

Child-Led Prayer and Liturgy Support Guide



Theme

Firstly, you need to consider your theme.

You will need to think about the date you will be leading prayer.

Look at the questions below: they will help you to think about a theme.

- Is it a feast day?
- A saint's day?
- Is it the national day of friendship/ love/ kindness/ inclusion/ celebrating differences etc.
- Which Values and Virtues focus are you learning about?
- Is it September where we consider God's wonderful creation?
- Is it Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost?
- Is it October, the Month of the Rosary?
- Is it November, when we remember those who have died?
- Is it May, the month of Mary?
- Is there something in the news that you think is important?

If there is no obvious date, you could think of your own theme such as Love, Truth, Gratitude, Helping Others, Anti-bullying, Sacrifice, Courage, Accepting Others, Peace, Forgiveness, Kind Words, Working Hard with your Talents, Patience, Saying Sorry, Jealousy, Doing our part...

And many more!



Gather

You need to think about how to prepare your sacred space. Here are some things to consider:

- What will your classmates focus on during prayer?
- What is your theme? Can your set up reflect that?
- Why are you including objects that you have chosen?

Things you might want to include:

- Tablecloths (think about the colour needed by looking at the liturgical year chart)
- A crucifix
- A candle
- A Bible
- Relevant images or art
- Handmade decorations/items related to the theme of your worship.
- Flowers
- Special objects that link to your theme

Next, you need to think about ways to gather your classmates together and put them in a calm mindset so that they are ready to pray to God and reflect on their lives.

What can we do to calmly gather our class together?

- Change the lighting to create a different atmosphere.
- Light a candle to remind your classmates of God's presence and create something to focus on.
- Play reflective music (What have you chosen? Why? How will you play it?) or sing a relevant hymn. (We have hymn books in the prayer room to help you select a hymn)
- Ask children to sit in a circle, a semi-circle or in lines, turn their chairs to the focal point.
- Go to the prayer garden or church.
- Sound an instrument until everyone is still and calm such as a triangle or a chime.



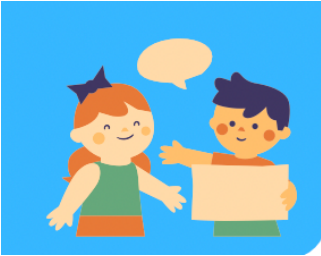
Listen

- Think about choosing Scripture from the Old or New Testament. This can be a whole reading or just a sentence or two. Why are you choosing it? Does it link to your theme?
- You will find bible references for different themes as well as parables and stories of Jesus in this folder.
- Have a look at the yellow cards to see more suggestions of things you could listen to.
- Choose a reading/ parable/ teaching/ phrase/ Psalm / Hymn/ story/ news article/ video. You may want to use your own reading related to a theme.
- If you are leading prayer and liturgy during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter or Pentecost then you could decide to use a reading from the 'Liturgical Year' suggestions in this folder.

Add some **creativity** to your reading. You may like to read the Scripture in a different way so that your classmates really understand the meaning behind it and remember it – this will help them to apply what they have learnt to their own lives.

What can we do to creatively share the Word of God?

- > Act out the story or mime along as it is read.
- > Create a PowerPoint of images to tell the story.
- > Split the reading up with your group and take it in turns.
- > Find an interesting video that shows the story.
- > Tell the story in your own words.
- > Guided meditation: Before you begin reading the story, ask the class to close their eyes and imagine that they are one of the people in the reading or watching it happen while they are standing there. Afterwards, you can ask the class what they heard and saw and how they felt.



Respond

This is a very important time as you are asking your class to respond to the Word of God or to the important information that has just been shared with them.

- Give the class some sacred silence to think about the Scripture. You might like to play some quiet music in the background.
- Ask a thought-provoking question.
 - > Do you think this reading/story has a moral?
 - > How do you think _____ felt when _____? Why?
 - > How do you think this is relevant to us?
 - > How can we apply this our own life?
 - > What can we learn from this?
 - > What should we do?
- Pray together.
- Spontaneous Prayers – encourage others to pray according to your theme. (a little bit like Bidding Prayers)
- Sing together
- Children could each say one word that comes to mind after reflecting on the Scripture.
- Modern day drama with questions
- Prepare a reflective activity.
 - > Ask the children to write or think of a personal prayer related to the theme.
 - > Write a Post-It note
 - > Give each child an object (a stone, a feather, bubbles, a heart, a seed) and ask them to say a prayer to God sharing a worry or something to be thankful for. This could be displayed on your prayer table that week as a reminder.
 - > Use cut out templates from this folder to write prayers, actions and thoughts on.
 - > Draw a picture.
 - > Colour in important words while praying
 - > Interactive response: “Stand up if you have ever....”
 - > Write a class Tweet on our Twitter page.



Go Forth

This is another very important part that you need to think about carefully. You are helping your class to apply the message in their daily lives.

