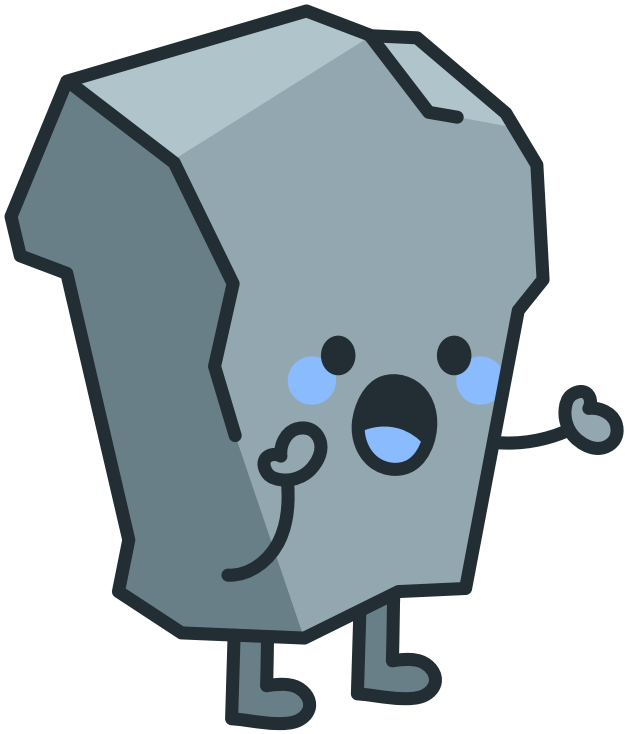
GRATITUDE ROCKS!



LITURGY & MUSIC

WELCOME TO THE LITURGY & MUSIC STATION!

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

WELCOME!

Thanks for signing up to run the Liturgy & Music for camp! **This station is only used if you are splitting the camp into two years. Please note: if you are adding this station, as noted, it uses materials found in the Big Gathering and the Gratitude Station so be sure to work as a team to not repeat information within the same year.** This station will help reinforce the learnings from the first year but also expand them into some new directions by digging into the liturgy a bit more, while also being welcoming to visitors or folks who are new to the church.

Here's a quick look at your week ahead:

Day One: The Rock Cycle

Activity: The Liturgy of the Word: we tell and hear stories of how people are always growing and changing to learn alongside them about the world around us.

Day Two: Metamorphic Rocks & Pressure

Activity: Confessing and the Passing of the Peace: how to make things right when they go wrong.

Day Three: Igneous Rocks & Volcanos

Activity: The Liturgy of the Table: Things aren't always what they seem.
(Note: This is an expanded format for the sacristy tour found in the big group gathering.)

Day Four: Sedimentary Rocks & Weathering

Activity: How Communities are Formed: *Prayers of the People*
(Note: This activity is found in the Gratitude Station. We are repeating it because it will have different results.)

Day Five: Minerals & Gemstones

Activity: Instructed Eucharist
(Note: This is an expanded format from what is found in the big group gathering.)

WHY LITURGY?

For congregations using these materials for a halfday camp, we recommend adding this Liturgy and Music Station for year two. When it duplicates something from year one (or the Big Gathering) we've added information on how to make those things work when adding this station in the second year.

This section will use the structure of the Holy Eucharist Rite II to guide what participants are learning about each day. We know that many churches want to be respectful of kids who are coming from other traditions, but remember, they did sign up for VBS at an Episcopal Church so it's okay to share what is important to us with others.

SETTING UP YOUR LITURGY AND MUSIC STATION:

CREATE THE MOOD

The Liturgy and Music station works best in a chapel or in your main worship area since it will focus on the Eucharist.

If you are doing music as a part of this station, you'll want ot make sure you have instruments for the leaders and some for the campers as well.

COMMUNION EDUCATION

Another way to use this time is to treat it as communion education classes. If you have a program you use and love, then swap it into this space. Or add onto what is here the things you want to prepare your students for prior to a communion education celebration at church.

