

# Prayer station ideas

Education Sunday 2010

## CALLED TO SERVE

Prayer stations are a good way to help people to pray for the world of education, and they appeal to people of all ages and at different stages in their faith journey. Prayer stations can be interactive, multi-sensory, meditative, challenging, inspiring and more. Try these ideas in your church, perhaps during an all-age worship service or a special Education Sunday prayer event. Keep the stations simple and make sure each one has a clear focus.

### STATION ONE: EDUCATION IN THE LOCAL AREA

Have a map of the local area; this could be your local parish, or the area in which most of your church members live. Put some coloured pens beside the map along with these instructions:

*All around us are places where people learn – in schools, colleges, nurseries and universities. Give thanks for a place of education that you are connected to – as a pupil or former pupil, a teacher, a governor, a teaching assistant or in some other role. Mark that place of education on the map, or add your initials if someone else has got there first. Pray for good connections between local churches and these places of education.*

### STATION TWO: LOCAL SCHOOLS

You could set up a prayer station for each school with which the church has links, or wants to develop links. Invite people associated with each school to provide materials for a station, but you don't want this to be at all competitive – schools have enough of that already. Aim for a standard format for each station that's easy to reproduce. For example:

- Include an item of school uniform, for example a school tie or sweatshirt.
- Include the name of the head teacher and any other people from your church who are linked to this school.
- Highlight a current issue that is affecting all schools and how that school is tackling it – teachers will be able to offer advice on this.
- Include an item to give praise and thanks for.
- Include a challenge or new development that the school faces.

You could put these instructions at each of these stations:

*You are invited to stop and pray for this school. Pray for the children and young people at this school to flourish. Pray for wisdom for the future as the school faces challenges and new opportunities. Pray for strong leadership, inspiring teaching and loving service.*

### STATION THREE: ROOTS AND SHOOTS

On a large sheet of paper, draw the outline of a tree with strong roots and bare branches. Cut leaf shapes out of green paper, and place these beside the tree with some pens and sticky tape. Add these instructions:

*Give thanks for the teachers and teaching assistants that you know. Give thanks for youth leaders and children's leaders in our church. Write their names on the roots of the tree as you pray for them. Pray that they would be sustained and strengthened as they invest in the next generation.*

*Pray for children and young people who are currently in education, and for those who are part of the church family. Write their names on the leaves as you pray for them to make the most of the opportunities they have, and to bear much fruit. Stick the leaves to the tree, recognising that the service of the people at the roots contributes to the well being of those on the leaves.*

### STATION FOUR: EDUCATION WITHIN THE CHURCH

Have some chunks of bread on a couple of beautiful plates. Add these instructions:

*Take a piece of bread and pray for those who help you feed on the word of God. Eat the bread as you pray for the Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, house group leaders, preachers and friends who teach from God's word. Pray that they would be sustained as they serve others.*

### STATION FIVE: THINKING ABOUT VOCATION

Make plenty of copies of the gift box template. You will need to cut carefully around each one and then cut down along the solid black line between the two columns of squares on the left hand side – but don't cut between the bottom two squares. Practice making one of these into a gift box – it's easy once you get the hang of it! You may like to position someone at this station to help others with their boxes.

Place some pens beside the templates and these instructions:

*What gifts has God given you to use in your vocation? Think for a few moments and then write them on the blank side of one of these templates. Offer them to God in prayer and ask him to help you use these gifts in his service. You could ask God to give you wisdom as you explore your vocation.*

*Then make your template into a gift box. You'll need to crease along each line and unfold it. Then 'plait' your gift box, folding strand 1 over strand 2, then strand 3 over strand 2 and so on until you can tuck in the final flap. If you get stuck, ask for help – and think about who could help you develop your vocation too! Leave your box here as a symbol of offering your gifts to God.*

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# GIFT BOX TEMPLATE

