

Prayer Activities: Pray for the Elections

Eight Creative Prayer Activities from 24-7 Prayer

INCLUDING:

- Be Still
- Global Perspective
- Thankfulness Tree
- Leaders for Change
- Request Ribbons
- Fizzy Forgiveness
- Freedom Stones
- Come Away with Me

Elections are an important time to partner with God and pray for our future leaders. It is sometimes hard to know how to pray in the face of problems that feel so vast and difficult to overcome. These prayer activities have been created to help you and your community pray for change that is only possible with God's intervention.

You may want to use them to pray for your nation's elections, or you may want to provide information about different countries going to the polls this year.

Go to page 11 for printable versions of prayer station instructions to use in your prayer room

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Be Still

For the organiser

You will need:

- A cosy, comfortable place to sit
- Optional: a small tent
- Optional: pillows and blankets
- Optional: string lights
- Optional: 'I Am' statements

How to set up:

This can be as simple as some cushions and blankets on the floor or a comfortable sofa or armchair. Create a cosy space and place the instructions in clear view

For the prayer station

Be still and know that I am God
Psalm 46:10

Instructions:

The Bible tells us to encourage one another, to build up the Body of Christ.

- This space is a space for you to rest with God and to remind yourself of the God you serve. His ability to change the trajectory of a nation, His power and strength, His goodness and mercy.
- If you find being still challenging, set a timer on your phone for 10 minutes so you're not watching the clock.
- Sit comfortably and notice your breathing; breathe deeply. Welcome the Holy Spirit. From your head to your feet, notice how your body feels; relax any tense muscles.
- Random thoughts filling your head? Don't feel discouraged – keep handing them to God.
- Try using a breath prayer to help you focus – a short phrase or bible verse that focuses your attention on God (e.g. I am statement of who God is... You are God Almighty. You are the Lord. You are the Lord who heals)
- Be attentive to what God might be saying – does a word, picture, Bible verse or something else come to mind?
- After 10 minutes, thank God for spending this time with You.

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Global Perspective

For the organiser

You will need:

- A world map (printable option <https://operationworld.org/publications/operation-world-map/>)
- Stickers placed on the countries or a list of countries going to the polls in 2024. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_national_electoral_calendar
- Post-it-notes or a large sheet of paper where people can write prayers
- Optional: tape or Prestik and a version of Operation World book

How to set up:

- Hang the map on a wall or spread it out on a table or the floor
- Place the instructions, pens and post-it notes/paper nearby and Operation World Book

For the prayer station

Pray for the judges of the nations, that they will seek the wisdom that comes from above. "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" **James 3:17**

Instructions:

- Using the post-it notes or sheet of paper, select a country and write prayers for the nation going to elections. Pray for the nation, for the election process, for the candidates and leaders, for the church, against spiritual warfare and for Revival.
- Optional: Look up the country in Operation World to guide you.
- Remember to keep your prayers blessing and life-giving, no matter how much you may disagree with the actions of the leader.

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Thankfulness Tree

For the organiser

You will need:

- Ribbon or string
- Paper
- Pens
- Somewhere to tie the ribbons, such as a plant, tree, door handle, or wall

How to set up:

Cut the ribbon or string into lengths the right size to tie on the tree. Lay out your supplies in front of your tree or equivalent. You may want to hang a few 'thank you' cards on the tree from the beginning to help people get the idea.

For the prayer station

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Psalm 150

Instructions:

- Take a moment in silence with God.
- What are you thankful to Him for? In the context of your country, your city, your church, your community, your home.
- Begin writing down your responses on your paper – feel free to get creative and draw, too.
- Thread your paper onto string or ribbon and hang it up.

