

## Prayer Ideas for Kids in Worship

### 1) An Invitation to Write or Draw Prayers

Have 6 small pieces of paper for each child in worship. On 3 of the pieces, ask kids to write or draw 1 thing, person, or moment they're grateful for. On 2 of the pieces of paper, ask kids to write or draw 2 people they would like the church or congregation to pray for. On the last piece of paper, ask kids to write or draw 1 thing they'd like to ask God for.

Have a way to collect the papers either during the service's prayers or after and be sure to include any appropriate prayers in future liturgies or prayer chains. Asking kids in worship to pray is only half of the equation, we also need to show kids that their prayers are heard and important.

### 2) A Prayer Wall in the Sanctuary

A prayer wall can be as simple or as involved as you'd like to make it. At its core, it is a space set aside for prayers. Often butcher paper is put up so people can write or draw directly on "the wall," but you could also use post-it notes and have people stick their prayers on the wall. Inviting adults to take part as well can add a sense of importance to the wall and can convey to kids that their prayers are as important as adult prayers. Just be sure that your paper and your supplies are low enough for kids to reach on their own.

### 3) A Body Prayer for Children

A third type of prayer that is great for children is body prayer. This type of prayer combines simple body movements with words or intentions, recognizing that when we engage our bodies we experience prayer differently. A quick google search will give you plenty of examples, or you can find books that provide pictures and instructions. You can also create your own, or better yet, have the children create their own. You can start either with a traditional prayer such as The Lord's Prayer or ask kids what they'd like to pray for. In either case, take one phrase or idea at a time and ask kids what movement might best represent that part of the prayer. When you've come up with movements for each piece, put them together. Body Prayers could be introduced and created during a children's moment and then done with the entire congregation later in the service, or they could be taught and led from the front during worship.