

Preparations for the Tapestry for Prayer Craft

This activity is designed to identify prayer as a powerful form of communication and tool for outreach. It provides a more intimate way to affirm and proclaim your faith as you talk with God about the joys and challenges of life. It expands our list of prayer concerns to include people we may never meet and issues that profoundly affect the hearts and lives of millions of people on any given day - that may otherwise seem a world beyond our actual power of influence.

Point out that everyone has their own version of joy and challenge in their lives. Distribute copies of the Tapestry of Prayer instruction sheet. Scan through the various topics and consider specific things in each category that you might include in your prayers. Be mindful that each concern may represent a joy or a challenge, e.g. someone may be gaining employment and someone may be losing employment. It is also important to note that many people deal with several of these issues at once, e.g. unemployment may bring financial challenges that affect the resources they have available for food, clothing and housing.

Depending on the age and level of maturity in your group, you might consider these issues on a larger or more global scale, e.g. war or military occupation will affect people's lives in other ways, weather or climate will affect food production and growth which affects food availability, job opportunity, financial stress, etc. For younger children, it is sufficient to refer to each topic in its simplest form, e.g. God bless people who have homes and need homes, have food and need food, have jobs and need jobs.

Encourage people of all ages to display this tapestry in a highly visible place. Give each individual or family a copy of the preparation sheet to use as an easy reference or prompting for prayer.

Preparations:

- Gauge your provisions for this activity in accordance with your projections for possible participation.
- Make copies of the Tapestry for Prayer Instruction Sheet for easy reference.
- Decide whether you want to make one large tapestry with the entire group or a small tapestry for each individual/family
- For a 3' x3' tapestry:
 - Fold the fabric 4" from the top of the cloth. Use glue to adhere it for hanging the tapestry when your project is completed.
 - Cut slits running perpendicular to the top of the cloth approximately 3" wide.
 - Refer to the Tapestry for Prayer Instruction Sheet to gather the necessary textiles for weaving. Cut 40" strips of each textile.
 - Weave the textiles in order of appearance on the instruction sheet.
 - Hang the tapestry in a space that will prompt people to pray. Include a copy of the Tapestry for Prayer sheet to use as a guide.
- For a 6" x 12" tapestry:
 - Fold the fabric from the top of the cloth. Use glue to adhere it for hanging the tapestry when your project is completed.
 - Cut slits running perpendicular to the top of the cloth approximately 1" wide.
 - Refer to the Tapestry for Prayer Instruction Sheet to gather the necessary textiles for weaving. Cut 8 " strips of each textile.
 - Weave the textiles in order of appearance on the instruction sheet.
 - Encourage participants to hang the tapestry in their home or office to remind you to pray.
 - Give them copies of the Tapestry for Prayer sheet to use as a guide.