



The Ringmaster

The ringmaster has a very important job.

He is the leader of the whole circus.

He needs to keep all the performers on track, and he needs to keep the audience happy as well.

Have you ever been given a very important job?

What special skill or quality did you need to succeed?

As a way of saying thank you for your special gifts and skills you can write them down on the blackboard.

Christians believe these qualities are gifts to us from God, and that we are all made just as we are meant to be.



Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Table

Chalk board

Chalk

Wipes

Cards with 'gifts' written on as stimulus/ ideas

Circus signs as you chose

Dressing space to include images of the ringmaster, circus stripes, bunting or anything to fit with the theme.

Kind Clowns

Clowns and entertainers just want to make us laugh.

They do all sorts of silly things just to bring
some joy into our day.

When we laugh it helps us to feel happy and feeling
happy just seems to make everything seem better.

**Who do you know who always makes you laugh?
Having these people in our lives is a real blessing.**



**If you want to you could say a
thank you prayer for them by
writing their name onto a ball and
placing it into the netting.**

Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Netting hung to create a hammock

Plastic balls

Marker pens

Wipes/ nail polish remover (if needing to clean and recycle balls)

Circus signs as you chose

Dressing space to include images of clowns, circus stripes, bunting or anything to fit with the theme.



Palm Reader



Some people believe that if you study the lines on your hand they can show you what is going to happen in your life.

Take a look now.

What do you see?

Can you see all the lines?

Even the tiniest ones?

Take a look at your thumb.

Nobody else in the whole wide world has a pattern on their thumb like yours. This shows how unique you are, you are 1 of a kind.

God gave you a thumb print that no one else has, so you can leave an imprint in this world that no one else can.

If you want to, you can leave your mark here, in the star, as a way of saying a thank you prayer.

Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Table

Black drapes

Palm reader signage

A3 star on card

Ink stamp pads

Baby wipes

Dressing space to create a 'booth' feel. Drapes, lighting, palm reader signage, stars or anything that fits the theme.



Trapeze artists always work together very closely.

They are totally dependant on each other.

They need to be able to trust each other.

They need to know the other has their back.

Who do you trust?

Who in your life has your back?

As a way of saying thank you for this person, you can write their name in a star and hang it on the line.

Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Table

Star shapes cards

Pegs

String lines

Pens

Circus signs as you chose

Dressing space to include images of trapeze artists, circus stripes, bunting or anything to fit with the theme.



Mirror Mirror

Every circus has a star of the show.

Take a look in the mirrors.

How do you feel about the person
looking back at you?

Read some of the quotes around the mirror.

How do they make you feel?

Do you realise you are a star?

Christians believe that every single person
is loved by and of great value to God and that there
is nothing you can do to change this.

**If you want to, as a way of accepting this love, you
could put a star stamp on your hand.**

Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Table

Mirrors

Positive quotes

Star stamp

Ink stamp pad

Wipes

Circus signs as you chose

Dressing space to include decorative stars, circus stripes, bunting or anything to fit with the theme.



Crystal Ball



For hundreds of years people have been drawn to the idea of crystal balls as a way of connecting with something bigger than themselves.

The future?

The unknown?

We often have lots of big questions that sometimes stay unanswered.

Gently place your fingertips on the ball.

Watch what happens when you move your fingers around?

Christians believe that as we reach out to God, God always responds by connecting with us. No matter where we go, God will be there too.

How does this make you feel?

Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Table

Black drapes

Crystal ball signage

Plasma ball

Power point/lead

Dressing space to create a 'booth' feel, drapes, lighting, crystal ball signage or anything to fit with the theme.



Hoopla Prayer



Have you ever had something to do that seemed
too difficult?

A task or a challenge that seemed impossible?

Have you every not been able to do something because it
was just too tricky?

This can leave us feeling sad or disappointed,
perhaps a bit like a growly lion?

It isn't good to carry these negative feelings
around inside us.

**If you'd like to you can take the hoops and see if you can
throw them to land over the posts, as you throw the
hoops see if you can let your grumpy feelings go too.**

Try and remember, we cant always succeed at everything,
but we can always try to enjoy the taking part.

Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Hoopla posts

Hoops

Large outside activity sign

Circus signs as you chose

If staging these prayer activities in a gazebo– this activity is best set up outside the gazebo due to the space needed.

Dressing space to include images of the circus lion, circus stripes, bunting or anything to fit with the theme.

Sea lion Scoop

Take a look at the sea lion.

Isn't he clever to be able to balance the ball on his nose like that.

It would have taken lots and lots of practice until he was able to do it well.

I wonder if he felt like giving up sometimes?

What would you really like to be able to do?

What do you need to succeed?

Take the net and see if you can catch a sea creature. Match the number to the encouraging message for you.



Setting Up Instruction Guide:

Equipment you need:

Tough tray

Water

Small nets

Bath toys with numbers on the base

Encouraging quotes (Numbered on other side laminated cards with encouraging quotes corresponding to number on base of toy.)

Towels

Large outside activity sign

Circus signs as you chose

If staging these prayer activities in a gazebo— this activity is best set up outside the gazebo due to the space needed and the addition of water.

Dressing space to include images of the circus seal lion, circus stripes, bunting or anything to fit with the theme.

If setting these activities up within a gazebo remember to dress the space to set the idea of entering a circus tent.

Use the circus signs to create a welcome

Have a table at the entrance/ exit to include the Prayer to take home and some glow in the dark stars to accompany it.

The Hoopla Prayer and Sea Lion Scoop are best housed outside the gazebo.