PRAYING FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

A prayer resource for children and families to pray for their neighbours near and far 2024







INTRODUCTION

Praying For Our Neighbours seeks to help children and families pray for least-reached people groups around the world. We are so excited that you have picked up this resource to pray with your children!

Since 2020, OM teams have joined with the Children in Missions Network (CIMN) for their Global Day of Children Praying for the Unreached People Groups. Their initiative has impacted children and families worldwide and mobilised many people to pray.

This year we want to encourage you to set aside one whole week to pray for the least-reached people around the world. Our heart is to see families pray together. So, you could use this resource as a family and read through the information together each day. But we would like to challenge you to take it one step further by inviting another family or even a group of families to join you to pray. You could also use this resource to plan a prayer event for families. There are some ideas for this near the end of the booklet.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this resource possible: photographers, writers, designers, ministry leaders, mobilisers, and our partners in mission. We are grateful for your contribution and trust that children and families will be inspired to pray and even go to those who have not heard the life-changing message of the Bible.

We hope that you will enjoy using this resource. You are welcome to message us with questions or just let us know how it impacted your family or community. We pray that a generation will rise up that has a heart for missions.

On behalf of the ICHNOS team, Operation Mobilisation's international children's ministry,



Note: The stories in this resource are a mix of reality, and fiction based on real situations. Names of people and places are changed to protect the children in the story.

We would love to hear from you! Please share your stories, feedback, or questions with us by sending an email to info.ichnos@om.org



DAY 1: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?





Emma looked out of the window driving away from the place she had lived for many years. She was sad that they had to leave their house and move to the big city. For years, they had lived in a small village in the north of the Netherlands, but now they had moved to Rotterdam, a big city on the coast. Her dad had a new job, and it was too far to drive from their old house to his work every day.

After two hours in the car, they arrived at their new place. It was nothing like her old house or street. The houses were close to each other, they only had a small garden, and there was a lot of traffic in their street. The nice thing about their new house was a big park across the street with a slide and swings. She could not wait to try it out.

They parked and she asked her mum if she could play. "OK", said her mum, "but just for half an hour". She pressed the button of the traffic light and waited for green to cross to the park. There were some other children playing in the park, but Emma was too afraid to talk to them, so they she went to the

swings and started swinging on her own. She closed her eyes, imagining her old house and her friends. She almost forgot that she was on a swing...

BANG. Emma was on the ground. Her head hurt and she had hurt her arm too. Emma started to cry and looked for help. No one seemed to look at her and she felt more alone than ever. Suddenly, she heard a voice of another child. "You OK?" The girl didn't seem to speak the language very well, but she reached out her hand and helped her get home.

That evening the doorbell rang. The girl and her mum brought a big pot of food. They introduced themselves as the Ghulam family and shared that they lived in the house next door. They came from Syria and had only lived in the Netherlands since last year. Emma learned that the girl, Halima, would be in the same school and even the same class. She was happy that she had already made one friend, her neighbour.

Did you know that someone asked Jesus one day, "Who is my neighbour?" Read the story from Luke 10:25-37 with your family and talk about what it means to be a neighbour to someone.

Make a drawing or collage of your street. Draw each house, garden, and if you know your neighbours you can draw them in their houses or write their names down. Put this drawing or collage up somewhere in your house and every time you see it, remember to pray for your neighbours.

PRAYER

God, help our family to welcome new people in our neighbourhood and to be a light to them that shows them who You are. Please remind us to pray that they will get to know You as we show them Your love.

You should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (ICB)

CHALLENGE

Is there someone in your street that you do not know? Together with your family think of ways to show them that you would like to get to know them. E.g., send them a card, invite them for coffee or a meal, bring them some cookies, or just go and introduce yourselves.





DAY 2: MY COMMUNITY





Ten years old, Abigail lived with her parents in a small, lively community in Guyana called Sunflower Valley. She attended the Sunflower Valley Primary School and was making history there. She was known for her excellent performance and almost perfect attendance record. Every day, Abigail looked forward to her learning adventure in the classroom as she joyfully boarded the bus.

This was until the morning of 5 February when things suddenly changed. Abigail's mum informed her that there was no school because the teachers were striking for better working conditions and increased wages. Abigail immediately felt disappointed. Her mum, Rena, had a challenging time finding someone to take care of her until her grandma could come.

