

The Lord's Prayer in Other Languages

*Based on an activity developed by Eleanor Deckert and adapted for use in the Pittsburgh New Church.
This description is taken from a talk given by Julie Uber in October 2003.*

This is a group project that is ideal for a summer Sunday School program. It is an ongoing kind of thing so people can go on vacation for two weeks and come back and jump right back into the project. The topic for the summer was prayer in general and especially the Lord's Prayer. The project is making posters of the Lord's Prayer in various languages.

Introduction

First discuss the content of the Lord's Prayer, covering what each phrase means as well as why the Lord told His disciples to pray using these words. You may also want to touch on the spiritual meaning of the prayer.

Point out that the Lord's Prayer was originally written in Greek and show students the Prayer in Greek. Then discuss the fact that people pray in the language they speak, so the Lord's Prayer has been translated into many different languages.

Invite students to look at what the Lord's Prayer looks like in different languages. Then let the students each choose a language to make into a poster.

Optional: As part of this discussion you may want to ask the students what different languages are spoken by the people in their church congregation or in the local area.

Poster Project

1. Select a translation of the Lord's Prayer in another language, such as Korean, Russian, Danish, French or Spanish.
2. Copy the prayer neatly onto a sheet of paper.
3. Illustrate the prayer and decorate the poster, as desired.
4. If you finish your poster, you may want to make another one, using a different language.
5. Display the finished posters on the church bulletin board.
6. Take the posters home for display.

Note for the Teacher: Let the youngest children choose English and/or have the help of an older "scribe."