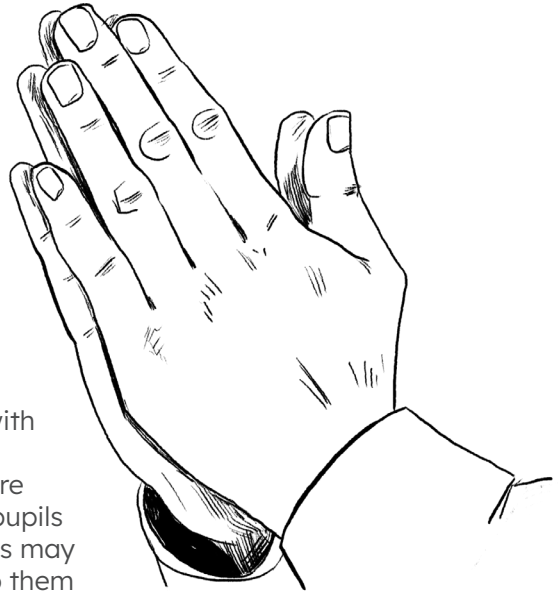


# Prayer Space

**Aim:** To provide an invitational and inclusive space where pupils can imaginatively respond to Jesus' teaching and where they can choose to pray for others

We all respond to the space around us. Setting up a room beautifully (visually with props, gentle lighting and calm music) can really help us all to settle more easily into prayer and reflection. Some pupils will find the space easy to inhabit, others may need more support, e.g. an adult to help them engage with one of the activities to start with. In the resource pack, you will find some A4 instructions for each of the suggested prayer activities that can be printed and used at each prayer station to guide the pupils.



More support with setting up prayer spaces can be found at [www.prayerspacesinschools.com](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com).

For this prayer space, consider setting the room up to reflect the story. You could use sand, rocks and plants to give it a Middle Eastern desert feel. There might be someone creative in the church community who would enjoy the task of setting up the room to meet this theme and then participating in it alongside the pupils, school staff and church volunteers. In one corner, set up an area to suggest a place where Jesus and the Teacher were dialoguing. Consider having a large speech bubble as part of the scene with the Teacher's question: 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'

Below is an overview of seven suggested activities to support pupils to process the story of the Good Samaritan, with a suggestion as to where to situate them in the room (NB: the 'create' activity could be adapted to form an eighth prayer station). It is a good idea to have six to eight activities in a prayer space so that all children can find something approachable for them. Logistically, it also enables them to spread out and use the space without bunching in groups.

Depending on the numbers of pupils on your residential, you may want to split the group and welcome them in smaller numbers in the prayer space.

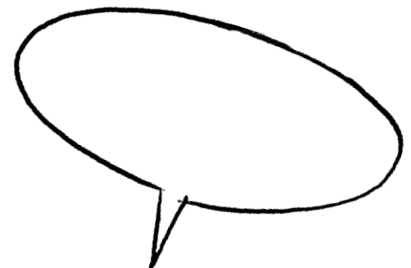
## Jesus Dialoguing with the Teacher of the Law

### 1. Speech bubble questions:

The Teacher brought his challenge and questions to Jesus. What questions would you like to ask Jesus? Record them in a speech bubble.

You will need:

- Speech bubble cut outs.
- Pens/pencils.
- Some means of gathering the questions e.g. publicly by blu-tak to a neighboring wall or privately placing them in a questions box.



## 2. Receiving inheritance:

Look again at the inheritance that is on offer (lay out the items from Session 3 Activity 2). Pupils might want the opportunity to welcome God's inheritance by unwrapping a heart and keeping it as a symbol of accepting God's gift to them. Pupils can choose to write their 'thank you' on it.

You will need:

- The box of inheritance gifts from Session 3 Activity 2.
- Sufficient hearts for everyone to take one. Wrap each one up beforehand.
- A container e.g. bin for the wrapping paper.
- Pens/pencils.

## The Road From Jerusalem to Jericho

### 3. Priest and Levite:

Space to acknowledge situations when we find it hard to love others, asking for God to give us his love and strength for this.

You will need:

- Large stones.
- Marker pens.
- Rucksack.
- Cross for them to place their burdens (stones).

### 4. Good Samaritan (a):

Support to consider who are the outsiders or the unloved around us – a chance to thank God for them and to pray for God's blessing for them. Represent that person/people group with a pipe-cleaner, attach it to the poster and write your prayer next to them – thanking God for them and asking for his blessing upon them.

You will need:

- Pipe cleaners.
- Something to attach them to (sellotape and wallpaper backing paper on a wall is perfect!).
- Sticky tape.
- Pens/pencils.

### 5. Good Samaritan (b):

Opportunity to consider 'Good Samaritans' in the world around us – people who are not loved or praised, but who show goodness nonetheless to others.

You will need:

- Global stories (see resource sheets).
- Heart post-it notes.
- Pens/pencils.

## **6. The wounded man:**

Opportunity to lay our pain/hurt/disappointment/anger before Jesus, the great Samaritan figure, and to ask for his rescue and healing.

You will need:

- Paper or cardboard cut out people.
- Pencil/pens.
- Plasters.

## **7. Footprints in the sand**

The Samaritan would have seen the footprints on the road: the skirmish with the robbers, the Priest passing by on the other side, the Levite coming closer but walking on. He would leave his own footprints. Reflective activity to consider the footprints we leave around us in life.

You will need:

- Trays with damp sand in them.