

I Can Pray Too – Spirit and Truth Kids

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

Lesson 1 – Prayer: The Highest Call of All

Supplies/Preparation

Paper plate, peanut butter, jelly, plastic knife, bread

Print each step of the Lord’s Prayer (see below) on a separate sheet of paper. Tape the sheets of paper to the floor in a circle shape.

7 index cards for each student, yarn or ribbon, hole punch (Punch a hole at top left corner of each card.)

Print copies of the Lord’s Prayer steps (see below) to fit on index cards. Cut apart. Each student will need one set of prayer steps.

Stickers/embellishments, glue, markers

Welcome - Robot Object Lesson

Make sure no one is allergic to peanuts. If so, use only jelly.

Choose a volunteer to act as a human robot. Inform students the object is to get the robot to make a sandwich. The robot cannot do anything on its own. The robot must receive every instruction from the students. To be successful, the students must give very specific instructions.

For example, a specific command may be, "Robot, pick up and hold the jar of peanut butter with your left hand. Grasp the lid of the peanut butter jar with your right hand and twist the lid counter clockwise. Let go of the lid with your right hand. Pick up the knife with your right hand and put it into the peanut butter in the peanut butter jar."

Vague commands such as "make a peanut butter sandwich" will not work. The robot will look confused and shrug its shoulders. Vague commands such as "put the peanut butter on the bread"

may cause the robot to put the jar of peanut butter on top of the bread. If too many students talk at once, the robot will get confused.

Explain that God does not want us to be like human robots. When we pray, God wants us to pray from deep within our hearts, telling Him everything in our own words.

Bible Lesson – Prayer Instructions from Jesus

Read Matthew 6:5-13 together. Explain how Jesus gave us an example—or a pattern—of prayer.

Jesus explained how we should pray humbly. We should not make a big scene or show off.

During our personal prayer time, we should find a quiet place where we can be alone.

We should talk to God as if we were speaking to a friend. Jesus said to follow these steps, known as the Lords' Prayer:

1. Praise and honor God. Think about Heaven.
2. Tell Jesus you will obey Him.
3. Ask God for anything you need.
4. Ask God to forgive you.
5. Forgive others.
6. Ask God to keep you away from evil.
7. Thank and praise the Lord.

Life Application

Share personal examples of answered prayers and provide opportunity for students to talk about their answered prayers.

Ask: If someone asked you how to pray, what would you say?

Ask students to share one reason why they should pray every day.

Ask students to share one important step of daily prayer.

Prayer

Using the prepared steps of the Lord's Prayer (taped to the floor in a circle), lead the students around the circle, praying aloud together.

Craft Idea

Help students create personalized prayer cards. First, have students glue the steps of the Lord's Prayer to separate index cards. Each student needs one set. Students can then decorate and personalize each card with drawings, embellishments, or stickers.

Have students put the cards in order by number. Tie each group of cards together with yarn or ribbon. Encourage students to use the cards during their personal prayer time.

Action activity for younger students:

I CAN JUMP

by Janine Max (copyright 2002)

I can jump up really high

I can crouch down low

I can run, run on the spot

As fast as I can go

And when I get real tired

I shut my eyes real tight

Then say my prayers

For God is with me

Every night.

Coloring page

Praying Hands dot-to-dot coloring page for younger students:



Lesson 2 – Our Father in Heaven, we pray that your name will always be kept holy.

Supplies/Preparation

Blindfold, Bible, packing paper, markers

Welcome

Gather students in a circle. Choose one volunteer to stand in the middle and wear a blindfold. Instruct the student to spin around, pointing one finger, saying, “Fish! Fish! Wish!” until you say stop. The student pointed out shares a wish. Then that student wears the blindfold, spins around and chooses another student to share a wish.

Bible Lesson – Solomon Prayed and Worshiped

I Kings 3:5-15; II Chronicles 1:1-12

Ask students to close their eyes.

Imagine being asleep in your cozy bed. Suddenly, you hear the Lord talking to you. He says, “What is your wish? You can have anything you want.”

