

Graffiti Wall

Beforehand

Suitable for; Any age, but would work particularly well with teenagers.

Purpose/aim; The session enables the young people to recognise and pray about situations close to them, whilst also giving thanks for things in their life for which they are grateful.

Ideal use; The end of a youth group or Confirmation group meeting as it takes only about 15 minutes at the most.

Resources;

- Large sheets of A1/lining paper
- Chalk or marker pens
- Candle, cloth etc for a prayer focus
- CD player and CD of reflective music
- Bible

Preparation;

- Attach large sheets of A1 paper/lining paper to the wall. *(tip; lining paper is cheap, strong and available from all good DIY stores. Be careful about using blu-tack that can mark a painted wall)*
- Chalks and marker pens need to be placed on the floor in-front of the wall.
- A candle and some cloth should be set up in the centre of the room (or near the graffiti wall) as a focus. *(tip; keep candles away from where people are going to walk or stand to write on the Graffiti Wall.)*
- Reflective music can be played (maybe a track from Enya or Sigur Ros) *(tip; always, always check the lyrics of a track and subsequent tracks if you are just going to let the CD run on)*

The prayer

(Group should either sit around the focus or in-front of the wall)

- **Welcome** and Sign of the Cross
- **Reflection**

On a Friday evening in the Old City of Jerusalem voices can be heard singing out as people gather before their most sacred shrine, 'The Wailing Wall.' This wall is the only thing that remains of the Jewish Temple and is the closest point to the holiest and most respected room of the old temple. Thousands of people gather before it and fill in the cracks of the wall with prayers and messages of thanks, hope and repentance.

This is your chance now to think about you would like to pray for. Maybe there's someone you know who is in need of prayer...or a particular situation...maybe you want to thank God for something in your life...

(Pause)

Take some time to think & pray about these things...

In your own time, take a pen/chalk off the floor and write on the wall those people or situations you want to pray for.

(Make it clear that they're not to write inappropriate things and ask them to keep the prayerful atmosphere whilst other people are still writing)

(After they have all written on the wall)

Scripture: (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

'First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. Pray for rulers and for all who have authority so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives full of worship and respect for God. This is good, and it pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to know the truth'

What you've just done is really powerful, just as the scripture says, you're asking God for what you need, but also giving him thanks for everything he already provides!

Ending- Thank you for keeping the silence and entering into the prayer so well. We end with the Sign of the Cross.