

Jigsaw Piece Intercessions

(Adapted from an activity at

https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/06/jigsaw-piece-intercessions_20.html)



This is an easily adaptable, tactile idea to use for a guided prayer of intercession. It's designed to encourage a prayer practice of praying for others. Use at a parish meeting, with children and teens, or in an all age / intergenerational service. A Leader guides participants through the activity.

1. Hold the jigsaw piece in your hand and pray for yourself

Ask God to help you. Give thanks for the good things in your life. Ask for help to see the big picture of the plan God has for your life.

2. Look at the parts of your piece that reach outwards.

Pray for people who reach out and help and show love to others. Thank God for the people who help and show love to you. Pray for courage to reach out to others knowing God is quick to help.

3. Look at the parts of your piece that have spaces waiting to be filled.

Pray for people who have lost something or someone, or who feel that they have something missing in their lives. Pray they may come to know that they are God's Beloved.

4. Try to fit your piece into the piece of the person next to you (it probably won't fit!)

Pray for people who find it hard to fit in, people who have moved to a new place, people who feel they have no friends, people who are being bullied. Pray that they will find peace, friends and happiness.

5. Hold your piece in the palm of your hand, gently wrapping your fingers around it. Think of someone from your community, your friends or family for whom you would like to pray.

Offer thanks for that person and ask God to bless and help them.

Notes: An inexpensive puzzle from a thrift shop or one from home that may be missing a few pieces, works well for this activity. Put the pieces in a basket and pass around among the participants or as people enter the room or a worship service. At the appointed time, guide them through the prayer—be sure to leave ample quiet time so people actually have time to form their prayer, either silently or aloud.

Tip: I purchased a 200-piece floor puzzle at a Dollar Store for \$5. The pieces measure roughly 2" x 2.5" – a great size for this activity and because it's designed to be a floor puzzle (60" x 12" finished), the pieces are sturdy and colourful. *(And, I didn't notice until later, they are highlighted to glow in the dark!)*