What would you say?

In II Chronicle 1, Solomon had just become the new king. He led the people of his kingdom in worship. That night God appeared to him in a dream. He said, “Ask for anything you want.”

Solomon did not ask for money. He did not ask for fancy clothes. He did not ask for a brand-new chariot. He did not ask for a fancy palace. He didn’t even ask for a long life. Solomon asked for wisdom. Solomon wanted to understand people’s needs. He wanted to learn how to be a good leader.

God was pleased. He said, “I will grant your wish. You will be the wisest king ever! Because you asked for wisdom first, I will also give you many treasures. You will have honor and a long life too.”

The next day Solomon started helping people make wise choices. Soon he built a beautiful temple for God. When everyone gathered to worship God inside, the presence of the Lord filled the temple like a cloud. The priests could not even do their work, because the presence of God was so powerful.

Life Application

Worship is a very important beginning for our personal prayer time. Wise people worship and thank God before asking for anything.

Talk about the power of praying in the name of Jesus. He gave His life for us. His blood washed away our sin. When we call on His name, the devil has to run away.

Object Lesson

Use two magnets to demonstrate how prayer keeps us close to God. First, hold attached magnets. Pull apart to demonstrate the pull of the magnetic field. Explain how prayer keeps us close to God. If we forget to pray, (turn magnets in opposite direction) everything else takes us away from Him. We need to pray every day.

Prayer

Gather students in a circle. Ask students to think of a specific time and place to pray each day. Remind students to begin their prayer time with worship and thanks. Start the prayer by saying something like, “Lord Jesus, I worship You. I thank You for saving me. Please help me pray every day at (insert time) in (insert place). In Jesus’ name! Amen.” Go around the circle with each student participating.

Craft Idea

Discuss how worship and prayer lead us to many treasures such as peace, joy, love, help, salvation, provision, and Heaven.

Give each student a square of packing paper. Students should tear the edges. Then help students create treasure maps. The maps should illustrate treasures found through prayer and worship.

Lesson 3 – Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Supplies/Preparation

Lego blocks or wood blocks

Create a large pile of “rocks” made from crumpled paper.

Empty pitcher, Bibles, craft/snack supplies (see below)

Welcome

Allow students to spend time building. As they work, ask: What is the most difficult thing you have ever built? How long did it take? Who helped you?

Bible Lesson – Elijah Builds an Altar

Have students find I Kings 18.

Explain the background of the Bible passage. King Ahab of Israel, and his wife, Jezebel, were not following God’s commandments. They worshiped idols instead of worshiping the one true God. Many people in their kingdom followed their example.

God sent Elijah, His prophet, to tell King Ahab there would be no rain because of his sin and disobedience of God’s commandments.

Three years passed without any rain. People could not grow food to eat. They could not take care of their animals. People and animals were starving.

King Ahab became worried. He and another man, Obadiah, went on a search for food and water. While they were looking around, Elijah came to town.

King Ahab accused Elijah of causing trouble.

Elijah said, “You and your family are the ones causing the trouble. You aren’t obeying God. You are following the false god, Baal. Bring all 450 prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel.”

When the prophets arrived, all the people gathered around the mountain to watch. Elijah called out, “How long will you keep serving idols?”

Then Elijah gave instructions. He told people to bring two bulls to sacrifice.

“Let Baal’s prophets choose one of the bulls. They should prepare an altar of sacrifice to their god, put the bull on top, and pray for their god to answer by fire.”

“I will prepare another altar with the other bull. Then I will pray too. The God that answers by fire is the one true God.”

Baal’s prophets built their altar and placed one bull on top. They prayed from morning to afternoon. They danced around their altar. They shouted to Baal. They even cut themselves with swords and spears. No one answered their prayers.

Then Elijah picked up twelve stones to build an altar.

As you discuss the hard work of building the altar, use the paper rocks to build an altar. Act as if each rock is heavy.

Elijah took his time to make a strong altar. He dug a deep ditch around it. He arranged the wood. He put the bull on top. Then he asked for barrels of water.