Looking at the now quiet street, Abigail thought of how lively it had been just the day before. Schoolchildren were everywhere, and school buses could be seen stopping at every corner, but now everything was still. The effects of the teachers' strike rippled through the community, casting a shadow over daily life.

Days quickly turned to weeks and the strike continued. Abigail, the children of the community and their parents became increasingly alarmed. Children were seen loitering at every street corner or playing in the streets, while some children were left at home unsupervised, and many were behind in their studies. The situation was becoming a helpless one since negotiations between the teachers and the Government were at a standstill.

Finally, Abigail's grandma Martha came. She was a Christian and believed that only God can bring the change that was needed. Thus, she daily gathered some of the children in the community and they prayed for the teachers and the Government. They also prayed for their families and the community.

As they prayed daily, things began to change. Then one afternoon they were told that the strike ended. The Government and teachers were able to reach an agreement. Abigail rejoiced as she knew it was God who answered their prayers.

As she joyfully boarded the school bus the next morning, Abigail and her friends decided in their heart to keep praying about everything, including their community because God answers prayer!











PRAYER

God indeed answers prayers. In a time of crisis, Queen Esther and the Jews (Esther 4-5) fasted and prayed to God for the deliverance of the Jews, and God answered their prayers in an amazing way. Take a look at the story and discuss as a family how you can pray for your community. You can pray your own prayer or pray the prayer below.

"Dear Jesus, I pray that you will bless my community. I pray that people will know who you are and be saved. Bless our leaders with the wisdom to make wise decisions that will benefit the community. Help us as a family to show God's love to the community. May Your light shine brightly in our midst, bringing hope and joy to all. Amen."

ACTIVITY

Today we are making a community prayer jar. Ask your parents for an empty jar or box. You can decorate it in a way you like. Then, write down on small papers (groups of) people in your community you can pray for. As much as possible find their names. E.g., the names of your teachers, your pastor and his family, your friends, people who own a shop, but also people who are in need, a chief or mayor, or other community leader. Put them in the jar. At family prayer time you can each pick one paper and pray for this person or group.



CHALLENGE

As you talk as a family and pray for your community think about ways you can practically do to bring change. You and your family could join a community project, like a soup kitchen, or maybe your family could simply start by cleaning up the rubbish in the streets and parks of your community.













DAY 3: IN THE CITY



Blerina, a girl of 11, is part of a special community called Roma. Her family live an old building on the outskirts of a small city in Albania.

Most days, Blerina looks after her two younger brothers as her parents go out till late gathering trash to recycle. This earns them a small amount of money to buy food.

Blerina enjoys listening to and making music out of anything that can make a sound. She heard wonderful old stories about her longdifferent from her. They were not very nice to her and her friends at all. They teased and called them names. Even when the people who invited Blerina and her friends asked them to leave, they continued. Blerina was so sad. It happens when they go into the city, the beach, and other places too. They are often made fun of, and others refuse to play with them. Of course, not all. There are some nice people and children.

When Blerina bravely made her way to the music event, at a small church, she and her



ago great-grandparents who used to travel in wooden mobile homes. They danced, sang, and played music wherever they went. They wore bright clothing, living free, happy lives. That's the part of their story that she liked. She was not so fond of the stories of magic and strange beliefs though. Those made her feal uneasy.

One day some people who love Jesus invited her and other children in her community to a very exciting event. Somebody special was going to teach them basic music using all kinds of equipment as well as everyday items to make sounds like she loved. But she was also a little nervous. Last time she went to one of these activities, there were local children, friends were warmly welcomed. And there were other children from the church who welcomed them too. They played, danced, made music, and even ate sandwiches and drank juice together. At the end of it all, they invited Blerina to go back to the church on Sundays to learn about Jesus. She had been told by the others about Him and now this church too. Jesus sounded lovely to her, and she looked forward to knowing more.







One A4-sized white or coloured paper, and a smaller piece of red or pink paper to make a heart. To begin have the children trace their hands on the paper and then cut them out. Next have them flip their paper handprints upside-down so their thumbs form a heart. Lastly, cut a small heart out of the red paper and glue it into the middle. You can write in the heart: Love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12).



PRAYER

Jesus, you have said we should love each as you love us. May we love and be friends to all and not make anyone feel unwelcome. Especially as we see people in our towns and cities who are not welcomed by others.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:12-14 (ESV)

CHALLENGE

Is there someone in your school, sports club, or church in the city that you are from that others are not welcoming and kind to? Together with your family think of ways to welcome them, e.g., join you for lunch at break time, sit next to you in church. Let them know you see them and become friends with them.











