

Designing our own place for God

THINGS TO DO AHEAD OF TIME

- *Print out the prayer service so everyone can follow along.*
- *Explain that students will create their own prayer space. It will be a place where your group gathers throughout the year to reflect and pray.*

Many teachers create classroom prayer centers from their personal collections of religious items. (See Appendix [page 130] for more information about prayer centers.) So why not give your students a hand in their creation too?

In this two-part service, students ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration, and then they celebrate in prayer. The services themselves are simple. The real work is in the planning. The rewards? Your students are deeply involved and personally invested in your classroom prayer space. Does group prayer get any better than that?

Designing our own place for God (PART ONE)

All In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hey, God, we're trying to find your presence in our lives. We want to make a space here for that. So, Father, can you help us, here?

(Pause for silent reflection.)

All Holy Spirit, can you inspire us to think of ways to make this prayer center our own?

(Pause for silent reflection.)

All Jesus, once we've made this prayer center, can you meet us here, and be with us, just as we are?

(Pause for silent reflection.)

All Thanks. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Now that you've prayed about it, take some time to think about what you can do to make the prayer center a place where you and others can really experience God together. You may want to bring items from home, or create something in class together. Your teacher may also have some ideas. Whatever it is, decide on it together. Remember, the Holy Spirit is inspiring you.)

Designing our own place for God (PART TWO)

All In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OK, Lord, we've prayed, we've thought, we've talked. And now we've created this holy place.

(Add items to the prayer center.)

All So, Lord, it's time for you to do your part, too. Open our hearts to your presence. Open our minds to you. And just be here with us. Thanks. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Take a few moments to sit quietly in your prayer space.)