



**PRAYING
TOGETHER**

He Waka Eke Noa

Church Resource Pack 2024



Te Ope Whakaora

PRAYING TOGETHER PACK

Ideas to pray together in your setting!

Prepared by the Territorial Spiritual Life Team and Mission Resources Department.

2024

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INTRODUCTION:

We've collated a large range of ideas to help you with engaging with our territorial initiative Praying Together in your setting. Our suggestion is to look through and find a couple of ideas that you could adapt in your setting. Whatever you choose to do to acknowledge this time in your setting, our top recommendations are:

- 1. Do it well:** Whatever you do, do it well. Stick to one or two ideas and make them great!
- 2. For the community:** Cater your event for your local community.
- 3. The right time:** Think about the times of your services, events and gatherings – are these accessible to new people, families etc. Choose times for your activities with this in mind and advertise well!
- 4. What's next?** However you choose to mark this time in your setting, figure out what's next? What's the follow up for visitors? What could they take home to remind them of their experience? What is the next service/event/activity you'll invite people to? What's your next series – is it relevant?

SONG IDEAS

A range of songs that you could use in your gathering.

- Give thanks to the Lord (SASB 363)
- How deep the Father's love for us (SASB 52)
- I exalt thee
- Cornerstone
- Reckless Love
- High as the sky (SASB 29)
- Will your anchor hold (SASB 450)
- God's love is as high as the heavens (SASB 24)
- Beauty for ashes
- Great is thy faithfulness
- How great thou art
- He's got the whole world in his hands
- Read your Bible, pray every day (different languages)
- Be like a tree (Sarah's song)

FIJIAN

- Tabamuni (Oceans rise and thunders roar) <https://youtu.be/8S92bJMu5d8?si=lbsb7JnZWYZmaRe>
- Noqu Kalou au gadrevi kemuni (I need your love) <https://youtu.be/Yu8sHdpupMs?si=QyIF46DJuCpt-JUE>
- Au na tudei (I will exalt you, when you are with me, I will stand firm) <https://youtu.be/0ovcg9PAcac?si=uy1ki8prHYScB9w1>

TONGAN

- 'Oku 'ia Kalaisi pe He folofola mo'ui. In Christ only the Living Word!
- Ko hai ha taha 'e piki ma'u pe? Sisu pe, Sisu pe. Who's going to hold on? Jesus, Jesus
- Ko e 'ofa hulu si'o 'ofa 'Eiki. Lord, your abundant Love!

SAMOAN

- Le Alii e le Atua e ([Eddie Tualapini - Le Ali'i E \(Pese 5\) E.F.K.S. Traditional Samoan Christian Hymn \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...))
- O Oe le Tupu Moni ([O oe le Tupu moni Iesu e na'o oe: SAMOA CYBER AUFAIPESE Project 7 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...))
- Faamalolosi, tau le taua lelei [Peace Chapel - Faamalosi \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

SERMON IDEA

Sermon outline by Captain Kenneth Walker

This is a basic sermon outline - make sure to adapt the following for use in your context, add your own illustrations, add to each point etc.

Based on Ephesians 3:17b – 19

Strong Foundations, Growing in Faith, Producing Fruit

INTRODUCTION

If you were round in the 80's, you would have heard the word 'Rad' used to describe all sorts of things. Anybody remember that? What did you use it for?

The slang term "rad" is used to describe something that is **extremely exciting or good**. It is synonymous with "awesome" or "cool".

Some people thought it was used as a short form of the word radical, as in the adjective; (especially of change or action) relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough, however, those people were not rad!

As it happens, radicle, which sounds just like radical, is the name given to the first root that emerges from the seed at germination. And that my friends is a truly a radical change – a dormant seed coming to life and growing into a plant. It's both rad, radical and radicle (literally). The radicle heads downwards before the seed leaves head upwards.

(show a clip of a seed germinating – there are lots on youtube)

Our text for the day is Ephesians 3:17b – 19 which indicates a process of being rooted, growing, and becoming mature (fruitful bearing in plant terms)

STRONG FOUNDATION

V17...being rooted and established in love...