DAY 4: MY COUNTRY



It was only 6am but Jabu jumped out of his bed. Today was 24 of September, Heritage Day in South Africa. Jabu was excited because he got to dress up in his cultural outfit and was part of a dance group in the community. His mum was also up. She was cooking the usual maize porridge, or "pap", for breakfast. "Good morning" she said with a smile. "Go and wash up, your clothes are in the bathroom." Jabu walked to the bathroom. He loved his special outfit which he was only allowed to wear at special occasions. His favourite part of the outfit was the "umphele" the headband made of the skin of a springbok, the national animal of South Africa.

Once everyone in the house was dressed in traditional clothing, Jabu and his family went to the community event at the local primary school. It was a festival of colours. Jabu lived in Johannesburg where people from many countries and tribes were living. Different dances were performed and after a while it was Jabu's turn. The drums were beating and Jabu and his friends gave it all. His legs went high in the air and his feet stomped on the ground. The audience was clapping and shouting for joy and Jabu couldn't stop smiling.

The smell of grilled sausages filled the school grounds. And Jabu asked his father if he could have a "boerewors roll", a South African sausage roll. Jabu walked home with his parents while taking a big bite of the sausage roll. What an awesome day.

Jabu yawned and could barely keep his eyes open. Before he went to sleep, he snuggled together with his siblings to listen to his father sharing from the Bible. Their usual evening ritual. His father asked if they had a good day and all of them were nodding their heads. It was amazing. All the colours,

the music, the joy... "Now close your eyes and imagine different families and people from our country, and even from the other countries in the world singing and dancing for Jesus," his father continued. "How would you feel about that?" His father started reading:

"People everywhere will remember and will turn to the Lord. All the families of the nations will worship him." Psalm 22:27 (ICB).

"Let's pray," said his father. "God, we thank you that we could celebrate our heritage today. Thank you for the freedom we have in our country. Thank you that each person, each family, and each nation is made in your image and showing something of who you are. Thank you that we can pray for families that do not know you..."

Jabu never heard his father say amen. He was already asleep and dreaming of that day where we will sing and dance for Jesus. What a celebration that must be!











African traditional clothing often is full of beautiful patterns. Make your own African necklace from a paper plate or cover a tin with colourful patterns and use it as a drum to make your own music.

PRAYER

Pray for families in your country who do not know about Jesus. Pray that they will learn about him so that one day, they can worship God with you.



CHALLENGE

Find a restaurant or visit a cultural festival of another culture in your country with your family and share what you have learned about the other culture. Then, take some time to pray for their family and country of heritage.

Tip: If visiting somewhere is a challenge you can find out what people groups or cultures are living in your country and find one of their traditional recipes to cook. This <u>website</u> might give you some ideas.











DAY 5: COUNTRIES AROUND ME





Tatenda, his two sisters and his parents loaded the last bag into the car. Mom ran through the checklist one last time- sleeping bags, an inflatable mattress, mosquito sprays, medicine to prevent malaria, clothes, raincoats, Bibles and of course, their passports. Tatenda and his family weren't going on holiday, far more exciting, they were going on a mission trip, from Harare, Zimbabwe to a neighbouring country of Mozambique.

As the family drove through Zimbabwe and into Mozambique, Tatenda secretly hoped they would visit the beach while there, but dad had shown them on a map where they were going, and the town was far from any beach. The main aim of their trip was to support a missionary family in Mozambique and to play a small part to help for the week they'd be there.

Tatenda and the rest of the team had undergone cultural training as well as training in sharing their personal journey to becoming a Christian. The nice man who trained them had called it personal witnessing. Being the second youngest in the group of 15, Tatenda figured he would not really get a chance to share his faith with anyone, but instead, to show God's love to the children in Mozambique by playing soccer with them.

Imagine his surprise when, during an outreach, one of the team leaders invited him to share his faith with two teenagers they had just met. The team leader later described the meeting by saying, "With knees quaking, Tatenda shared his faith through personal witnessing. The teenagers listened attentively and decided to give their lives to Jesus!"

