

## Ways of praying 5 – Maggie Marshall

### Wood

Based on Ideas for Multi- Sensory Prayer by Scripture Union and teaching in a Church School.

You will need a couple of pieces of wood and a nail OR you may already have a wooden cross, we had ones made out of small sticks a couple of years ago in church.

### The Wood Script by Sue Wallace, Scripture Union

Pick up your piece of wood or wooden cross and look at it closely. Examine its grain, its colour. Gently run your fingers down its grain and feel its rough texture, be careful. Now, in your mind's eye, imagine this piece of wood sitting in a workshop in Nazareth, having just been cut off a larger block. It's waiting to be made into a new piece of furniture: a table, a chair or a smaller more delicate item. Imagine Jesus as a boy, or a young man, watching Joseph at work, asking questions in the inquisitive way of children, picking up the same piece of wood and running your fingers down it. Jesus must have known much about wood, having grown up around it from an early age. Imagine him looking at the grain in the wood and estimating the age of the tree it came from.

Now pick up your nail and touch it. Feel the sharpness of its tip with your finger. Imagine Joseph warning Jesus to be careful, as he must have done now and again, when Jesus went near the nails, the saw or some particularly splintered wood.

Then think about another piece of wood, larger than this one and far more deadly: a cross. Imagine you are touching that cross now.

Did Jesus ever have an inkling, as Joseph hammered in the workshop, that one day soldiers would hammer nails into him? Yet when that time came, Jesus was not thinking of himself; he was thinking of those soldiers, pleading to God to forgive them because they didn't know what they were doing.

Pause for a while, and let Jesus speak to you, as you meditate on the wood, about forgiveness and about his love for you.

Then, when you are ready, use the nail to hammer the two pieces of wood together into a cross, if you are making one. What does this action teach you?

Pause for a little while holding your cross.