

Prayer Activities: Pray for Peace & an End to War

Five Creative Prayer Activities from 24-7 Prayer

INCLUDING:

- Peace Maker
- Come Home
- Leaders for Change
- Hope Rope
- The Shadow of the Almighty

War is devastating, and it can be difficult to know how to pray in the face of problems that feel so vast and painful. These prayer activities have been created to help you and your community pray for an end to war and for God to bring peaceful solutions to violent conflict.

You may want to use them to pray for one specific conflict, or you may want to provide information about different areas in the world that are being affected by war.



Go to **page 8** for printable versions of prayer station instructions to use in your prayer room

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Peace Maker

For the organiser

You will need:

- Somewhere quiet
- A comfortable place to sit (pillow, bean bag, armchair)
- Optional: a way to set a timer

How to set up:

- Place the instructions so they can be seen from the comfortable seat

For the prayer station

He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields[d] with fire.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalm 46:9-10

Instructions:

- Sit down and get comfortable
- Psalm 46 is a noisy Psalm. It talks about waters roaring and mountains quaking, about the noise of violence and war. But it ends with God saying, 'Be still and know that I am God'
- Close your eyes and try to sit quietly without moving. You may want to set a timer
- As you sit quietly like this, acknowledge that God is God, and that He will be exalted over everything that is happening
- Begin to pray silently for stillness, for peace in these areas affected by war. Imagine the noises of war slowly falling silent as God makes peace

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Come Home

For the organiser

You will need:

- 4-6 sheets of A4 paper cut into house shapes. *Optional: if there are specific geographical areas that have had to be evacuated, you could write the names of these places onto the house cut-outs*
- Smaller pieces of paper cut into the shape of people
- Pens and pencils
- Sticky tape

How to set up:

- Stick the house shapes on the wall or lay them out on a table
- Place the other paper cut-outs, pens and pencils, tape and instructions nearby

For the prayer station

Keep me safe, Lord, from the hands of the wicked;
protect me from the violent,
who devise ways to trip my feet.

[...] Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer,
you shield my head in the day of battle.

[...] I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor
and upholds the cause of the needy.

Psalm 140: 4, 7, 12

Instructions:

- For this prayer station, we are praying for people who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence
- Take one of the people shapes and write your prayers that they will be able to peacefully return to their homes. Pray that their nation will become safe again
- When you're ready, tape your person into one of the house shapes as a prayer that the fighting will soon be over and they will be able to return to their homes

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Leaders for Change

For the organiser

You will need:

- Pictures and bios of world leaders and, if possible, the leaders on either side of the conflict you are praying for
- Post-it notes
- Pens
- Optional: tape or blue-tack

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 the war
- 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

Hope Rope

For the organiser

You will need:

- A long thin piece of rope or string

How to set up:

- Tie lots of loose knots along the rope/string

For the prayer station

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?"

Isaiah 58:6

Instructions:

- The circumstances that lead to war are often very complicated, with oppression, ideological differences, long histories of violence and revenge, and economic concerns all contributing to conflict. People turn to violence when they feel that there is no other solution to their complicated problems
- Pick up the rope and spend some time slowly untying some of the knots. As you untie them, imagine God untangling the mess that led to this war. Ask Him to break the chains of oppression and unpick the cycles of retribution. Pray for His freedom and justice to reign

PRAYER ACTIVITY GUIDE

The Shadow of the Almighty

For the organiser

You will need:

- A map of the area affected by war
- A light source – a lamp or a torch/flashlight
- Pens

How to set up:

- Place the map somewhere it can be written on, perhaps the wall or a table
- Place the torch and the pens nearby

For the prayer station

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'

Psalm 91:1-2

Instructions:

- Pick up the light in one hand and hold it up in front of the map
- Put your other hand in between the light and the map to cast a shadow over the nation you are praying for
- Move your hand over the map. As your shadow touches different places, pray the people there might rest in the shadow of the Almighty
- You could also write prayers of protection within the shadow you cast

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Printable instructions

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

When printing this PDF, select just pages 8 – 12 and print in black & white at 100%, single sided.

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