

## PATHFINDER PRAYER SERVICE

*Set up: If possible being the service in the light. Arrange benches or chairs for campers to sit in a large circle. A leader and six readers are needed, as well as the following props: a mirror, a globe or map, a branch, pinecone or rock, a couple cans of food, pictures of people, several Band-aids, seven large candles, many small candles and six pie tins or boxes filled with sand. Set up a cross in the center of the circle and the pie tins or boxes should make six stations around the cross. Place a large candle in each sand tray.*

*Each reader enters the circle, speaks their part, lays their object next to a sand tray and then finds a place to sit in the circle. Try not to have people read from the script when introducing the items and make sure the campers can see them clearly. After a responsive reading, campers will be invited to pray at the stations.*

*Musicians should lead campers in songs and play quiet instrumental music during the prayer time.*

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Song

**Leader:** *(when everyone has entered in silence and is seated)* **Welcome to this time of prayer as we gather together tonight around the cross. During this prayer service we will sing together and pray together. In a few moments, speakers will enter our circle, each with a different object to guide our prayers. After all the objects are in place and the large candles are lit, you are invited to go to the various stations and offer up a prayer, using a small rock as a symbol of your prayer and placing it in the sand tray. Let's spend a few moments in silence before our opening song.**

Opening Song

**Reader 1:** *(holds a mirror)* **Look into this mirror and pray for yourself. Pray that you will share Christ's love with others. Thank God for creating you in God's image, a beautiful, blessed and loved child of God.**

**Reader 2:** *(holds a map)* **Pray for our world. Praise God for its many countries and people of all languages and cultures. Pray for peace in our world and for the leaders who govern it.**

**Reader 3:** *(holds a branch, pine cone or rock)* **Pray for God's creation. Ask God to help us take good care of all that God has made. Praise God for the beauty of trees, water, and sky and for all living things.**

**Reader 4:** *(holds canned food)* **Pray for all those who do not have enough to eat or a place to live. There is enough food for all; we just need to learn to share it well. Ask God to use you to help those who are hungry.**

**Reader 5:** *(holds pictures of people)* **Pray for your family and friends. Thank God for the blessing they are to you.**

**Reader 6:** *(holds several Band-aids)* **Pray for those who are sick or hurt. Pray that they will be healed and that we can be like Jesus to them, caring for those who are ill.**

*(Lights out. "Jesus" enters with a candle)*

**Leader:** **Jesus is our light in the darkness. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. Into a world that seems so dark, the light of Christ comes.**

**Leader:** **After each of the following statements, please say, "The light of Christ is with you" after you hear the words, "As promised."**

*(As the leader says each of the following statements the readers light a candle from the candle held by "Jesus" and lights the large candle at the corresponding station.)*

**Leader:** **Beloved children; created in God's image with many gifts. As promised,**

C: The Light of Christ is with you.

**People of the world, of many languages and colors, learn from one another. As promised,**

C: The Light of Christ is with you.

**Every living thing who longs for clean air and a place to live. As promised,**

C: The Light of Christ is with you.

**Those who are hungry and homeless, who live in worry and need. As promised,**

C: The Light of Christ is with you.

**For those we love, our family and friends, in good times and in struggles, as promised,**

C: The Light of Christ is with you.

**Those who are ill, suffering and who are carrying heavy burdens. As promised,**

C: The Light of Christ is with you.

**Leader:** **Now you are invited to go to one or several of the stations and pray. If there are 4-5 people at a station, wait until someone leaves before going there. At the mirror, pray for yourself. At the map, pray for the world and all its people. At the branch or rock, thank God for creation. At the canned food, pray for those who are hungry and homeless. At the pictures, thank and praise God for your family and friends. And at the Band-aids pray for those who are sick. Remember place a rock as a symbol of your prayer. You may also stay where you are to pray.**

*Turn off the lights. Instrumental music is played as campers pray.*

**Leader:** *(when campers have had the opportunity to pray)* **Jesus promises to hear our prayers. Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us. *(Pray the Lord's Prayer responsively, spoken or sung.)* You may now leave quietly with your counselor. Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord.**

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

*(Note: if campers quickly light candles and you want to extend the service, lead them in a guided prayer for each object.) Campers depart and go to process the service in their cabin groups.*