Depending on your theme, this might be something for them to do in class, in the playground, in the dinner hall, around school, at home, in the parish, in their local community, further away or something to help the world.

You need to be realistic!

You need to be relevant.

- Tell them to 'go forth' and share the teaching they reflected upon during your collective worship.
- Learn and apply a Gospel phrase or a saint's quote
- Make a promise (they don't need to share this with you)
- Invite someone to play at lunchtime.
- Encourage them to say thank you to someone
- Encourage them to do something helpful without anyone noticing
- Encourage them to say sorry for something and mean it
- Encourage them to give their time to help someone
- Greet someone with a smile.
- Give out a certain number of secret compliments during that day.
- Say a prayer for someone in need.
- Do something to show they care for creation.
- Find a few minutes each day to thank God for their blessings.

Themes:

Peace

Romans 5: 1-5

Romans 12:18

Isaiah 26: 3

John 14: 27

Love

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

1 John 1-3

Colossians 3:12, 13

Acceptance

Psalms 139

Courage

Psalms 11

Psalms 42

Forgiveness

Matthew 18: 21-35

Acts 13: 26-39

Ephesians 4:31, 32

Guidance in decision making

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Comfort in times of loneliness

Isaiah 41:10

Worry

Philippians 4:6-7

Matthew 14:28-31

The Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12

The Greatest

Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40

John 13:34-35

James 2:8

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5

Enemies

Matthew 5:43-48

Patience

James 5: 7-11

Righteousness

Romans 3: 10-26

Romans 10: 9-11

Romans 6: 11-23

Salvation

Romans 10: 9-11

Titus 2: 11-14

John 14:6

Wisdom

1 Kings 12: 1-24

1 Kings 3: 6-28; 4: 29-31

Friendship

1 Samuel 18: 1-5

Ruth 1: 16-17

Gratitude

Luke 17: 11-19

Corinthians 9: 11-12

Psalms 100: 4

Psalms 28: 7

Psalms 107:1

Jealously

Luke 15: 25-32

Sadness

Matthew 6: 25-34

Failure

Matthew 18: 21-35

Working together

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Parables

The Lamp - Matthew 5:14-16

The Speck and The Log - Matthew 7:1-5

The Sower - Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20

The Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:10-14

The Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:23-35

The Sheep and the Goats -Matthew 25:31-46



The Ten Bridesmaids - Matthew 25:1-13

Tenants in the vineyard: Matthew 20: 1-16

House on rock and sand: Matthew 7: 24-27

The Ten Talents or Gold Coins - Matthew 25:14-30

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:29-37

The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

The Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31

The Pharisee and The Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14



Liturgical Year

Ordinary Time

September: School Prayer, Canticles
of Creation

October: Rosary

November: Eternal Rest

Advent

John 1: 9

John 1:14

The Angelus

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Christmas

Luke 1: 8-20- The birth of Jesus is
announced

Luke 2: 8-10- The Shepherds are told
about the birth of Jesus

Matthew 1: 18-25- The birth of Jesus

Matthew 2: 1-12- Three Wise Men

Ash Wednesday

1 John 1: 9

Matthew 6

Lent:

Examen

Examination of Conscience

Holy Week: Palm Sunday

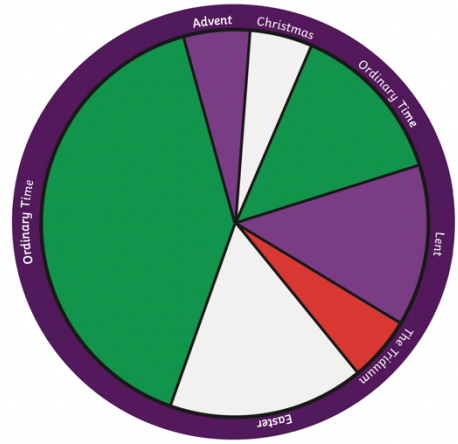
Zechariah 9:9

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday

Luke 22: 1-65

Holy Week: Good Friday

Psalm 22: 1-18



Holy Week: Easter Sunday

Isiah 52: 7-10

Luke 24

Easter:

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Pray for new members of the Church
and Vocations

Pentecost

Acts 2: 3-4

Acts 2: 38

Come Holy Spirit

St Augustine's Prayer to the Holy
Spirit

May:

Litany of Our Lady

The Angelus

The Memorare

Hail Holy Queen

As I kneel Before You

Ave, Ave

Ave Maria

All Saints Day

Matthew 5: 1-12

Prayers that you might like to include

Don't forget that many saints wrote prayers that you might like to use. You can also write your own prayers.

Our School Prayer

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Prayer to the Guardian Angel

The Angelus

The Act of Sorrow

The Confiteor

The Memorare

The Stations of the Cross

The Magnificat

Nunc Dimittis

The Benedictus

Apostles Creed

