

Prayer Stations: Pentecost

SETUP NOTES

Around the space there will be 8 clearly identified Prayer Stations (1-8). These will predominantly be set out on top of tables. On each will be everything the participant needs to carry out any actions asked of them.

Each participant will be given a booklet to lead them around the space.

At the start there should be a waiting area with refreshments and participants sent through in no more than threes or fours to ease the flow through the stations. Participants will return to this point after passing through the stations.

At the end of this overview there will be a list of the resources and instructions for particular stations.

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Station 1 Pentecost

READING Acts 2:1a

SET UP A4 sheets with blank letters to spell out CHURCH and pens.

ACT On the table are pieces of paper spelling out the word CHURCH. What words, memories, events, or people does that word bring to mind? Write a word or a short sentence on the paper.

Station 2 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

READING Acts 2:1-4

SET UP Large candle and tea lights

ACT On the table are a central candle and some tea lights. Take a tea light, reflect on this opening passage and the candle, and when you are ready light a tea light and place it on the table.

Station 3 Every nation under heaven

READING Acts 2:5-13

SET UP Cards with envelopes, and pens

ACT On the table is a pile of cards with envelopes. Who do you need to send a message to? Who deserves a thank you, needs to know you're thinking about them, or should you apologise to? Write the note, seal the envelope, write their name on the front, and decide whether to address and post it when you get home.

Station 4 Peter Addresses the Crowd

READING Acts 2:14-21

SET UP copy of the speech "I Have a Dream" (see end) and highlighter pens.

ACT On the table is a copy of the speech "I Have a Dream" which was delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 28 August 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. Read it through and then highlight one word that jumps out at you.

Station 5 You that are Israelites

READING Acts 2:22-28

SET UP None

ACT Keep rereading this quote and as you do look closely at your right hand. Keep the words running through your mind as you turn your hand over looking at the back and palm, your nails, knuckles, joints, any rings you're wearing, and any other distinguishing marks. When you are ready read the quotation one last time and move on.

Station 6 Fellow Israelites

READING Acts 2:29-36

SET UP Celtic cross and night-light and list of titles of Jesus (see end)

ACT On the table is a piece of paper with a list of other titles of Jesus from the Bible. Read through them. Which do you prefer? Are there any you'd never heard before? Do they all make sense to you? Reflect on these titles for a while before you move on.

Station 7 The First Converts

READING Acts 2:37-41

SET UP Copies of church magazines, leaflets, posters etc

ACT The community grew because people heard the message and responded. Who could you invite to Church, maybe not immediately to the worship service but to a social event or group? Reflect on their name(s) and about what part within the whole life of our church they might enjoy. (And then in the next week or so, ask them.)

Station 8 Life among the Believers

READING Acts 2:42-47

SET UP A4 sheets with blank letters to spell out CHURCH and pens.

ACT At the first station you were asked to reflect on what the word Church brought to mind. Now again on the table are pieces of paper spelling out the word CHURCH. In light of your journey through Acts 2 what words, dreams, events, or people does that word bring to mind now? Write a word or short sentence on the paper.

Resources

A4 sheets with blank letters to spell out CHURCH x2
Cards with envelopes
Celtic cross and night-light
Copies of church magazines, leaflets, posters etc
Copy of the speech "I Have a Dream"
Highlighter pens.
Large candle
List of titles of Jesus
Pens
Tea lights

Station 4 Peter Addresses the Crowd

Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream"

delivered 28 August 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C.

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of colour are concerned. Instead of honouring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. And there will be neither rest nor tranquillity in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of

bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvellous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.

We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: "For Whites Only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. And some of you have come from areas where your quest -- quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,

From every mountainside, let freedom ring!

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that:

Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last!

Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!

Advocate (1 John 2:1)

Almighty (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18)

Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)

Amen (Rev. 3:14)

Apostle of our Profession (Heb. 3:1)

Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins (1 John 2:2)

Author of Life (Acts 3:15)

Author and Perfecter of our Faith (Heb. 12:2)

Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)

Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)

Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15)

Bread of God (John 6:33)

Bread of Life (John 6:35; 6:48)

Bridegroom (Mt. 9:15)

Capstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)

Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)

Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)

Christ (1 John 2:22)

Creator (John 1:3)

Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)

Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20)

Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)

Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5)

Faithful and True Witness (Rev. 3:14)

First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)

Firstborn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5)

Firstborn over all creation (Col. 1:15)

Gate (John 10:9)

God (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20; etc.)

Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)

Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)

Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)

Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)

Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2)
High Priest (Heb. 2:17)
Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)
Holy One (Acts 3:14)
Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)
Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69)
I Am (John 8:58)
Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4)
Immanuel (Mt. 1:23)
Judge of the living and the dead (Acts 10:42)
King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17)
King of Israel (John 1:49)
King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)
King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16)
King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3)
Lamb (Rev. 13:8)
Lamb of God (John 1:29)
Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19)
Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)
Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4)
Light of the World (John 8:12)
Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)
Living One (Rev. 1:18)
Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4)
Lord (2 Pet. 2:20)
Lord of All (Acts 10:36)
Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8)
Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16)
Man from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:48)
Master (Lk. 5:5; 8:24; 9:33)
Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15)
Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)
Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)
Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16)
Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)

Our Great God and Saviour (Titus 2:13)
Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30)
Our Husband (2 Cor. 11:2)
Our Peace (Eph 2:14)
Our Protection (2 Thess. 3:3)
Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30)
Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)
Our Sacrificed Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)
Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6)
Prophet (Acts 3:22)
Rabbi (Mt. 26:25)
Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5)
Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)
Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
Root of David (Rev. 5:5; 22:16)
Ruler of God's Creation (Rev. 3:14)
Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5)
Saviour (Eph. 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:20)
Son of David (Lk. 18:39)
Son of God (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14)
Son of Man (Mt. 8:20)
Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32)
Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9)
The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
The Stone the builders rejected (Acts 4:11)
The Teacher (John 11:28, NIV)
True Bread (John 6:32)
True Light (John 1:9)
True Vine (John 15:1)
Truth (John 1:14; 14:6)
Way (John 14:6)
Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
Word (John 1:1)
Word of God (Rev. 19:13)