

IMPLEMENTING PRAYGROUNDS

WHAT IS A PRAYGROUND?

A Playground is a creative, interactive prayer space designed to help children and families engage with God through movement, play, imagination, creativity, reflection, and conversation.

Children experience and process the world differently from adults. Many children connect deeply with God when they are invited to touch, move, create, wonder, play, and participate.

Each station in this Playground invites children and families to explore prayer in hands-on and meaningful ways. Some stations encourage quiet reflection. Others encourage movement, creativity, storytelling, confession, intercession, worship, or community prayer. Together, these experiences help children discover that prayer is more than words; it is a relationship with God.

Every church, family, and ministry context is different. We encourage you to adapt these ideas as needed for your setting, traditions, resources, and the children you serve.

“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME...” – MATTHEW 19:14



PLAYDOUGH PRAYER

USE YOUR HANDS AND PLAYDOUGH TO CREATE
SHAPES AND OFFER PRAYERS TO GOD.



Form your playdough into the shape of a **ball** as you pray for your own world.

Form your playdough into the shape of a **church** as you pray for your church.

Form your playdough into the shape of a **heart** as you pray for people you love
who need God's help.

Form your playdough into the shape of a **home** as you pray for your family.

Form your playdough into the shape of the **first initial of your first name** as you
pray for yourself.

Hold your initial in your hand as you close your prayer, saying, "**Thank you,
Lord, for your presence, Amen.**"

Please take your used playdough with you!



SWEET & SOUR PRAYER

USE DIFFERENT KINDS OF CANDY TO HELP YOU PRAY.



Take one candy at a time from the bowl.
As you taste each candy, use the prayer prompt below.

Sweet candy

Thank God for something sweet and good in your life.

Sour candy

Ask God to help you bring kindness and joy to someone who may be having a hard day.

Hot or spicy candy

Pray that God would help your love and excitement for Him grow stronger every day.

Dark chocolate candy

Pray for someone who is hurting, sad, sick, or going through a difficult time.

Close your prayer by saying:

“Thank you, God, for hearing my prayers and caring for me every day. Amen.”

Please be mindful of food allergies.





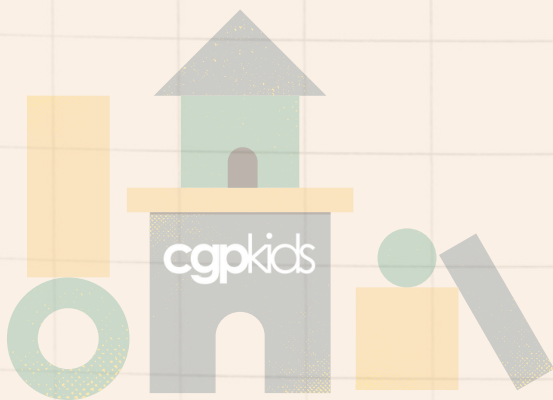
PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HEALING.



Choose a bandage and write the name of someone who needs healing, comfort, or help.

As you place the bandage on the board, pray for that person.

After praying, place your hands over the board and say:
"Jesus, thank You for loving and caring for people. Please bring healing, comfort, and peace. Amen."



MAGNETIC PRAYER

USE MAGNETIC WORDS TO BUILD YOUR OWN PRAYER TO GOD.



You can use simple words to praise God, thank Him, ask for help, or pray for others.

Choose magnetic words and arrange them to create a prayer.

You might make a prayer that says:

"Thank You, God"

"Jesus, help my family"

"Give us peace"

"God, You are good"

You can also use a blank tile to add your own special word.

When you finish your prayer, read it out loud or quietly in your heart.

Close by saying:

"Thank You, God, for hearing every prayer we pray. Amen."

Feel free to create, rearrange, and pray again!



BIGGEST STORY PRAYER POSTERS

PRAY THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY.



As you look at each picture, remember that the Bible tells one big story about God's love, rescue, and promises through Jesus.

