



Prayer Space Themed Activities

Theme: *Advent*

Suggested 'Advent' themed activities (Choose 4 of the following)

1) Christmas Journeys

Have you ever thought about how someone else feels? What about people you don't get on with?

Lots of people had to go on a journey in the Christmas story. There's an expression which says 'put yourself in someone else's shoes'. It means we should think about how it feels to be somebody else. This can help us to get on better with others.

Think of someone you don't get on so well with. Imagine what it might feel like to be them. Write or draw a prayer about them, thanking God for something good about that person.

2) Amazed Shepherds

What amazes you about this world? What amazes you about God?

The shepherds couldn't believe what they had just seen and heard. They hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby, just as the angels had said...amazing! God, His creation and you are amazing too!

Look at the photos of God's amazing world. Draw a picture or make a play dough model of something that amazes you about God or our world. Give thanks for them.

3) Wise Men's Gifts

What gifts has God given you? What things are good in your life? What are you good at?

The wise men brought gifts to bless and honour Jesus as a future king. We are all different and so we have different gifts and talents. Christians say thank you to God for them and they ask Him for help to use those gifts to help others.

Take a star, think of a gift that you have and write or draw it on your star. Think, or pray, about how you might use your gift for others and hang your star on the tree.

4) Born in Poverty

Can you imagine what it's like to have no home to live in?

When Mary and Joseph finally reached Bethlehem, they had nowhere to stay and Jesus was born in the place where the animals slept. Lots of people around the world have lost their homes and all they need to live. They are known as refugees.

Have a look at the heap of debris, the tent and the things inside. Write a prayer for refugees on a post-it note, asking God to help them rebuild their lives and stick it on the tent.

5) Preparing Hearts

What is Christmas all about?

During Advent, Christians prepare themselves for Christmas. They don't just write lots of cards and go shopping! They also prepare their hearts by stopping to think about the Christmas story, saying sorry for things they've done wrong and making room for Jesus in their hearts.

Be still and use the pictures to help you think about the Christmas story. Choose a piece of cloth and place it in the crib to make a cosy bed, ready for the special baby. Reflect on or pray about what might need changing in your heart and how you could do this.

6) *Sharing*

We often enjoy receiving and giving presents to others at Christmas time...but what if we didn't get any presents? What if we didn't have any tasty Christmas food to eat? What if we couldn't wake up in a warm house?

Sadly, this is true for many people in our country and around the world, who have nothing to call their own at Christmas time and during the rest of the year. The Christian charity 'The Samaritans Purse' helps to take shoe boxes to children around the world that wouldn't normally have a Christmas present this time of year.

Choose some items for a girl or a boy and place them in an empty shoe box. Perhaps you would like to think about or pray for the shoe box to reach them safely and ask for God's help to provide them with other things that they need.