

10 ideas for...

Creative confessions

1. Alka - Seltzer

A great way to visually represent our confessional prayers is to give each person an Alka - Seltzer (or equivalent effervescent tablet) and have them drop it into a large container or water. You can watch as God dissolves your sins.

2. Shredder

Another great visual way of showing confession is to write your prayers and then put them through a small domestic paper shredder. Choose the context for this one carefully as it can make a lot of noise.

3. Paddling Pool

This works really well during a service based on Jonah or fishermen. Everyone takes a stone, writes on it with chalk / chalk pastel then washing it clean in the paddling pool.

4. Paper Planes

If you want to take written prayers to the next level, why not get everyone to make a plane from their piece of paper and send them round the church. You can pick up someone else's to pray for that week...

5. Using taste

Taste is highly evocative. Why not give people Fairtrade coffee beans to eat - to help them pray against the bitter injustice of unfair trade and then Fairtrade chocolate - to encourage them to pray for the sweetness of properly paid workers. If you are praying for issues like drought you could pass around glasses of water. If you're praying for a particular country, you could use food that represents the region.

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6. News Clips

If you have an IT genius, ask them to edit a bunch of short news clips together. Play this during the intercessions slot in the service and ask people to pray as they watch.

7. Let the Children Lead

This is a great idea for your all age service but could be used in any service where children are present. You ask each child what is worrying them right now and then the whole congregation prays “Lord, bring your peace to anyone feeling worried about (insert what was said), Amen”

8. Lego Prayers

If you have a smaller congregation (or lots of lego), this is a great way to physically symbolise everyone’s prayers coming together. You hand a piece of lego to everyone then ask them to pray for one friend, social injustice, leader or whatever for each bump on their brick then bring it to the front and build a tower of your prayers.

9. Prayer Stations

If you want to use a more traditional model of praying for the church, the world etc, why not create interactive prayer stations for each section of prayers. These can be made relevant to the particular time of year, current news or something specific affecting your church.

10. Persecuted Church

Open Doors has information on the most persecuted Christians in the world. You can find printable sheets at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries/>. Why not print a bunch out, hide them around the church and have small groups pray for each country. Alternatively you can stick them under people’s chairs or pass round a basket.