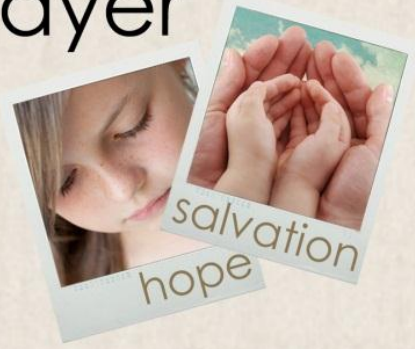


International Day of Prayer for Children together



ACTIVITY IDEAS

This year's International Day of Prayer for Children is on Sunday 31st July. What a great opportunity for us as a Christian movement to focus on the children in our church, community, nation and world. This is a day where we can not only pray for the Children, but also come alongside them and pray with them. Take this day and make it special. Below is a list of ideas to get you thinking.

DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

PRAYER WALL

Items Needed:

- A long sheet of butchers paper
- Paint

Children to place painted handprints (or finger prints) on the butcher's paper. This could be used as a focal point during a prayer time in the worship service to represent the many different children (and their many different needs) in the community or across the world.

(Alternatively: kids could paint their own name, and their friend's first names on the paper).

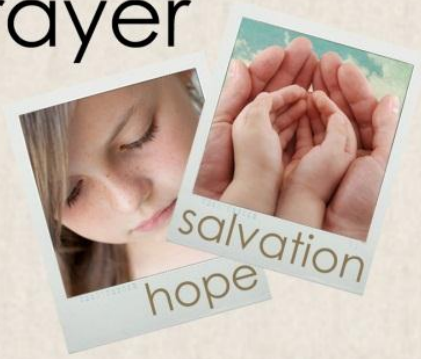
PRAYER CHAIN

Items Needed:

- Long strips of coloured paper
- Stapler
- Pens

During the Worship service invite people to come forward and write their prayer for a child/ren on a piece of paper. Link it to the next prayer with a stapler to form a prayer chain. At the end of the prayer time, when all the prayers are linked into a long chain, someone can come forward and drape the chain on a cross, or leave it along the mercy seat as a symbol of committing their prayers to God.

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LITTLE PEOPLE PRAYER CHAIN

Items Needed:

- Little people chain – fold a piece of A4 paper several times, folding it fan style back and forth approx. 4 times. Cut out the shape of a child – thus forming a people chain.
- Textas
- Stapler

Have numbers of 'little people chains' across the front of the church on the mercy seat or on tables. Invite people to come forward and write the name of a child, or a community or racial group of children they would like to pray for on each 'little person'. Link each little people chain together by stapling. Blue tack the long chain to the wall for all to see.

GROUP PRAYER TIME

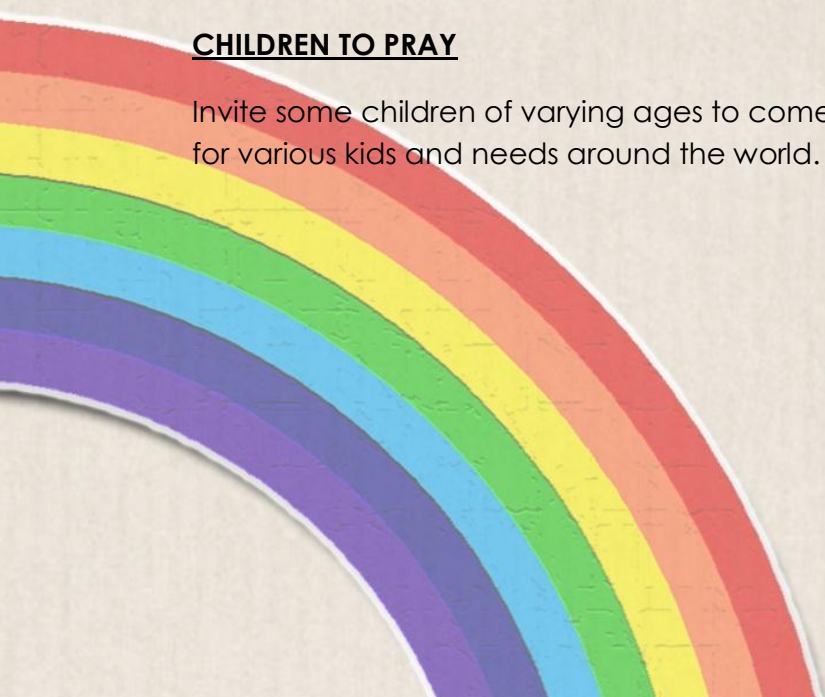
At some point in the service, invite the congregation including children to take a moment to pray in a group. Encourage the older members to come alongside the children, asking them for a prayer point for one of their peers or another child they know. Encourage the children to pray too.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER TIME

