



Prayer Space Themed Activities

Theme: *Easter*

Suggested 'Easter' themed activities

Choose 4 activities for Primary School prayer spaces and 7-8 for Secondary School prayer spaces

Primary Activities: Themes: *Forgiveness Wall, Friendship, Joy, Love, New Life and Take a Step*

Easter Story: *Palm Sunday, Garden of Gethsemane (1), The Cross, Tomb, Ascension and Pentecost (1)*

(all could be adapted for a Secondary prayer space)

Secondary Activities: Themes: *Betrayal and Loyalty, Loneliness, Calling, Heroes, Peace and Hope*

Easter Story: *Garden of Gethsemane (2) and Pentecost (2)*

Set 1: Themed Easter activities

1) Betrayal and Loyalty

When have you felt let down by someone?

Many times, Jesus was betrayed by his friends during the events of Easter. He forgave them for letting him down, such as not listening to him or deserting him when he was wrongly arrested. We need to work at our friendships to keep them going.

Write a prayer or a reflective thought on a red post-it note about when you've felt let down by others and write on a yellow post-it note when you've felt encouraged by others and the feelings you had when you went through these difficult times. You could ask God to help you next time you feel let down or to have courage to talk to a friend.

2) Forgiveness Wall

Christians believe that because Jesus died on the cross, they can freely ask God for forgiveness- they can say sorry and know that they have really been forgiven. We all say and do things wrong, things we regret and wish we hadn't. This creates a wall between us and God and other people and it needs to be broken.

As you think of wrong things that you've done or when others have hurt you, build a wall. Reflect on or pray about this, asking for help about accept or find forgiveness.

Then knock the wall down to take the first step in the process of forgiveness, letting feelings of hurt go.

3) Peace

The word 'holy' simply means 'set apart'. For hundreds of years, people have discovered that being set apart from other people helps them to be more aware of themselves and also of God, giving true peace. In our busy world, this isn't easy.

Take some time to be still: think, pray or simply 'be'. You might like to think about this verse and you sit and relax in this area. 'Be still and know that I am God.' Psalm 46 v10

4) Loneliness

How can you help people that are lonely?

In the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross, Jesus felt lonely. He was worried about what would happen to him and felt like his friends, and God the Father, had left him. Jesus responded by praying to ask for help, both quietly and out-loud.

Think about when you have felt lonely or spotted someone else who feels lonely. Perhaps you'd like to think about people in your town or around the world who are lonely, such as refugees or those without homes. Write your idea on a hand shape to show how you can reach out to lonely people and stick your hand on the edge of the large circle, to create linking hands, showing that you share this responsibility with others.

5) Friendship

Who are your best friends? How do you show it?

The English word 'companion' comes from the Latin phrase 'com panis' which literally means 'with bread'. During the last supper, the night before Jesus was killed, he broke bread with his companions, his disciples, his best friends!

If you want to, you can make a model of one of your friends out of pipe cleaners as a way of saying thank you to God for them. You could say or think of a prayer for something that they need help with.

6) Joy

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people put palm leaves on the ground and shouted "Hosanna in the highest!" Shouting 'Hosanna' is a bit like shouting 'Hooray'.

When do you feel like shouting 'Hooray'? What are you really happy about? What are you really thankful for?

If you would like to, you can write a 'Hooray' prayer on a palm leaf, giving thanks.

7) Love

During the Easter story, people reacted to Jesus in different ways at different times. Yet everyone rejected him, his friends and enemies included. Jesus loved them equally, choosing to forgive, even when it meant he was hurt.

Think about what love means to you. How can we show love? When should we do this?

Decorate a piece of string with pens. As you use different colours for different people, think about how you could show love to people around you. Then tie a knot in the string and follow the circle with your finger, to remind you that real love is never-ending.

8) Calling

Even before he was born, Christians believe that Jesus was God's son, chosen to be the saviour of the world. He was the only person equipped by God to carry out this job! We are all good at different things.

What are your special gifts or talents? Do you need help to use them well? How could you use your gifts or talents to help others?

As a thought or a prayer, write your skills and talents on an arrow and attach it to the sign post pole, asking God to help you use these to help others. Ask a friend to help you if you find it hard to think of some ideas.

9) New Life

At Easter, there are lots of new starts happening in nature: lambs being born; eggs cracking and flowers opening. Christians believe that knowing God means they are given new life- they can leave behind any mistakes they've made and start again, because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Write down some positive changes you would like to make to your life, or to other people's lives. Then fold the corners of your piece of paper into the middle of it, place it on the water and watch it opening up, as a prayer being understood by God.

10) Heroes

What would you like the power to do?

After Jesus returned to heaven, his friends didn't know how to share Jesus' message of God's love, feeling scared about what might happen to them if they tried. Then, the Holy Spirit appeared from God, giving them power to be bold and speak in languages they had never learnt! Today, many Christians are encouraged by their example and God's power through them.

Think about people in your life that need help, or about a situation in the news. Write a thought or a prayer on a star post-it note and stick it onto the silver paper. You could ask God for his power and help, or to give you courage to be a hero to someone.

11) Hope

What do you hope for? How does it make you feel?

After Jesus had died, his body was put in a tomb. His disciples were confused, missing their friend and unsure about what to do next. They felt like their hope had died with Jesus. But three days later, Jesus was alive! This gives Christians hope today too.

Rainbows are often a symbol of hope. Take a glass pebble and place it on the matching colour of the rainbow. Think about feelings you may have that the colour reminds you of, or how the disciples/Jesus felt during the events of Easter. You might like to think about a prayer or thought to help you say thank you or to ask for help, or you can read the Easter Rainbow Poem to help you think about these colours and feelings.

Easter Rainbow Poem

*Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White/clear is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for a new tomorrow.
A handful of glass pebbles,
Colourful and bright,
Is a prayer, a promise
A hope full of light!*

12) Take a Step

After Jesus had appeared to his friends, the disciples, he went back up to heaven and the disciples were left wondering what to do next, where to go and who to talk to. But Jesus kept his promise and sent a helper, known as the Holy Spirit, who gave the disciples comfort and power to boldly talk to people about God's love for all.

Starting something new can be scary but we don't have to do things alone.

Is there something that you need the courage to do?

Think about something that you would like to start doing: this could be something to help improve your life or something helpful for someone else. As you think about some small steps you could take to achieve this, write or draw a thought or prayer on a foot shape. You ask God for courage to help you start and to keep going.