

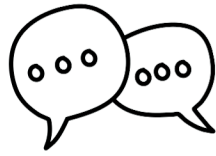
FIRST THINGS FIRST

MAKING PRAYER STICKS

LEADER'S GUIDE

This school holiday pack invites children to create a resource to help them enter into and grow a rhythm of prayer, so you won't find a pack of printable pages here. Instead, here's the breakdown of the quick prep you'll need to do to get these packs ready...

1. Print a copy of the following instruction page for each child/pack.
2. Assemble a set of ice-block sticks and a small jar for each pack. The sticks can be picked up fairly inexpensively from a craft store (or are there some stashed in a supply cupboard somewhere?!). You could use recycled jars crowdsourced from your congregation!
3. For each pack, gather some coloured markers for writing on the sticks, and some craft supplies for decorating the jar. Consider coloured paper, stickers, washi tape, a gluestick, puffy paint pens, etc.
4. Think about where the children will work on their prayer sticks and jars – do you need to create a craft-friendly zone? Or could each child be given a tray to work on? You'll know best how to make this work for your congregation and your space!



FIRST THINGS FIRST

MAKING PRAYER STICKS

God promises to always be with us. Even though we can't see God, sometimes we catch a whiff of His presence with us. Sometimes we hear Him whispering to us as the trees wave in the wind or through the words of someone else. God chooses to be with us. And we can choose to be with God too. We can talk with and listen to God – that's prayer!

Today, we will make some prayer sticks. They will help us think of... some ways to listen to God & some things to talk to God about!

1. Write on some of the ice-block sticks something you want to talk to God about. Some ideas are:

- Something I'm worried about
- Something I'm grateful for
- A friend
- Someone from school
- Something new in my life
- Something I'm excited about



2. Write on the rest of the ice-block sticks some ways you can try listening for God's voice. Some ideas are:

- Imagine yourself in a fav place with Jesus. Listen.
- Breathe in, say, "God, You are here." Breathe out, say, "God, I am here."
- Go outside. Listen.

3. Decorate your jar – you might like to use words, symbols or pictures! What things might remind you of God and prayer?



4. PRAY! Take your jar home and each day/night, pick a different ice-block stick each day/night and spend a few minutes talking with and listening to God. You might like to invite someone in your family to pray with you!