

# Thy Kingdom Come for Children and Families

- a special time of prayer between Ascension Day and Whitsun (Pentecost)



## Day 1 Introduction

*Thy Kingdom Come* celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. In this time we have been praying *Thy Kingdom Come* to pray for ourselves, the world and that more families might come to know God. Today we think about the Lord's prayer. You might like to say it together as a family.

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

## Day 2 - Day 10

Below you will find 9 activities for you to complete at home during the 9 days of *Thy Kingdom Come*. They can be done in any order.

Please bring any pictures you have created, or photos of your activities, to church and pin them on the wall. You can also have a go at the activities available in church. Our church (All Saints in Cleadon Village) is open Monday - Friday from 9:30 for you to visit.

### Writing in the sand

Write or draw pictures in the sand for the people you want to know about Jesus' love.

Gather as a family and ask God to help each person think of a friend with whom you would like to share the love of Jesus. Using a stick, create pictures in the sand or write the names of the people you are praying for.



### Ripple prayers

Throw a small stone into a puddle, pond or lake and watch the ripples. Notice how the rings gradually spread out from the point where the stone entered the water. Talk about how God's kingdom grows and spreads out.

Now take turns to throw a stone into the water and pray aloud for each person in your group. Finish by throwing a stone in as a family and ask God to show you where your family can be building God's kingdom.



## **Prayer walk**

Pray as you walk around your neighbourhood for God's kingdom to grow and be in these places.

Start by walking in silence for a short while; walk really slowly and pay attention to everything you hear and see. When you reach the agreed point (a lamp post, gate or tree, for example), pause to share what you've seen or heard. Give thanks for anything beautiful and say sorry to God if things are spoilt.

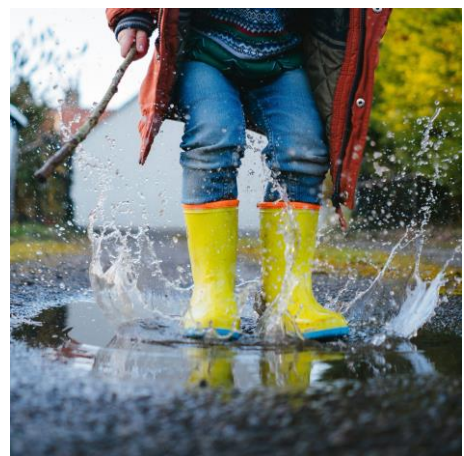
Next, think about how to share God's kingdom in your setting.

Pray for the people in the houses, schools and shops that you pass—that they will come to know God

## **Puddle prayers**

Splashing in puddles is so much fun and you can pray at the same time.

Next time you are out in the rain, don't steer away from the puddles. Instead, spend time splashing around. Imagine each puddle is a different situation or person that you want to know the love of Jesus. As you jump, say the person's name out loud and see how big a splash you can make. Ask God to give you the courage to splash out his love into those places and people.



## Planting seeds

Watching seeds grow over time can help us remember how God's kingdom grows.



**You will need:** some seeds such as cress, mustard seeds or sunflower seeds; small flower pots; small stones; compost; water.

Fill your plant pot with a small layer of stones to help with drainage and then fill up the pot with compost. Take some seeds—for younger children choose some quick growing seeds such as cress or lettuce seeds. If you have more time and patience, go for sunflower seeds. As you plant your seeds in the pot, think about when Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed: the mustard seed is the smallest seed on earth but it grows into a huge tree. Once planted, remember to water your seeds regularly and care for them.

Pray for God's kingdom to grow in your area and through your family to your friends and neighbours. Each seed might represent a different person that you know.

## Skittles painting prayers

Use sweets to pray for Jesus' love to surround friends and family.



**You will need:** Bag of skittles; plate; hot water (not hot enough to scald, but hot enough to make the colour run).

Choose a skittle for each person you are praying for. Arrange the skittles on the plate. Alternatively, you might want to make the initial letter of your prayer person's name out of skittles. Pour some hot water on to the plate to cover its surface. Pour it carefully so that the skittles stay in place. Wait and the skittles will gradually release their colour. As the colour is released, pray that Jesus will surround the people you are praying for with his love.

## **Lego prayers**

Use Lego to pray for people to build a relationship with Jesus.

**You will need:** Lego baseboard; Lego pieces.

Use the Lego to make the initial letter of the name of each person you are praying for. Either build a free-standing letter or make the letter on the baseboard. As you build, pray that your person will know Jesus at work in their lives and will build a relationship with him.

## **Wax resist painting prayers**

Use wax and paint to pray that Jesus will be revealed to friends and family.

**You will need:** White card or paper; white wax crayons or white wax candle; watercolours (or watered down paints); brush

Write the name 'Jesus' or draw Jesus on the paper with the wax crayon or candle. Pray that people who don't know who Jesus is will come to discover how much he loves them. As you pray, paint over the wax and the picture or writing will be revealed in the midst of all the colour.

## **Fun prayer maps**

Make a map of your neighbourhood to help you pray for the people in it.

**You will need:** lengths of string; wool; ribbon; junk cardboard boxes; pens; coloured paper; card.

Starting with your home, make a map of your neighbourhood on the floor or table, stretching out the string, wool or ribbons to be roads and rivers, and using boxes and cardboard shapes to be buildings (schools, offices, hospitals, shops, farms and so on) or geographical features (hills, ponds, parks and so on).

Talk about the people who live around you and pray for them to come to know Jesus by placing your hand on the place on the map where they live or work. Use simple words, like 'Please help X know Jesus' love'.