Intergenerational Prayer Walk

Objectives:

- 1. To provide an experiential prayer activity for all ages
- 2. To help congregants see there are a variety of ways to pray
- 3. To get different generations interacting with one another through prayer activities.

Introduction:

Looking for an Advent intergenerational activity? Or perhaps thinking about Epiphany or Lent? This is versatile experience that may be used for any season of the church year. Set up your worship space, fellowship hall or classroom spaces with prayer stations that are interactive and experiential. Our congregation has used this during the Sunday School hour (pre-Covid) and as a way for social distancing with family units during Covid. During the pandemic, we created a sign-up for families, individuals, or couples to come and walk the prayer stations. You may use any or all these station ideas or get creative and add something that works uniquely for your space and community. For instance, consider making a prayer station in front of a stained-glass window as a focal point or using something else in your space as a creative prayer station.

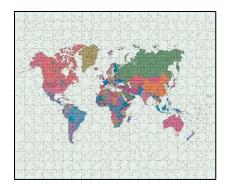
Instructions:

Simply put the station instructions (or any instruction that you choose to use to fit your setting and activity) at each station. I used card stock and made placards on each table in the space I was using. See the sample instructions below for each activity.

Prayers for the World

(You will need an assembled child's jigsaw puzzle of the world)

Please use the provided hand sanitizer. Take a piece of the puzzle and sit and pray for that area of the world you chose. If only "ocean" pieces remain, pray for the earth, creation or another place in the world for which you want to pray. When you are finished, place your puzzle piece in the bowl provided.



Prayers of Confession

(Place a paper cutter/shredder at the exit. If small children are involved, have someone supervising the shredder)

Write a nagging sin, bad habit, or something you feel guilty about that you want to confess to God. Keep that slip of paper with you until the end of the prayer time, when we all will use the shredder to remind ourselves of how Jesus "shreds" our sins through the cross.

Prayers for Others

Write a prayer concern for someone you know in need of prayer (first name only). Pray for that person yourself and then place the piece of paper in the bowl on the left. Take another slip of paper from the bowl on the left and pray for someone else's concern and then place it in the bowl provided on the right.

Prayers for the Church

Trace your hand on the provided piece of paper. On your traced hand write what your hands can do to help the church or what other people's hands have done for you. Post them on the wall using the painter's tape.

Coloring Prayer

(You may also want to check out prayingincolor.com)

Use the colored pencils and paper to make a shape. In the shape write someone's name (could be your own) in need of prayer. Just let your pencil guide you as you color and pray—thinking on this person and their needs. You may be guided to add another person in another shape. No art critics here—just enjoy the creative process and let God guide this experience.

Prayerful Conversation

(You will need to write some conversational questions or use cards such as Faith Talk cards from Milestone Ministry (https://store.milestonesministry.org/product-p/ftconv.htm)

Using the questions provided sit with someone (preferably not a family member) and discuss your answers to at least two of the questions. (*Note: if you are staying in family groupings because of Covid, suggest discussing the questions with someone from another generation than your own.*)

Prayer of Blessing

Join someone else at the Prayer Center and using the water in the bowl, make the sign of the cross on their hand or forehead and pray a prayer of blessing for them. It can be as simple as saying their name and God Bless You.

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