Walk through the posters and pause to pray.

You may pray:

Thanking God for creation

Asking God to help you trust Him

Thanking Jesus for saving us

Praying for courage to follow God

Asking God to help others know His love

Choose one poster that stands out to you the most.

What do you see? What does it teach about God?

Pray using this sentence starter:

"God, thank You for..."

or

"Jesus, help me to..."

Close your prayer by saying:

Thank You, God, for Your story, Your love, and Your promises. Amen."



CANDLE LIGHT PRAYER

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.



As you turn on a candle, take a quiet moment to pray.

The light reminds us that:

Jesus brings hope to the world.

God loves every nation, family, and community.

We are called to shine His light wherever we go.

God invites us to join His mission by loving, serving, and praying for others.

You may light a candle:

for someone who needs hope or comfort

for missionaries, churches, and people around the world

for your neighborhood, school, or community

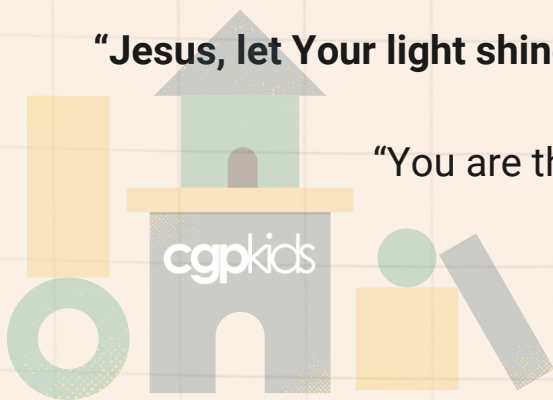
asking God to help you share the love of Jesus with others

After lighting your candle, pause quietly and pray.

Close by saying:

“Jesus, let Your light shine through me so others may know Your love. Amen.”

“You are the light of the world.” — Matthew 5:14



SCRIPTURE & STRETCHING

PHYSICAL EXERCISE IS GOOD FOR OUR BODIES AND SOULS.

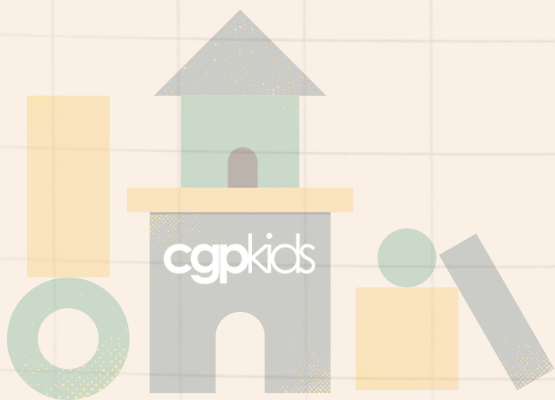


God made our bodies and expects us to care for them.

Sometimes a simple stretch can release the tension we carry in our bodies.

Take time to try each of these stretches/poses.

Try to hold the stretch for as long as it takes you to silently read the scripture associated with it.



WORLD PRAYER MAP

PRAY AROUND THE WORLD.



God loves every nation, language, and people group.

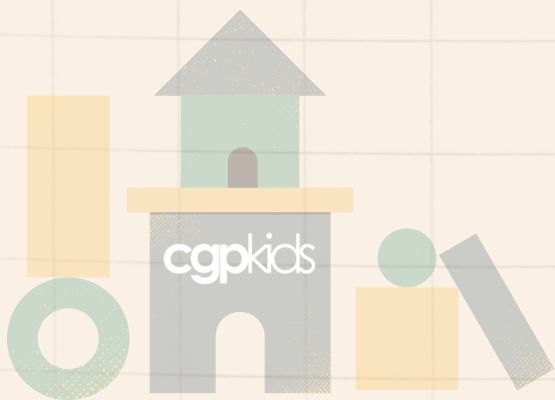
As you place puzzle pieces together, remember that God is bringing people from every nation together in His family.

