

Living the Life of a Disciple: Prayer Service

You will work in small groups to plan one part in a prayer service to conclude this course. One part will be assigned to each small group so that the result is a complete prayer service developed by the class. Use the directions that pertain to your group's assigned part, below, to help you in your planning.

Art and Environment

Your group is charged with creating an atmosphere conducive to prayer. Create a prayer centerpiece for the service using a tablecloth, battery-operated candles, a Bible, and other items to help to set the tone for the service. Write the theme of the service on the board, and draw symbols or pictures to illustrate the focal point.

Music Selections

Working with your teacher, your group must select two appropriate songs for this prayer service: an opening song and a closing song. The theme for the songs could center on working for social justice or taking the message of the Gospel out into the world. Possibilities include "We Are Called to Act with Justice," "Go and Make a Difference," or "Here I Am, Lord."

Call to Worship

Your group is responsible for writing a three- to five-sentence call to worship and reading it at the service. The call to worship should contain the following parts:

- a greeting
- an invitation to prayer
- a statement and explanation of the theme
- a statement of the purpose of the gathering

Scripture Selection and Reading

Your group must select two short Scripture readings (from either the Old Testament or New Testament, or one from each) and the psalm response. You will read these for the service. Choose readings and a psalm response that focus on social justice and ways to spread the Gospel message to the world.

Prayers of Petition

Each member of your group must write a prayer of petition and read it during the prayer service. As a group, select an appropriate response such as "Lord, hear our prayer," for the community to say after each petition.



Sending-Forth Ceremony

Each student in your group must write and read a statement of sending forth to bless and encourage your classmates to go forward to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the world. Here is an example: “You are being sent forth to bring healing to a hurting world, love to a world filled with hate and despair, and justice to an unjust world.” After everyone in the group has read her or his statement to the class, your group will divide up and use the containers of holy water to walk around and make the Sign of the Cross on each person’s palm.

Closing Prayer

Your group must write and read a two- or three-sentence closing prayer focused on going forth to answer God’s call and live the Gospel.

