

PRAYER RESOURCES MOVED BY THE NEED

1. Gather **newspapers** from the week and ask participants to cut out or highlight world issues. Discuss how people respond to injustice in our world. Read Matthew 9:35-38. Pray for hearts of compassion, as well as motivation for actions that address injustice in our world.
2. **Meditate** on Matthew 25:35-36, accompanied by images of people in need. Pray for eyes to see, hearts to respond and hands and feet to serve God wherever he encounters us.
3. The use of **flags** is a Buddhist tradition where prayers and symbols are written on colourful pieces of material and tied outside homes for the wind to take the prayers, messages and thoughts across the country. For many Buddhists, prayer flags are a simple way of 'making merit' and earning the blessing of Buddha. As Christians we know that we do not need to make merit because of what Jesus did on the cross. Tie string, ribbon or wire between two points in your church or home. Invite people to write or draw prayers for the world on brightly coloured material squares. Peg the material onto the string, symbolising the prayers for the world. Particularly pray for least-reached Buddhist people groups, and the cross-cultural staff that serve among them.
4. Share **communion** together, representing God's love, grace and welcome. Use large glasses with enough liquid for a few sips. First drink from the cup and thank Jesus for his sacrifice for you. Drink a second time and say aloud the name of someone you know who does not yet know Jesus and pray that they will be one day eat and drink at the communion table. Drink a third time and say aloud the name of a least-reached people group. (Choose one of the nine least-reached people groups where Global Interaction teams live).
5. What happens in the world is everyone's responsibility. If God were to ask your church 'how are you caring for the world and my people', how would you respond? Read John 8:12 and light a large candle placed at the top of a **world map**. Invite people, in a spirit of prayer and reflection, to light a tea light candle and place it over a country or people group that is least-reached.
6. **Micah 6:6-8** reminds us that it hurts God deeply when his people fail to be moved by the needs of others. Read this passage together several times. What would your church community or small group look like if you were more committed to walking humbly with God? How would your worship be transformed if you increased your commitment to love justice and kindness? Discuss your responses and pray about specific actions.

DEAR GOD,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH
THIS WORLD THAT YOU
MADE WHERE PEOPLE ARE
MEANT TO BE FREE?
AS I ASKED GOD THE
QUESTIONS AND SEARCHED
FOR HIS ANSWERS,
HE ASKED THE SAME
QUESTIONS OF ME.

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Stacey has a background in hospitality management and pastoral ministry. She loves meeting people, cooking, trying new things and all the adventures she gets up to with her three year old son. Stacey working with Global Interaction for four years and is now a pastor at St Kilda Baptist Church.