Tatenda spent much of the rest of the trip doing new things like playing soccer, babysitting, helping with Sunday School children. He wanted to give more of God's love to the people in Mozambique even though they did not speak the same language, even though they ate food different from his, even though the ladies all wore clothes different from back home in Zimbabwe. Tatenda was reminded that he was the hands and feet of God in this beautiful part of Mozambique, far from his own home in Zimbabwe.

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

- Draw a map of your country in the middle of a sheet of paper. Then label where your neighbouring countries are on the rest of the sheet of paper.
- Using another piece of paper, draw two footprints and cut them out.
- Place the feet onto the one of your neighbouring countries.
- Take some time to pray for that country, for the gospel to reach all the people of that country.
- Pray for children in that country and any specific needs you may know about.
- Unstick the feet and walk them to the next country and do the same thing.



PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me love the neighbours I see around me every day and those who are far away from me. Help me love those who do not even speak the same language as me and those who live differently from me. I pray for peace in the countries around mine. I pray that they may hear your Word and that those who believe in you would be bold in sharing the good news. Strengthen the Christians there and help them share how you have changed their lives. May I have beautiful feet that preach the good news of Jesus Christ near and far! It is in Jesus' precious name I pray, amen.

CHALLENGE

Discuss as a family what you can do to help spread the good news in neighbouring countries. Tatenda went with his family to another country to share the love of Jesus with them. Maybe you can also plan to join a group to visit a nearby country or you can help to raise funds for someone else who is planning to go on a mission trip.





DAY 6: THE WORLD





In the jungle on one of the islands of the Philippines there are villages who have never heard about Jesus. But slowly, some of them are being reached with the gospel, and the children of these villages come together every week to learn more about Jesus.

One day, their teacher told everyone to come close. She took a big cloth from her bag with different colours and asked if anyone knew what it was. Ligaya put her hand up. "Yes, Ligaya, what do you think?" "It's a world map, ma'am," she answered proudly. And she was right.

Their teacher explained that a few years ago, the people in their village had never heard about Jesus. But someone came to share with them and now several people follow Jesus. She continued to explain that many people in other villages and countries have still not heard about Jesus. She shared how they might not be able to go to all these places but that they can start by praying for them. "What do you think?" she asked.

With one voice, the children shouted "YES". Ligaya's teacher told them about the 10/40 window, an area between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator where many people have not yet heard about Jesus. She pointed the area out on the map. Ligaya read some names of the countries in the area: India, China, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and many more. Her teacher started to share a bit more about India and Niger.

After they prayed for these countries, the teacher shared how we can also pray for other believers in countries that are suffering. She shared about the war in the Ukraine. Ligaya was sad for the children there and prayed that God would help the children and their families in the Ukraine and keep them safe.

While Ligaya was walking home, she was dreaming of travelling to all these countries, visiting the people, helping them, and telling them about Jesus. "One day", she thought "but for now, I'll pray".













Make your own passport. On the first page you can write some information about yourself, like your name, date of birth, place of birth and so on. You can also draw a picture of yourself. On the following pages you can collect stamps, write country names, or draw flags for all the countries you have prayed for.

Passport

PRAYER

Find or make a map of the world. Choose one country to pray for. Find some information about the country and take some time to pray. At the back of this resource, you can find some websites that can help you find information and prayer points per country. After you prayed, add the name or flag of the country to your passport. Decide how often and when you will pray for a country as a family.

Tip: You can also watch the news as a family and pray for the countries that are in the news that day.

CHALLENGE

Ligaya was praying with other children. Ask some of your friends to join you in praying for different countries this week. You can prepare some information about the country and prepare a craft or quiz afterwards.













DAY 7: WHAT CAN I DO?



Andrew lives with his parents and siblings in a mining community in South America, an area rich with resources such as bauxite, timber, sand, and stone. The industry booms with activities as ships visit regularly to purchase bauxite and trucks move along the roads carrying logs and stones. The people living and working in the community come from different cultural backgrounds but what they have in common is that most of them do not believe in Jesus. A lot of bad things are happening in Andrew's neighbourhood, and this makes him incredibly sad.

One day, he spoke to Miss Robinson, his Sunday School teacher, about these

to go into the world and make disciples. It means that we must go and tell others about His great love for them" Miss Robinson explained.

Andrew was so excited to hear that God wanted to use him for this task. He was not sure though how he could tell others about Jesus. Miss Robinson showed him a passage in the Bible:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NLT)



activities and the effect it was having on him. She showed him Bible verses to help him understand why people choose to sin. Using Romans 5:19, she explained that the first people were disobedient to God and how this separated them from God. But God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to take our punishment so that we could be reunited with God. Jesus died for the sins of all people and rose again. Before he went back to God he gave his followers, the disciples, an assignment called the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20).