SENSORY NOTES

The liturgy and music station should be a sensory rest spot for all of our campers. It might be worth inviting campers into the room and taking a moment to ground themselves before beginning. If you are a Godly Play church, you can also use the door keeper process to check to see if campers are ready to enter.

WEEKLONG PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS!

OVERVIEW

Note: this section is also in the Gratitude Station. For those doing halfday camps - we'll do the rock dig both years and this craft both years. We recommend just changing out the molds to keychains for one year.

We're going to take the rocks from the dig on the first day and turn them into a resin ornament they can give to their adult on the last day. We recommend starting this on the first day. If you have six small groups, then do two groups a day so you finish before the last day. This means you'll need enough molds for each camper in those groups. For example, if there are 8 campers in a group, you'll need 16 molds.

This project really depends on mixing the resin well. It typically comes in two bottles that have to be stirred together. We recommend having an adult do the stirring because if you don't get it completely mixed the resin will not set up correctly.

SUPPLIES

Note: the amount of supplies you need will be based on what size mold you choose. The pictures show coaster-sized ornaments, but keychain-sized also works well.

- resin
- gloves
- silicone molds
- craft sticks
- rocks from day one
- cardstock or pieces of cereal boxes (or similar)
- ribbon
- glue
- small bag to "wrap" the ornament in

Note: you will need one mold per camper that is doing the activity for the day as these need to dry overnight.

DIRECTIONS

Note: for younger campers, simply have them place their rocks in the mold and then later have helpers use resin to create the ornaments.

1. Give each camper their bag of rocks back. Invite them to pick out rocks they like, or ones they think go together. They can even plan it out a bit in the mold to see what fits (if they do this, have a piece of cardstock on hand so they can flip their rocks over onto the cardstock).
2. Place the mold on cardstock or pieces of cereal boxes - this is to catch any resin that might overflow. Have the camper write their name on the box so they know which one belongs to which person tomorrow.
3. Put on gloves!
4. Fill the mold a bit less then halfway with resin.
5. Gently place the rocks in the resin. You can use a craft stick to move the rocks around or press them in/flip them over.
6. If the mold is not full once all of the rocks are in, top off with more resin.
7. You can add a ribbon to the resin - this can be a bit messy, so you can also wait until it is dry and glue it onto the edge of the ornament.
8. Leave the molds to dry (some place where folks won't tempted to touch them) overnight.
9. Remove the ornaments from the molds the next day - add a ribbon so it can be hung on a tree if you didn't yesterday.
10. Hold onto this for the final day!

Far left: finished ornaments
Top Left: laying rocks out to see what fits
Bottom Left: wet resin in the mold
Above: pouring in some resin for placing rocks - do not overfill the mold!

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

DAY ONE: LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today we're learning that things are always growing and changing, and that includes us! Sometimes people struggle with change - we want to help our campers to understand that one of the cool things about being alive in the world is that we get to keep growing, learning, and changing. That means that our favorite color might be blue today, but tomorrow we might love green more. Just like rocks that move through the rock cycle, we are changed by all sorts of things, from learning something new, to experiencing a new place, to meeting a new friend with different life experiences from ours. Just like rocks are always growing and changing, so are people. Sometimes we tell stories to share how we have changed, how the world has changed, and how even if it doesn't feel like it some days, we are all growing and changing.

DAY ONE: THE ROCK CYCLE

SUPPLIES & DIRECTIONS

You will need:

- some special visitors
- dice
- converstaion starter handout for leaders

Directions:

Today we are learning about the Liturgy of the Word and how we hear stories from the Bible to help us understand the world around us. To do this, we want you to invite people from different generations to come and tell stories with the kids. The idea is to let them hear stories from different generations collectively to hear how people are always growing and changing.

Sometimes adults do not do a great job at showing children the ways they are still learning about the world around them. The hope is to have people come and share how their world and lives have changed over time and how they learned new things.

Make sure to follow all Safe Church rules with visitors and make sure to do a practice run with the adults prior to coming to speak to the kiddos.

EXPANSION

For older campers, you can invite them to share things that they didn't have or do as kids with the younger campers. They are also growing and changing and the world around them has changed a lot over the past few years. Some of the kids may have been homeschooled during the pandemic, or experienced a "drive by" 5th grade graduation or birthday party that the younger kids may not remember. This is a great chance for them to share their stories.