Allow some time to play the Prayer Time DVD and allow the congregation to spend time in personal prayer while the DVD plays in the background.

CHILDREN TO PRAY

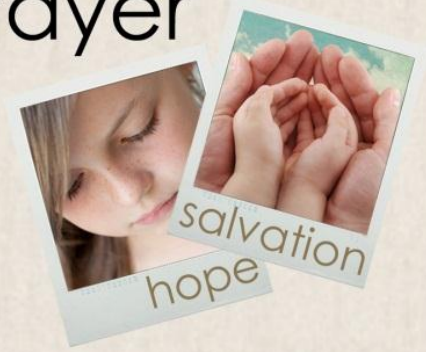
Invite some children of varying ages to come and pray during the Worship Service for various kids and needs around the world.



The Salvation Army
Australian Eastern Territory
Children's Ministries

www.salvos.org.au/children

International Day of Prayer for Children together

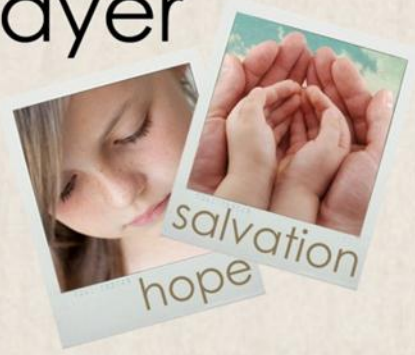


TOY VISUAL AID

Place a variety of toys suitable to different ages of children, along the mercy seat. For example: a rattle (babies), a big plastic truck – (toddler boy), a small car (older boy), lego, doll, playstation control, jewellery box etc. Ask each of the congregation to focus their eyes on a particular toy – pray for the children in your local area who would play with a toy like that. For example – if you are looking at the rattle – pray for all the babies in the area, if you are looking at the playstation control – pray for the pre-teen boys, if you are looking at the doll – you may like to pray for all the little girls to be protected and know they are daughters of the King. Etc.



International Day of Prayer for Children together



DURING KIDS CHURCH/SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLAY DOUGH PRAYER

Items Needed:

- Play dough
- Tooth picks

During Kids Church, invite children to make something out of play dough to represent who or what they would like to pray for or older children can create a flat slab of play dough and engrave a prayer with a toothpick into the play dough.....explain the importance of coming together as one in prayer, and invite them to speak about what they are creating and to place their 'prayer play dough' together into one lump as they are invited to offer their prayer requests up to God.

CIRCLE PRAYER GAME

Ask the children to sit on the floor in a circle. First person says in no more than 4 words who or what they are praying for. Next person says the first person's request, followed by their own. Third person says the first person's request, followed by the second person's followed by their own. (This is a memory game). Eg. 'Children of the world; my neighbour; lonely kids; my friend Kate;' etc.

LETTER

Items Needed:

- Writing Paper
- Pen
- Envelope
- Post Box

Children are encouraged to write a letter to God asking him to help the children in their community or the children in their school/the world. They can post the letter into the special 'post box' at the end of Kids Church.

