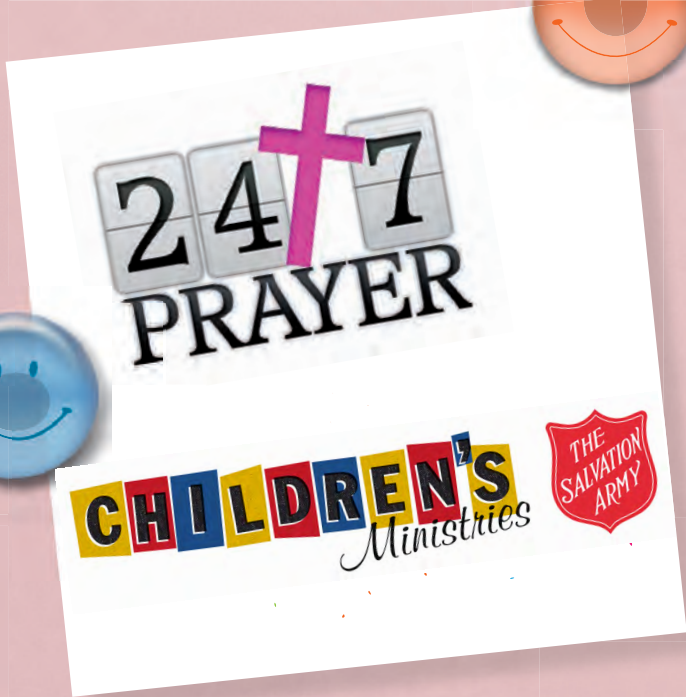


# PRayer MaNuaL



Thanks  
Salvos  
You have helped  
my family

The Salvation Army  
Australia  
3001

Welcome to the 24/7 Prayer kids' manual for 2010/2011. 24/7 Prayer event in your church is a wonderful opportunity for all to engage in a variety of intentional activities that highlight prayer and how vast and varied it can be. I like the term '24/7 prayer' not only for the specific time frame that your church chooses to engage with the event but also as a metaphor for engaging with God 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, any time and anywhere. In this manual you will find some creative prayer ideas, ideas for engaging with prayer as a family, as well as a couple of kids' church lesson plans. These show that prayer and connecting with God fit into every aspect of our days and the natural rhythm of life. I pray that you will take some of these ideas and adapt them, or create some of your own ideas that will highlight to children the importance of prayer and the variety of ways we can connect with God and others. Pray without ceasing 24/7.

Blessings,  
Tracey Davies  
Territorial Children's Ministry Secretary

## SHOPPING LIST

fruit  
milk  
tea



**PRAY**  
**UNTIL SOMETHING**  
**HAPPENS**

In this manual you will find four sections of resources for prayer with children in different settings:

- **Creative Prayer Ideas**
- **Family Resources**
- **Kids church lesson #1**
- **Kids church lesson #2**

These ideas are just a sample—a drop in the ocean—of ways to engage children and those around them in prayer activities.

The resources don't have to be used only in the way they are presented, please use them as a springboard for other ideas or incorporate them into

different areas of ministry, e.g. the kids church lessons can be easily adapted into a family worship service.

The Creative Prayer ideas can be use in a number of different formats:

- during kids church
- as a prayer station—in kids church or in a church service where adults and children are encouraged to pray together
- in a prayer room that might be set up for the 24/7 Prayer period for your church

I encourage you to make strong connections with the person responsible for the 24/7 Prayer event at your church and, in particular, those responsible for setting up any prayer rooms or stations. Work as a team so that the range of creative opportunities for prayer will engage the kids as well as the adults of your church.

The family activities can be used and organized in a number of ways. They can be directed by the church (which is a great way to encourage and support families in their spiritual conversations and activities at home), or you could print off the sheet for families to engage with at home, or you could do a combination of both.

If families are given the sheet, you can make links, suggestions or provide other materials to help them participate in prayer activities at home.