Life change (radical/radicle) happens at salvation/new birth/conversion, a baptism of love

Anchoring oneself in Christ through good biblical teaching (being teachable) Col 2:6-7

Drinking in the Spirit... staying hydrated and growing by/through prayer, meditation, worship

The soil of our lives (what we surround ourselves with/in) must support/sustain growth. What are you doing to ensure you are living in good soil and allowing your roots to grow deep?

GROWING IN FAITH

V18...Grasping (understanding) love (how wide, long, high and deep)

Understanding the good news, grace, truth and love will result in growth Col 1:6

Love and Faith grow together, one is evidenced by the other. 2 Thes 1:3

Growing has purpose – it's not just for growths sake, it is to support fruit. Luke 13:6-9

Staying connected to the vine (Jesus) is essential (John 15: 1-4)

Fellowship, Worship, Compassionate Service all assist in growing faith on the foundation of love, trust and obedience.

How do you foster growth in faith and love? What do you do?

PRODUCING FRUIT

V19...filled to the measure of all the fullness of God – being love

Staying connected to Jesus will result in fruitfulness (John 15), however you should expect a little pruning to assist in the process.

The fruit of love. God is love; we must love. 1 John 4:7

The fruit of holy living. God is Holy, we must be Holy 1 Peter 1:16

Fruitfulness as in evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) and fruitfulness as in kingdom gains (parable of the talents Matt 25: 14-30)

What fruit are you seeing from your life of faith and love? What do others see when they observe you?

If you are fruitless, what are you going to do about it?

CONCLUSION

Strong Foundations – rooted in love

Growing in Faith – grasping the enormity of God's love by living in it (trust & obey)

Producing Fruit – being filled with the full measure of God (being love)

...but these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:13

PRAYER STATIONS/ACTIVITIES

Below are ideas that can be used as either: one off prayer activities within your service; as prayer stations; or as part of Prayers in a Bag*.

*Prayers in a Bag can be used at tables, or in groups. Instead of people walking around to different prayer stations provide a bag (or a box/kete) with everything they need to participate in creative prayer together.

PLANT SEEDLINGS

Equipment needed: Small pots/seed starters, potting mix, seeds, masks (for when using dirt, trowels)

Have people plant seeds of any kinds into small pots to take home and grow something that they can then plant out into their gardens. Maybe a flower or food that they can harvest from later.

This represents for them the foundations “**roots growing deeper**” and the plant becoming “**stronger**” as it is nurtured and feed.

PAPER CHAIN PRAYERS

Equipment needed: Coloured Paper (lots of different colours) staplers and/or tape to join the chain, Pens or felts.

Cut the paper into 3cm or 4cm strips that are the width of an A4 sheet of paper. Get people to write a prayer onto the pieces and then add them together to form one ‘**growing**’ chain of prayers.

CRAFTING A CROSS

Equipment needed: Craft supplies – ie. Sequins, beads, buttons, beads, paints, fabric, coloured paper etc – glue, scissors, tape and card.

Using any of the craft supplies create a cross either by gluing to card etc or using the items themselves to become a cross. As the craft item “**grows**” prayers can be prayed or added somehow to the creation. Ideas from [Cross Craft Ideas](#)

WRITE A SONG

Equipment: Paper, pens, music manuscript pages.

Invite people to write the words and/or tune for a song that will help people to “**Grow in Faith**”.

ROCK PRAYERS/WORDS/SCRIPTURE

Equipment: Rocks of different sizes with flat area to write on, vivid or sharpie markers.

Write a **“foundational”** word of faith, prayer or scripture onto the rock adding any art that might be inspired by the words written.

