

5. Use a prayer litany leaving plenty of pauses between each section.

You could use something like the following:

You have called us to be the salt of the earth.

Help us flavour our community with love and good news.

Enable us to reach out with compassion to those who are suffering.

Help us flavour our community with love and good news.

Give us grace to welcome the stranger amongst us.

Help us flavour our community with love and good news.

Open our eyes to any injustice around us and courage to challenge it.

Help us flavour our community with love and good news.

Make us instruments of your peace and goodness.

Help us flavour our community with love and good news. Amen.

Praying Together Resources

(PTR010)

Ideas for praying
together around the
theme of:
“Loving the Local
Community”

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Ideas for praying around the theme of: “Loving the local community”

The following are ideas to help a church prayer meeting pray around the theme of “Loving the local community.”

1. Slowly read through Matthew 25:31-40. Then:
 - a. Pray for those who are hungry and thirsty in your community and for ways in which your church can meet their needs. End your prayers by reading Matthew 25:40.
 - b. Move on to pray for those who are strangers in your community and for ways in which your church can meet their needs. End your prayers by reading Matthew 25:40.
 - c. Continue in prayer for those who need clothing / the sick / those in prison and for ways in which your church can meet their needs. End your prayers each time by reading Matthew 25:40.
2. Project pictures of places in your local community where human needs are met, for example foodbanks, hospitals, community centres, hospices, drop-in centres, soup kitchens etc. As each picture is projected:
 - a. Invite people to pray for the Lord’s blessing on all the care-givers and the work done in these places to meet human needs.
 - b. Pray for His blessing on all partnerships between the church and these places.
 - c. Pray for Christians who are working in these place that God’s love would shine through them and bring hope to those they serve.

3. Pray for those who are involved in looking after creation in your area.
 - a. You may choose to go out litter-picking as a prayer group and as you pick up litter together, you pray God’s blessing on the area.
4. Display a large mound of salt in the centre of the prayer group. Then read Matthew 5:13a: “Jesus says: “You are the salt of the earth.””
 - a. Invite people to take a few grains of salt and taste it.....
 - b. Lead a time of quiet reflection around being “salty” and what that might mean in transforming other people’s lives.
 - c. Ask questions through the reflection like: “Who might Jesus want you to show love to in this community?” “In what way does Jesus want you to show love?”
 - d. Finish by praying St Francis of Assisi’s prayer:
*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.*