PRAYERS (A GROUP INTERACTIVE PRAYER SESSION)

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Acts 7:54-60Amplified Bible (AMP)

⁵⁴ Now when they heard this [accusation and understood its implication], they were cut to the heart, and they *began* grinding their teeth [in rage] at him.

⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit *and* led by Him, gazed into heaven and saw the glory [the great splendor and majesty] of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

⁵⁶ and he said, "Look! I see the heavens opened up [in welcome] and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

⁵⁷ But they shouted with loud voices, and covered their ears and together rushed at him [considering him guilty of blasphemy].

⁵⁸ Then they drove him out of the city and *began* stoning him; and the witnesses placed their outer robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ They continued stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, "Lord Jesus, receive *and* accept *and* welcome my spirit!"

⁶⁰ Then falling on his knees [in worship], he cried out loudly, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them [do not charge them]!" When he had said this, he fell asleep [in death].

Prep: A Piñata, toys, candy, a piñata stick.





PIÑATA

A piñata is a decorated figure containing toys and candy that is suspended from a height and broken open by an object as part of a game or celebration.

The goal of the piñata game is to break open the piñata containing the deposited toys and candy.

HOW TO PLAY THE PIÑATA GAME

- 1. Begin by finding a place to hang the piñata or have 2 people holding a rope or pole with the piñata hanging in the middle.
- 2. Fill the piñata with the goodies (toys and candy).
- 3. Have a piñata stick (a stick used for breaking open the piñata, such as bat, etc.)
- 4. Have the game participants form a line (Note: ensure safety for all involved).
- 5. Hand the piñata stick to each participant and encourage the participant to hit the piñata. (Note: establish the rules for hitting the piñata and taking turns).
- 6. Enjoy!!!

A classic game in various settings, NOW a prayer activity! - PIÑATA PRAYERS

PRAYER FOCUS POINTS - RECEIVE, STAND, AND RELEASE.

- 1. **RECEIVE** Salvation, faith, hope, grace, peace, joy, comfort, strength, and wisdom.
- 2. <u>STAND</u> When challenged, questioned, mistreated, tempted, tested, weak, struggling, angry, frustrated, attacked, and opposed.
- 3. **RELEASE** Prayer, worship, service, gifts, faith, inspiration, joy and hope.

Interactive Prayer:

Using the piñata game in a group setting/as a group prayer activity, after participants have experienced the joy of seeing the deposited items released from the piñata,

EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING:





DEEPER THINKING/PRAYER:

In Acts 7:54-60, the Bible character Stephen was treated like a Piñata. He was lied on, mocked, beaten, and stoned. However, he stood in the face of opposition and represented Jesus Christ. What flowed from Stephen was what he allowed Jesus Christ to put in him – "Now Stephen, full of grace (divine blessing, favor) and power, was doing great wonders and signs (attesting miracles) among the people"- Acts 6:8 (AMP).

- 1) How can you relate to Stephen?
- 2) What lessons can you take from the life of Stephen?
- 3) How can you respond like Stephen, when faced with challenges?_



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