

5 Back-to-School Prayer Stations to Encourage Kids in Your Ministry

As the new school year approaches, the anticipation builds. Soon kids will be meeting their new teachers, making new friends, and using their shiny new school supplies they've eagerly chosen. The transition back to school can stir a mix of emotions, from excitement to apprehension. This prayer station activity is designed to help kids focus their thoughts on prayer and remind them that God is always close by.

To get ready, gather all the supplies found on page two of this download and print out a copy (or two) of each of the station instructions. Then, on the morning of, set up five different tables within the room or even in the hallway if you can safely do so. Place the prayer station supplies in the center of the tables along with the instructions for each station. Cover the tables with a tablecloth and tell the kids "no peeking" as they arrive.

We recommend playing some reflective music and giving kids plenty of time to walk through each station and pray. The kids can go through the prayer stations in any order.

If you have a large classroom with small group leaders, place a small group leader at each station so they can help read the instructions if needed. Ask them to also be praying for the kids as they come through the station.

Wrap everything up by asking all the kids to come together for a "group hug" circle as you close out in prayer for the entire group.

Station supplies to gather:

Station 1

- bandages (1 per child)
- heart cut-outs (1 per child) (template provided in download)
- pens or permanent markers
- plastic tablecloth

Station 2

- apple slices (1 per child)
- plastic tablecloth

Station 3

- paper (1 piece per child)
- pencils, crayons, or markers
- paper airplane instructions (provided in download)
- plastic tablecloth

Station 4

- chenille wires (1 per child)
- a variety of plastic beads with holes large enough to fit on the wire
- plastic tablecloth

Station 5

- paper party hats (1 per child) (you can find these at the dollar store)
- plastic tablecloth



Station #1 Instructions

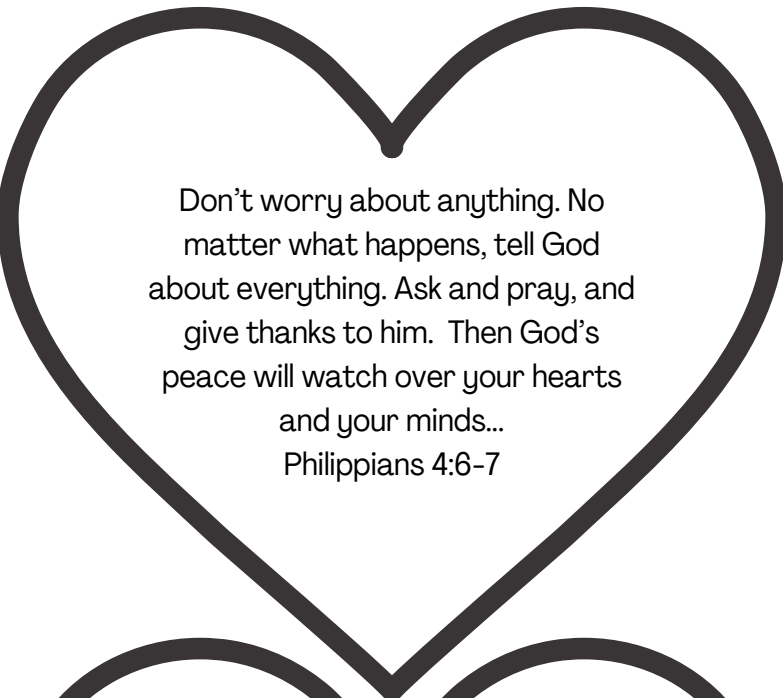
Take a bandage and write “God’s peace” on it.

Now, think of something you’re worried about, and write it on the back of a heart cut-out. Take the bandage and cover what you wrote.

