

Pray and Play Days – 2009 – D R A F T C O P Y

Praying in Color



New Day Magazine 2009-10 features three two page movements in each section and works with the idea of living in answered prayer—how do we understand our lives as changed when our prayers are answered, and how do we watch for answered and answering prayers. The three sections are:

- **I asked** – Stories of women of the Bible whose prayers were answered
- **God Answered** – personal testimony from Disciples of Christ women whose prayers were answered
- **I am Changed** – stories of the women of Ecuador who through the partnership of Global Missions have used micro loans to change their lives and the lives of their communities, and thereby finding their prayers have been answered
- **Scattered through the pages** – quotations from books on prayer and ideas for prayer practices that focus attention on the answered prayers in our lives

Pray and play day will use the magazine as a springboard for introducing three ways of prayer and exploring the **New Day Magazine** resource for individual spiritual formation and group formation. A **leader's guide** will

once again be available for using the magazine with groups, and there will be resources on the web as well.

In addition, a **map** of South America will be distributed for use for the next 1-3 years. A small map of Ecuador will be in the magazine itself with recipes and information about mission and life in Ecuador.

A **calendar** that is a companion piece for the Blessing Box will also be available. Meditations in the calendar are written by women who have attended the **Women's Action Web or Woman to Woman**.

Resource Books for preparing for the event include:

New Day Magazine and its Leader's Guide

Praying in Color by Sybil MacBeth

Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach p. 23-26 for ideas about artistic composition journals

Homer Price Stories by Robert McCloskey

Supplies Needed:

- New Day Magazine for each participant
- Leader's guide for leaders
- Prayer journal for each person (many dollar stores or craft stores have these for \$1.00 each)
- Materials for drawing: pens, markers, colored pencils, watercolors, chalk/pastels – whatever you have on hand or want to provide
- Magazines to use for collage
- Stickers
- Origami or other interesting patterned papers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Card stock paper with pattern printed for exercise in movement two (see attached example – **Lorette—we need to make a sample to attach**)
- Stickers – variety

- String, hemp, embroidery or ribbon for third project
- Beads or other items to slip onto the bookmark string/ribbon
- Nametags for each person
- Blessing Box for each woman
- Giant version of the Blessing Box – **we will provide templates for this**

Upon registration: Send people to a name tag table to get a nametag made. From there, send them to a supply table where you have laid out the journals of all kinds and ask them to choose one. Also give each woman a blessing box.

Scatter on the tables around the room all the other supplies needed for the day. In addition scatter coins on the table for blessing box seed money (for women without coins so they can still participate).

Estimate time: 3 hours – no meal included

Introduction points to cover:

- Thank you for coming
- Thank you to hosting congregation/space
- Directions for where to find things
- Remind them there is nothing they have to accomplish or attend to during these 3 hours – these are Sabbath – gift time. They can opt out of any activity if they choose not to do it.
- Overview of the day's activities
- Permission to get up and move when needed and reminder that you will take one break in the middle of the time
- Introduce people who are leading and anyone there from region's women's ministry
- Tell them about blessing boxes on the table – remind them that a dollar bill will help the coins stay in the box better.

Remember to stop every so often all day and remind people of a blessing and YOU put coins in a box.

Opening Prayer

Movement 1 – I asked

Read a selection from New Day found on page (??)

Invite the participants to respond to the story by decorating the first few pages of the prayer journal as described in the story in New Day.

Read a quotation from **Praying in Color** – page ??

Insert the quotation here

Share with the participants the idea of this artistic expression as prayers to God. Allow them to express themselves in a few pages of their journal in different ways. (insert material from New Day here)

Show them ways to “doodle” prayers using the **Praying in Color** book.

Put participants into groups of two or three and ask them to discuss one or more of the following questions – **give them only one question at a time.**

- Did you like praying this way? Why or why not?
- Does doodling seem like a prayer form you could use?
- Do you keep a prayer journal? Why or why not?
- Do you journal in stories, lists or quotations?
- Do you prefer to keep scrapbook with pictures?

For the last question – Share with your group a prayer that came to mind for you as you were doodling/pasting/painting in your journal?

Give the groups of two or three a time for prayer together. In the instructions **STRESS** the following:

- You can hold hands or not as you are comfortable.

- You can pray silently for one another or out loud.
- When you done with your prayers – REMAIN IN SILENCE so that those still praying will not be distracted with “chatter” around them.

