

Prayer Stations

(PST001)

Christmas Prayer Stations

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“CHRISTMAS PRAYER STATIONS”

Prayer Stations Aim:

To help children (aged between 3-10yrs) understand the purpose of Jesus coming into the world through interacting with thirteen prayer stations.

Biblical Reference(s):

Genesis 1:27, 1:31, 15:5, Romans 3:23, 2Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 9:6, Luke 1:31, 2:4, 2:6, 2:11, Matthew 1:21, 2:2, John 3:16

Outline of Prayer Stations

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Station 1: | God created everything good |
| Station 2: | God created us to be His friends and to look after the earth |
| Station 3: | We have all sinned |
| Station 4: | God chose Abraham and made promises to him |
| Station 5: | God promised King David that a king would come from his family line |
| Station 6: | God spoke through the prophet Isaiah |
| Station 7: | The angel Gabriel visits Mary |
| Station 8: | An angel visits Joseph |
| Station 9: | Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem |
| Station 10: | Jesus is born |
| Station 11: | An angel gives the good news to shepherds |
| Station 12: | Wise men visit Jesus |
| Station 13: | Jesus came to enable us to be friends with God |

Notes for the Prayer stations:

- These prayer stations work well if a leader takes a small group of children (approximately 5-6 children) around, beginning at station one and continuing in order until station thirteen.
- Each prayer station will take approximately 2-3 minutes.
- As the group of children arrive at each prayer station, the leader:
 - Invites the children to look at the prayer station and allow God to speak to them.
 - Reads out the words in their script.
 - Invites one of the children to read the Bible verse at the prayer station.
 - Invites the children to engage with the prayer station activity.
 - Encourages the children to share anything that God has said to them.
- Having gone round all thirteen prayer stations, the leader can then encourage the children to talk about their experience together.

Station 1:

God Created Everything Good



Items Needed:

- A table covered with green material of some kind
- Vase of flowers that smells nice!
- Some plants
- Bowl of fish
- Card with Genesis 1:31 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

God's story goes right back to the very beginning of time. In the very beginning God made the world and he made it all perfect.

Child Reads:

"God saw all that He had made and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to share which part of God's world they like the best.
- Invites the children to watch the fish, smell the flowers etc.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 2:

God created us to be His friends and to look after the earth



Items Needed:

- A table
- A couple of A3 collages, containing photos of members of the church, placed on the table
- Card with Genesis 1:27 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

The best part of God's creation was you and me. We were made in God's image to be His friends and to look after the earth that God had made. The first people, Adam and Eve were very happy to be God's friends.

Child Reads:

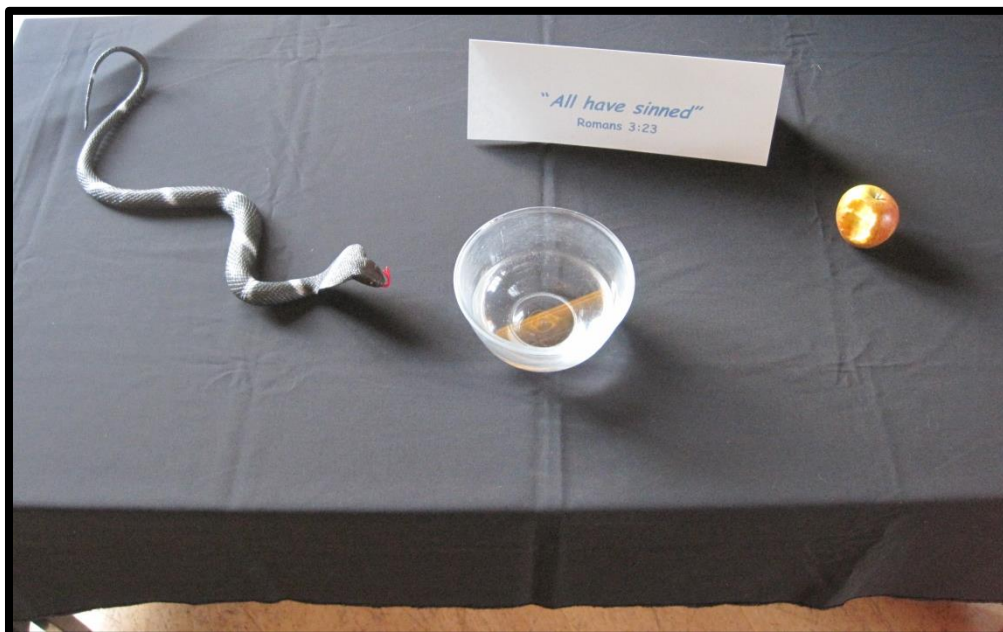
"God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to think about what it must be like to have God as friend.
- Invites the children to hold hands with each other as a way of showing that people had a close relationship with God.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 3:

We have all sinned



Items Needed:

- A table covered with black material
- A plastic snake¹, an apple with a bite out of it and a bowl of salty water laid on the table.
- Card with Romans 3:23 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

God told Adam and Eve that they were free to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden he had made, but they were not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Very sadly they chose to disobey him and do what they wanted to do.....they ate the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. This is called sin. Because of their sin, Adam and Eve could no longer be God's friends. Every person who has been born since Adam and Eve has chosen to sin.