It is so important for church communities to encourage, support and equip parents as they engage with their children in spiritual matters.

You can encourage them by placing prayer ideas in the newsletter or incorporating new prayer methods in worship. Share prayer ideas and follow up with stories of how these methods were used. Connect with the kids church team and make links.

24/7 Prayer is a great opportunity to support families as they engage with prayer and create new prayer traditions within their family and church 'family'.



## WHATS GOING ON

On a table covered with butchers paper place a large sheet of a calendar (you can create a calendar sheet on the computer and place the details in the box starting with the day the activity will take place, through to the end of the month).

Provide on the table good markers/textas/crayons/pastels and a range of stickers.

Encourage people to think about what is happening in the coming weeks;

- Things that need prayer
- Exciting things
- Scary things
- Things that need preparation
- Celebrations
- Appointments

Add these to the calendar by drawing a line from the box that corresponds with the date and write, draw or add stickers for the things that you want to pray for.

## SAY IT WITH CLAY

You can use a number of materials for this activity; you can use real clay, paperclay, plasticine or playdough.

You can provide a theme and then ask people to make something out of the clay to represent what they are praying for or you can ask them to make a model of a person and pray for that person while they are putting it together.

## IMAGES

You can place butchers paper on the wall, on an easel, pinboard or table for this activity.

Choose a range of images that will encourage the children to think and pray. These might be images of;

- Nature
- 3rd world
- Other children
- A particular theme
- Black and white photo's.
- Photocards

or

You can provide newspapers and appropriate magazines and get children to find images of current topics or images connected with a particular topic. Cut these out, stick them on and write or draw comments and prayers.

## KIDS PRAYERS

Provide a table with a range of paper, textas (writing and drawing implements), stickers etc.

Encourage the children to write or draw prayers, you might give them a topic or a specific type of prayer eg: Praise, thankfulness.

Take photos of the prayers as well as display them somewhere in the church foyer. Use the photo's in a powerpoint during the prayer segment of the service. It is important for the minister in the service.

# CREATE PRAYER

## STACKING WALL

You can use a number of objects to build a wall; small boxes, cardboard tubes/rolls, plastic containers etc.

In order to write or draw on these you can cover them with paper or place large label stickers on them.

Write a prayer on the item and add to the building/wall creating a sense of strength and working together.

You can have some sample prayers already at the base showing a particular theme or focus. You might like to have one of the items with "Jesus" or "God" on it and placed in the foundation row - reinforcing that our foundation be built on them.

## CARTOON STRIP

You can provide a communal sheet of paper for this activity or individual sheets. You might like to draw a strip of boxes for the images to be drawn in.

Encourage people to draw their prayer in the form of a cartoon strip adding words in bubbles to help express the prayer if desired.

You can provide a topic or a range of scripture passages, stories or parables for the cartoons to be created from.

## REMEMBER TO PRAY

Provide a range of card or paper for the children to write or draw something that this week they want to pray for. You might like to print a heading or boarder on this card.

Encourage the children to place these cards on the fridge as a reminder to pray for this person, event or situation.

## PRAISE PRAYERS

Table covered with butchers paper or large sheet of plain paper.

- Statements below written out and stuck on to the butchers paper.
- Leave plenty of space around the statements for people/children to write and draw their additions.

"God you are awesome because..."

"You make me feel because..."

(You might like to substitute awesome for a number of different words depending on the age of the children).

# TIVE IDEAS

## MAKE IT STICK

Sticky note wall - using either a large easel or butchers paper on the wall or pin board.

Have a specific theme for each time you use it. Place the theme in the middle of the paper and put a few example prayers around it.

Use a range of bright coloured sticky notes - you can purchase a number of bright coloured sticky notes in a range of shapes.

## STORYBOARD PRAYER

Someone to start prayer and the next person will add something by writing or drawing their addition.

- Big butchers paper hanging on the wall with good quality sharpies/textas/markers/available crayons/pastels.
- Good to have two sheets on the go for people/children to add to.
- Can also be done on a whiteboard or blackboard or using a range of bright coloured sticky notes with line attaching to add to the paper.

