

# HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE CONNECT WITH THY KINGDOM COME

School of Mission



## Creative prayer resources for use with young people

Thy Kingdom Come Youth Resources – *coming soon to*

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources>

Prayer Spaces in Schools - <http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>

24/7 Prayer Youth Resources - <https://www.24-7prayer.com/youthandschools>

*The Teenage Prayer Experiment* by Miranda Threfall-Holmes and Noah Threfall-Holmes

(written by a mum and teenage son)

*Be Live Pray* - Becca Dean

## Example of how to run a creative consultation with young people for a prayer room

- Plan in advance what topics you want to cover with prayer stations in a prayer room and how many prayer stations you want (It is also worth considering how much space you will have – too many big prayer activities and you may run out of room to move!)
- Gather a group of young people – probably by collaborating with their youth leader, possibly by attending one of their normal youth gatherings
- Think about providing some kind of refreshment (Pizza or donuts are always winners)
- Run an Ice Breaker – there's a short list of possibilities here:  
<http://insight.typepad.co.uk/insight/2009/02/10-more-icebreakers.html>
- Explain to the young people the purpose of your conversation, the vision for the prayer room and how you're hoping they will contribute. Check if they have any questions or understand.
- Warm up question – What emoji do you associate with praying? (Don't know what emojis are? Here's a full list of them: <http://www.wordstream.com/images/emojis-in-ad-text-list.jpg> They are used on phones to enhance written communication, the young people should know what they are) Perhaps get them to discuss this in groups and then feedback which emoji and why.
- In groups, give them some post it notes and ask them to write down as many things as they can think of that are *good* about prayer and also all the things they can think of that are *difficult* about prayer
- Ask – what would help to make prayer less difficult, and more 'good'?
- Explain to them that you are planning to create a creative prayer space to be used in the lead up to Pentecost, and what you'd like the focus to be. Lay out around the room a piece of flip chart paper for each prayer station you'd like to create, along with the theme of the prayer. You might like to bring along some of the resources you could use in your creative prayer space to spark their ideas, ie balloons, pens, sweets, maps, candles etc. Invite them to spend some time circulating round the room, filling in ideas on the paper for what a creative prayer station could look like for that topic. (If they've never experience creative prayer before, you may need to give/show them some examples to get their creative juices flowing)
- Get some feedback of their ideas.

- Optional stage – ask for volunteers to create some of the prayer stations. Youth leaders will be key for follow up and making sure the prayer stations get made.
- Thank them for their contribution, give them the details of the prayer room, and how they can be involved.
- Pray!
- Take their ideas home and figure out how to make them happen – try as far as is possible to include their ideas into the prayer room. It's important to ensure their contribution is real and recognizable.

### **Engaging young people in a half/whole night of prayer in a 24/7 prayer room:**

A Night (or Half Night) of prayer for the youth group, led by the youth leaders. It's a great way of giving young people a structured space to try praying and silence, and also a great relationship builder and memorable experience for them.

A basic plan would be:

- 7pm meet, eat some food/pizza together.
- 8pm spend an hour all together in the prayer room, maybe with a bit of worship
- The rest of the night, the young people sign up for half hour/hour slots when they go into the prayer room to pray. The other young people play games until 11ish, then send them to sleep (sleeping bags on floors of church/hall works fine) and wake them up throughout the night for their slot in the prayer room.
- end with bacon butties around 7am, pick up at 8am
- Safeguarding, a fully DBSed team, risk assessments, parental consent etc are important to organise in advance.
- Half night of prayer can finish at 11pm or midnight depending how many of the young people are approaching exams.

### **Other ways of helping young people pray**

Ways of engaging young people would be running a creative prayer session with them, taking them on a prayer walk (possibly with stops for hot chocolate/chips!), 'treasure hunting' (which involves prophetic prayer for words and pictures for people, then heading out into town to pray for people there in line with the words and pictures received in advance).

### **Further Support**

For support with all things youth related please do get in contact with our Youth Adviser, Sarah Long ([sarah.long@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:sarah.long@winchester.anglican.org) / 01962 710971 / 07841 517519)

To think about engaging younger children and families in prayer please contact our Children and Families Adviser, Andy Saunders ([andy.saunders@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:andy.saunders@winchester.anglican.org) / 01962 710972 / 07703 186693)

*“Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see – how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him.”  
Psalm 34:8 (MSG)*



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