



WE ARE...
ALL PRAYING
TOGETHER

CHILDREN'S PACK





Children's Pack: Intro

The All Praying Together weekend (7-9 September 2012) is a call to the whole UK Church to pray and fast at the same time, interceding for God's Kingdom to come in our nation. We want to do this in unity and in recognition that you are never too young or too old to pray.

We believe that children and young people can lead the way in enthusiasm for prayer and passion for word and action mission. They can be the best motivators and encouragers of each other, and are the key to reaching their generation. Joining across denominations, cultures and ages, we can magnify God's love and power, through prayer, and then reach out to the world around us with the Good news.

Our vision together is that children and young people will push out of their comfort zones, pray with dedication and perseverance and take ongoing risks for Jesus - choosing to put their complete trust in Him and being given permission to put their faith into action.

Through these resources, we would love to encourage and equip children and young people not only to pray but to be part of the answer to those prayers. It is hoped that they will pray along with us for God's transforming power and blessing upon our land and also know how they can actively respond to that prayer, speak out and be the voice, hands and feet of Jesus where they are.

Why a children's prayer pack?

This Children's Pack has been designed to be completely flexible; it can be used to form a whole residential weekend for children, a family prayer event for a couple of hours over the course of a weekend, an All Praying Together Sunday Service, or a combination of all of the above.

Our heart for this pack is that children will have the opportunity to see their faith in action; so that they can witness a God who is active, in and through them no matter how old they are. We long to see children, families, and congregations engaging together in seeing transformation in this country and across the world. To that end, we encourage you to try some of the ideas contained within this pack, not solely with children, but drawing in families and other church members. Parts of the pack are designed specifically for children and their leaders, but all of it can be tailored to include all ages. All of the ideas have been tried and tested with children aged as young as three years old. Go on...give it a go!!



All Praying Together weekend planner

Friday	Sleepover!			
	<p>Start off this weekend of prayer by getting together with your children's group and leaders for a fun-packed evening of games and team-building, exploring and trying different ways of praying for each other and our country, worshipping God together, and of course eating! All of this will be around the theme of praying for new life, starting again and revival; there will also be the opportunity to think about word and deed mission and what this could look like in your community – why not put those ideas into action in Saturday's programme?</p>			
Saturday	Prayer Workshops and Events			
	<p>The weekend continues with the opportunity to pray for our country in very creative and active ways. You can carry on doing these within your children's group or you can open these events up to friends, family, and the rest of the church congregation...no-one is too old or young to try these out. Ideas, resources and session outlines are provided for the following four options:</p>			
	Community Prayer Treasure Hunt	Lord's Prayer Messy Church	The Very British Prayer Zone – Creative Prayer Event	Prayer in Action: Out and About
Sunday	Sunday Services			
	<p>Sunday Services are an excellent opportunity to get the whole congregation involved in All Pray Together. These suggested orders of service will explore the theme of prayer and fasting and what Jesus says about it. There will also be the opportunity to mobilise the whole congregation in using the prayer calendar, leading up to the National Day of Prayer on Saturday 29th September.</p>			
Weekend	Family Fasting Challenge			
	<p>Explore as a family what it means to fast, and the purposes behind it. Here we include some resources about how to explore fasting further, as well as discovering if God is calling you to fast and what He is calling you to fast from. There will be some practical tips and ideas about what this might look like for you, as well as some ideas and inspiration from families who have fasted together.</p>			



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Our Community Matters

Activity One: What is community?

Look up and write out the dictionary definition of community: community is 'all the people living in a particular area or place'. Your community is made up of the people in the places round about you and your home or church. All the people in school, in local businesses and special places, as well as all the people who live there. Get the children to think about all the people and places that make up their community and write them on a large sheet of paper. This can be people, places, events and other features. Encourage them to think about areas that are really good and worth celebrating, but also areas that may be well known for other reasons.

Activity Two: Map It Out

Get the children to draw a large map together of your community and add on the places, people and other features that they think are most significant. These can be areas that stand out because they are good and lots of people are there, or areas that are bad and stand out because people don't like them or are scared of them.