## PHOTO ALBUM

You could use a small/ mini photo album or a notebook of similar size that you can place photo's or images in.

Each month our church chose names of people connected with our church out of a basket and pray for them over the coming weeks. You can do something similar with photos, perhaps each week choosing a photo out of a tub/basket/box as you enter or leave church and add it to the photo album or notebook.

There might be times when you would like to add particular images or words to direct what you would encourage the families to be praying for.

## FRIDGE GALLERY

Important things we need to remember usual find their way to the front of the fridge or perhaps as a prominent pin board.

Create a certain place or choose a particular magnet that will hold cards, photo's, images, words or reminders to pray.

As a family you might like to write or draw some topics, people or events that you think you would like to pray for over the next few weeks. Take turns in choosing a card to hang on the fridge or place on the pin board that you can pray for over the next couple of days.

## FAMILY ACTIV ID

## YOUR TURN

For this family prayer activity you can use a white board, blackboard or a sheet of paper stuck on the fridge or pinboard.

Take turns to write part of the prayer for the day. You might like everyone in the family to add their part or only a couple on each day. You might like to write your prayer in a spiral starting in the middle and working out or perhaps in a square beginning around the edge of the paper and working in.

If you have very young children for this activity encourage your child to participate by sharing their prayer with you and you writing or drawing their additions.

## PRAYER BOX

This family activity can be linked with kids church or just as a congregational activity.

Provide each family with a box (this can be boxes that you might purchase or collect - a little smaller than a shoebox size is good. If you are on a tight budget you can collect and use shoe boxes. You could also ask each family to bring their own box).

One of the first activities with the box would be to decorate it. Cover with wrapping paper, scrapbooking paper, photo's, stickers, words wtc.

For the first couple of weeks you could provide an item for the prayer box that would help the family to pray together during the week. Eg. A little bag of love heart chocolates or a note or swing tag encouraging the family to pray for people they love. At the end of the week they could eat the treats together.

- A little puzzle piece with a swing tag - encouraging the family to think about something that might be 'puzzling' them. Work together and pray for the next step.

# PRAYER ACTIVITIES/ IDEAS

## PEOPLE CHAIN

You can purchase a number of people 'paper chains' (Riot Art is a good place for these resources) or you could make up and cut out your own.

Send home with each family/household a people chain along with a card of instructions for the week.

You could give them a number of topics or ways that they can use these cutouts. Each person in the family can either write or draw or cutout someone they want to pray for - share with each other why. They might be people we love and are thankful for or they might be people that we find it difficult to love or need to show more care to. They may just be members of our family, extended, church family or friends.



# Kids Church

## Lesson #1 – 24/7 prayer manual

### Big Idea – ‘Stick with Jesus’ (Abiding in Christ)

#### Scripture –

‘Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine,

you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me’ (John 15:4).

### Activity Stations:

#### Family Bumper Stickers –

Quarter-page label stickers, textas and stickers. Encourage the children to create a family bumper sticker that says something great about their family. Provide a couple of examples on the table so the children get the idea.

#### Sticky Note prayer wall –

Prayers encouraging others. Provide bright-coloured sticky notes along with instructions for the children to write an encouraging or positive note/prayer and stick it on the wall/butchers paper/pin board.

#### Games –

Guess Who, Kerplunk, Connect 4 etc.

#### Story Creating –

Provide a range of coloured paper, plain white paper and some glue sticks. Encourage the children to tear and create a picture to show their favourite Bible story or favourite Bible character.

#### Large Muscle –

Spin sticks, balance boards or hopscotch.

### Large Group:

#### Connecting In:

Bring a piece of branch that has a rose, flower, blossom or fruit attached to it.

‘I brought my branch to show you my flower/blossom/fruit, I am very excited about this and can’t wait for more flowers/blossom/fruit to grow on my branch. I’m going to put my branch on a shelf at my house and watch the new flowers grow.’

