

Prayer Cube

Description:

a craft that teaches children how to pray for workers overseas

Aim: to stimulate prayer for God's work around the world

Audience: child-reen grades 1-4, any size group

Time: 25-30 minutes.

Equipment:

scissors, gluesticks, copies of prayer cube pattern from master, optional: colored markers

Scripture to Study:

Ephesians 6:18,19

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Bright Ideas!

Leader's Instructions:**Pre-class Preparations:**

1. Decide if you'll focus on a single person, family, or team; national or foreign workers; someone sent out from the church who is known to the children, or someone no one knows.
2. Be ready to explain where they live, with whom they work, and most importantly why they are working in another country. If you know them personally, tell a true story to illustrate what they are like. Make them real. Use recent prayer letters, photos, video clips, and maps to paint a full picture and capture the children's imagination.
3. Photocopy a prayer cube pattern onto cardstock for each student. If color copies are not an option, have the children color the backgrounds of the pictures with colored markers.
4. Make up one prayer cube to show the finished product.

Class Time:

1. Hand out to each child: one prayer cube pattern page, a pair of scissors and one gluestick (optional: colored markers, pencil)
2. Show the children your completed cube and explain these steps to make their own:
 - *Write your name in the bottom right square.
 - *Optional: Color the white space of each cube.
 - *Cut out the pattern around the outer, solid lines.
 - *Fold along all the dotted lines.
 - *Put glue on each tab that says "*glue*".
 - *Form the paper into a cube with tabs on the *inside*.
 - *Leave the cube to dry. (One bit of tape may help on the last tab.)
3. Divide into small groups of 3-4 people each, and introduce the overseas worker/s you've chosen. (See Pre-class Preparation.)
4. Look up Ephesians 6:18,19 together and have someone read it out loud. Discuss briefly.
5. Use the Introduction to Prayer below to lead children into a fun and educational time of prayer.

Introduction to Prayer

(Have your prayer cube in hand.) When you're young, you can't

often go overseas, but you can still be involved in reaching people for Jesus who live far away by praying. Christians who share the good news with people in other countries need prayer. That's something you can do right now. And it's a powerful way to join God's messengers, because God answers prayer!

Sometimes it's difficult to know what to pray for. Why? Life can be very different in other countries. Often you don't know the people for whom you're praying. Sometimes your brain just refuses to come up with the things for which to pray. That's where your prayer cube can help. On each side of the cube is a different picture. Each picture reminds you of something different for which to pray.

Let's try using the prayer cube. This is what to do:

(Demonstrate steps for the children.)

- One person rolls the cube and waits to see what picture comes up on top.
- That person prays out loud, using the picture to help him/her think of things for which to pray.
- Then the next person rolls the cube and prays, and so on until everyone has had a chance, or until all the sides have turned up.

Your prayers can be very simple and short. And remember that there's nothing magic about rolling the prayer cube. It just helps you to use your imagination and to think. For instance, why do you think it is important to pray that people will make new friends in new places? (*It's important to be friends with local people overseas so that when they tell people about Jesus, they will listen to the message about how to become a child of God.*)

Now let children pray in small groups with their very own cubes.

After class:

Encourage children to take their prayer cubes home and use them to pray regularly for a person or team they know, or have just gotten to know. Mom, Dad and the whole family can enjoy after-dinner prayer time with the amazing, world-changing prayer cube. Remember, prayer really does change things!

Notes:

Instructions:

1. Write your name in the team square. You're on the prayer team now!
2. Optional with black and white cutes: Color the white space of each square.
3. Cut on outer solid lines.
4. Fold on dotted lines.
5. Apply glue to tabs and form into a cube, with glue tabs **inside**.
6. You could even paste a picture of a family you know on the family square.
7. Roll the cube and pray for whatever comes up!

