



Forest Church Unanswered Prayer

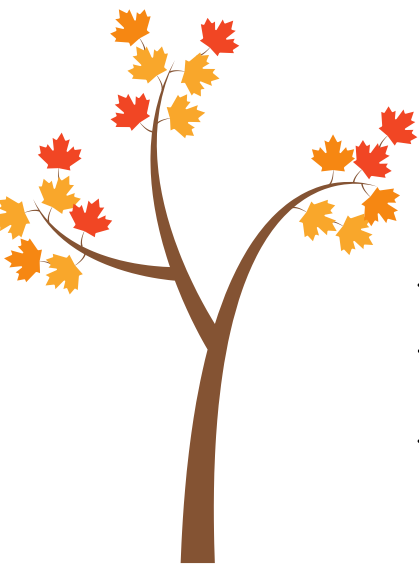


Go for a walk and find a tree that is losing it's leaves.

Will the tree always be like this?

We have been looking at prayer and God answering prayers, but sometimes it seems that we can pray for things and our prayers just fall to the ground unanswered. What prayers might we feel aren't answered?

The bible tells us that difficult and sad things happen in life, and God doesn't always answer our prayers for these things to change. But it does tell us some things that can help us. It does tell us that God always hears our prayers.



Making sure that there isn't any dog poo around, can you make a pile of leaves ! Once you have done that, have everyone else turn away and have someone hide a small stick, or conker in the pile. Everyone else then has to find it! You know when we pray and it seems like nothing is happening, it can be easy to think that God isn't there or that He doesn't care. The bible tells us that He is ALWAYS there and He ALWAYS loves us even though things might not make sense. You can't see the hidden object in the game but it's still there (unless someone is cheating!!). God is always there for us even if we can't see or feel Him. We can always pray and ask Him where he is when we feel alone. As you walk, look at the beauty around you - find something cool to take a photo of - all these things remind us that God created the world and is with us.



On your walk collect as many different coloured and shaped leaves as you can. In autumn we think about leaves changing colour and falling off trees. Lots of things change in life - what else can you think of that changes? The bible tells us that God doesn't change - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8. He will always forgive, love, help us when we call him, and be there for us. When it doesn't make sense or feel like it we have to be faithful - keep leaning on God, seeking Him, we can trust him because he never changes. Collect your leaves and take them home and use them to make pictures - there are some really good ideas online of pictures you can make, or you can use your imagination and do your own!



On your walk can you find a helicopter seed? See if you can spin it into the air. Can you make it spin and float and land like a parachute? Sometimes when things are bad we can pray and God answers by putting everything right again. He might heal someone or a tricky situation is sorted immediately. Sometimes though the situation doesn't change but He 'lands' in the situation with us. He understands, loves and gives us what we need. We can have hope that things will get better because He is with us.



In autumn, trees lose their leaves, most flowers disappear - things start to become bare. But this is also the time to plant bulbs. When you plant a bulb you dig a hole, put it in and cover it up and the ground is just brown again! But the bulb is still there, it is working and then in spring it shoots out and grows into a flower.

A verse in the bible says that "Weeping may last for the night but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5. It's OK to be sad about things, to not understand, to feel upset - God wants us to be honest with him and tell him about it. But He also wants us to know that things won't always be this way. Just like the bulb will shoot through and even though we can't see it now, the plant is at work and growing. God is at work and we can have hope - knowing that God can bring good out of anything. That God loves us and is with us.

If you have some bulbs plant them and thank God that He is in every situation and brings love and hope. If you don't have a bulb then maybe find some conkers or acorns and have a go at planting them!



God might not always answer prayers how we want Him too, but He always hears us, always loves us and is always there for us