The leader, when all is still, can close in prayer for the whole group highlighting the colorful nature of God’s creation.

HINGE MOMENT: Give them a couple of announcement type things – upcoming retreat. What the offering will be for later in the day. Books available and resources at the book table at break and at the end of the event. (5 minutes OR LESS!! – noooooooo long commercials). If people can get info in a hand out, give it to them that way. Do not try to give lots of details or talk about structural concerns of the women’s ministry. This is a prayer day, this is **NOT** a business meeting or a training event.

Movement 2 – God Answered

In this movement we will be creating a blessing keeper or answered prayer keeper that can be folded and carried in purse or pocket.

[See attached model.](#)

Show the basic 2 fold options to make their “blessing keeper,” and show them how to fold an envelope from a magazine photo or provide envelopes to keep these “blessing keepers” in for carrying. (directions to be attached)

Invite them to decorate the sides of the shape, and fold it.

Suggest they note answers to prayers from the last few weeks on the small “**blessing keeper**” and then carry these items with them....

Don't forget the **blessing box** too! Remind people of the many ways to track our blessings (note ideas on pages ??, ??, ??, and ?? of New Day.

Invite them to have a prayer where **everyone talks at once** naming blessings, one after another and let the praise sound of gratitude ring through the room. Ask them to do it loud, then soft, than with joy, with power.....you get the idea – use lots of tones and gratitude.

Use the story in the introduction of New Day Magazine about Sr. Martha Ann Kirk on page ???

Put people in groups of two – invite them to share a story of something that they felt was an answered prayer. Ask them to share how long they had prayed in petition for this prayer to be answered. Then figure out how much time to invite people to pray in gratitude for answered prayer using Sr. Martha Ann's wisdom in the story.

Invite the dyads to pray for each other – to pray in gratitude for the answered prayer of her sister – again see notes about instructions for prayer above.

HINGE MOMENT: Give them a couple of announcement type things – upcoming retreat. What the offering will be for later in the day. Books available and resources at the book table at break and at the end of the event. (5 minutes OR LESS!! – noooooooo long commercials). If people can get info in a hand out, give it to them that way. Do not try to give lots of details or talk about structural concerns of the women's ministry. This is a prayer day, this is **NOT** a business meeting.

B R E A K

Movement 3 – I am Changed

In this movement we will share with the participants the tradition of the women of the Yakama Nation -- making a "life ball" that tells the story of the woman who makes it.

Yakama Women used string to make a record of life, adding string as her life added length. Along the string, she attached items that marked events – a shell for a camping place where a summer was spent, a feather for a time in the woods when she learned some piece of wisdom. As she made her story ball, she could tell her story starting in the present and going back through time and then roll it back up telling the story forward through time.

These were physical and story life lines. When the woman died, her story, which people had heard from her telling with the ball, would be told about her. The ball would then be buried with the woman's body so her story could accompany her to the next world.

In this movement, the participants will create a life line in miniature of their recent life. **It will be tied into their prayer journal as a ribbon/marker.**

Invite the people to tie items on to their strings or tie knots in their strings. Ask them to remember 5 times when a big change happened in their life or a new understanding. Tell them that these are just for them, they will not be made to share these events/understandings with anyone at the event.

For comic relief you could summarize the balls of yarn/string stories in Homer Price and make the application that no one can tell our stories the way we can – makes sense if you read the story (I will insert page number and exact name of the story – waiting for this book to come from Amazon used as I type this draft).

Put people into groups of 2 and ask the following questions, and **REMEMBER: Don't make them share the markers, as these events may be very personal. They can if they wish, but THEY DO NOT HAVE TO!!**

- How does it feel to hold those events in your hand? (some people feel grateful, some overwhelmed, some nothing)
- What role, if any, did prayer play in these events?
- What virtues do you have because you have come through these events? (these should be one word – honesty, grace, etc. – a virtue IS NOT a sentence or long story – it is ONE WORD.)
- How might you be different without these events.

Tie the ribbons onto the journals, or tape or sew them on – depends on what type of journals you use for this event.

Close this session with a prayer. Ask the persons to hold each other's journals. The leader can offer a prayer that might include gratitude for the life of the woman whose journal you are holding.

Worship

Use the worship service on page ??? of Leader's Guide for New Day Magazine. Take an offering for a mission cause beyond yourselves. Be the answer to someone else's prayers!