



Painted banners

Overview: Many Friendship groups meet in rooms that do not contain visual cues for worship. Banners like these will not only beautify a space, but will also remind a group what they have gathered to do. The themes depicted here, **praise, pray, listen, and serve**, are options. As you think about themes for your banners, select those that are relevant to your group and perhaps to the congregation in general. Your banners could also be used in the sanctuary for Sunday morning services!

Note: These four banners were created over a two year period during the one-on-one part of the [Friendship Program Model](#), with participants working on one banner at a time. However you choose to structure this, take time to get everyone involved and to enjoy the process.

Preparing the Canvas

1. Canvas can be found inexpensively at most fabric stores. Purchase enough to cut out a 79" x 26" rectangle for each banner.
2. Hem each banner as follows: arranging the fabric vertically, fold each side over ½" and then ½" again and hem. At the top and bottom, fold the fabric ½" and then fold over 3" and hem, leaving a pocket for a ¾" dowel (or larger). Finished dimensions: 72" x 24".
3. The fabric is now ready to paint (no gesso/primer necessary)!

Painting

Materials:

- Hemmed canvas
- Overhead projector ("praise," "pray," and "serve" banners)
- Spotlight ("listen" banner; can be the kind used for home improvement)
- Tambourine ("praise" banner)
- Plastic sheet (to protect the wall)

- Poster putty
- Acrylic paint, in colors you select (can be inexpensive, such as Delta Ceramcoat)
- Paintbrushes (2 medium-large round art brushes; 2 small-medium house painting brushes)
- Waterdishes (2 or 3)
- Plastic bowls/plates for paint palettes (2 or 3)
- Cloths for cleaning brushes
- Drop cloth

Directions:

1. For the first session, choose three participants: one to serve as a model, one who has lettering skills, and one who is able to control a paintbrush well.
2. Hang a plastic sheet from the wall using poster putty; use additional poster putty to hang one of the blank canvases on top. Place a drop cloth on the floor if necessary, making sure it's not a tripping hazard. Note: Choose a wall from which you have enough room to back up to place the overhead projector at the proper distance (see step 3).
3. You will be using an overhead projector to project the images for the "praise," "pray," and "serve" banners and a spotlight to project the image for the "listen" banner. Position the overhead projector/spotlight at the proper distance so that the projected image fits the canvas. The model's job is: for the "praise" banner, lay one hand holding a tambourine on the overhead; for "pray," place praying hands on the overhead; for "serve," place hands reaching towards each other on the overhead; for "listen" sit on a chair facing the banner, and shine a spotlight from behind to project the head and shoulders image.
4. Once the image is projected, ask the model to be as still as possible. Ask the person with good paintbrush control to outline the projected shadow using a round brush and a deep shade of the color your group has selected. If there is time, fill in with the same color.

**After the first session, you may want to continue painting on the wall, or it may be easier to take the canvas down and set it on a table for painting.*

5. Meanwhile, ask the person with lettering skills to paint the appropriate word at the bottom of the banner using a round brush. Talk about how tall the letters should be and how they should be spaced. You may want to pencil the letters in before painting them in the same deep color being used for the image. You will likely complete step five the first session.
6. The next session(s): If the image still needs to be filled in or the lettering needs another coat, get this done first. Then, select two or three people to begin additional painting.
7. Additional painting includes: selecting or mixing a lighter shade of the color you've used already to add on top of the image to create a sense of texture and depth. A coarse brush will work well for this. Also use a coarse brush to paint short lines beginning near the image

and radiating out, using several shades of similar colors. Model how to do this before turning the paint brush over to the painters.

Displaying the Banners

1. Iron the banners on a cool to medium setting.
2. Hang the banners from banner stands for easy display and storage. Banner stands can be purchased online from sites such as www.sdsign.com/ or can be made.
3. Talk with the group about what the banners mean, and display them in your space regularly.
4. Look for other places to share the banners as well!