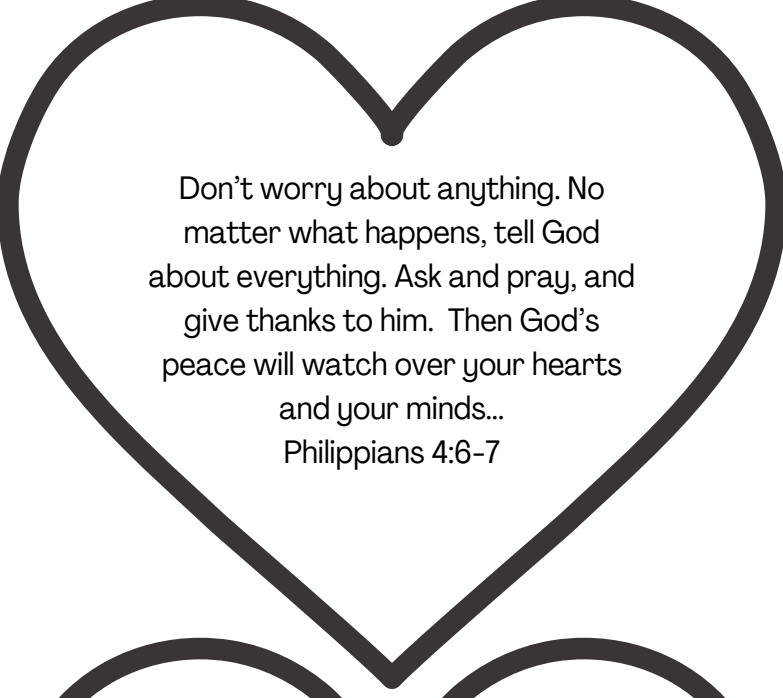
The Bible verse written on the heart reminds us that when we’re worried, we can pray and God will give us peace.

Pray to God right now about the worry you wrote down and ask God to cover your worries with his peace. Take the heart home and put it in your backpack to remind you that God is always with you—even at school.

