

# The Rainbow Story Night Prayer

## Preparation

- **Theme:** Working together, appreciating our own individual talents and recognising how important they are along with everybody else's.
- **Equipment:** "True Colours" by either Cyndi Lauper or Eva Cassidy. The Rainbow Story (at the end of this document). Perhaps ask different people to play the parts of the different colours?

## Night Prayer

- **Welcome:** "True Colours" should be playing whilst the group are walking in, turn it down as the final person takes their seat. Thank them for coming in so beautifully, then begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- **Introduce the theme(s):** Working together, appreciating our own individual talents and recognising how important they are along with everybody else's.
- **Listen to the Rainbow Story:** Get the group just to be comfortable and relax, and ask them to listen to story about to be read out. It may be a good idea to ask different people to play the parts of the different colours.
- **Main point:** We are stronger, more beautiful and better together than we could ever be by ourselves. However, at the beginning of the story, why didn't the colours get along? They didn't listen to each other, they were all very bigheaded and thought they were the best.
- **To be friends we** have to take time to listen to each other and not argue. We also have to appreciate how unique and special each one of us is, and respect our differences. We all have our own special gifts and talents that God has only given to us, and we have to use these special and individual gifts and talents to help those around us.
- **Scripture:** Jesus said, "Be kind and considerate and cheerful. Put others before yourselves and try your best to help and make the world a better place"

- **Listen again** to some of the song, and ask them to think about how they can do this in their everyday lives.
- **After, ask them to bow their heads** and ask God to help us carry on respecting each other as much as possible, and ask that He gives us the strength to take all that we have learnt into the world.
- **So**, whenever rain washes the world, watch out for a rainbow in the sky. When it appears, remember that each and every one of you is special. Let the colours of the rainbow remind you to appreciate yourselves and one another.
- **Thank you** for listening so beautifully to our night prayer. Let's end with the Sign of the Cross.

## The Story of the Rainbow

Once upon a time, all the colours in the world started to quarrel; each claimed that she was the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite...

**Green** said: "Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves — without me all the animals would die. Look out over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

**Blue** interrupted: "You only think about the earth, but consider the sky and the sea. It is water that is the basis of life and this is drawn up by the clouds from the blue sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace you would all be nothing but busybodies."

**Yellow** chuckled: "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, fun and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower the whole world starts to smile. Without me there would be no fun."

**Orange** started to boast: "I am the colour of health and strength. I may be scarce, but I am precious for I serve the needs of human life. I carry all the most important vitamins. Think of carrots and mangoes. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you."

**Red** could stand it no longer. He shouted out: "I'm the ruler of you all, blood, life's blood. I am the colour of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire in the blood. Without me the earth would be empty as the moon. I am the colour of passion and love and the red rose."

**Purple** rose up to his full height. He was very tall and he spoke with great pomp: "I am the colour of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs and bishops have always chosen me for I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me — they listen and obey."

**Indigo** spoke much more quietly than all the others, but just as determinedly: "Think of me, you all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep waters. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

And so the colours went on boasting, each convinced that they were the best. Their quarrelling became louder and louder. Suddenly there was a startling flash of brilliant white lightning; thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colours all crouched down in fear, drawing close to one another for comfort.

Then Rain spoke:

**"You foolish colours, fighting among yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Do you not know that God made you all? Each for a special purpose, unique and different. He loves you**

**all. He wants you all. Join hands with one another and come with me. He will stretch you across the sky in a great bow of colour, as a reminder that he loves you all, that you can live together in peace**

**— a promise that he is with you,  
— a sign of hope for tomorrow.”**

And so whenever God has used a good rain to wash the world, He puts the rainbow in the sky, and when we see it, let us remember to appreciate one another.