

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
Philippians 4:6

## More Creative Prayer Ideas

**Postcards:** Buy a stack of postcards. After spending time praying for people on your heart, ask each person to take time to write a note of encouragement to one of those people. Consider writing cards to: church leaders, people who are sick, college students away from home, some who has been recently bereaved or going through a difficult time, missionaries in different parts of the world, etc.

**Thank You:** On large sheets of paper draw the word thank you using very large, hollow letters. Provide everyone with coloured pens and ask them to write thank you prayers inside the letters of the word Thank You. Encourage people to write as many prayers as they would like until the letters are full of colourful writing – a work of art and an out-pouring of thanksgiving God!

**Compassion collage:** Ask people to bring in old newspapers and magazines. Work together to create a collage by cutting out as many photos of people as you can find. Stick these together creatively on a large sheet of paper. Read Jonah 4: 10 – 11 and Matthew 9:36. Reflect – do you have compassion for people or has your heart grown cold? Repent of wrong attitudes and ask God to give you a heart of compassion. Pray that churches in your community will care for people on your doorstep. Ask God to show you how your group can show compassion.

**Modelling clay:** Give each person a piece of play dough or modelling clay. Ask them to shape a model to symbolise someone or something that is of great concern to them. Pray in twos or in small groups.

**Cut and restored:** Give each person a piece of string and a pair of scissors. Ask them to cut the string in half. Ask them to think of any broken relationships in their life (with family members, colleagues, friends, neighbours, church members, other churches, etc.). Take time individually to confess wrong attitudes, unforgiveness or anything that has caused these broken relationships. Symbolically tie the string together as you ask God to bring healing and restoration.

Take time to pray together about broken relationships in your community whether within families or on a large scale. Pray for healing and reconciliation.

**Coins:** Hand out coins to each person. Take time to reflect on your attitudes towards money. If appropriate, read relevant Bible passages about giving etc. Pray together that the love of money will not rule over you. Pray for specific financial needs and ask God how you should help to respond to these needs.

**Wipe out:** Using pencil, write problems or issues of concern on a large sheet of paper. These could be problems in your local community or region or on a national or international level (e.g. violence, domestic abuse, suicide, drugs, etc.). Take time to pray about each individual problem. As you do so, use an eraser to rub out the pencil words symbolically. Pray specifically for people or groups that are responding to these problems.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
Philippians 4:6

**Newspaper prayers:** Encourage people to bring in copies of local or national newspapers. Look through the papers and take time in small groups to pray for specific issues of concern. You may want to cut out the articles and pin them to a pin board or stick them to a large sheet of paper.

**Write a psalm:** The Psalmists in the Bible wrote out their deepest feelings in prayer and praise to God. Encourage people to write their own psalm to express where they are right now. At the end, some people may feel able to read out their psalms as an encouragement to others (but do not force this).

**Graffiti wall:** Cover one wall with large sheets of paper. Provide a selection of marker pens, etc. Encourage people to write up their prayers.

**Football prayers:** Stand in a circle. Throw the football from one person to the next. As each person catches the ball, they should stop and pray for a different country in the world or county in Ireland.

**Taste and pray:** Select one or two countries. Ask people to provide some food from those countries e.g. Belgian chocolate, French cheese, Indian curry, Mexican tortillas, etc. As you taste the food from each country, pray for these countries.

**“I will build my Church”:** Work together to build a church out of Lego, Duplo or building bricks. Pray for places in the world where there is no church or the church is facing persecution or difficulties. Think about church leaders and others who are working to establish new churches in difficult places. Ask God to encourage and protect them.

**No entry:** Draw or paint a huge ‘no entry’ sign on a large sheet of card or paper. Discuss the problem of visa restrictions stopping workers from going to some of the more needy parts of the world. Give out post-it notes (or paper and blue tack / tape) to each person. Ask people to get into groups of two and pray for God to open the door for more people to serve Him by providing visas. As they pray, ask them to write ‘VISA GRANTED’ on the post-it note and then go and stick it on top of the no entry sign. Eventually the sign should be almost covered with ‘visas’!