[Rock Prayer - Words - Scripture example](#)

COLOURING IN

Equipment: Prayerful colouring pages and/or mandala pages, colouring pencils

Participants practice helping them to **“grow”** in mindfulness and praying in **“faith”** while colouring in. Find an example here [Religious Doodles](#)

LEGO PRAYERS – PRAYERS BUILDING UP THE LAYERS

Equipment: Lego or Duplo bricks as many as you can

A Lego/Duplo brick represents a person’s prayer and as a Corps these are all added to a wall that grows on its **“strong foundation”** that allows for multiple layers to be added. If using Duplo words could be added to the bricks with whiteboard marker or stickers. Other ideas go to [Lego \(or Duplo\) Prayers](#)

CREATE A PRAYER TREE - LEAVES OR FLOWERS AS PRAYERS

Equipment: Card in greens and flower colours cut into appropriate shapes (leaves, petals or flowers), a “trunk or stem” of card or paper towel rolls, pens, scissors, staplers, or tape to attach prayers to stem.

Ask people to write prayers for others to **“Grow in faith and build strong foundations”**. Attach the leaves to a trunk to create a physical tree or prayers or flowers to a stem to create a physical bush of prayers. Find some ideas here [Flower Templates](#) or [Leaf Printable Template](#)

PAPER FLOWER GARDEN PRAYERS

Equipment: Paper or card in colours for flowers printed with a flower image, skewers or chopsticks for stems, scissors, tape, staplers, oasis or dirt.

On the flower image write prayers about **“growing”** then cut it out and create the flower shape. Attach these to a stem and create a flower garden. Example of folding flowers here [Folding Paper Flowers](#)

MAP OF COMMUNITY

Equipment: Map of the community in which you worship, pens, post it notes or pins.

If as a group/corps you did a prayer walk as part of the Prayer Summit, participants of the prayer walk mark on the map the places prayed. If not, then use the post it notes and write prayers for

places and pin them on or near places in the community. Prayers for a “strong” community, with people “growing” towards and in faith.

PRAYER WALL

Equipment: Empty wall or notice/white board. Paper, post its, whiteboard pens, pins, or blutack.

People to write prayers out on paper or directly onto a whiteboard about “growth and foundations” and to attach them to a wall.

PRAYER BOX

Equipment: Box to post prayers into, paper & pens.

Participants write out prayers and place them in the box. At some point in the future the box is opened and the prayers are read out and answers to prayer can be celebrated “growing our faith”.

LABYRINTH

Finger Labyrinth Equipment. Print outs of a finger labyrinth.

Using the information here - [Praying a Finger Labyrinth](#) – use a finger labyrinth as a prayer exercise to build the “foundation” of our faith.

Large Labyrinth Equipment: Rope or chalk or duck-tape, large space to map out a labyrinth.

Map out a labyrinth on the ground using the rope, chalk or tape using one of the patterns from [Labyrinth Designs](#) or one of your own choosing. On the way in pray about _____ in the centre pray about _____ on the way out pray for _____

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

A range of prayers to use as for responsive prayer times.

Pastoral Prayer: Ephesians 3: 16-19 ([re:Worship: Pastoral Prayer: Ephesians 3: 16-19 \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](http://re:Worship: Pastoral Prayer: Ephesians 3: 16-19 (re-worship.blogspot.com)))

We bow our hearts before You, Father God.
You are the Creator of everything we see
in heaven and on earth.

*We pray that out of Your glorious, unlimited resources,
You would strengthen our hearts and minds
through the power of Your Holy Spirit.*

May Your love be the rich soil in which our lives are rooted.
May Your love be the firm foundation on which we build,
so that, together with all Your people everywhere,
we would come to truly understand how long, how high,
how wide and how deep Your love really is—
how it far surpasses anything we can imagine.

*God, fill us with the fullness and the power
that comes from You alone,
so that our lives would reflect your goodness and grace
to the world around us. Amen.*

More than we can measure or imagine by Terry Falla (Be our freedom, Lord)

May the Maker of heaven and earth
grant that from the riches of God's glory
you may be strengthened in your inner being
with power through the Spirit,
and that through faith Christ may dwell
in your hearts in love.

*With deep roots and firm foundations,
may you, in company with all God's people,
be strong to grasp,*

What is the breadth and length
and height and depth of Christ's love,
and to know it, though it is beyond knowledge.