Child Reads:

"All have sinned" (Romans 3:23)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Asks the children if they can think of any sins (eg bad temper, wanting our own way, greed, lying etc)
- Reminds the children that sin spoils our relationship with God and with other people.
- Says: The water in the bowl tastes like the salty tears that people cry when friendships break up.
- Invites the children to dip their finger in the bowl and taste how sad God must be when people turn against Him.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

¹ You can purchase a plastic snake from www.amazon.co.uk
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Station 4:

God chose Abraham and made promises to him



Items Needed:

- A table covered with blue velvety material
- Gold card stars are cut out and stapled onto the material.
- A bowl containing dry sand is placed on the table.
- Card with Genesis 15:5 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

Although people had turned their backs on him, God carried on loving them. God chose to put the world right again. He began by choosing a man called Abraham. God made promises to Abraham, which Abraham believed – promises to give him such a lot of people in his family that like the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore, he wouldn't be able to count them.

Child Reads:

"Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!" (Genesis 15:5)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites a couple of children to take a small handful of sand and count how many grains there are.
- Invites the children to think about any promises people have made them. Tells the children that God always keeps His promises.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.



Station 5:

God promised King David that a king would come from his family line



Items Needed:

- A table covered with purple material
- Gold crown cut out of card and covered with “jewels²”
- Card with 2Samuel 7:12-13 (See Appendix 1)

Leader’s Script:

Abraham’s family grew and grew as God said it would and became the nation of Israel. King David was the king for many years. David was promised that one day a king would come from his family line – a king that would reign for ever.

Child Reads:

“I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2Samuel 7:12,13)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to practice their bows and curtseys in front of the crown
- Asks the children to think about what sort of king they would be willing to follow
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

² You can purchase large self-adhesive acrylic jewels from www.amazon.co.uk

Station 6:

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah



Items Needed:

- A table
- A bell that can make a decent amount of noise!
- Card with Isaiah 9:6 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

God gave a message to a prophet called Isaiah that He was going to come to earth as a baby one day. The prophets' voices were like loud musical instruments, waking people up to what God was about to do.

Child Reads:

"Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.....he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Rings the bell loudly and encourages the children to shout, "wake up"
- Asks the children to think about what the people must have thought about Isaiah's message that God was planning on coming to earth as a baby.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 7:

The angel Gabriel visits Mary



Items Needed:

- A table covered in a white sheet
- Some pots of bubbles and a pair of “angel wings” made out of wire and silver tinsel
- Card with Luke 1:31 (See Appendix 1)

Leader’s Script:

One day God sent the angel Gabriel to a young lady called Mary. Mary was afraid when she saw the angel, but Gabriel told her not to be afraid because God loved her. He told her that she was going to have a baby and she was to call Him Jesus. Mary said that she was willing to do whatever God wanted her to do.

Child Reads:

“You will give birth to a Son and you are to call Him Jesus” (Luke 1:31)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to blow bubbles as they think about the angel Gabriel giving Mary this special message.
- Asks the children to think about whether they are willing to do whatever God might ask them to do
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 8:

An angel visits Joseph



Items Needed:

- Two tables covered in a sheet
- On top of the sheet is placed a pillow and a blanket – made to look like a bed
- To one side of the “bed” is another table. On top of this table is a plate of special biscuits.
- Card with Matthew 1:21 (See Appendix 1)

Leader’s Script:

Mary was engaged to Joseph and when Mary told Joseph that she was going to have a baby, he was very upset. He didn’t understand that this was God’s baby growing inside Mary. One night, while Joseph was asleep the angel of the Lord spoke to him and told him that Mary’s baby was God’s baby, who had come to save the world. The angel also told Joseph to marry Mary, which Joseph did.

Child Reads:

“You are to give him the name Jesus because He will save his people from their sins”
(Matthew 1:21)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to eat a special biscuit as they remember that Joseph obeyed the angel of the Lord and married Mary.
- Invites the children to talk about the different ways that God speaks to us (eg through the Bible, through other people, through dreams, through creation etc)
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 9:

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem



Items Needed:

- Table covered in hessian
- On top of the table is a paper plate on which is some donkey "poop"
- Card with Luke 2:4 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

One day Joseph had to take a trip to the city of Bethlehem and Mary went with him. They travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey. When they got to Bethlehem, the city was so crowded that there was no place for them to stay. All the beds were full, so Mary and Joseph ended up staying in a stable where the donkeys and horses stayed.