SCAFFOLD

For younger campers, this is a lot of talking. Have paper and coloring items available and encourage them to draw while listening. (You can even ask them to draw a picture of what they think they'll be like 25 years from now, or 50 years from now.)

PRO TIP:

Sometimes it is easier to listen when sharing a snack or a meal. This is a great activity to do with lemonade and cookies (or whatever is similar to your coffee hour).

HEARING THE STORIES OF CHANGE

Welcome to our liturgy and music station! This station is a very special because it will help us connect what we're learning in the other stations to what we do here at church each Sunday. Today we're going to start off the week with some very special guests. For those of you who go to our church you might recognize them, but for those that don't these are some people who live in our community and come to church here. Before they begin, I want to tell you why I've invited them to join us. How many of you go to church on Sundays? It can be here or somewhere else. If you do, can you tell me what is something we do every Sunday after we've sang a song and sat down? (hear some stories) That's right, we hear some stories! In our church, we hear three stories, one from what we call the Old Testament or the Hebrew Bible, one from the Epistles or Letters, and then one from the Gospels. We also say a Psalm together. Does anyone know why we hear all of these stories? (let them give ideas) One of the reasons we hear these stories every week is so we can learn about what people of faith did, experienced, and believed to help us understand the world around us today. We learn about their relationship with God and others and it helps us think about the choices we make.

Since we can't sit down with people from the Bible and ask them what the world was like for them, these stories help us understand them and more importantly, Jesus. Here's the thing, our world is often shaped by the experiences of others. Sometimes because of the choices they made, and sometimes because of the things they liked or didn't like. Have you ever had a favorite food get discontinued? That's often because not enough people bought it. So our story and their story are connected. Today I invited some friends from church to come and share stories with us about what their lives were like when they younger. I have some questions on these cards so we're going to draw one and then hear their answers.

Activities

The dice conversation is shorter and easier for young campers to follow. If you have 2nd grade and above, use the cards as the topics are a bit more in depth. You can also make your own cards or questions based on what you know about the lives of the people coming to speak. The goal is to share with the young people how things have changed, because you'll finish with this question for the young people:

Having heard all of these stories, what things are you grateful to have learned from them? What things are you grateful for in your own life that maybe you took for granted before? What do you think will be different in 20 years from now?

Bonus

Make sure the students thank the visitors for coming, if you have time, you can invite the kids to sign a thank you card for each person before they leave. You can also let the kids share their answers to things like toys, food, etc.

SING: IF YOU'RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT

Each day, we'll add on a new song, but for the first day, we're going to learn a song that you can use for your Big Gathering everyday. This is a really easy one to teach, because it is "If you're happy and you know it..." but changed to "If you're thankful and you know it..." Let the kids add their own suggestions of things one might do if they are thankful. We also recommend having some topics for each day ready to go, for example: if you're thankful and you know it tell a story.

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, then your life will surely show it,
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

CONVERSATION CARDS

Here are some questions that can show how the world has changed, feel free to create your own or add the rest of the questions from the dice game.

What is the most important thing you learned from an elder when you were our age?

When you were little, what was your favorite sweet treat and how often did you get to have it?

Tell us about how you watched television growing up. (Streaming? On a phone?)

Did you have your own room growing up? What was your house like?

Tell us how you communicated with people who lived far away from you.

What did Sundays look like when you grew up or how did you spend your time on the weekends?

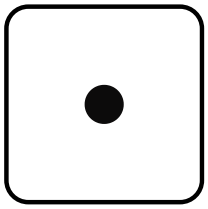
THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

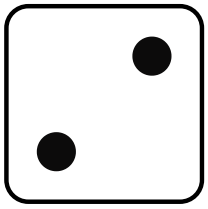
A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

ROLL AND TELL:

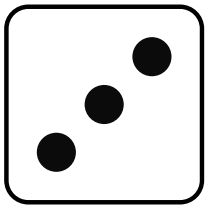
SHARE HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED



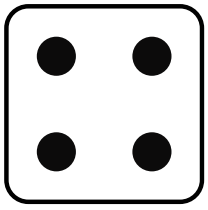
When you were little, what was your favorite thing to do for fun?



