Salt of the Earth

Set up:
• A table with salt shakers on it

Instructions:
Salt makes things taste better. Salt preserves things. Salt makes things more interesting. Salt brings out flavours in food. Put some salt in your hand and taste. You don’t need a lot of salt to make a difference in the taste of food. Just a small amount can make a big difference. Often, we think we can’t make a difference because we are too young, too small, or just one person. But God can do big things with just one person. Take some time to pray how you can make a difference today - be salt in this bland world. What does that mean for you?

Verse:
“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”

- Matthew 5:13 (NLT)

Lost & Found

Set up:
• Place some lost and found items from the church on a table.

Instructions:
The articles before you are actual lost and found pieces from the church. They have been most likely forgotten and no one searches for them anymore. Pray for those in the world who are forgotten. Pray for other youth who feel lost or forgotten.

Verse:
Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

- Isaiah 58:10 (NLT)
Glowing

Set up:
• Highlighters glow under black light. Place four black lights on the floor and have the youth write out their responses, highlighting the difference between light and dark. Use whatever surface works for your group.

Instructions:
We are called to be light in a dark world. We reflect the light of God wherever we go, to those around us. Use the highlighter to write words or draw ways that your life can make a difference - can be a light in the world. Pray for all those things others have written down, that those before you may shine light in the darkness.

Key Verse:
This is why the Scripture says, “Arise, you sleeper! Rise up from the dead and the Anointed One will shine his light into you!” - Ephesians 5:14 (TPT)

Goals

Set up
• Place a table below a basketball net or in front of a soccer/football net.
• String some strands rope from the net to the table.
• Place pens and paper on the table along with clothespins for them to use to attach their goals to the rope.

Instructions
As we live life day to day, it becomes easy to be caught up in the mundane tasks. God has so much more planned for us. Take a moment to think of what God may be calling you to do, to start, or to be – to have an impact on the world around you. Write that goal on a card and pin it to the rope leading up to the goal.

Verse
13 Brothers, I know that I have not yet reached that goal. But there is one thing I always do: I forget the things that are past. I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me. 14 I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize. That prize is mine because God called me through Christ to the life above. - Philippians 3:13-14 (ICB)
Forgiveness

Set Up:
- Place a dry erase board on a table, along with dry erase markers and eraser.

Instructions:
God has called us to forgive those who hurt us. Write down the name of someone you need to forgive and pray for that person. When you have finished praying, erase the person’s name, just like God has erased your sins and forgiven you.

Key Verse:
And when you pray, make sure you forgive the faults of others so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you. - Matthew 6:14 (TPT)

Lego Prayers

Instructions:
• Choose a brick.
• Pray for yourself.
• Thank God for the things he has given you.
• Ask Him to bless you and to help you to bless others.

Count the bumps on your brick. For each bump on your brick, pray for a different person- friends or family members. Ask God to bless them this week.

Add your Lego brick to the structure. Thank God for the church and the communities we live in. Be reminded that YOU are an important piece in helping to build up the body of believers where you are.

Verse:
So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)
OTHER PRAYER IDEAS

Prayer Dance Stop

Start an upbeat worship song. Ask the children to pray while they dance. They can pray about what they are grateful for, or something that they have learned about God. They can pray prayers of thanksgiving, thanking God for being good/faithful/loving, etc.

When you stop the music, everyone should stand like statues. One idea might be that after a short stop everyone says together “Amen!” or everyone remains silent. You can decide what action you would like the children to do.

Hand Tower Prayers

Make small groups in the congregation (or in your kids’ group) with a maximum of 10 people.

Together everyone is going to build a tower of prayer by putting in one hand at the time and saying/praying one sentence. E.g. One hand - thank God for... Next person puts their hand on the first hand and prays their prayer. Next person continues until everyone in the group has had an opportunity to pray and you are back at the first person. The first person then starts with their second hand and the prayers continue around the group. Finally, you will have a big tower of prayer.

Encourage a united “Amen” as the hands raise the tower to a split. (Note: you can also do it without order and let everyone put in their hand to the tower in no special order.)