Ask the children if they think the branch will still grow and produce stock.

(Hopefully) someone will comment that it won’t, because the branch is already cut off. Check if the whole group agrees with this conclusion.

Ask them: ‘I wonder what a plant needs to grow properly and well?’

(Let the children think about this and then they will be able to engage with the questions later in the lesson.)

#### Chocky Challenge:

Print out two pictures/photos, perhaps of some of the children. Cut images into a number of pieces to create a puzzle.

This activity could be done by a couple of individuals or a couple of small groups of 2 or 3 children. The challenge is to be the first group, using blu-tac, to stick the whole photo correctly on the board.

#### • Songs:

- Choose one or two songs, depending on the time you have available.
- ‘Rooftops’ – Have You Heard? (Promiseland, Willow Creek Association)
- ‘Every Move I Make’ – Every Move I Make (Promiseland, Willow Creek Association)
- ‘Boom-Chaka-Laka’ (Overflowing) – Deliberate Kids (Phil Joel)





## Large Group: CONTINUED...

### Teaching:

You will need: a couple of sets of Christmas lights and a range of Christmas decorations (it's good if most of them need to be plugged in), extension cord and power board.

'Who loves Christmas? What are some things that tell us that it is Christmas time?' (Take a few answers from the children – presents, carols, decorations etc.)

'I love fairy lights, driving past houses and seeing the light displays. Who likes to decorate their house with lights at Christmas time? Lots of people now like to add each year to their display with a new set of Christmas lights or add some new decorations.'

'I have some Christmas/fairy lights/decorations here and we are going to

make a little bit of a display.'

Choose a couple of children and leaders to come out the front to help with and be the display – start with the leaders standing with their arms spread out get the children to put the decorations on them like they were a tree or the outside of a house, you could use chairs or other items in the kids church room as well. Finish the display by adding some decorations (not lights) to the children that are helping you (none of the lights are plugged in at this stage). Get the other children watching to give you a score out of 10 for your display.

'What is missing from our display today?' (Obviously the lights are not plugged in.)

'Well I think that the display is lovely, we have tinsel, baubles etc. that make it feel like Christmas, I think it looks great.

Do you think it would be better if we plugged the lights in?

'Christmas lights aren't true Christmas lights unless they are plugged in. We don't see the true effect unless they are connected to the electricity.'

Read – 'Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me' (John 15:4).

'I wonder, if Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, what sort of fruit will we produce? Let's divide into our small groups and have a closer look at this verse.'

## Small Groups:

### Questions/Activity

(provide each small group leader with a card that has all the questions on it)

You will need some paperclay, playdough or plasticine for this small-group time. While you are working through the questions give the children a small piece of the clay and ask them to make a branch with some fruit on it. Have an A4 sheet of paper with the verse printed or written on it and placed in the middle of the circle.

- I wonder what ... (STILL NEEDS TEXT – 4 DOT POINTS???)
- (Small group questions can be used with any age group – you may need to reword the questions slightly but they are all questions that can be engaged with at any level of understanding and experience.)

### Prayer –

Give the children the opportunity to pray, help them to build this into their kids church routine, help to make it easy and comfortable. Provide each small group with a large piece of butchers paper, a range of sticky notes and pen or textas. Write 'When I stick with Jesus I see...' in the middle of the butchers paper and encourage the children to write something good that they see about themselves and stick it around the statement on the paper.

### Take Home –

Prayer Boxes (refer to the family prayer ideas section of the manual)

Talk with the kids about using the prayer boxes at home and the items that might be added and used to help with prayer ideas at home. Encourage the children to talk with their parents about prayer.



# Kids Church

## Lesson #1 – 24/7 prayer manual

### Big Idea – ‘Come On In’ (Entering God’s Presence)

#### Scripture –

Psalm 100, Psalm 92:1-2 - ‘Lord, it is good to praise you. Most High God, it is good to make music to honor you.’

