

Thank you for downloading the Just Prayer resources. The prayer ideas included are to help involve people in praying creatively for least-reached people groups around the world and the work of Global Interaction amongst them.

While we have tried to make each prayer idea user friendly, these ideas are in no way prescriptive. They are to be used as a launching pad and can be adapted to best suit the needs of your faith community.

Our prayer is that these ideas and resources will help stretch your community in the way that they pray and that they might engage as never before in praying for the least-reached.


Please also see the 'Least-Reached Resources' on the web for all the information that you will need to pray with insight for these people groups who so desperately need to hear the message of Jesus.

We hope that the weekend of Just Prayer is one that draws your community together and has ripple effects across the world as Baptist communities around Australia pray that God's kingdom might come and all might have the opportunity to hear and respond to the life-saving words of Jesus.

Praying with you,

The Global Interaction Team

PLANT A TREE

 Approx 20 minutes  Individuals, Small Groups, Large Groups  Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults

A tree or plant is a living and active reminder of the Word being planted, nourished and thriving (see the Parable of the Sower in Mark 4). We can plant a tree to represent our prayers for those who do not yet know Jesus.

Resources needed:

Seedlings, potting mix and tools to grow a plant in a common space (e.g. a pot in the church foyer or front of the church, a tree in the church grounds or garden where your small group meets). You could use a plant that is native to your area, or a plant that is native to the particular people group for which you are praying.

Activity

1. Read Mark 4:1-20
2. Plant your tree, including as many people as possible in the activity.
3. Pray for those people groups who are yet to know Jesus and his living Word. As you nurture the plant and watch it grow over the coming months, continue to pray for these communities.

AS NUMEROUS AS THE STARS

 Approx 1 hr  Individuals, Small Groups, Large Groups  Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults

Throughout the ages, people of all cultures have looked to the heavens – the sun, the moon, the stars – in wonder and amazement. For the ancient Greeks and Romans – it was the home of the gods. For the Jews (and many others), gazing at the heavens put people's existence into perspective (see Psalm 8). The stars have been used as a tool for predicting the future and navigating the seas.

As we take time to gaze at the night sky, we are reminded of the many people who have done the same – in the years gone by, and in countries all over the world.

Resources needed

- A clear night, an open space (warm clothes and rugs may be helpful)
- Star chart (optional, available online)

Activity

1. On a clear evening, go to an open space.
2. Spend time staring at the night sky – encourage people point out various constellations and features.
3. Read aloud some passages from the Bible:
 - Psalm 8
 - Genesis 1
 - Psalm 148
4. Pray for people who view the night sky all around the world – particularly think of those who do not yet know the Creator God who set the stars in their place.

PRAYER FLAGS

 Approx 30 min  Individuals, Small Groups, Larger Groups  Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults

The use of prayer flags is a Buddhist tradition where prayers and symbols are written on colourful pieces of material and tied outside homes for the wind to take the prayers, messages and thoughts across the country. For many Buddhists, prayer flags are a simple way of 'making merit', earning the blessing of Buddha.

As Christians we know that we do not need to make merit because of what Jesus did on the cross. Therefore, as you create your own prayer flags, pray for those around the world who continue to search for meaning and salvation in a cycle of merit making, that they may discover the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

Resources needed

- A number of bright coloured material squares (traditionally white, green, yellow, red and blue)
- Thick string, ribbon or wire.
- Pegs

Activity

1. Tie the string ribbon or wire between two or more trees or poles.
2. Use the Least Reached People Group powerpoint to share about the thousands of people groups that have not heard the message of Jesus due to cultural, linguistic or political barriers.
3. Invite people to write or draw their prayers on a piece of material. Include prayers for the work of Global Interaction team members and for more people to work amongst these groups.
4. Ask people to peg their material to the string in an act of prayer.
5. Allow time for everyone to read, reflect and join in the prayers of others in the group.

LABYRINTH – PRAYER PATH

 30 mins - 1 hour  Individuals, Small Groups, Larger Groups  Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The labyrinth represents a journey to our own centre and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools.

Of the 16,000 people groups in the world, more than 6,000 are considered least-reached. These groups do not have access to the gospel due to cultural, linguistic, political or other barriers. Many people in these groups will go from birth to death without ever hearing about Jesus in ways that are meaningful to them. This labyrinth is to focus our prayer on those who are yet to hear the transforming message of Jesus.

Resources needed

- A large room or open outdoor space
- Rope, stones, sticks, material or chalk to mark out the design of the labyrinth
- Information about Global Interaction's least-reached people groups
- Possibly music and multi-media equipment and art (paintings, sculptures etc) if you decide on a more elaborate prayer path. Or for a simple labyrinth use tea-lights/candles to mark significant places for reflection along the path
- A small team of creative people to help design and create the labyrinth (and help set up and pack up!)

Activity

1. Give yourself or team time to organise, plan and set up this event.
2. Using the ropes, sticks, material, shoes etc mark out your labyrinth. It should be in a circular shape that weaves around into the middle.
3. This space is created as a place for prayer and reflection with a focus on least-reached people groups (you may choose one or two, or all nine depending on time, space and your focus). Invite people to walk the labyrinth as their prayer. As they walk, ask them to pray that God might give them a heart for the millions of least-reached people. They may take as little or as long a time as they are comfortable. Invite people to continue to pray outside of this experience for the things God has placed on their hearts.
4. During the event, as a team walk around, be present, listen to what God is saying and observe people's reactions/experiences. Debrief this at the end after you have packed up.