Use a pitcher to act as if pouring water over the stones.

Water poured over the bull. Water splashed over the rocks. Water filled the ditch around the altar.

Elijah wanted to prove the one true God could send powerful fire—hot enough to evaporate the water. As daylight turned to evening, Elijah prayed and worshiped. He asked God to let the people know the one true God.

Suddenly . . .

Dramatize the fire falling with loud sound effects (involve students). Describe how the awesome power of God consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the water.

People fell down and cried out, “The Lord is the one and only God!”

Then God sent rain so the people could grow food again. God answers when people worship Him and build an altar of prayer.

Life Application

Ask: What do you think God wants us to learn from this Bible lesson?

Gather the paper rocks and hand one to each student. During the discussion, ask one student at a time to come to the front and add a stone to make an altar shape.

We need to learn how to pray and build altars all by ourselves. We won't always be able to depend on our parents' prayers.

Sometimes our friends might not understand the altars we build and the time we spend in prayer. Ask students to discuss how Elijah might have felt as one man compared to the 450 prophets of Baal.

Developing a daily habit of prayer takes time and consistent effort. Sometimes we won't feel like praying. It's important to pray anyway—exercising faith muscles to become stronger in Jesus.

Even if our friends don't understand, they notice our altars of prayer. Just as the people of Elijah's time began to worship God after Elijah built his altar, we can help others learn how to worship the one true God.

Prayer

After all the stones are in place, gather around the altar and pray together.

Lesson 4 – Give us the food we need for each day.

Supplies/Preparation

Blindfold, several items to drop on a table (marshmallow, paper clip, crayon, marble, spoon, etc.)

Container of flour, bottle of oil, head scarf, robe, sticks, pancake ingredients and cooking utensils

See extra ideas at the end of this lesson for other necessary supplies.

Welcome

Play a listening game. Blindfold a student. Ask another student to drop items on a table nearby.

The blindfolded student tries to guess what object is being dropped.

Ask students to share their ideas about the importance of careful listening.

Bible Lesson – God Provides (II Kings 17)

Display the container of flour and the bottle of oil. Direct a student to wear a head scarf and gather sticks from the floor. Ask another student to wear a robe and act as Elijah. Have the actors repeat the dialogue as you speak. Use a few words at a time.

Woman: It has been so long since it rained. My garden is dead. We are almost out of food. I only have a handful of flour and a little oil left. I will gather these sticks, make a fire, and cook a cake. Then my son and I will eat it and wait to die.

Woman: (Cry softly. Then look up quickly.) Who is coming? It's the prophet of God, Elijah!

Elijah: Good morning! Please bring me some water. Oh, and may I please have a piece of bread too?

Woman: Sir, I only have a handful of flour and a little oil. I was planning to make a cake for my son and me. It will be our last meal.

Elijah: Don't be afraid. Listen carefully. Make a little cake and bring it to me. Then make one for you and your son. God has seen your need. He will supply your barrel with flour and your vessel with oil.

Woman: OK. I will do as you say.

Woman: It's been five days now. My barrel still has flour in it! My vessel still has oil! Just as the prophet promised. My son and I have just enough food to eat.

Life Application

The woman in the Bible lesson listened carefully to instructions from God's prophet. We should also listen to God, our spiritual leaders, and our parents.

Ask: How do we listen to God? Allow students to discuss.

Then assign students individually or in groups to find the Scriptures and read aloud.

I Kings 19:11-12; Isaiah 30:21

Sometimes during our prayer time we sense a still, small voice—a thought we feel inside our hearts or in our minds. It is important to wait for God to speak to our hearts.

II Timothy 3:16-17

We can listen to God by reading His Word. We should always keep our Bible with us when we pray.

Romans 10:17

Another way we can listen to God is through teaching or preaching. That's why it is so important to pay attention at church.

Prayer

Lead the prayer with specific statements that relate to the students. After every statement, have the students respond with, "Help me listen carefully, God. I will follow You."

