

# Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church

## Weekend of light

### Prayer ideas for children

#### 1. Mr Men and Little Miss Prayers:

The Mr Men and Little Miss characters offer some inspiration for enabling prayers with a visual stimulus.

On the final page, you have visuals of these Mr Men / Little Miss characters for this activity.

Use some of these characters to create your own prayers together - you could glue the characters onto a page and perhaps, write or discuss some ideas for your prayer:

- Mr Happy—say thank you to God for something that makes you happy.
- Little Miss Naughty—say sorry to God for something wrong you have done.
- Mr Bump—ask God to be with someone who is unwell.
- Little Miss Sunshine—say thank you to God for the weather.
- Mr Greedy—say sorry to God for the times when you haven't shared.



#### 2. Play-dough prayers:

Children have a vivid imagination, so you may have to go with them as you get them to create things from play-dough, but one of the many joys of prayer is that 'God knows'.

For your creative prayer, you may like to ask your children to make a play-dough model of their favourite animal / food / something else and say 'thank you' to God for them. You may like to ask them to make a model of someone who helps to look after them.

After they have completed their models, say a 'THANK YOU' prayer to God for all these special things.

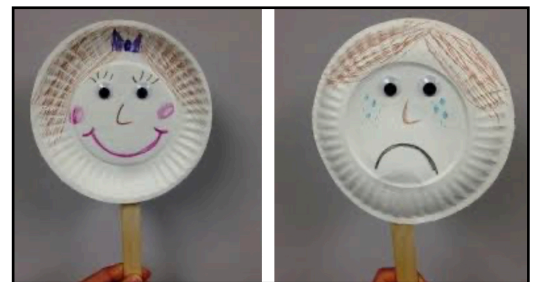


#### 3. Happy and Sad Times

Young children often know what makes them happy and what makes them sad. For this prayer activity, you could decorate a paper plate / a circle to be sad on one side and happy on the other.

When you look together at the happy face, talk about what events have made you happy during the last week and make a list of them. Pray about the list or say a one-line thank you prayer for each one.

Turn the face over and chat together about whether anything sad or worrying has happened in the past week and make a list of these things too. Perhaps there are people who are ill who need to be prayed for. Pray for this list. Finish by thanking God that he always knows how we feel, whether we are happy or sad, and thanking him for being just as close to us in the good times as in the bad.



Ideas adapted from:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/All-Things-Creative-Prayer.pdf>

#### 4. Flame prayers

Cut simple flame shapes from yellow, orange and red paper or draw a flame on white paper. Give each person a flame and explain to them that when God's Holy Spirit first came, it was as if tongues of fire were reaching out and touching all the people. It wasn't the kind of flame that burnt people, but more like a flame that filled people with the warmth and love of God, a flame which fired up their hearts with courage and enthusiasm.

God sent his Holy Spirit to help people live as Christians. Today the Holy Spirit can help people pray and praise. He can help people tell others about Jesus. God sent us his Holy Spirit to live in us and to be our special helper. Encourage everyone to use their flame shapes to write a prayer thanking God for his wonderful gift.

Stick the finished prayers onto a dark background to look like one big flame. Explain that as the Holy Spirit helps us more and more, people can be fired up with the love of God.

This can also be done by inviting everyone to draw around their hand on yellow, orange or red paper, cutting them out and writing a short prayer on the hand. Stick the finished prayers onto a dark background to look like one big flame.



#### 5. Light triumphs

You will need candles that relight themselves (joke candles) or if you don't have these, don't worry, a regular candle and match will do well.

Light the candle. Explain that Jesus is the light of the world and when he died, the devil thought that he had put out the light.

Blow the candle out. As it relights (or just relight a regular candle), explain that Jesus' power was greater than the darkness, and he came back to life. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1). Say a thank you prayer to God to thank Him for sending Jesus to be the light of the world.