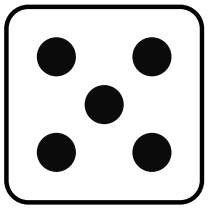
When you were little, what was your favorite sweet treat and how often did you get to have it?



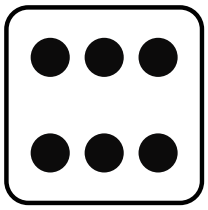
What was your favorite toy when you were the age of our campers?



Tell us about how you watched television growing up. (Streaming? On a phone?)



Tell us how you communicated with people who lived far away from you.



Share a favorite memory from school.

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

DAY TWO: PASSING THE PEACE

Today we are talking about pressure and conflict so in our liturgy station, we're going to focus in on the part of the service where we confess our sins and pass the peace. These two moments are important to our faith, so much so that for many years, Christians would not receive communion if they felt they were sinful in any way. The confession is a way to say we are sorry to God. The passing of the peace is not meant to be social hour, but a time to make amends with anyone in the community before receiving communion - it is literally the time to make peace. Sometimes it is hard to know how to make peace. Today we're going to talk about ways to resolve conflicts and pass the peace in our communities.

DAY TWO: METAMORPHIC ROCK

SUPPLIES

You will need:

- one paperclip per camper
- cardboard
- one spinner sheet and arrow per camper
- scissors
- needle nose pliers and push pins for adults
- tape

Note: I used an old cereal box because they are easier to cut. If you have very young campers, you'll want to cut out the cardboard circles first. (You can use any kind of cardboard.) Using needle nose pilers, wrap the long end of the paperclip to make a circle (tucking in that pointy edge). You should do some of these in advance, older campers will be able to do this themselves.

EXPANSION

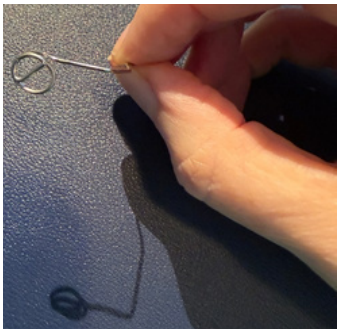
For older campers, you can talk to them about being peace makers, how can they help intervene in conflict (safely) and encourage/teach others to use the peace path to diffuse conflict.

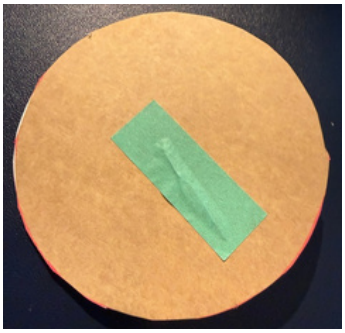
SCAFFOLD

For younger campers these are big ideas, but they know a lot about conflict, so it might be worth talking about this from the arena of sharing. How do we deal with someone when sharing goes wrong? We have to talk about what we need and how we can work together so everyone gets what they need.

CONFLICT SPINNERS

The steps to build your conflict spinner are on the next page, but here are photos to help with making them!





TEACHING ABOUT CONFLICT

Today we're learning about conflict. Just like metamorphic rocks are created through pressure and heat, humans are created through pressure and conflict. Unfortunately, conflict makes most of us very uncomfortable. We often leave a conflict feeling like we didn't get our feelings heard and that the other person just yelled at us, or we are the one yelling and can't figure out why we feel better but the other person doesn't. Conflict is really hard and it is something that most people, regardless of age, struggle with. Every Sunday at Church we do two things to deal with conflict, does anyone know what they are? That's right, the confession and the passing of the peace. During the confession, we tell God about the things we could have done better during the week and ask for forgiveness. After that, we share a sign of peace with people around us. This sharing a sign of peace came from a time when everyone who went to church together spent a lot of time together and sometimes they hurt one another's feelings. The church believed that you should not take communion until you had resolved conflict with the people in your church community, so the peace was a time to pause, make sure everyone was right with one another so everyone could take communion together. We don't really do that work during the peace anymore, but it is good to remember to make amends when conflict has made things hard between you and someone else. So, how do we deal with conflict? Today, we're going to make spinners that give us some ideas of what to do next when we're in a conflict. Once we've built them, I've got some conflicts that we're going to use practice with.