*And so may you be filled
with the very fullness of God.*

Now to the one who by the power at work
within us is able to accomplish
immeasurably more than all
we can ask or imagine.

*Be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Love as Warm as Tears by CS Lewis

Love's as warm as tears,
Love is tears:
Pressure within the brain,
Tension at the throat,
Deluge, weeks of rain,
Haystacks afloat,
Featureless seas between
Hedges, where once was green.

Love's as fierce as fire,
Love is fire:
All sorts – infernal heat
Clinkered with greed and pride,
Lyric desire, sharp-sweet,
Laughing, even when denied,
And that empyreal flame
Whence all loves came.

Love's as fresh as spring,
Love is spring:
Bird-song hung in the air,
Cool smells in a wood,
Whispering, "Dare! Dare!"
To sap, to blood,
Telling "Ease, safety, rest,
Are good; not best."

Love's as hard as nails,
Love is nails:
Blunt, thick, hammered through
The medial nerves of One
Who, having made us, knew
The thing He had done,
Seeing (with all that is)
Our cross, and His.

OTHER RESOURCES AND IDEAS

A list of other resource options available.

- Local person doing a testimony on answers to prayers or how they pray
- Children's Video based on [Ephesians 3:17-19 \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Faith is like planting a seed animated Children's Story [Bing Videos](#)
- The re: Worship website has an extensive list of written prayers that could be used for various parts of your gathering <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>
- A range of other resources can be downloaded on the Praying Together website (including prayer tips for specific prayer groups or events) <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/church-community/praying-together>
- A range of sung worship videos can be downloaded via the Mission Resources Hub: <https://tsanzf.sharepoint.com/sites/MissionResources>

TAKE HOME IDEAS

Have a think what you could provide for people to take home and remember your time together.

- Design a card that people can take with them to help them learn to pray with expectancy
- Using biodegradable seed paper write a message of encouragement or the scripture verse of the meeting for people to take home. This can then be planted in gardens and with care and water will grow.
- Make bookmarks with seeds or leaves on it including Ephesians 3: 17b – 19
- Provide prayer points that people could focus on for that week
- Encourage people to check out the Praying Together website
- Encourage people to join the next Praying Together prayer time
- Have invitations to your next prayer event or initiative – like the Prayer Course (Pete Greig) or a prayer night etc.
 - <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/the-prayer-course/>
 - <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/the-prayer-course-ii/>

THINGS TO CONSIDER CHECKLIST

A checklist of things to consider when you're preparing for your Praying Together events, activities, and services.

The people:

- Who is your event for – is it an in-house event, for your local community or both?
- How will you communicate about your gathering? To your congregation? To your community?
- How is your gathering catering for: kids, families, older people, teens, singles, Christians, visitors?
- How many volunteers will you need to run the event?

The event:

- How will you advertise? Facebook, local schools/clubs, posters, Eventbrite? How will you resource your people to share about the event?
- Have you checked dates with other local calendars / events?
- Have you considered the budget for this event? What will you need to do to find the money needed?
- Have you considered any safety needs / issues?
- How could you partner with other churches or community groups?
- Have you checked your event aligns with our bicultural partnership and tikanga best practice?

The environment:

- How will you communicate about your facilities - toilets, other important locations, safety?
- Have you considered the type of language you will be using? Remember, you will have visitors!
- Have you looked around and through your building? How does this look to new people?
- How will people be welcomed to your event/service?
- When / how will you communicate around how long your event will be to attendees?

The effectiveness:

- What are your desired outcomes for your event/service? Will your plans help you get there?
- Is there a simple phrase, an experience or takeaway that you would like attendees to remember from your gathering? How will you emphasise this?
- What are the next steps for visitors? What is your next event/service that you could invite them to? What are the next steps for those already attached to your corps/centre?
- Will you give a takeaway to attendees? What will this be? What will it communicate?
- How will you thank and celebrate your volunteers who have served?