

International Development Week Prayer and Worship Ideas

SONG SUGGESTIONS

- 'There is a new song', SASB 483
- 'I am a new creation', SASB 367
- 'Amazing grace! how sweet the sound', SASB 453
- 'Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing', SASB 817
- 'Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)', Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsQ0s05sqOQ>
- 'New name written down in Glory', Charity Gayle
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7GP7aUg3Nk>
- 'Who you say I am', Hillsong Worship
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n_4
- 'I'm in his hands', SASB 848
- 'Cornerstone (My hope is built)', Hillsong Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55-EQXrDgtA>
- 'Make me a channel of your peace', SASB 608

PRAYER IDEAS

Written prayer

Father,

Thank you for reminding us of your divine plan and the power of new beginnings. Just as Joseph faced trials and found new paths through your guidance, we seek your wisdom and direction in our lives. Help us to trust in you throughout any changes and challenges we face.

We pray for the individuals and families affected by human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. Please remind them of your love and comfort. May they know you have a plan for their lives, one that is filled with hope and promise. Bless those who work on behalf of The Salvation Army and other agencies and charities to free those trapped by slavery.

Thank you for teaching us how to act for justice and reconciliation. Let this be what we take forward into new beginnings, and help others to see this through our actions.

In faith and trust, we pray, Amen.



**NEW
BEGINNINGS**

Prayer card

Have blank squares of colourful card available for people to take and write 'Tricked, trapped and traded' on one side. Then write 'Loved, free and forgiven' on the other side. These words sum up Joseph's story: after going through slavery and imprisonment his life was transformed due to his faith in God.

During this time, ask people to pray for the people whose lives are impacted by this issue. Also, pray for the work of The Salvation Army and other organisations who offer people the opportunity for a fresh start.

Encourage people to keep the card as a reminder of the people who are affected by modern slavery and always to pray for new beginnings.

WORSHIP IDEAS

Antigram

Equipment: plastic magnet letters or Scrabble letters. The magnet letters may be easier for your congregation to see.

Words can have completely different or even opposite meanings if you simply switch the letters. This kind of anagram is called an antigram. For example, the word 'funeral' becomes 'real fun', or 'restful' becomes 'fluster' by swapping the letters around.

Ask for a couple of volunteers to come and give it a go. Start them out with a word and see how many new words they can make from the first word. Bonus point if they make an antigram.

God changes us into who he wants us to be to live out his plan and gives our lives new meaning.

A wave of Joseph's story

Plot the high and low moments of Joseph's life on a piece of flipchart paper, in the shape of a horizontal wave. You may want to print out a list of key moments and have them on small slips of paper before the service. Then use Blu Tack to attach them to the flipchart wave depending on if people think it's a high or a low moment for Joseph. What you should be able to notice is that every time Joseph is in a dark place something improves his life. This highlights God's work and greater plan for Joseph.



**NEW
BEGINNINGS**

To continue this idea of a wave, encourage people to draw a wave for their own lives. Perhaps there may be a similar pattern to Joseph's, or they may have lots of different peaks and troughs. You may choose to do this with paper and pens during worship, or give time for people to reflect on how this may look. It is important to remember that God is not finished with us yet! We must remain close to God and listen to his plan for each of us.

BRF Ministries Ideas

BRF Ministries have produced creative ways to tell the story of Joseph. You may choose to use one of these ideas during worship to get everyone involved.

<https://www.brf.org.uk/product/the-story-of-joseph-the-peacock/>

This resource includes a creative way of telling the story of Joseph through colours. You may choose to display the colours on screen as you tell the story, or have volunteers hold up coloured card.

<https://www.brf.org.uk/product/the-story-of-joseph-the-prime-minister/>

Here are three ways to tell the story of Joseph in an engaging and exciting way, including getting everyone moving, playing a game of fruit salad or a short story with props.

<https://www.brf.org.uk/product/the-story-of-joseph-the-prisoner/>

This idea involves a Mexican wave to show the high and low moments in Joseph's life. There is also a script that includes an arrow as well as sound effects.

Caterpillar into a butterfly

Equipment: pipe cleaners

Throughout our lives we transform and develop into different versions of ourselves. Sometimes these are big transformations, and sometimes the change is gradual and almost unnoticeable. The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly shows a complete change.

Give everyone a pipe cleaner and ask them to bend it to look like a caterpillar. While doing this, encourage people to reflect on their own lives and think about a time before they knew and welcomed God into their life.

Then with the same pipe cleaner, ask everyone to change the shape into a butterfly. The butterfly represents the freedom and beauty that life with God offers.



**NEW
BEGINNINGS**