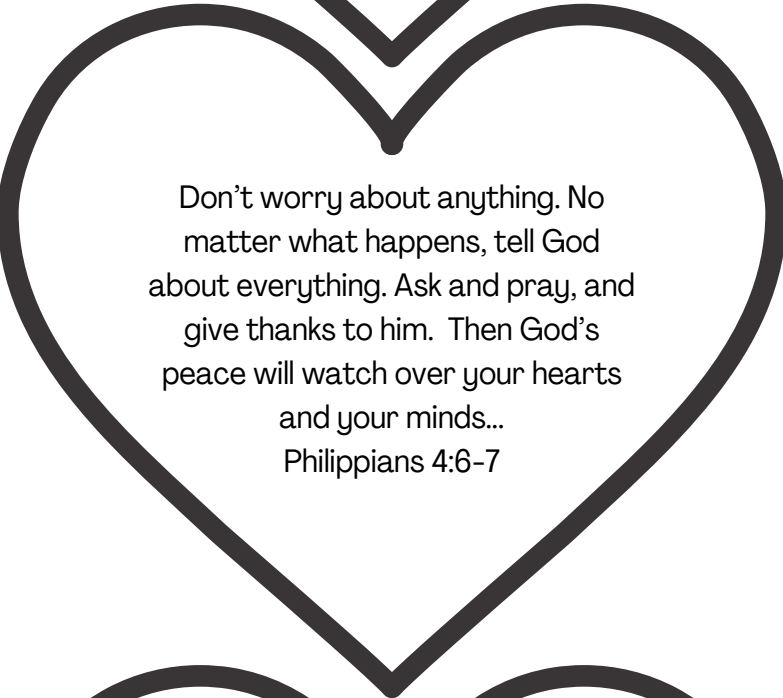




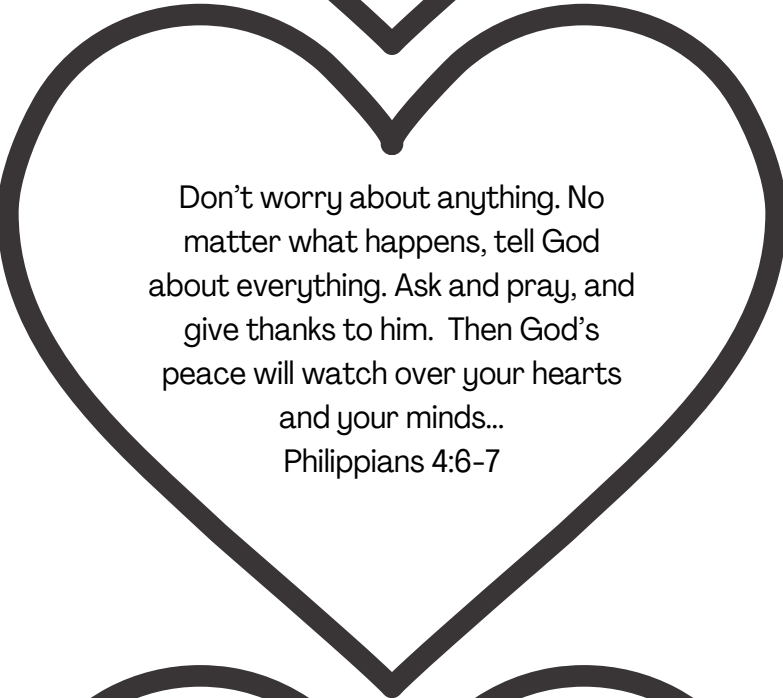
Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds...
Philippians 4:6-7



