



This would also make a brilliant all age service you could ask the church if you can take over a service or ask your adult house group to join it if during the week. Run your session as the intergenerational offering that week.

Safeguarding: you will need to be vigilant and complete a risk assessment that reflects the involvement of other adults.

If you find that this session leads to potential mentoring relationships between adults in the church and the children, we recommend you take time to set this up within a safe and formal structure. Guidance can be found here <https://nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org/resources-for-mentoring-programs/> and we recommend you take advice from your church Safeguarding Officer and Synod CYDO.

Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm
children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen



know the person next to them, they can ask them their name before the ice-breaker begins. They should share one thing about that person

introduce the leader.

Storytelling

Break into small groups of mixed ages. Each group should choose a favourite story from the Bible to re-tell to the rest. It

completely different.

Agree on a creative way to re-tell the story. You could use pictures, puppets, small





good friend, or maybe writing a prayer for the people who are your friends. Below are some ideas that could be included but it is good for everyone to come up with their own prayers.

On the reverse of your hand shape, write the names of people who have encouraged you and helped you and who you want to say thank you to God for.

When everyone has completed their hands, play some quiet music and get everyone to hold their hand between their hands in prayer. Just spend some time quietly thinking about the things you have written or drawn and offering them to God. Fade the music and end with an amen.

Here are some ideas for the praying hand to get you started:

be kind, care for others, be helpful, share, say thank you

Spoken prayer

Using hands to help us pray.

This would work at an all age service or Messy Church. is also a great idea for intergenerational prayer

Encourage the children to sit next to someone who has helped or encouraged them or one of the other members of their group, so that they can pray together.

Dear Jesus

We hold our hands out to you in prayer (*hold out both hands, palms up*) and think about the people who need help.

We hold our hand to one another in friendship (*join hands with partner*) and give thanks for our friends and those who help and encourage us.

Lord Jesus, keep us in your love, (*Join fingertips to make a heart with partner*)

Amen

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond. <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf> so children can choose

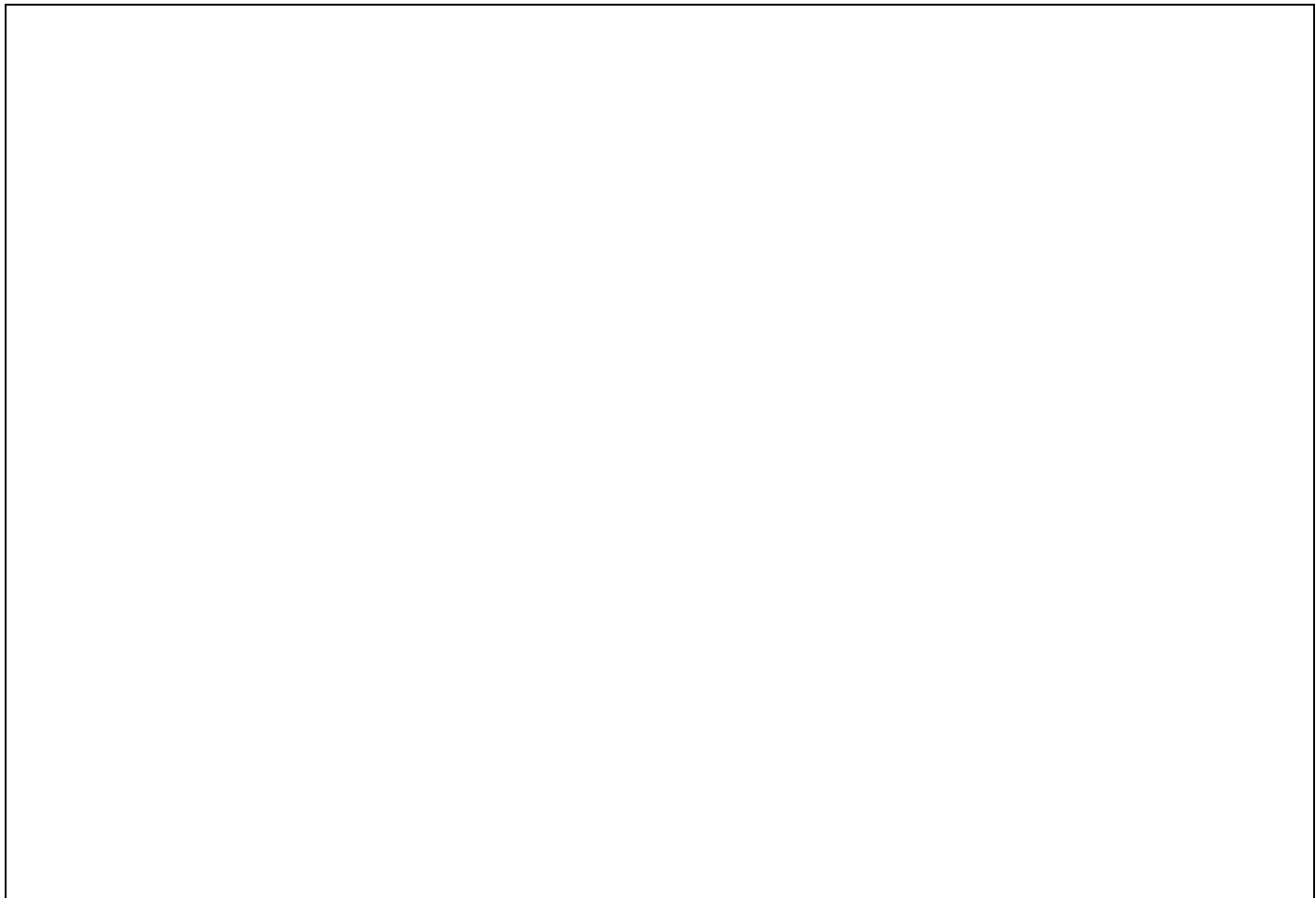


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