"Great Commission?" Andrew asked. "Yes, it is a special task given by Jesus to all believers

Miss Robinson explained that God will help him to share what he has learned about God with others and give him courage to do this. She also told him that he could start by praying for his neighbours who do not know Jesus. "Can I pray for you?" Miss Robinson asked. Andrew nodded. When Miss Robinson said "Amen", Andrew decided he was going to pray for his neighbourhood and would find opportunities to tell people about Jesus. Miss Robinson reminded him that he would not need to be afraid because Jesus promised to be with him always. Andrew walked out of the door full of excitement. God was willing to use him for the big task!







Find a big stone you can lift with one hand. Wash and dry it and decorate it with paint. Choose as a family what you would like to write on it to remind you to join many other believers in the Great Commission. Some ideas could be go tell, Matthew 28:18-20, Great Commission, we will join the task, and so on.



PRAYER

Sit together as a family and pray for each other to be bold in sharing the gospel with others. Thank God that he is willing to use each one of you for his Kingdom work. Ask him to guide you as a family to find your unique role in the Great Commission.

CHALLENGE

Discuss as a family how you can tell others about Jesus. There are some <u>great tools</u> that can help you, but you can also share your own testimony about Jesus. Practice by sharing it to each other and each write one name down of a person you can tell about Jesus. As a family take time to pray every day for these people until you all had the opportunity to share. Encourage each other and thank God when someone listened and opened their heart for God.









IDEAS FOR GROUPS

This resource was originally made for families but can be used by groups or churches too. We would like to inspire you with some more ideas that can be done in groups.

Organise a prayer walk for families in your neighbourhood. Pray for people that do not know Jesus to have open hearts, pray for followers of Jesus to be bold in sharing the gospel and to show his love to people around them, pray for people in need and for specific places you see on the way, e.g, a school, hospital, mosque etc.

Host an international prayer night for families. In appendix 1 you can find an example activity you could do as part of an international prayer night and a link to an International Night Toolkit from Via Families. You can also use one of the ideas below for an international prayer night.

Country draw. Put names of countries from the 10/40 window on different papers and put them in a bag. Each family can draw a country. Ask them to prepare a 10–15-minute country presentation with some information and prayer points that they can present at your regular prayer meeting, Sunday School meetings, or a special prayer event during this week. You could also plan this with prayer stations and have people rotate. After the presentation take time to pray together.

Family prayer dinner. Prepare a cultural dinner of a country in the 10/40 window and prepare some information and prayer points about this country. If possible, you could invite a guest speaker. Invite several families to join you for this dinner. Make it as authentic as possible. E.g., sitting on the floor, eating from one big plate, eating with hands or chop sticks, separating men from women etc. You can even play music from the country the people are praying for. You can share information before, during, or after the meal and pray together at the end.

World prayer room. Set aside a room in your church or ministry for a specific time and design it in such a way that it inspires people to pray for the world. You could use pictures, maps, prayer points, stories, verses about the nations, flags etc. You can include a prayer wall or prayer board where people can write things they prayed for or add answered prayers. To make a prayer room more engaging for children you can add little assignments and activities, e.g., find and copy the flag of Yemen and write the three prayer requests down for Yemen that you can find on the prayer wall.



APPENDIX 1

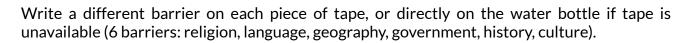
Knocking Down Barriers

Materials

- 6 empty water bottles
- Masking tape, if available
- Black permanent marker
- Tennis ball/small ball similar size

Instructions

Put a strip of tape on each water bottle.



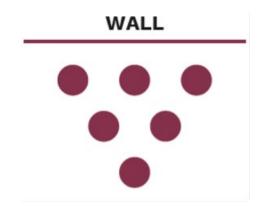
Arrange bottles standing upright in a triangle against a wall, as shown in image above.

Explain to the group at this station that many people are still unreached with the gospel because different things stand in the way of their hearing the good news of Jesus. The bottles represent those barriers, and the tennis ball represents prayer for the unreached.

Have children stand about 6 feet (2 metres) away from the bottles and roll a tennis ball to try to knock down the bottles.

