



## TRAIL MARKER THREE

# Prayer



### Introduction

This Faith Trail marker encourages parents to take the lead in teaching their children how to pray. This session will provide an opportunity for both parents and children to be participants in prayer. Together they will be learning as well as discovering that talking to God is easy!

### Things to do

- Organise name tags.
- Gather supplies for the *Pray and Play* stations.
- Print and collate *My Everyday Prayers* book (see separate document).
- Organise copies of blessing for conclusion of session.
- Make copies of *Helping Children to Pray* (Appendix 1).
- Print poems and attach to teddy bears (see Appendix 3).

### Session Outline

1. Welcome & Warm-up.
2. Naming the Faith Trail marker.
3. Equipping the Parents: Handout
4. Equipping the Children: Pray and Play Stations
5. End of Session Blessing
6. Time of Gifting (see separate file).

### Things you need

- Supplies for the *Pray and Play* stations.
- Music and CD player or musician.
- Tracts from LLL Tract Mission. [www.ltm.org.au](http://www.ltm.org.au)

## Welcome and Warm Up

As the children and parents arrive, have some suitable children's music playing. Invite them to write a nametag for themselves. Ask parents and children to join in singing or dancing to the music. Children will happily join in at this age, particularly if you are singing something that is familiar to them. This will also help children to relax if they are feeling a little anxious.

### Naming: TRAIL MARKER FIVE: Prayer

Invite the adults to sit in a circle of chairs, with children sitting on the floor in front of them or on their lap. Have several copies of the picture of Jesus and the little children so children can look at it during the session.





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Tell the story: *Let the Children Come to Me* (Luke 18:15-17). Plan to read this Bible story from a beginner's Bible, or hold up a picture of Jesus with children and tell the story in your own words.

Ask a few questions of the parents for them to consider: You may invite them to share with the person sitting near them, rather than sharing as a large group.

- What do you know about Jesus?
- What would you like your children to know about Jesus?
- Is there anything stopping your children from coming to Jesus?

## Equipping

### FOR THE PARENTS

Hand out copies of *Helping Children to Pray* (Appendix 1). Spend a few minutes inviting the parents to take this home to read and consider how they might use this information to make prayer part of their everyday life if it isn't already.

## Equipping Activity

### FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

#### Pray and Play Stations

- Individual station supplies
  - **Mealtime Station:** Play food, play tableware—plates, cups etc.
  - **Kindergarten Station:** Paper, crayons, blank cards for writing prayers and/or supplies for children to decorate the front and back page of their *Everyday Prayers* book.
  - **Bedtime Station:** A doll set with crib, blanket, storybook, slippers.
  - **Doctor's Station:** Play medical kit, stethoscope, band-aids.
- Prayer cards: print out A4 prayer cards to display at each station (Appendix 2). Provide enough *My Everyday Prayers* books for each child to take with them as they “play & pray” at that station (see separate document).
- Tell the adults and children that they will have a chance to visit each pray and play station. Briefly explain that families can go to the areas in any order they choose.
- Their activity is to find a way to pray to God about the ordinary things of life that are shown at each station.
- Encourage parents to be imaginative and have some fun with prayer.



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## Blessing

L: Leader  
P: Parents

L: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Welcome as we encourage each other in the discipline of prayer.

### PRAYER

**P: Dear Lord Jesus, you have asked us to grow in our faith through worship, Bible reading and prayer. May this year provide (name of child) with the opportunity to grow in your love. Amen.**

### BIBLE TEXT

L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; For his steadfast love endures forever.  
Psalm 106:1

### RITUAL ACTION

L: Parents make the sign of the cross on the forehead of the child going to school while saying these words,

**P: (Name), Child of God, may your heart be open to learning the Love of Jesus.**

### BLESSING

L: Parents place hand on head or shoulder of child and say together:

**P: (Name), Child of God, may you know the joy of both talking and listening to God in prayer. Amen.**

## Giftng

### AT THE CONCLUSION OF SESSION

**Prayer tracts:** Gift suitable prayer tracts available from the Lutheran Tract Mission. Visit their website [www.ltm.org.au](http://www.ltm.org.au) for available tracts.

### AT TIME OF BLESSING DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

**(See separate document for blessing liturgy.)**

#### Prayer marker pebble

These are available for purchase from:

Dawn Deines-Christensen  
810 Linden Street, Decorah, Iowa, 52101 USA  
Email: [dcprairie@q.com](mailto:dcprairie@q.com)



**Prayer bear:** Gather enough prayer bears for each child.

Print and laminate *Prayer Bear Poem* to attach to each prayer bear (Appendix 3).