# Creative Worship Ideas

Adapt these ideas for your corps setting. They can be used in a main worship setting and/or for children and youth.

**Interactive Prayer Stations on the theme of ‘Growth’**

You will need:

* Three large pieces of coloured card or paper as a backdrop (brown, blue and an additional colour)
* Paper templates of seeds, water drops and fruit to write on
* Pens and Blu-tack/tape

**Seeds of Hope Station**: Write prayers or dreams for your community and corps on paper ‘seeds’. These seeds could be stuck on brown paper or card to represent soil. You may want to display a real plant here too.

**Water of Life Station**: Reflect on and give thanks for what has brought life to you, your community and your corps. What ‘waters’ your ground? Write your thoughts on paper ‘water drops’ to display and inspire others. You may want to display a large blue sheet of paper or card for people to stick their water drops on.

**Our Harvest Station**: Write testimonies and thank you notes as visible fruit of past prayers and outreach victories. These could be written on different fruit-shaped templates and attached to a cut-out tree or brightly coloured card for display. You may want to display real fruit here too.

Collectively pray into each station.

**Prayer Map**

You will need:

* a large map of the local area – or design your own
* lots of coloured dot stickers, but in two colours only

Give each person the same-coloured dot to stick on to a place on the map they go to regularly – school, work, nursery etc.

Pray for each person now represented on the map, that they will dare to share something about Jesus in the places where they go.

Then give each person two or three more dots of a different colour and ask them to think of the names of just two or three people with whom they could share and show something of the love of Jesus this week. Ask them to try their best to do just that, and then invite them to stick these dots around the ones already on the map. You should end up with dots of two colours – representing each person and their harvest fields.

Pray for the people who might hear about Jesus this week, or who might get invited to the next Messy Church / event / service, that they will listen and respond.

**Global community, a helping hand**

You will need:

* paper, pens and scissors for each person

Ask people to draw around their hand on a piece of paper and cut it out.

We are all part of a global community. We are required to reach out a hand to support and equip those who do not have the same material resources as we do. Pray for politicians and other decision-makers. Pray for those involved in the financial system.

Ask God to show you a way that you can reach out, either by lobbying politicians or by direct action. Is there a lifestyle change you need to make – eg committing to using Fairtrade goods where available?

Write your pledge to reach out on your paper hand.

Display the helping hands of your community somewhere in your corps building as a reminder of your individual pledges.

**Giving all we have**

You will need:

* card coin templates or circles representing coins cut out of brown paper
* pens

Write on one side of the coin something that you want to thank God for.

As Jesus watched the widow give her apparently small offering in the Temple (Mark 12:41-44) he teaches us that she gave all she had and there is so much value in her gift.

On the other side of the coin, write down something that you can do or give to make the world around you a brighter place.

Invite people to place their coin in a significant place (such as the Mercy Seat or altar table) to signify their commitment to God to do something beautiful with his help.

**Bunting**

You will need:

* card/paper cut into bunting triangles with two holes at the top of each
* pens/pencils
* string or ribbon

Set up an area within your worship hall for the children (and any others that might like to take part) to decorate the bunting with something that they want to give thanks to God for. If the children go out for their own activities during the meeting, then you could invite them to come and share what they have done before they leave. Collect and display the bunting triangles somewhere visible in your building as an act of witness to your community about the breadth and magnitude of God’s goodness.

**Growth tree**

You will need:

* brown poster board paper or a display board
* hand cut-out templates on different-coloured paper
* pens
* sticky tape

Create a tree trunk using brown poster board paper or draw on a display board. Hand out the paper hand templates and pens. Ask people to write or draw things that God has created and/or provided for them. Take time to say thank you to God for these wonderful things. After all the hands are completed, add them to the tree trunk with sticky tape. This could be done as a display on a bulletin board or a wall.

**God made all things good**

You will need:

* large pieces of blue and green paper to make an image of sky, land and sea
* tissue paper, textured card, felt and fabric scraps
* animal templates, pens, crayons and pencils, glue and scissors

Cut out shapes of birds, animals, fish, insects and plants to stick on to each part of your landscape. Talk about the food harvests we get from the sky, land and sea. Thank God for his abundant provision for us and all living things. Pray that we will do what is required to serve and preserve his creation.

**Being grateful**

You will need:

* two large sheets of paper and pens

Form two teams and give them five minutes to write down as many things as they can think of that they are thankful for – they must be things that they are genuinely thankful for. At the end ask each team to read out what they’ve written. Give a point for each thing they’ve listed – but the other team, or anyone watching, can challenge them to justify what they’ve written if they don’t think it’s genuine.

Recent scientific studies have suggested that people who are more grateful have higher levels of wellbeing and happiness and lower levels of stress and depression. In fact, showing gratitude has been said to have one of the strongest links with good mental health, more than any other character trait. Scientists have also discovered (Mental Health First Aid USA) that gratitude not only increases wellbeing and happiness but has also been shown to improve a person’s altruistic tendencies. That means that people who are grateful are more likely to give, to share what they have with others and to sacrifice their own profit for the benefit of the wider community.  
(<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/2022/11/practicing-gratitude/>)