Child Reads:

"So Joseph....went to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David" (Luke 2:4)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to imagine what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to stay the night in a stable with the animals, with Mary about to give birth. How would they have felt?
- Invites the children to smell the donkey "poop"
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 10: Jesus is born



Items Needed:

- Stable created out of card covered in brown paper, and filled with hay.
- Manger in which is a brown faced baby male doll wrapped in white cloths and lying on hay
- Card with Luke 2:6 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

That night baby Jesus, God's Son was born. Mary laid him in a manger – which is an animal's feeding trough. Mary loved him, Joseph loved him and God loved him.

Child Reads:

"Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger" (Luke 2:6)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Spends some time wondering with the children that God, in all of His majesty and glory, was willing to become very very small and come to earth as a baby, to sort out the mess of sin that human beings had got into.
- Invites the children to touch the manger and the hay.
- Sings together with the children the first verse of "Away in a manger".
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

Station 11:

An angel gives the good news to shepherds



Items Needed:

- Table covered in two different types of green material. On the table are some wooden bricks, wooden sheep and shepherd³ as well as a large torch.
- Card with Luke 2:11 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

Outside the city of Bethlehem, some shepherds were looking after their sheep. Suddenly an angel came to the shepherds and they were frightened. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news. This is happy news for all the people: today in Bethlehem, God's Son was born. You can go and see him." Then many, many angels came from heaven praising God singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth". The shepherds left their sheep and found baby Jesus.

Child Reads:

"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you" (Luke 2:11)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Invites the children to think what it must have been like for the shepherds suddenly seeing all the angels. Flashes the torch light into the children's faces.
- Invites the children to think why God chose the shepherds to be the first people to hear about the Saviour's birth.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them.

³ Available from St Michaels workshop - www.stmichaelsworkshop.co.uk/
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Station 12:

Wise men visit Jesus



Items Needed:

- Table covered in red velvety material.
- On the table is a chest (to represent the gold), and a couple of “home-made creations” to represent myrrh and frankincense.
- On the table is also a bowl containing water and some drops of myrrh⁴ and paper towels.
- Card with Matthew 2:2 (See Appendix 1)

Leader's Script:

God put a special star in the sky when Jesus was born. Some wise men who lived in the east saw this star. They knew it was a sign that a baby king had been born. These wise men followed the star a long way until they found Jesus. They bowed down and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Child Reads:

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship Him” (Matthew 2:2)

Leader invites children to engage with the station:

- Invites the children to talk about the gifts that are normally given to a new baby. Explains that Jesus was given gold, because He is a king, frankincense because He is a priest and myrrh because He would die for the world. Asks what gift they would bring Jesus.
- Invites the children to dip their fingers into the bowl containing myrrh and then smell it. They then wipe their fingers on the paper towels.
- Invites the children to say a simple prayer / share anything that God has spoken to them

⁴ You can purchase myrrh essential oil from www.amazon.co.uk
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Station 13:

Jesus came to enable us to be friends with God



Items Needed:

- Table covered with black material.
- Simple “tomb” created with a cardboard box and covered with white shiny material.
- On the table is a wooden cross, three large nails and a basket containing chocolate gold coins.
- Card with John 3:16 (See Appendix 1)

Leader’s Script:

Jesus, God’s Son came to earth for one main reason – to make it possible for us to be friends with God once again. Do you remember that we discovered at station 3 that our sin stopped us being God’s friends? The only way Jesus could make it possible for us to be friends again was by taking the punishment our sins deserve. He did that when he died on the cross. But three days later, God raised Jesus from the dead and He is now alive in heaven. When we choose to trust him and believe in Him, we can become God’s friends again and receive the Holy Spirit – which is God living inside us for ever.

Child Reads:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)

Leader Invites Children To Engage With The Station:

- Tells the children that each one of them is precious and special to Jesus. Jesus came to earth for them. He loves them and wants them to trust Him.
- Gives each child a chocolate coin as a reminder that they are loved by Jesus.
- Invites the children to ask any questions they want to and share anything that God has spoken to them.
- Ends with a prayer thanking Jesus for what He has done.

Appendix One

The following pages contain the templates for the Bible verse card found at each prayer station.

Simply photocopy each page onto A4 card, bend in half (width ways) and place upon the relevant table.

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

1

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good"

Gen 1:31

2

"God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Gen 1:27

3

"All have sinned"

Romans 3:23

4

"Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!" Genesis 15:5

5

*"I will establish the throne of
his kingdom forever"*

2Samuel 7:12,13

6

"Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given..... he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6

7

*"You will give birth to a Son
and you are to call Him Jesus"*

Luke 1:31

8

***"You are to give him the name
Jesus because He will save his
people from their sins"***

Matthew 1:21

*"So Joseph... went to Bethlehem,
the town of David, because he
belonged to the house and line of
David."* Luke 2:4

10

"Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger"

Luke 2:6

11

*"Today in the town of David a
Saviour has been born to you"*

Luke 2:11

12

*"Where is the one who has been born
king of the Jews? We saw his star
when it rose and have come to worship*

Him." Matthew 2:2

13

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16