After everyone has a chance to knock down the bottles, gather together. Explain that sometimes all the barriers were knocked down with one roll, but most of the time it took multiple rolls to knock them down. Relate this to the importance of ongoing prayers and how God works through our prayers to bring down those barriers. Encourage families to spend time regularly praying for the unreached to have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

Used by permission of Via (<u>viafamilies.org</u>). This activity is from Via's International Night Toolkit. To get the full toolkit, visit <u>viafamilies.org/10years</u>. For more ideas and resources to help your family learning about and engage with God's global purposes, visit <u>viafamilies.org</u>



APPENDIX 2

AN example outline of a family event

Family Event: A Cross-Border Prayer Experience

Objective:

To unite families and children in prayer for neighbouring countries, fostering awareness, empathy, and intercession for global needs, inspired by biblical principles of love and compassion.

Outline:

Welcome & Introduction (15 minutes)

Welcome families or children, introducing the theme: "Praying for Our Neighbours." Explain the event's purpose: to learn about and pray for the needs of neighbouring countries while emphasizing the importance of compassion and global intercession.

Icebreaker Games & Cultural Exploration (20 minutes)

- Engage families and children in icebreaker activities and cultural exploration games to introduce the concept of neighbouring countries and foster curiosity and excitement.
- Some ideas for games could be an "Around the World Relay," a "Country Trivia," or a "Cultural Dress-Up Relay", or you can come up with other relevant games.

Interactive Lesson & Scriptural Reflection (15 minutes)

- Interactive teaching session or storytelling focusing on biblical teachings about loving our neighbours, including the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).
- Use visuals, object lessons, drama, or multimedia presentations to convey the message of compassion and intercession effectively.

Setup & Prayer Booth Preparation (30 minutes)

- Divide families into small groups and assign each group a neighbouring country to represent at a prayer booth, or prayer poster.
- Provide materials and guidance for decorating prayer booths with flags, maps, cultural artifacts, and information about the country's history, people, and prayer needs.
- Encourage creativity and authenticity in representing each country's unique characteristics and challenges.

Cross-Border Prayer Experience (45 minutes)

- Families rotate through the prayer booths, spending time at each station to learn about the assigned country and pray for its specific needs and challenges.
- Provide prayer prompts, Scriptures, and guided prayers related to each country's context and concerns.
- Encourage families to engage in heartfelt intercession, expressing empathy and compassion for the people of each nation.



Reflection & Commitment (15 minutes)

- Gather back for a time of reflection and sharing about the cross-border prayer experience.
- Invite families to share insights, testimonies, and prayer requests inspired by their time at the prayer booths.
- Encourage families to make a commitment to continue praying for neighbouring countries and global needs, emphasizing the power of unified intercession.

Closing Worship & Benediction (10 minutes)

- · Conclude the event with a time of worship through singing songs of praise and gratitude.
- Offer a benediction, blessing families as they depart and encouraging them to carry the spirit of compassion and intercession into their daily lives.

Additional Notes:

- Before the event, you can assign countries to families so they can research the country.
- If families are assigned countries before the event, they can come dressed in something that represents that country.
- Provide resources or handouts with information about neighbouring countries and prayer points for ongoing intercession.
- Encourage families to create prayer journals or prayer lists to continue lifting up the needs of neighbouring countries in their personal devotions.
- Consider partnering with missionary organisations or international relief agencies to provide opportunities for further involvement and support in addressing global needs.
- Through this cross-border prayer experience, families and children can gain a deeper understanding of global issues and cultivate a heart of compassion and intercession for their neighbours near and far, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ.



MORE PRAYER AND MOBILISING RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

Via Families

- Activities
- Recipes
- Prayer resources
- Devotionals
- Discipleship resources for parents

Families on Mission on Max7.org

- Free downloadable resources
- Training materials and videos to mobilise families

Wycliffe

- Prayer
- Sunday School lessons
- VBS programme for kids K-5
- World recipes

TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)

- Pinterest board with lots of resources and ideas
- Mission resources for children. Practical ideas for local and global missions
- Includes articles with great topics

Mobilizer Mom

- Devotionals
- Blog on missions
- Prayer for specific countries with activities

Open Doors

- Videos for children and youth on the persecuted church
- Ideas on how to plan a secret church
- Persecuted church passport
- Free printables

Joshua Project

- Resources about unreached people groups for children
- The website also offers tools to locate unreached people groups around the world