Snack Idea

Help students make pancake batter. Compare the process to the woman who used flour and oil to feed her family. Cook the pancakes and enjoy.

Extra Ideas

Object lesson

<http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.com/2013/11/widows-jar-that-doesnt-run-dry.html>

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=47&v=uMeST8-MxcY



Lesson 5 – Forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.

Supplies/Preparation

Tool belt/tools, backpack, cans of food, water bottles, suitcase packed with heavy clothes, heavy coats or sweaters, large rock

Two paper heart shapes, dark marker

Craft supplies: pencils, chenille stems (pipe cleaners), small heart shapes cut from paper, markers, glue

Welcome

Provide a tool belt full of tools. Pack a backpack with cans of food and bottles of water. Fill a suitcase with heavy clothing. Pull out a heavy coat or sweater and a large rock. Let students take turns carrying the heavy items. Compare the activity to carrying a weight of sin or guilt.

Discuss:

How does it feel to wear heavy clothes or carry heavy items?

Why does sin feel heavy?

How can we remove the heaviness of sin?

How do we feel after God has forgiven our sins?

Bible Lesson – God Forgives David (II Samuel 11, 12; Psalm 32; Psalm 51)

David was a man after God’s own heart. He was kind and forgiving. But one day, after he had been king for many years, David made a horrible mistake. Then he tried to cover his sin by having a man murdered. Even though David thought no one else knew about the sins, God knew. He sent a prophet, Nathan, to talk with David.

Nathan told David a story about a rich man with many sheep. One day the rich man stole a poor man’s only sheep—his pet—and cooked it for dinner.

King David was furious. “That man needs to die!” he yelled.

Nathan said, “You are the man! You are a rich king with many blessings. You stole another man’s wife.”

Immediately David repented. “I’ve sinned against the Lord,” he said. He felt ashamed and sorry. He did not get mad at the prophet. He didn’t turn away from God.

In Psalm 32 and Psalm 51, the Bible tells us about David’s repentance. After God forgave him, David felt free. The heavy sin in his heart was gone. His heart felt new, clean, and close to God again.

Even though God forgave David, many problems happened in David’s life because of his sin. Still God loved him forever. And He always called David a man after his own heart.

Life Application

Have you ever sinned?

Did your heart feel heavy?

Display the paper heart shape. When we sin, it’s as if we damage our pure, clean heart. For example, if we tell a lie, it makes a mark. Scribble on the heart. Then, if we steal something, there’s another mark. Sin makes our hearts feel dirty and heavy.

We can repent or ask God to forgive us. True repentance means to turn away from sin. It’s like changing direction and walking the other way. It means we are truly sorry and we don’t want to keep making the same mistakes.

When God sees our repentance, He forgives. He gives us a clean heart. (Display a new heart shape.) Then God forgets all about the sin. He never remembers it again.

After our hearts are clean, we need to ask the Lord to fill our clean hearts with His Spirit. His power helps us keep away from sin.

In the same way God forgives us, we need to forgive others.

Has someone said mean words to you?

Has your friend hurt your feelings?

Have your parents made a mistake?

Have you forgiven yet?

When we forgive another person for something they have done wrong, we help the other person feel free too. Forgiveness brings freedom.

Prayer

Gather students in a line. Have students place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them to create a “prayer train.” Lead the train around the room while praying for forgiveness and the courage to forgive others who have hurt us.

Craft Idea

Tell students to write about God’s love and forgiveness on the small paper heart shapes. Then have students twist a chenille stems around pencils to make the stems look like springs. Glue the heart shapes to one end of the springs. Attach the other end of the springs to the eraser ends of pencils.



Lesson 6 – Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Supplies/Preparation

Blankets or sheets, flashlight, fuzzy cloth soaked in water (see Bible lesson), bowl, water, paper, pencils, markers

Create three flashcards: 32,000; 22,000; 300.

Craft supplies: brown paper or cardboard tubes, tissue paper (yellow, orange, red), glue or tape

Welcome

Help students design a “cave” with blankets, sheets, tables, and chairs. Invite students inside for the Bible lesson. Bring a flashlight. Talk about how it would feel to hide in a cave for seven years. Discuss problems like running out of food or hearing enemies creeping around outside.