Activity Three: What makes a good community?

When we make a cake, we need a number of different ingredients otherwise the cake doesn't taste very nice, or it doesn't rise, or worse - it isn't cake! When we think about a community of people, and the place they live and work, we can think about the ingredients we need to make a good one. Get the children to work in pairs to think about the ingredients we need to have a good community?

Activity Four: Community in God's Eyes

What does God say about community? In the Bible, how does He say that people should act towards each other? Take a clean sheet of paper and re-draw the map of your community thinking about what it might look like if we all followed God's ideas about how we should live. What would look different?

Activity Five: Dreams for your Community

Have a think about the following questions with your group and record your answers either by writing or drawing:

What do you like best about your community?

Which places do you like to go to the most? Why?

Which places don't you like? Why?

If you could change something in this community, what would it be?

Activity Six: Pray

We have spent a lot of time thinking about the areas that we live our lives in. Spend a moment in quiet thinking of all the places that are really important to you. Ask God to look after those places, and to help us to make them more like He would like them to be. Encourage your group to name these places out loud and say a prayer for them.



Sleepover!

A sleepover is a fantastic way to build on existing relationships between leaders and children, giving you opportunities to chat about things that you might never normally get the chance to in the context of a weekly club.

Things to check out first:

- Does your church insurance cover you for people sleeping in the building – you may just need to phone them up and let them know.
- Do you know where all the fire exits are? Are they accessible from the rooms that you will all be sleeping in?
- How many rooms do you have to use? Will you all be in one room or will you have separate rooms for boys, girls, male leaders and female leaders?
- Have you got the right ratio of leaders to children? 1:8 is recommended but always make sure there is a minimum of two leaders at all times. Check your church's Child Protection policy for more detailed information and procedures on this.
- Have you got permission slips from the parents to inform you of any health and dietary requirements of the children that will be in your care?

What might the sleepover look like?

5pm	Children to arrive at church (collate permission forms if you haven't already done so)
5.15pm	Introductory games and Welcome: set the scene for what will happen over the next few hours – tell the children about the focus on prayer for our country and community.
6pm	Eat together
7-8.30pm	Our Community Matters – to Us and to God!
8.30-10pm	Film (with popcorn – check dietary requirements of children) Ideas of films with a love for community/people theme: Kung Fu Panda 2, Megamind, Monsters v. Aliens
10pm	Get ready for bed...lights out SLEEP!!!
7am	Up and get dressed – tidy up bedding etc.
7.30am	Breakfast
8am	Worship together and pray over the map that you drew during the Our Community Matters session – lay your hands on the places that are important to you and pray to God.
8.30-10am	Sometimes God asks us to be the answer to our own prayers through word and deed mission. Use this time to look at the things you discussed during 'Our Community Matters' and have a think about the difference that you can make together TODAY!! Are things that you need to gather or buy to make this word and deed mission possible?
10am	Move on to the Prayer Workshops and Events section which may involve going Out and About to do your Word and Deed mission.



Prayer in Action: Out and About

When it comes to prayer, sometimes God calls us to be the answers to our own prayers. This means we get the opportunity to take part in Word and Deed mission. Here at HOPE, we think you are never too young to take part in mission and we would therefore encourage people of all ages to be involved – from the youngest to the oldest. It is important that we all work together though and look after each other as we show God's love in our communities.

What could you do?

Below are some ideas of what could be possible in your Out and About session. Some of them will take more organising than others, and some will need special equipment or permission; be sure to check this out when you are planning your All Pray Together Weekend.

Here are some ideas...

- Litter-pick in your local park or local streets
- Clean graffiti
- Go and visit some elderly members of your community who may be lonely
- Do some shopping for members of your community who can't get out of their homes easily
- Have a collection and then go and buy some food to donate to your local Food Bank
- Do some gardening for those who struggle to look after their gardens
- Run a Family Fun afternoon in your local park
- Have a clear out of some of your toys; are there any that you could donate to local children's charities so that children who have nothing could benefit from them
- Do a sponsored event to raise some money for a local charity

Let your ideas run wild! Spend some time praying and listening to where God is leading you, and then move forward in that together. Remember, whenever you are out in the community you are God's hands and feet in that place – use your hands and feet to show the whole community how much God loves them!