Making Conflict Resolution Spinners

To make our conflict spinners, you are each going to need to cut out a spinner and decorate it. But before we do that, I want to go over the four options on the spinner.

1. Play - If you are fighting over taking turns, a good way to resolve it is to play another game to decide. One option is rock, paper, scissors, another is to ask someone to think of a number and who ever comes closer gets to go first, what are some other quick games you could play to resolve a conflict like who gets to go first?
2. Stop - sometimes the best thing to do in a conflict is to simply stop and make a different choice. Sometimes you have to walk away because everyone is too angry to resolve the conflict in that moment. When you stop, you might go and do something else, or you might go find someone else to play with.
3. Help - some conflicts get scary. For me, when someone yells at me, I do not feel safe. In these moments, I need to get help to deal with the conflict. That can be another friend, a teacher, or a trusted adult.
4. Peace - one of the things that we can all do is notice when we aren't feeling comfortable or at peace within ourselves. If we can find this moment, take a breath, and find a compromise, it means we can difuse the conflict before it starts. Sometimes we just need to take a walk, or take a moment so we can all find a way to move forward with a compromise. Compromise is a big word, can anyone explain that to me?

So now I want you to cut out and color your spinner. Add things onto it to help you remember what your tools are for resolving conflicts.

Now we are going to glue our paper onto cardboard to make our spinners stronger. (Glue both the arrow and the circle.) To get the spinner attached, you will need to bring your circle and arrow to an adult or counselor. We're going to use a pushpin to make a hole in each of them so you can thread your spinner through. The rounded part stays on the top and then flat part goes to the bottom. Once you have it in, we'll add a piece of tape to the bottom to hold your spinner in place.

Teach How to Use the Spinner

I'm going to make up some scenarios with a conflict. I want you to spin your spinner and tell me how we could resolve the conflict with what your arrow is pointing towards.

Conflict One:
Person A and Person B are want to play checkers. Person A wants to be red but so does Person B! Both people are angry and not willing to switch to black. Spin your spinner and give them ideas on what to do next.

Conflict Two:
Person A may have cut in line for the water fountain while Person B wasn't looking. Person B is angry. Person A insists that they didn't see the line. Spin your spinner and give them an idea on how to make this right. These are silly conflicts, but not unlike problems that come up from time to time among friends. It's helpful to have a way to deal with hurt feelings before they cause broken relationships. This is the same idea of passing the peace at church. When you say "peace" to your sibling at church, it is a way of saying sorry for any hurt feelings that happened this week. Remember, saying we are sorry is just the first step, the next step is that we have to not make that mistake again or we need to make it right with the person we hurt. I hope these spinners will get some use this week at camp as we learn to deal with conflict together, if not, we can pass the peace on Sunday at church.

SING: IF YOU'RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT

Begin with our gratitude song: If You're Thankful and You Know It:

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, then your life will surely show it,
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

SING: LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Today we recommend teaching the song: Let there be peace on Earth. (This is found in the Gather Hymnal among others.)

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

"*Let There Be Peace on Earth*", *Publication date: 1989. Authors/Composers: Jill Jackson, Sy Miller; Copyright date: 1955.*

Use a game to help make a choice.
PLAY
Get Help, Help Others
HELP
HELP
Take a break, do something else.
STOP
STOP
Take a breath, work it out, compromise.
PEACE

Use a game to help make a choice.
PLAY
Get Help, Help Others
HELP
HELP
Take a break, do something else.
STOP
STOP
Take a breath, work it out, compromise.
PEACE

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

DAY THREE: WHAT iS ALL THiS STUFF??