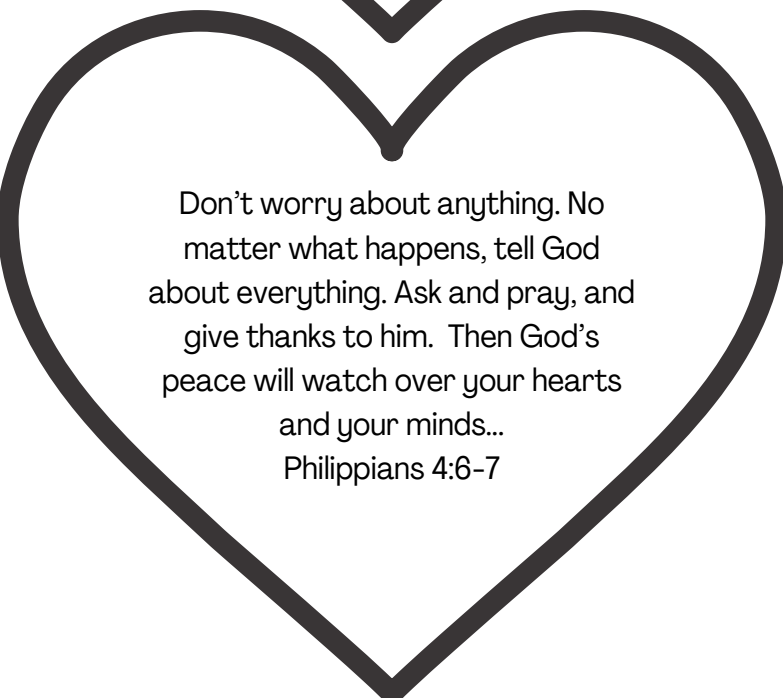
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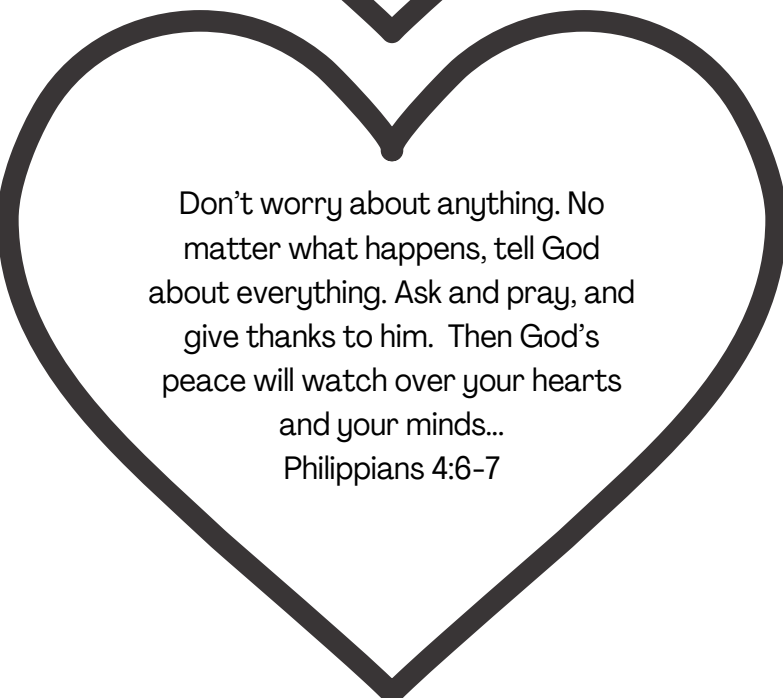
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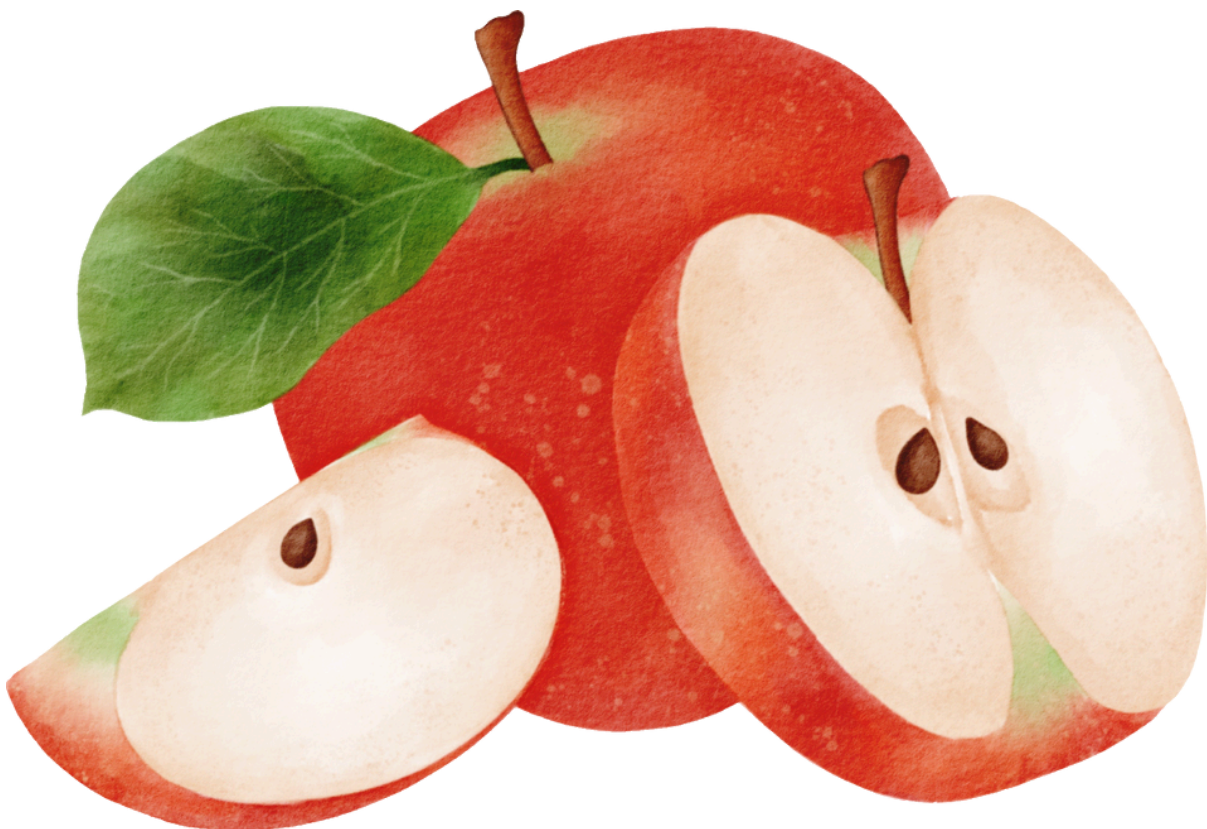


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Station #2 Instructions

Take a slice of apple and take a bite. As you eat your apple slice, think of all your teachers at school.

