**National Month of Prayer - Group Ideas and Activities**

* Handprint prayer tree:
1. Take a large sheet of paper. Using brown paint or cuttings from brown paper, create a bare trunk of a tree with branches.
2. On a separate piece of paper, help the children to make two handprints using various shades of green paint. When dry, cut the handprints out and write the child’s name on each hand.
3. Attach the painted handprints to the branches on the tree to make them look like leaves.
4. Ask the adults to do a handprint or to put their name on with their child’s.

Explain to the toddler group that you will be using the tree as part of the church service on Sunday and asking the congregation to take a leaf home and pray for the people whose names are on it.

* Leaf prayers:

Using pre-cut leaf outlines, write each child’s first name on the back and then get the children to decorate the front using paint, crayons or collage materials. Add a piece of string and hang on to an artificial twig tree or some large, natural twigs in a vase. As above, explain to the toddler group that you will be using this in the church service on Sunday and asking the congregation to take a leaf and to pray for the people whose names are on it.

* Ask parents/carers for prayer requests by giving them a small prayer card during the group for them to write their requests on. Ask church members to take a card and promise to pray for the request outlined.

Please ensure that you let the group know that they were prayed for during the following week*.* One way you could show this is by creating labels that say, ‘We prayed for you’. These labels can then be stuck on to a small packet of sweets, a bar of chocolate, box of raisins or hot drink sachet to be given out to everyone at the toddler group the following week.