Choose a country or region on the map.

Then pick up one of the prayer cards from our Global Missions Team and pray together for the people who live there.

Close your prayer by saying:

“Jesus, bless the nations and help Your love reach the whole world. Amen.”



NIGHT SKY PRAYER

STAR GAZE WITH THE ONE WHO CREATED THEM.



The night sky reminds us that God is great, powerful, and always present.

Just as God knows every star by name, He also knows and loves you.

Sit quietly inside the tent with your family and watch the stars above you.

As you rest and pray together, you may:

Thank God for His love and care

Tell God what is on your heart

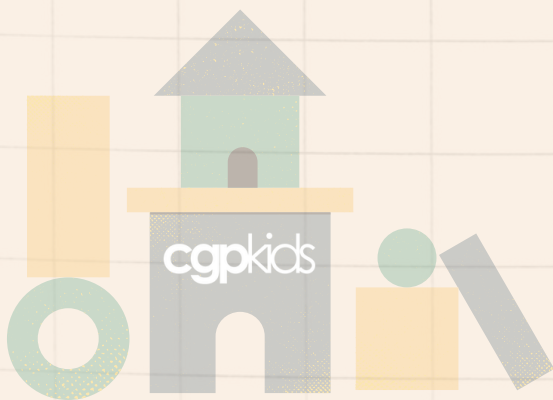
Pray for peace, rest, and comfort

Remember that God is always near, even in dark times

Take a few slow, quiet moments to listen and rest in God's presence.

Close your prayer by saying:

"God, thank You for Your great love and for always being with us. Amen."



EMOJI PRAYER

TALK TO GOD ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS.



God cares about every feeling you have.

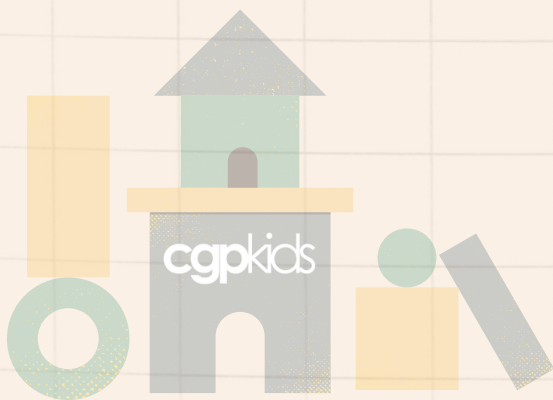
You can talk to Him when you feel happy, sad, afraid, calm, angry, confused, excited, or surprised.

Look at the Emoji Prayer Wheel and choose the emoji or feeling that matches how you feel today.

Read one of the sample prayers or create your own prayer to God.

Write or draw your prayer on the “All the Feels” page if you would like.

You may also use the Prayer Chart to continue praying throughout the week at home.



NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK

**WALK THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND LET THE HOLY
SPIRIT GUIDE YOUR PRAYERS.**

As you walk from place to place, pray for the people who live, work, learn, and serve in our communities.

Pause at each neighborhood card and pray.

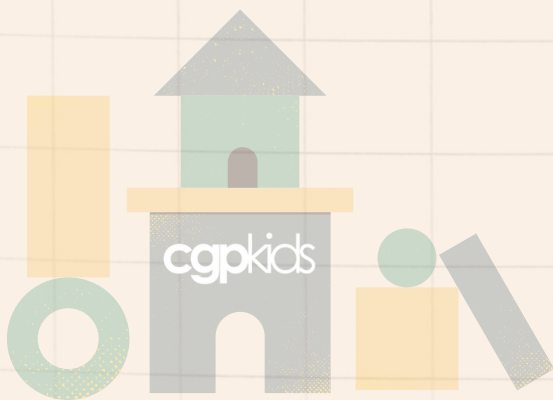
Ask the Holy Spirit to help you notice people who may need hope, kindness, or prayer.