Bible Lesson – Gideon (Judges 6-7)

Open the Bible to Judges 6 to show students where the lesson is located.

For seven years, the people of Israel had been tormented by enemies, the Midianites. The Israelites hid in caves and holes in the mountains. They tried to plant crops and grow food, but the enemies destroyed almost everything.

One day Gideon was hiding in a winepress--probably a big hole in the ground. Gideon was shaking stalks of wheat to remove the seeds. He was trying to provide food for his family. Deep in the winepress, no enemies could see him and steal the wheat.

Gideon felt sad. He was tired of mean bullies bothering his family and all of God’s people.

Suddenly he saw an angel sitting under an oak tree. The angel called to Gideon. “You’re a mighty warrior. God is with you.”

“Who?” Gideon looked all around. He did not see a soldier. He did not see a fighter. No one else was there. “Who is a mighty man? Not me! My family is very poor. And I’m the least important person in my family.”

“I will be with you. You will win the war against your enemies, the Midianites.”

Gideon felt scared. How could he win a war? He asked for a sign from God. “Please, God, if this is really you, stay here until I come back.” Then Gideon rushed away to prepare a meal. He brought the food back the angel under the oak tree.

The angel said, “Place it on that rock over there.”

Gideon obeyed.

The angel put his staff on the meat and bread. Whoosh! Fire blazed and burned up all the food. Then the angel disappeared!

Gideon knew God had spoken.

A few days later, Gideon saw a huge army. Thousands of enemy Midianites gathered for war. The Spirit of the Lord came over Gideon. He blew a trumpet to call soldiers. He sent messages everywhere for help.

While he waited for everyone to get there, Gideon said, “Lord, you promised to use me to save Israel. Please do something for me. I’ll put a piece of wool cloth on the ground all night. If the dew (explain as necessary—describing how grass feels wet when we walk on it early in the morning) is on the cloth in the morning and the ground is dry, I will know your promise will come true.”

The next morning, the cloth was wet from dew. Gideon squeezed enough water out of the cloth to fill a bowl. (Demonstrate.)

Then Gideon said, “Please, Lord, I have one more request. Tonight keep the cloth dry and cover the ground with dew.”

The next morning the wool cloth was dry and the ground was drippy wet.

Soon 32,000 men (display flashcard) gathered to help Gideon fight. The Lord spoke to him. “You have too many men. I do not want Israel to brag and think they have defeated the enemy on their own. Make an announcement. Tell all those who are afraid to turn back.”

22,000 men ran home! (Display flashcard.)

Then God told Gideon there were still too many men. “Take them down to the water. Tell them to drink water. Watch closely. Some will drink the way dogs do, licking the water with their tongues. Other men will dip their hands into the water and bring it up to their mouths. Send the dog lappers home.”

Guess how many men were left? 300. (Display flashcard.)

God said, “I will save you with 300 men.”

Gideon saw thousands of enemies gathering around. Gideon still felt scared, but he trusted and obeyed God. That night God helped Gideon come up with a plan. He divided the 300 men into three groups. He gave each one a trumpet and a clay jar with a torch inside. “Watch me,” he said. “Copy everything I do.”

They tiptoed into the darkness, surrounding the enemy on all sides. Gideon blew his trumpet. He yelled, “The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon!”

All 300 men copied him. Then they smashed their jars. They held up their burning torches. They blew their trumpets and shouted!

Midianites freaked! They started fighting each other. They scattered and ran away.

God helped Gideon and his 300 men win the battle! Israel had peace for forty years.

Life Application

Gideon prayed and depended on God. God took care of him, his family, and all the Israelite people.

Discuss:

What can God do with your prayers?

How can you help your family and friends with your prayers?

Give each student paper, pencils, and markers. Ask them to illustrate their prayers and show how God will answer.