Ideas for an All-Age Service - The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:1-18)

Ideas compiled from Scripture Union resources at www.lightlive.co.uk

Choose one of these ideas to be used instead of the sermon outline provided in the HOPE Prayer Order of Service, or put together your own All Together Service by using some of these ideas and picking some appropriate songs.

All-Age Talk

Display the words of the Lord's Prayer and mark divisions after verses 9 and 10, splitting the prayer into three sections. Explain that the first section focuses on reaching upwards to God in worship, the second on reaching out in mission and the third on reaching inwards to the nurture of our own friendship with God. Highlight the fact that in today's Bible reading Jesus gives examples of how to reach upwards (prayer, vs 5–15), outwards (giving, vs 1–4) and inwards (fasting vs 16–18) in a way that pleases God.

Brainstorm with the congregation other examples of how, as individuals and as a church, we might reach upwards, outwards and inwards in ways that please God and show that their lives are lived for him above everything and everyone else. Write up responses on the flip chart under the relevant heading ('reaching upwards', 'reaching outwards', 'reaching inwards'). Take the time to tease out the links between what is written up and the teaching of Jesus in this session's Bible verses. Distribute paper and pens to the children and young people and invite them (with the help of an adult where necessary) to write short prayers asking for God's help to enable the congregation to reach upwards, outwards and inwards in the ways that have been written up on the flip chart. The children and young people should then lead the congregation in the prayers they have written.

Alternative Bible Activity

Give each person three sheets of paper, a pencil, some colouring materials and a Bible. Ask them to read Matthew 6:1–18 (adults should help children with this, if necessary). Then invite them to illustrate the points Jesus was making by drawing three 'Spot the difference' pictures on their sheets of paper – one illustrating giving, one prayer and the other fasting. On the left-hand side of each sheet of paper they should draw and colour a scene of giving, praying or fasting as Jesus said not to do it. Then, on the righthand side they should draw a similar scene but with crucial differences that illustrate what Jesus said about how giving, praying and fasting *should* be done. When everyone has finished their pictures you could invite them to swap their pictures with other people. See how many differences each can spot and talk together about the significance of those differences in terms of what they teach us about letting God's kingdom live in us.

Creative Response

Distribute a lump of clay to everyone – if possible sit people at tables for this activity, or on the floor (remembering to put down protective covering). Given the recurring themes of today's service of reaching upwards to God, reaching outwards to others and reaching inwards to nurture our own friendship with God, ask everyone to mould a hand from their lump of clay. (If this is too difficult, suggest that they make a flat rectangle and make an impression on it with their hand.)

Using a pencil or other suitable object they should then carve onto their clay hand something that they will commit to do by way of reaching upwards, outwards or inwards in a way that pleases God and shows him to be above everything and everyone else in their life. Everyone can take their clay hand home where it can serve to remind them of the secret commitment they have made to God.☞☞

Close with an appropriate hymn or song that expresses willingness to let God reign in our lives and so to serve him in all that we do. Possibilities include 'O Jesus, I have promised', 'Be Thou my vision', 'Reign in me' and 'I want to serve the purpose of God'.

Other resources as part of the pack

Messy Church resource: Lord's Prayer

Follow the hyperlink above or go to All Praying Together Resources (www.hopetogether.org.uk)

Family Fasting Challenge

Follow the hyperlink above or go to All Praying Together Resources (www.hopetogether.org.uk)

The Very British Prayer Zone

Follow the hyperlink above or go to All Praying Together Resources (www.hopetogether.org.uk)

Community Prayer Treasure Hunt

Follow the hyperlink above or go to All Praying Together Resources (www.hopetogether.org.uk)

This Children's pack was written and compiled by Sarah Smart and Helena Kittle from Scripture Union, as part of HOPE's All Praying Together resources. See www.scriptureunion.org.uk. www.hopetogether.org.uk



in our villages, towns & cities