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Leaders for Change

For the organiser

You will need:

- Pictures and bios of party leaders or party logos
- Post-it notes
- Pens
- Optional: tape or Prestik

How to set up:

- Hang the photos and bios on a wall or spread them out on a table or the floor
- Place the instructions, pens and post-it notes nearby

For the prayer station

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

Instructions:

- Using the post-it notes, write prayers of thanks for the leaders that have already started to make a difference
- Write prayers of blessing for wisdom, mercy, compassion, and courage for leaders who have influence in ending corruption and working towards justice and reconciliation
- Remember to keep your prayers blessing and life-giving, no matter how much you may disagree with the actions of the leader
- Place the post-it notes around the picture of the leader you are praying for

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Request Ribbons

For the organiser

You will need:

- Cargo net / chicken wire fence frame
- Ribbons cut to 10-20cm length in 3 different colours (yellow, green, red)
- Pictures of issues in the country (neglect, poverty, infrastructure, joblessness, crime, injustice)

How to set up:

- Hang the cargo net up or set up the framed wire with photos spread out over the fence
- Place the instructions and ribbons close by

For the prayer station

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:16

Instructions:

- Have a look at the images. Is there one that really stands out to you?
- Think about the different people who are involved.
- Who has been hurt? (Yellow ribbon) Who has helped? (Green ribbon) Who, if anyone, caused this? (Red ribbon)
- Choose a piece of ribbon and as you pray tie your ribbon onto the cargo net/fence.

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Fizzy Forgiveness

For the organiser

You will need:

- Large clear jar or vase
- Soluble vitamin C tablets (orange or lemon tend to work best)
- Water
- Optional: a light to shine through the water

How to set up:

Fill the jar with water and place it on a table with a bowl of vitamin-C tablets and the instructions next to it. A tip is to break the tablets into smaller pieces – they will dissolve quicker, and the water will have to be changed less often.

For the prayer room

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Instructions:

- We all carry pain from ways that people have hurt us.
- Do you need to ask for forgiveness, or do you need to forgive someone? Think also in context of the conversation of division in your nation. Spend some time in quiet, asking the Holy Spirit to show you.
- Pick up a tablet and think about what you are surrendering to God – either the pain and resentment from a difficult situation, or the sin you are turning away from.
- When you feel ready, drop the tablet into the water.
- If you are forgiving someone else, watch the tablet dissolve and imagine letting go of the grudge you have been holding.
- If you are receiving forgiveness for yourself, watch the tablet dissolve and imagine it is your sin being dissolved in God's mercy and love.

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Freedom Stones

For the organiser

You will need:

- Smooth stones
- Chalk, or water-soluble marker
- A bowl of water or a tap

How to set up:

Fill the bowl with water and place it on a table with the stones and chalk/marker and the instructions next to it. You may need to change the water every day.

For the prayer room

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

1 John 3:4

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin

1 John 1:7

Instructions:

- What things have you said or done that you want to say sorry for? Especially words or actions that do not speak life over Gods people and nation.
- Write or draw a word, a symbol, or the word 'sorry' on the stone with the chalk. Hold the stone as you say sorry to God.
- Now hold the stone under the water and watch what you wrote be washed away.
- Thank Jesus that his sacrifice wipes out everything you've ever done wrong.

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Come Away with Me

For the organiser

You will need:

- Smooth stones
- Permanent marker or paint
- Optional: Spray paint

How to set up:

- Paint or draw a heart on one side of the stone
- Place stones (painted or not) and permanent markers or paint (make sure you have water and paintbrushes for the table if you provide paint) and the instructions onto the table next to it. You may need to change the water regularly

For the prayer room

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Isiah 61:17

Instructions:

- As you have worked through the stations, what has stood out for you? What do you feel God has placed on your heart? Consider what God is asking of you as you leave this space. It might be to pray, someone God is asking you to remember, an action He is asking you to take. Ask God to guide you.
- Write or draw or paint a word, a symbol, a scripture on the stone. Hold the stone as you ask God to help you be bold and brave in what He is calling you to do.
- Take this stone with you and place it somewhere where you will see it often. Remember to start with prayer and encouragement when you see it - that we love because God loved us first.

Prayer Activities: Pray for Elections

Printable instructions

The following pages have been optimised to print out, so that the instructions can be printed and placed in your prayer room by each prayer station.

When printing this PDF, select just pages 11 – 18 and print in black & white at 100%, single sided.

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