



## **Kids: Cycle One / Shift One**

### **Kids Praying for Kids**

#### **Primary Objective:**

The children in your ministry will be challenged and taught to look beyond themselves to pray for their peers who need to know Jesus.

#### **How This Can Help You Reach Kids:**

Scripture teaches prayer connects us to God; and He listens, speaks, and responds to us through prayer. Involving kids in praying for their peers teaches them that God is at work and involves us to be a part of His plan in redeeming people in our lives. It will also help kids focus on others and not just themselves. As they commit to prayer, He will open opportunities for them to share and to invite. He will bring other kids to Himself, as our kids bring them to Him through prayer.

#### **Suggested Strategy:**

Use times where children are already gathered (open groups, Sunday school, missions discipleship, music, worship, etc.) to engage them in prayer. Encourage continual prayer outside the church setting. Here are several ideas to draw from:

**Community Prayer Wall:** Make a “prayer wall.” Enlist kids to think through activities they are involved in outside of church (school, sports, dance, band, martial arts, neighbors, etc.) Make “bricks” on the wall of the “categories” of prayer focus. Challenge kids to think of peers not involved in church who they may know in one or more category. Put post-it notes under the categories and have children write down a first name of another child for whom they will pray. Devote a few minutes to prayer and ask the children to pray for the name they wrote down. Challenge kids to look for opportunities to share the message of Jesus with that person throughout the next week. Visit the wall weekly for updates and to celebrate what God is doing as He answers prayers. Coming back weekly to this visual will also help kids stay focused on praying.

**Praying Daily Where I Am:** Use the categories established at church (Community Prayer Wall) to challenge children to pray individually for their peers. As they individually participate in these community activities, encourage them to arrive early and prayer walk with their family; pray during their activities for the peers next to them; or keep a prayer journal at home with their Bible and write down that one name on a “prayer page.” As they read a verse(s) from their Bible each day, encourage them to pray that Scripture for that person. Check-in with them and allow opportunities for them to share how they see God working as they pray.

**Me and My Community:** Display a map of your community. Mark locations where your children live, go to school, and have activities. Divide children into groups based on where they spend time in their community. While in these small groups, have children pray for their peers they know in those locations, who don't know Jesus and who are not involved in church.

**Praying as I Travel in My Community:** Select objects related to your kids/community where they "travel," such as a soccer ball, empty bowl (for someone who may be hungry), music note, athletic jersey, school book, park sign, school names, picture of house, etc. Have children each week pick an object and think of one peer related to that object who needs to know Jesus. Take a moment and pray for that peer.

**Prayer Walk:** Take the children to locations where their peers are and prayer walk. Possible locations vary based on your community but may include: school, community center, local parks, neighborhoods, athletic fields, fine arts locations, food pantry, movie theatre, shopping malls, etc. It also may be possible for children to provide other services, like cleaning desks, picking up trash, washing windows, etc. However, do not trade the acts of service for prayer. Prayer is the greater work. As you are washing a desk top, kids can pray for all the children who will sit at that desk, and that those children will know Jesus.

**Prayer Stations:** Set up stations in the four corners of the room and ask the children to spend two to three minutes at each station praying. Have suggested prayer focus posted at each station.

Examples of stations would be:

- a. My friends
- b. Kids in my school
- c. Kids in my neighborhood
- d. Kids I know who are hurting

### **Key Steps for Preparation:**

- Pray that God will put ideas on your heart to engage children in praying for their peers.
- Enlist volunteers who can assist in creating maps, decorating walls, or collecting items you may need for the prayer experiences.
- If taking children off campus, make sure to get permission from parents, provide adequate supervision, and provide clear expectations and prayer examples so children grow in their prayer life.
- Share the gospel message with your children and teach them to share that message with their peers. As they come into a relationship with Jesus, help them prepare their testimony to share with their peers.
- Teach them to also be a listener during prayer. Since it is a conversation, God is also talking.

- Adapt prayer experiences for older preschoolers.

**Looking Ahead:**

**Preview:** (4) VBS or Summer Surge

**Plan:** (3) Team Day @ Church and Parent Focus