
Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge



Help Papers Series
Support Materials for Parent/Child Programs

TOPIC:

Poems, Prayers and Worship Services

POEMS, PRAYERS AND WORSHIP SERVICES:

Seek the true connection between the world we live in and the one we intentionally will join. Native people all referred to some form of a “Spirit World”; the place where you go to join the Creator, our God.

To the Native Peoples there is a connection between both worlds, and its link is through their prayers and worship services. Obviously each is different as their languages, customs and cultures. However, aren't we all God-centered!

Worship starts in the home, and moves toward the church, not vice versa. Poems, prayers and worship helped make that connection, this paper can only help you with some reference material and places to guide you!

Hopefully, the following will help you:

- The Six Aims and the connection with Gods lessons.
- Great Lakes Region published a book, Rituals And Ceremonies, that has many traditional prayers; such as Psalm 23, Psalm 19, The Lords Prayer, using natures ways and understandings.
- Use your local resource library.
- The magazine, ”Native Peoples-Arts And Lifeways”, for their book and music reviews each issue.
- Understanding the Spirit Ways of native people and their connection with God, to Creator and Great Spirit in books like:
 - “Many Winters”, author Nancy Woods -A Pueblo poet.
 - “The Indian Way”, author Gary McClain (for ages 8 and up).
 - “The Spirit World”; aTime Life Book,-a good historic and picture filled reading.
 - “Whispered Wisdom”, author Mary Summer Rain, Hampton Roads Publishing Co.
 - “The Sacred Pipe”, recorded and edited by Joseph Epes Brown, University of Oklahoma Press publisher.
- Understanding Native Peoples use of: The Pipe, Sweet Grass, Tobaccos, fire and sage in their ceremonies.

The great strength of mankind is ones search for the meaning of life on earth and life eternal. It is one of our greatest challenges-our Sprituality and Spiritual Growth and understanding. To understand the Power of Prayer, and it's healing of all that is pain to our bodies, minds, and spirit----you must Search.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Services most likely occur on Sunday at camp outs, unless you're including them in some part of a Naming Ceremony or New Member Ceremony, etc.

Helpful hints in the services:

- First, never feel apologetic for leading a God-Centered discussion.
- Try to know your knowledge of those coming to your service. If they come on their own-they are probably God-Centered also. Their religion may not be as Christ centered as yours, but you can adjust.
- Keep it short,-20 minutes at most.
- Start with a simple prayer such as the “Prayers of open Eyes”, where you ask all to look around at the many gifts from God; the sun, moon, trees, friends, fathers, mothers and children. Ask in some way for our Great Fathers guidance in our thoughts and prayers today.
- Centering your services around other writings, take away much of the apprehensions in doing a service.
- The Kum-Bi-A song, using the Six Aims is good too, I.E. “Pal’s Forever Lord,-Pal’s Forever”; “Clean in body Lord,-Clean in body.”, etc.
- Creation stories are good for kids, but try and make them seasonal to help heighten the interest. Do not read them, memorize or paraphrase them.
- Use shared readings allowing kids to read some parts of the poems or prayers. Verses of songs can be read also if not sung.
- Bring some pictorial illustrations to put on an easel if you like. “Gods House” is all around us, not just within the walls.
- Use your Heart and Soul to guide you, keeping it simple; be brave, and speak with love in your voice-----enjoy this time.
- Close with the circle of all holding hands in a prayer, giving thanks to God for listening.

A simple closing statement to send everyone out into the world...

“ May your inner spirit go forth to brighten your days ahead,
and your roads be led by the heart.”
(Taos Pueblo Saying)