

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

Creative ideas and suggestions

Environment:

Consider changing the environment of your room or moving to different rooms to change the atmosphere. For prayer time, you could move out most of the chairs (except for those who cannot sit on the floor) and provide floor cushions instead.

Encourage creative people to decorate the room with images, fabric or flowers. Think about altering lighting effects and providing background music for some sessions or parts of the programme.

If you have any artists in your group, why not encourage them to set up an easel / canvas so they can respond using their drawing / painting skills? Paintings not only add colour and life to the room, but they can also capture and express what God is saying to you as a team.

Consider providing different 'zones' in your room – allowing a place for people to pray and express their thoughts to God in different ways (painting and drawing, sculpture – maybe using modelling clay, writing materials for writers and poets, etc.)

Creative ideas for expressing repentance:

Come to the cross: Provide a wooden cross. Encourage people to write down prayers of repentance and pin them to the cross.

Shredded: Encourage people to write down prayers of repentance and then put them through a shredder.

Washed away: Write on overhead slides using washable marker pens and then wipe off the words to symbolise our sins washed away.

Broken and restored: Hand out pieces of string and scissors. As people think of broken relationship in their lives, ask them to cut the string. Then as they pray for restoration, encourage them to tie the two strings together.

Other ideas:

- Provide a graffiti wall and marker pens. Encourage people to write up comments, questions or things that God has laid on their heart throughout the week.
- Encourage people to write a psalm expressing their praise and worship. Display these psalms around the walls or read them out at appropriate times during the programme.
- Write letters to God expressing your deepest longing for your country and your community.
- Work together to build a house out of lego, building bricks or even large boxes. As you build, consider what will it take to build God's Kingdom in your area. Pray together about this.

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- Provide modelling clay and allow people to create clay sculptures to express their thoughts or feelings as they pray. These can then be displayed on a table in the prayer room.
- Pray scripture – during times of reflection ask God to give you specific relevant scriptures for the issues / situations you are praying about. Pray about the situations using these scriptures.
- Encourage your worship leader to spend time seeking God for relevant songs to express your worship and prayers during the various sessions.
- Think about illustrating issues / prayer points using clips from films, TV programmes or songs that are relevant.
- Consider using small objects as symbols (e.g. seeds, candles, stones, nails, etc.). Individuals can hold the symbols in their hands and use them as a prompt to pray for a particular person or situation.
- Create a corporate work of art to express your unity or communicate a united message of prayer or praise. Ideas could include hand prints on a large white sheet, giant collages (each person bringing an image and sticking them together to create one harmonious picture), etc...
- Multi-lingual praise – if your group includes people from different ethnic backgrounds, encourage each one to write up words of thanksgiving and praise in their own language.
- Use responsive prayer: a leader says one line and the rest of the team responds with an appropriate phrase (e.g. "His love endures forever", "Lord, have mercy", "Lord, hear our prayer" etc.)
- Encourage the use of physical gestures to express different aspects of prayer: standing, kneeling, raising arms into the air, joining hands, walking around the room, etc.
- Find ways to engage all the senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch (find appropriate Bible verses to lead people into prayer and praise as they use their senses – e.g. "Taste and see that the Lord is good", "Spreading everywhere the fragrance of Christ", etc.)
 - Use images projected on a screen
 - Use music or sounds
 - Use perfume or fragrant lotion
 - Use pieces of fruit, etc.
 - Use modelling clay or a variety of textures (silk, wood, wool, sandpaper, etc.)