



REMEMBERING GOD IN PRAYER

SPECIAL DAYS

PREPARATION

- ➔ Invite a guest or member to tell the group about a family member who made a sacrifice during a time of conflict
- ➔ Arrange for bonfire toffee or another suitable sweet treat to be made for the group - to share, as a gift to take away, or for members to give to others
 - ➔ [Bonfire toffee recipe](#) by BBCgoodfood.com
 - ➔ [Toffee apples recipe](#) by BBCgoodfood.com
- ➔ Prepare three or four prayer spaces:
 - ➔ Prepare instructions and reflections suitable for your group
 - ➔ Use props to enrich the reflections, eg tags and a small tree or tags and a peg board; battery-operated tea lights; coloured ribbons on a branch/tree; display Psalm 50:15; coloured pencils/pens
 - ➔ Source additional prayer ideas on [Pinterest](#)
 - ➔ Find some quiet worship music to play, eg [Instrumental Soaking Worship](#) by Bethel Music

Additional resource

- ❖ Psalm 50:15 (*MEV*) sheet

Please be aware of food allergies.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The first weekend of November sees the annual celebration of Bonfire Night in the UK, when people around the country come together to make bonfires and watch them burn, while firework displays are seen and heard all over. It is a time to remember the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament and the fate of those who tried.

Then at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month [November] we solemnly mark Remembrance Day, commemorating the exact time the First World War ended in 1918. A time to remember everyone who has died in or been affected by conflicts around the world.

November is certainly a time for remembering, but among these traditions, we also need to remember to talk with God - to pray in all circumstances of life.



ACTIVITIES

SPEAKER

Invite someone to share a family story of sacrifice during a conflict.

PRAYER STATIONS

Set up a few prayer stations around the room. Provide some quiet music for this time eg *Instrumental Soaking Worship* by Bethel Music.

Suggested prayer ideas

- * Members write the first name of someone they want to remember on a tag and pin to a board or hang on a small tree
- * 'Light' a candle [use small battery-operated tea lights] to remember and pray for something important
- * Have coloured pieces of ribbon tied to a branch / small tree and invite members to each untie a ribbon and thank God for helping in times of difficulty as they do so
- * Display the words of Psalm 50:15 (MEV): '*Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will glorify me.*' Ask members to think on these words. Or print out the Psalm 50:15 sheets for members to colour in.

SHARE

Share out the bonfire toffee or other sweet treats and enjoy its lovely taste (be careful of teeth)! Share memories of other food and events shared at this time of year.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

Jonah 2

Jonah remembers God in prayer

STORY

Three ministers were talking about prayer, and they started to share their ideas on effective positions for prayer. As they were talking, a telephone repair man was working on the phone system in the background.

One minister felt that it was important how you held your hands. He always held his hands together and pointed them upward as a form of symbolic worship.

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The second suggested that real prayer was conducted humbly, on your knees.

The third thought that they both had it wrong; the only position worth its salt was to pray stretched out flat on your face.

By this time the phone man couldn't stay out of the conversation any longer. He interjected: 'I found that the most powerful prayer I ever made was while I was dangling upside down by my heels from a power pole, suspended 40 feet above the ground.'

For Jonah, perhaps the most powerful prayer he ever prayed might have been when he was in the belly of a fish.

📖 'When my life was ebbing away, I **remembered** you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.'
(Jonah 2:7)

Jonah made this prayer after he had disobeyed God by not going to the city of Nineveh and was on the run instead. While on a ship heading to Joppa, in the opposite direction, a storm gathered. The crew drew lots to find out who was responsible, and the lot fell on Jonah. At his request (Jonah 1:12,15) Jonah was thrown overboard and the sea grew calm.

But for Jonah things became worse; he was swallowed by a big fish (traditionally but mistakenly called a whale). Jonah was stuck inside this fish, inside its belly. Knowing he was in a very tricky and dangerous situation, it is not a surprise that he then remembered the Lord in prayer!

We have all done the same - prayed passionately to God when we too found ourselves in a tricky or difficult situation. Whether you were running from God or not, there may have been times when you have felt you were going through a storm, or perhaps felt you'd been thrown overboard into the raging sea. You too may have felt like you'd been saved from one peril only to be swallowed by a fish – 'out of the frying pan into the fire', so to say.

No matter how bad the storms of our life get, even when we get very low, it is good for us to remember God in prayer. For as someone once said, 'We have to look up to see down, and it is then that we discover God is able to deliver us.'

We are reminded of this in Psalm 50:15 (MEV), where it is written, '*Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will glorify me.*'

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So what do we do when we find ourselves ‘in the belly of a fish’?
Remember God in prayer. Why?

- * Pray because God is good, even when we are not.
- * Pray because God is powerful enough to pull us out of anything.
- * Pray because prayer will change us for the better.

Adapted from sermoncentral.com

PRAYER

Wonderful Father, we bless your name today.
When we look back over our lives, we can't help but thank you for your goodness and mercy.
We thank you as we reflect on all your awesome works for us, for our families, our church family, our community, and our nation.
Father God, we love you because you hear our prayers, and we give thanks and praise your name.
For Lord, you are good, and your unfailing love continues for ever. Your faithfulness continues to each generation.
Amen.

SONGS

- ♪ SASB 169 ‘Here is love vast as the ocean’
Watch the [lyric version](#) by Reawaken Hymns or the [music version \(no lyrics\)](#) by The Salvation Army Tunbridge Wells Songsters
- ♪ SASB 763 ‘I do not ask thee, Lord’
Watch the [brass instrumental lyric version](#) by Stotfold Salvation Army
- ♪ SASB 801 ‘Whisper a prayer in the morning’
Watch the [version \(no lyrics\)](#) by Cedarfont Kids or the [gospel version \(no lyrics\)](#) by Cybèle Coutet Craig
- ♪ ‘Oceans (where feet may fail)’
Watch the [official lyric video](#), radio version by Hillsong United

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WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect
- Family Ministries website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families
- Emails: familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily_ministries



Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

Children | Adults | Everyone



Call on
me
in the day of
trouble,
I WILL
deliver you
and you
shall
glorify
me.

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