the bubble rise like our prayer

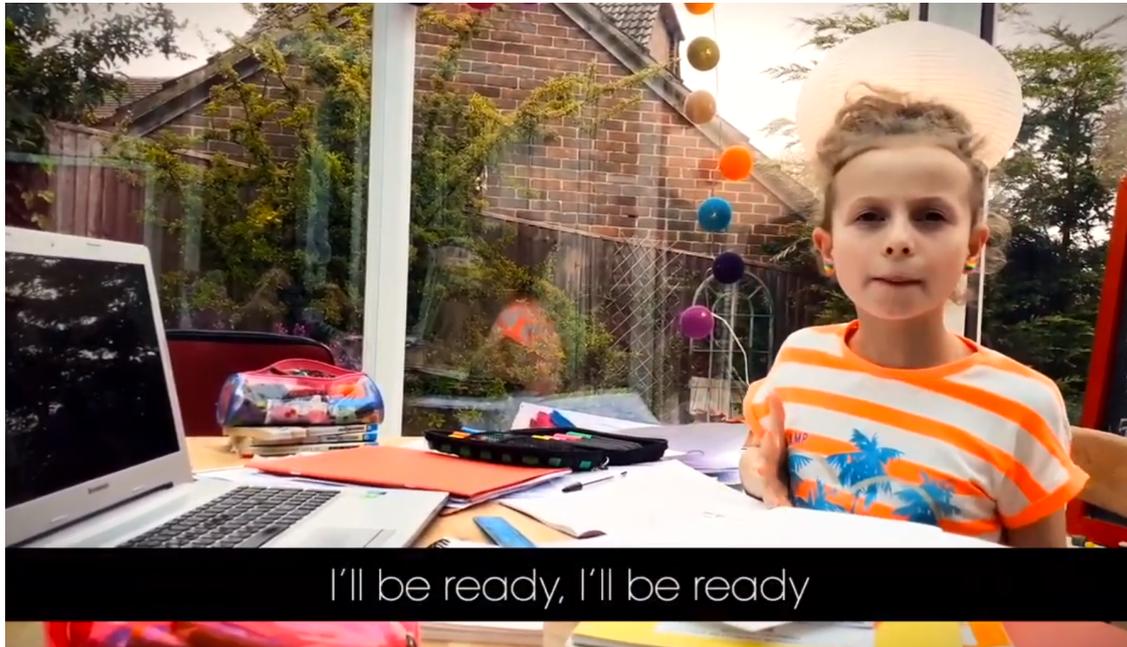


10. God suit on

Read *Ephesians 6: 10-17* and then watch, sing or dance to the 'God suit on' video on YouTube!

<https://youtu.be/ajczrL5ureI>

(YouTube channel Christ Church Tunbridge Wells)



We hope you enjoyed these activities - you might like to share photos or videos of your prayer activities in our TKC @Preston Plucknett Yeovil Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871550123255996/>) or in your church's own Facebook group.

May God bless you and your family.