Today we are using an activity that is scheduled for the Big Gathering (so if doing half days it will save you some time in the Big Gathering!), a tour of the sacristy. The students are learning how things are not always what they seem and you're going to help them do that by letting them see and touch items that they don't typically get to touch. Every church is different, so please check in with your altar guild or clergy and make sure the things the kids are touching are okay to touch. You can even ask them to set out a bunch of different things for you to use, or invite them to come and be a part of the program today. This section has a bit more information than the Big Gathering version does since you'll have a smaller group to work with. With that said, you should make this as uniquely yours as you can. Tell special stories about your church that the kids should get to hear, show them funny things in the windows, and most importantly, let them ask questions.

DAY THREE: IGNEOUS ROCKS

SUPPLiES

Note: there are no expansions or scaffolds needed for today, as this is an event you can make work as you go along!

You will need:

- items from the sacristy
- if you're not familar with your church space, ask for help
- wafers (these are perhaps the most interesting thing at all of the pilot programs!)

TOUR OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH ITEMS

Today we are going to do something completely different in the Liturgy Station, we are going to go on a tour of our worship space. This is a chance for you to get curious, ask questions, and wonder with us about why things are the way they are. So, if you've ever sat in church and wondered why something was on the wall, today is your day and you get to ask!

As you know, today is volcano day and we talk about how sometimes a mountain isn't a mountain, it's a volcano. Well, here in church we have a lot of things that are called by different churchy names. I want to show you these things, and today you even get to touch them. So, follow me and we're going to start with a bunch of objects. Then we're going to walk around the church so I can show you a few other things that are special or that you might not have noticed before.

Ideas of things to show:

1. all of the items used for the Eucharist,Lavabo Bowls, chalice, etc.
2. tabernacle
3. sanctuary light (this is a great one to explain to them on the tour)
4. vestments - and let them put them on!
5. (If your organist is willing) a tour of the organ and choir area
6. pulpit

PRO TiP:

This is a great activity to get your clergy involved in, and it helps them connect with the kids in a way that they don't often get to do. It let's them share silly things they've learned about church words and help the kids feel more comfortable in the worship space.

PRO TiP:

You'll see on the supply list "wafers". At our pilot congregations these were among the most interesting things that the kids got to see. They also want to eat them. This might make you a little uncomfortable, but if the wafers aren't blessed, they are just really terrible crackers. One of the ways we learn is to use our senses, so letting the kids get to touch, smell, see, and taste a wafer is a really good thing to do, so make sure you have enough for all of the kids (and gluten free for those that need it) to really get a chance to see what they are eating quickly on Sunday mornings.

When I was in seminary, my liturgics professor told a story of someone saying: "I can believe it is the Body of Christ, but bread? That's hard to believe." So everyone is a bit curious about wafers.

SING: IF YOU'RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT

Begin with our gratitude song: If You're Thankful and You Know It:

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, then your life will surely show it,
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

SING: A COMMUNION HYMN

Today we're not recommending a hymn because every church has a favorite communion hymn and today is your chance to help your youngest members learn it. The goal of the Liturgy and Music station is to help our campers feel comfortable in worship so learning a beloved hymn is a great way to help them feel included.

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

DAY FOUR: PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today we are learning all about how communities are formed. In this station, we're going to talk about how prayer helps shape our communities - particularly when we pray for people we know and even for people we don't know. Each group will learn about the *Prayers of the People* and write a portion of them, learn about prayers and then write their own for publication by UTO.

If you would like, today is also a great day to work on a project to help others. You can bring in a speaker from a community organization to talk about what they do and how your church helps, or do a project (like stuffing backpacks for kids in need) together.

DAY FOUR: SEDIMENTARY ROCK

SUPPLIES

For the Prayers of the People:

- prayer worksheet
- flipchart paper for writing the *Prayers of the People*
- copies of the *Book of Common Prayer* (looking at pages 383 for Prayers of the People)
- cup with each of the sections for the prayers of the people on slips of paper to pick from

For fast finishers or scaffold:

- UTO Coloring Sheets (https://unitedthankoffering.com/color/) We really love using one of the sheets that you can print as a poster - give each camper a tile to work on during the week and then display the poster at the end of camp
- coloring tools

PRO TiP:

If you're feeling deja vu, you're correct. This is an activity that the campers did in the gratitude station if you're breaking this into two years for a halfday camp. That's okay, the prayers will be completely different! If they say they remember it, invite them to help explain to new campers.