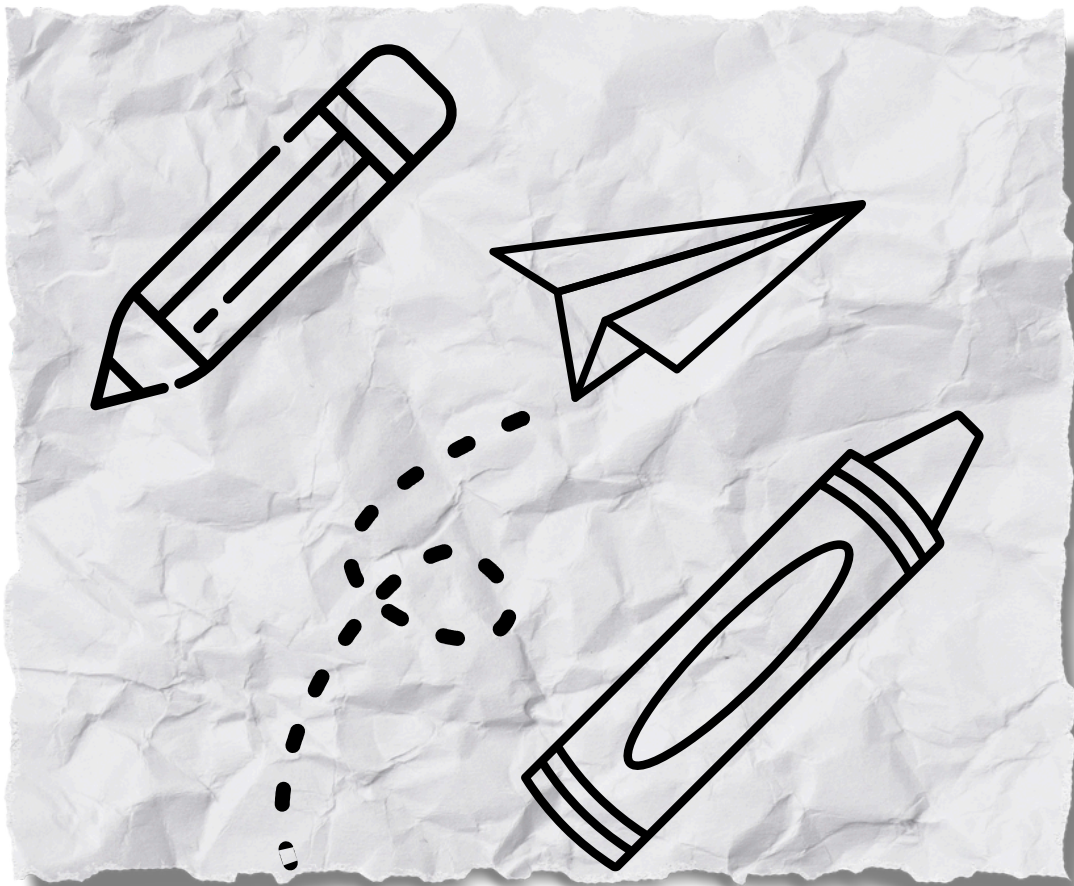
Close your eyes and say a silent prayer for your teachers. Pray for God to give them patience, to keep them safe and healthy, and to help them be good teachers. And thank God for giving them to you!



Station #3 Instructions

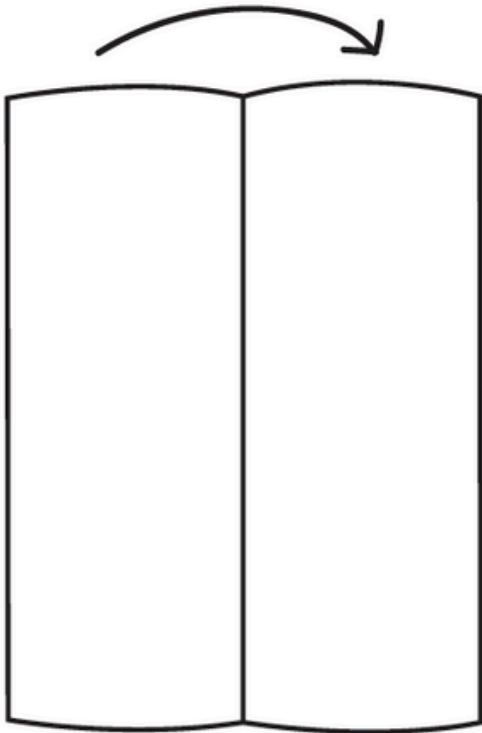
Take a piece of paper and draw something that makes you feel afraid.

