

Creative Prayer Idea

Christmas Prayer Garland

You will need:

- thin strips of paper (we recommend around 2cm by 20cm, although it doesn't need to be too precise!)
- glue or tape
- pens, pencils or crayons
- any extra decorations you think you might need, such as glitter, sequins, or paint

Take a strip of paper, and think of someone you would like to feel welcome, included and loved this Christmas. This could be someone close to you, or it could be a person or group you've heard about at church or in the media. Write their name on your strip of paper, or mark it in another way so you know it's especially for them – maybe write an initial, or colour the paper in their favourite colour, or draw a picture of them.

Decorate your strip of paper with whatever you have in your house. As you decorate, pray for this person or group, lifting their needs to God and asking that they experience the love and welcome of the Father this Christmas.

Repeat this process a few more times, taking the time to think of and pray for someone new with each strip of paper.

When you have finished (you might need to wait for your decorations to dry if you have used glue or paint!), you are going to create a chain with your strips of paper. To make your chain, follow these steps:

- 1) Take one strip of paper and curl it around so the two ends meet. Stick the ends together with glue or tape. This will be your first chain link!
- 2) Take another strip of paper and feed it through the middle of your first chain link. Just as before, curl the ends to meet and stick them together.
- 3) Repeat until you have a chain.

Find somewhere to hang your prayer garland – maybe on your tree or above your fireplace - as a reminder to continue to pray for those in special need of welcome and care this Christmas.