It is good to sing every morning about your love. It is good to sing every night about how faithful you are.’

### Activity Stations:

#### Creating the Space –

provide the children with a range of resources, coloured fabric, balloons & other special items. Encourage the children to arrange the room like someone special is coming.

#### Writing Invitations –

provide a range of paper, stickers, textas, pens etc. for the children to create invitations. Encourage them to make an invitation

for someone to attend a special occasion with a special guest. Provide a few ideas to help the children get started.

#### Games –

Guess Who, Kerplunk, Connect 4 etc.

#### Exciting Word Wall –

cover part of your wall with some black fabric and place some butchers paper or bright-



coloured card on the fabric. Encourage children to paint words that show excitement/praise, e.g. awesome, fantastic, spectacular.

#### Music –

have party or celebration music playing in the background.

### Large Group:

#### Connecting In:

‘This morning someone special, someone famous, is going to join us. What do you think we need to do to get ready? Some of you have set up some of the room; do we need to do anything else? What things will we do with them? What food will we eat? What will we say, how will we speak?’

Get the kids to make some suggestions for these questions, you can write them up if you like so that you can come back to some of the comments later. Remember that this is just connecting in, bringing in the theme, getting the kids to start thinking so that they will be ready to engage further with the discussion and activities.

#### Chocky Challenge:

Balloon Stuff

You will need 4 children and 2 pairs of long johns or stretchy pyjamas and two large garbage bags of balloons already blown up. Divide the children into two teams. One child in each of the teams should dress themselves in the long johns (just pull them on over their clothes). One child should be at the front of the room, and the balloons and the other child should be at the back of the room. The challenge is, in one minute, to get as many balloons into the long johns as possible, one balloon at a time. Once finished, use a safety pin to pop and count how many balloons are in each set of long johns.

#### Songs:

Choose 1 or 2 songs depending on the time you have available.

- ‘Rooftops’ – Have You Heard? (Promiseland, Willow Creek Association)
- ‘Royalty’ – Super Strong God (Hillsong)
- ‘Know You Better’ – Deliberate Kids (Phil Joel)

## Large Group: CONTINUED...

### Teaching: Interviews

Invite 3 or 4 different people in to be interviewed for the teaching – you don't want to spend too much time on each topic but you also want to get the point across. You will want to interview someone on 'going to school', 'playing a sport', 'learning an instrument' and 'preparing for a party or special event'.

The questions that you need to ask them will cover:

- What preparation needs to be done in relation to these situations or events?

- Who, in these situations, do you show respect to and why?
- What sorts of things are you listening for in these situations?
- Who and how do you engage during these situations or events?

At the end of the interview thank those people who have come to share with the children today and pose the question 'I wonder what sort of

preparation you might do for some of the situations and events that we have just been hearing about?'

Break into small groups to explore this further.

## Small Groups:

### Questions/Activity

(provide each small group leader with a card that has all the questions on it)

What preparation/things do you do to get ready for school?

What things do you do to get the most out of what is happening at school?

I wonder if you do the same sort of preparation in getting ready to come to church?

How do we show God we love being with him? How do we show him we think he is special and love him?

I wonder if there is anything that we could do differently?

(Small group questions can be used with any age group – you may need to reword the questions slightly but they are all questions that can be engaged with at any level of understanding and experience.)

### Prayer -

Give an opportunity for the kids to pray about how they feel about God joining them/God being with them – you might like to start the prayer and then get them to say a word e.g. 'Thank you God for joining us today, I feel .....when I get to spend time with you.'

### Take Home -

Provide an A3 or A4 sheet of paper for each family with 'Being with God' placed in the middle of the sheet. Encourage each of the family members throughout the week to add their comments by writing them in bright-coloured textas or writing them on a brightly coloured sticky note and placing them around the outside of the sheet e.g. "love it", "secure", "spending time with a friend". Place the sheet on the fridge so that they can be reminded of these during the week as well as adding more notes as they reflect on the theme.



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PRAYER

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