Then fold the paper into an airplane and throw it across the room as you ask God to let your fears fly away.

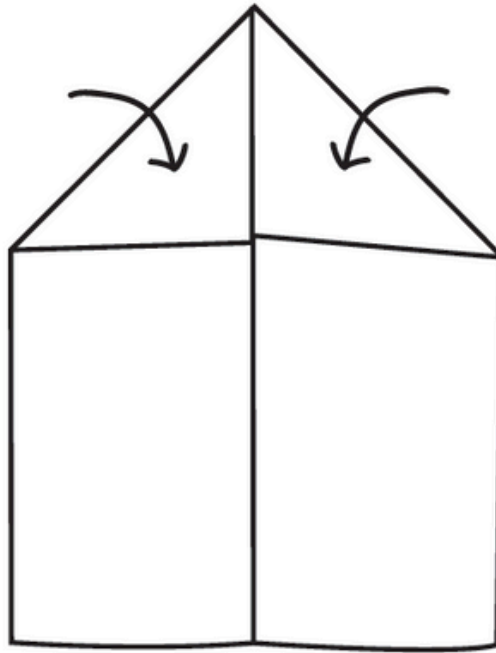


Instruction on next page.

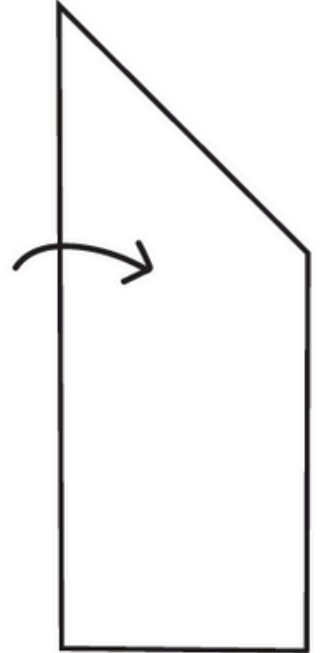
1 Fold the paper in half lengthwise as shown.



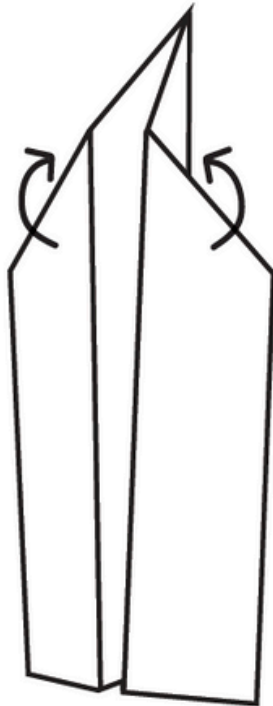
2 Unfold, and then fold the top two corners to the center line to create flaps.



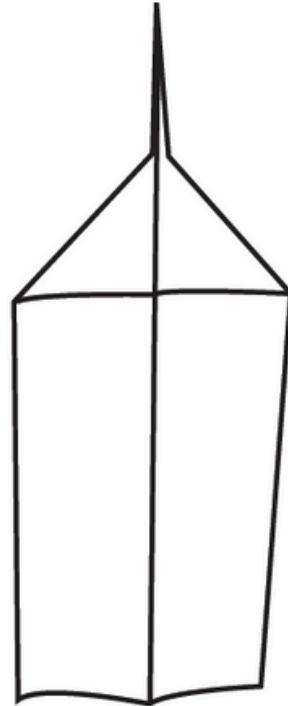
3 Once again, fold the paper on half.



4 Fold the edges down to meet the bottom of the airplane body.



5 Take aim, and let it fly!



Station #4 Instructions

Make a friendship bracelet using a fuzzy wire and some beads.

As you make your bracelet, ask God to show you someone who needs a friend and ask God to help them make new friends.

Take your bracelet to school tomorrow and when you see the person God showed you, give them your friendship bracelet and invite them to play with you at recess.



Station #5 Instructions

Think of something you're really excited about at school this year.

Take a party hat and put it on your head. Then pray to God, thanking him for giving you things that make you happy.

Wear your hat home. And then all day today, when you think of something that makes you excited or happy, stop and thank God.