EXPANSION

If you have older campers or want to make this more challenging, you can have each small group write their own prayers of the people. They will need to work together to make sure they have the same endings of the petitions and decide who is writing what portion. This is a good activity to check in with your clergy about. If they like the idea of the prayers the students have written, each small group could write for a different season of the church year. That way the congregation could feature the prayers written all year long.

SCAFFOLD

Younger campers may not have the writing skills to do this project. No worries, there are several options to help them get their prayers out into the world. The first is to use talk to text on a phone or a computer. Let each student say their prayer out loud for the computer to transcribe. You can also do this the old fashioned way and have an adult write it for them. You can help fill the time with some of the UTO coloring sheets if transcribing.

TEACHING PRAYER WRITING

Today in the Liturgy Station, we're focusing on a part of the Eucharist called the Prayers of the People. Does anyone know what that is? (The Prayers of the People are a structured set of prayers that include prayers for the the Church, the nation/leaders, the welfare of the world, the local community, those who suffer/or are sick or are in any trouble, and the departed. It ends with a concluding prayer.) Does anyone know how many versions there are? (6) So here's the thing you might not know. In the *Book of Common Prayer* there are sometimes options for those who are planning worship and the rule of thumb is that what is listed first is what the writers want you to choose. The cool thing about the Prayers of the People is that what is listed first, is the outline to create your own. Today at camp, we're going to write a set of the prayers of the people that we'll use at church this coming Sunday. (Check with your worship leader first!) Each rock formation is going to write one section. To decide what section you are going to write, we're going to draw the section name out of this cup.

To help keep things simple, we are going to use the same response for all of the petitions, or prayers. So we'll write what we want our congregation to pray for and the response will be: "Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*" Which is like form four.

There is no wrong or right way to pray. Prayer is simply saying out loud those things which we would like God to pay attention to. What are we worried about? What are we grateful for? These are the things that we can add.

Sections and Ideas:

1. The Universal Church, its members, and its mission
    a. Christians every where
    b. clergy
    c. people about to be baptized or confirmed
    d. prayers for how people of different faiths treat each other
2. The Nation and all in Authority
    a. President, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices
    b. police, fire department, first responders, nurses, EMTs, doctors
    c. teachers, principals
    d. parents, baby sitters
3. The Welfare of the World
    a. creation care, scientists
    b. peace among people and nations
    c. space exploration
    d. any current events that might need prayers
4. The Concerns of the Local Community
    a. what are you grateful for about our community?
    b. what in our community needs our prayers or is concerning?
5. Those who suffer and those in any trouble
    a. the sick
    b. the unhoused
    c. those suffering from mental illness
6. The departed
    a. loved ones who have died
    b. saints or other famous people who have died that they want to remember

EXPANSION: WRITE A PRAYER

Once we've finished our Prayers of the People, we'll move on to writing our own prayers. In the Episcopal Church, we have a special form of prayer called a collect. This is just a fancy way to describe a prayer that collects the thoughts and ideas of the community and puts them into one place for everyone to pray together. Collects can be for all sorts of things.

Collects have the following sections: (although sometimes a part is omitted and it is still a collect)
1. an address
2. a phrase that says something about the attributes of God
3. petitions or requests
4. results
5. words of praise

Here is a collect from the Book of Common Prayer for the Second Sunday in Advent:
Address: Merciful God,
Attributes: who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
Petition: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
Results: that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
Praise: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A collect can be complete and not include all of the parts and a prayer can be complete and not include any of these parts!

You can decide how many of these you want to use. Your prayer can simply be:
Hi God! Thank you for creating trees, I love the shade they give in the summer. Help all people to care for trees so that we never run out of them. You're the best. Amen.

I think we can all agree that trees are useful and good, so this prayer works to collect our feelings of goodwill about trees.

