



# *Practical Prayer Ideas for Your Children's Ministry*

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## 1 Pray Now, Pray Later

Every time you gather for Large Group Time together, prioritize prayer as the first thing you do. Ask volunteers or children, prior to starting, if they would be willing to pray in front of everyone! Consider praying for child disciples around the world, government officials and any needs specific to your local community.

Ask for prayer requests in Small Group Time, as well. Demonstrate the practice of prayer with your kids and pray together over these shared needs and requests.

## 2 Prayer Journal

A prayer journal is a great way to develop and maintain the habit of prayer! Write the names and needs shared from week to week and use them as a prompt to pray. Did visitors join your ministry? Write their names down and pray for them throughout the week. When you document God's response to your prayers, you can see how He has moved faithfully and consistently from week to week, month to month, and year to year. Bonus: Keep a prayer journal specifically for your small group requests, share it with your kids and give them a front-row seat to the way God answers prayer in their lives.

## 3 Find the Time

Set an alarm on your phone to alert you to pray for kids in your church and community. Choose a time each day that fits well into your schedule. When used in conjunction with a prayer journal, this tool allows you to be in constant and intentional prayer for the kids you serve!

## 4 Popsicle People

Kris Smoll, director of Discovery Land and children's ministry at Appleton Alliance Church in northern Wisconsin, created the popsicle stick challenge with her ministry team. Using the local school directories in their area, Kris and her team wrote the name of each child in the school district on a popsicle stick, one name per stick. Then, each person in her church community took a few sticks and prayed every week for the names of the children on their sticks. They prayed for salvation, healing, protection and more. This is a really creative and easy way to encourage total-team and church participation when praying for the kids of your communities. How cool would it be to see one of the unchurched kids you prayed for walk into your church?

## 5 Prayer Walks and Drives

Make it a practice to pray over the schools, parks and neighborhoods in your community. Grab a map and comfortable shoes, and gather with your small group, family or volunteer team to walk around the property, praying for God to protect the students, teachers, government leaders and families in your community. (P.S. Make sure you do this outside of school hours!)

If your area is too big, use a map to identify the school locations and pray for all of the children and adults at each campus.