As you walk, remember:

God calls us to love our neighbors and shine His light wherever we go.

Close your prayer walk by saying:

"Holy Spirit, help us love, serve, and pray for our community every day. Amen."



REFLECTIVE COLORING

**USE COLORS AND CREATIVITY TO SPEND QUIET
TIME WITH GOD.**

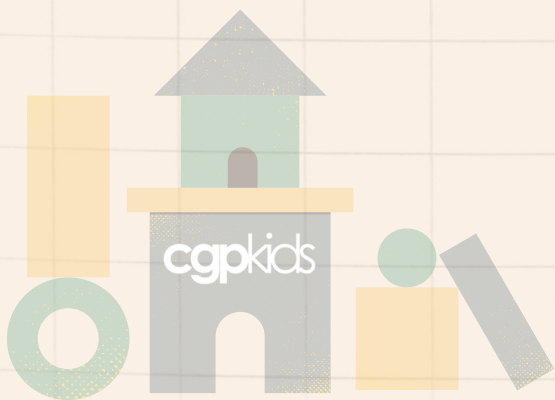


As you color, take time to slow down, rest, and pray.

There is no right or wrong way to color or pray.

Close your prayer by saying:

“Thank You, God, for creating me and loving me. Amen.”



DISSOLVING PAPER CONFESSION

WRITE OR DRAW SOMETHING YOU WANT TO GIVE TO GOD.



Think of a sin, worry, or something heavy on your heart.

Write it down on the dissolving paper.

After you pray, place your dissolving paper in the water and watch it disappear.

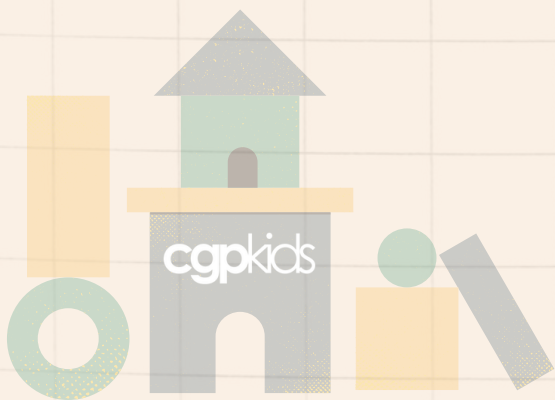
As the paper dissolves, remember:

God forgives us, loves us, and helps us begin again.

Close your prayer by saying:

“Jesus, thank You for Your forgiveness, love, and grace. Amen.”

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us.” — 1 John 1:9



LORD'S PRAYER HOPSCOTCH

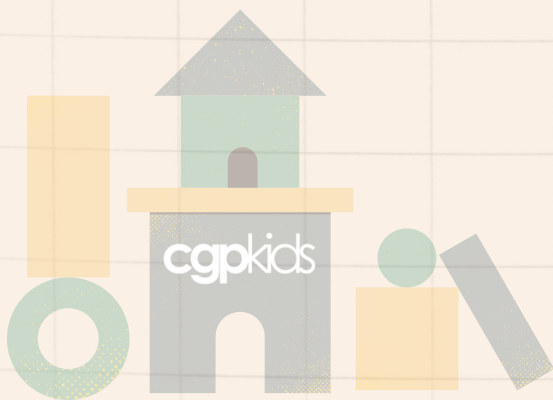
HOP, WALK, AND PRAY THROUGH THE LORD'S PRAYER.



Move through each space slowly and read the words out loud as you go.

As you move, remember that prayer can involve our whole body, heart, and mind.

Prayer is talking and walking with God every day.



CHURCH PLAYSET

**PRETEND, CREATE, AND PLAY AS YOU EXPLORE WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH.**

You can:

- Lead worship
- Preach a sermon
- Pray for others
- Care for your community
- Welcome new friends

As you play, remember:

The church is people who love God and love others.

God can use children to share His love, pray for people, and serve the world.