I want to give you all time to write your own prayers now. I've got a handy worksheet in case you want to use these prayer sections, but you don't have to. After you've finished, I'm going to collect your prayers to make a copy before you take it home later this week. We're going to send these prayers to UTO and they will print them in a book so you'll be able to see your prayer in print!

PRO TIP:

UTO will publish any and all prayers - short, profound, inspired, or silly. Use the QR code to the right to find prayer worksheets for any age or the form to submit the prayers your campers wrote this week. You can simply take photo of the prayers and upload them!

SING: IF YOU'RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT

Begin with our gratitude song: If You're Thankful and You Know It:

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, then your life will surely show it,
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

SING: JESUS IS THE ROCK AND HE ROLLS MY BLUES AWAY

Today we recommend teaching the song: Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls My Blues Away, an old campfire song!

Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls my blues away (Bob shoo bop shoo bop whoo!)
Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls my blues away (Bob shoo bop shoo bop whoo!)
Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls my blues away (Bob shoo bop shoo bop whoo!)

When you wake up in the morning and the sky ain't bright and blue
when you wake up in the morning and the big world's after you
when you wake up in the morning well Jesus gonna pull you through cause

Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls my blues away (Bob shoo bop shoo bop whoo!)
Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls my blues away (Bob shoo bop shoo bop whoo!)
Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls my blues away (Bob shoo bop shoo bop whoo!)

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Name:

Age:

PRAYER WRITING WORKSHEET

SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER HERE!

YOUR PRAYER TITLE

Tell us what you want to name your title, or simply use a word or phrase to let us know what it is about. (example: Thankful for Food)

PARTS OF A COLLECT

Collects have the following sections: (although sometimes a part is omitted and it is still a collect)

1. an address
2. a phrase that says something about God
3. petitions or requests
4. results
5. words of praise

MY PRAYER

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Names with Age/Grades:

PRAYER WRITING WORKSHEET

SUBMIT YOUR PRAYERS HERE!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, ITS MEMBERS, AND ITS MISSION	
THE NATION AND ALL IN AUTHORITY	
THE WELFARE OF THE WORLD	
THE CONCERNS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	
THOSE WHO SUFFER AND THOSE IN ANY TROUBLE	
THE DEPARTED	

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

DAY FIVE: HIDDEN GLORY

Today we're finishing up at camp, so we're going to end with an instructed Eucharist. You will need your clergy person to help with this, and some may feel more comfortable just walking the kids through all of the steps and not actually celebrating the Eucharist, that's fine, whatever works for your congregation.

The goal is to help them see all of the steps they learned about over the week, so start at the beginning - give them a bulletin (maybe the one for Sunday coming up) and walk them through, see if they can tell you what is happening when and why. The goal is to help them feel knowledgable and safe in your worship area because we want them to know that they are always welcome here and so are the gifts they bring to our community.

This is also a big gathering lesson, so if doing it in a station do not do it there.

DAY FIVE: MINERALS & GEMS

SUPPLIES

You will need:

- bulletins
- optional: *Let us Pray: A Little Kid's Guide to the Eucharist* by Jennie Turrell

Note: the goal is to make kids feel at home, so teaching them how to use the bulletin and books is a great thing to do with the instructed Eucharist. Most won't be able to juggle it all, but just helping them know which book we use for what thing is a great start. I love the optional book listed above and often gave it to kiddos in my Communion Education class and they used it when we walked through the Eucharist. It's a great addition to worship areas or pray-grounds.

TEACHING: INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST

The goal of this instructed Eucharist is to give campers the highlights of what is happening at church, let them ask questions, and feel more at home in the space. There aren't any directions as you will need to do what is best for your community. With that said, many adults feel like they do not understand what is happening at church and why, so this is always a great event to open up to the parents.

SING: IF YOU'RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT

Begin with our gratitude song: If You're Thankful and You Know It:

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're thankful and you know it, then your life will surely show it,
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands.

SING: HERE I AM LORD

Today we recommend singing *Here I am Lord* from the hymnal. This is a great way to connect that the young people all have gifts to share with the world. This also is a great hymn to then sing on Sunday morning when you share about all of the great things the kids learned at camp this week.