

PRAYER ACTIVITIES FOR WORSHIP SERVICE

You may offer ALL OR ONE of these prayer activities for your congregation.

Repentance

For this activity you will need

- The scripture verse written and placed within the space. *'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.'* (Ezekiel 36:26, NIV)
- Enough stones for each person to take one home
- A bucket/tub of water

Aim: To give the congregation opportunity to repent for any wrong doings against children

- Set up the stones on a table next to a bucket/tub of water
- Read Matthew 18:5-7 (RSV or NIV)

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the man by whom the temptation comes"
- Using the verse from Ezekiel 36:26, encourage the congregation to repent for the times that they may have caused a child to stumble in their faith or excluded them from their corps, or not given children a place in the heart of their family, community or corps.
- Remind them of Matthew 18: 5-6 'Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.'
- When we disobey God our hearts become like stone but God gives us new chance when we repent and he gives us a heart of flesh, a sensitive warm heart that loves and is kind.



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- God promised the Israelites when they were scattered among many countries that he could bring them back to their land. As God promised the Israelites, he promises that he can restore our hearts of stone by giving us a new hearts of flesh and a new spirit within.
- After each person has prayed silently, encourage them to choose a stone and wash it as a symbol of God's promise of giving us a clean heart of flesh. Take a stone home as a reminder to encourage them to place children in the centre of their family, community and Corps. Remind the congregation not to overlook children because they are of great value.

Thanksgiving

For this activity you will need

- Twigs, wood, leaves
- Basket to hold leaves
- Strips of paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Bowl

Aim: For the congregation to give thanks for the children in their family, Corps, villages, suburbs and communities

- Build the shape of a tree on the floor or table using the twigs and wood supplied. Ask a child to hand out a leaf to each person present. Explain that each leaf represents a child and that as a tree needs to breathe through its leaves, the body of Christ needs children to breathe and grow.
- Ask each person to place a leaf on the tree. As the leaves are placed on the tree ask each adult to thank God for each child.
- Write the names of the children on strips of paper and place them in a bowl on the mercy seat or holiness table. Encourage adults to take out a slip of paper and pray for that child during the following week.



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Supplication

For this activity you will need

- Copies of scripture verses to give to children.

Aim: For the congregation to spend time together praying for each child

- Remind the congregation that it is every person's responsibility to disciple children and we should not overlook them.
- Place the children in the centre of a circle made up of adults from your corps. Have the adults hold hands and pray for each child. Ensure that all children are prayed over. Promise in your prayer that you will not overlook the children and always remember that they are right in the heart of Kingdom of God.
- Choose appropriate scripture verses and give each child a verse that they can take home as a promise that they will always be in the heart of the corps and God's Kingdom.
- Allow time for each member of the congregation to think about their own relationship with God. Remind them of the verse from Matthew 18 which speaks of 'True Greatness'.
- Remind the congregation that unless they turn and have faith like a child, they will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



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