Prayer

Inform students they can be intercessors—helpers to bring others to God through their prayers. Place a Bible on a chair to represent God. Have a student stand with back turned toward the Bible as if rejecting God. Have another student act as the intercessor and turn the other student toward God.

Then have everyone kneel and pray sincerely for family and friends who need to turn toward God.

Craft Idea

Roll brown paper into torch shapes secured with tape (or use cardboard tubes). Light a “fire” at one end of the torch by attaching yellow, orange, and red tissue with glue or tape.

Lesson 7 – The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

Supplies/Preparation

Study Acts 12. Print copies of the word search and/or the coloring page.

Bible, chains, chairs grouped to represent a prison, angel wings or halo, sheriff badges for soldiers, flashlight for angel, coat for Peter, markers, paper (to make a door for the house on the coloring page), scissors, tape or glue

Welcome

Ask students to share the weirdest dream they have ever experienced. What happened when they woke up?

Bible Lesson – God Answers Sincere Prayer (Acts 12)

Have students find Acts 12 so they can see where the lesson takes place. Help students act out each scene.

Main points to act out:

Peter (wearing a coat) preaching with a Bible in his hand.

Soldiers arrest Peter and take him to prison (inside the group of chairs). They ask Peter to remove his coat so they can place chains around him.

Peter sits in prison, looking sad. Two soldiers guard him.

On the other side of the room, students act as church members in an “effectual, fervent” prayer meeting.

Peter falls asleep. Soldiers still guard him.

An angel arrives, shines a flashlight on Peter, and tells him to get up. Peter’s chains fall off.

Angel says, “Put your shoes on. Get your coat. Let’s go!”

Peter stumbles out, confused because he thinks it's all a dream.

The angel leads Peter through the prison hallways. Doors open. Outside, the gate opens all by itself.

The angel leaves Peter walking down the street. Peter "wakes up."

"Wow! The Lord sent an angel to rescue me!"

He goes near the prayer meeting and knocks on the door.

A girl answers the door. Rhoda knew Peter's voice, but she was so excited she did not open the door. She ran to tell the others Peter was at the door.

The church members say, "No way! You're crazy!"

Rhoda replies, "It is Peter! Really! I saw him!"

Church members say, "No. It is just his angel. It's not really Peter."

Peter keeps knocking. Finally someone else opens the door. All the church members act surprised.

Peter explains how the Lord brought him out of prison. "Go tell other people!"

Peter left to go to another town, but the news of the answered prayer kept helping others.

Have students read Acts 12:24, "The word of God grew and multiplied." Explain how this happened because the church prayed.

Life Application

Compare the angel of the Lord delivering Peter to the Spirit of the Lord helping our friends and families find Jesus.

Ask:

How can you help your family and friends find Jesus?

Do you know anyone trapped in a prison of drugs, problems, or illness?

How can you help your family and friends escape the prison of problems and illness?

What might happen if you sincerely pray every day?

Prayer

Gather everyone in a circle. Go around the circle clockwise praising God. Then reverse the process, going counter clockwise, praying for needs. End by everyone raising their hands and praising God for answered prayers.

Craft Ideas

Older students can find the message in the word search. Younger students can cut out a door to tape or glue to the house on the coloring page.

Prayer Works!

W H E Y S T A C T S C L N A B
 E L A E U I H E V H L A N I N
 G R P T O E R G A S E U E O N
 P P R A E A Y I I S G T P G R
 E A T G T T N H P L N C O I N
 G S H A H S P P E E A E N B V
 V I Y S G R J I T B L F A O H
 S O L D I E R S E D E F F C I
 B Q F I R H Q M R T L E R G R
 J O L T P R I S O N P U M T S
 F E R V E N T G L Q H E V Y N
 N V Y P D T H N V C P F N S P
 R H O D A K A N S W E R S F D
 Z T F Z Y O U S Y L R K Y N P
 Q N B H S F P D Z D V X S X W

ACTS
 CHAINS
 FERVENT
 OPEN
 PRISON
 SOLDIERS

ANGEL
 CHURCH
 GATE
 PETER
 RHODA

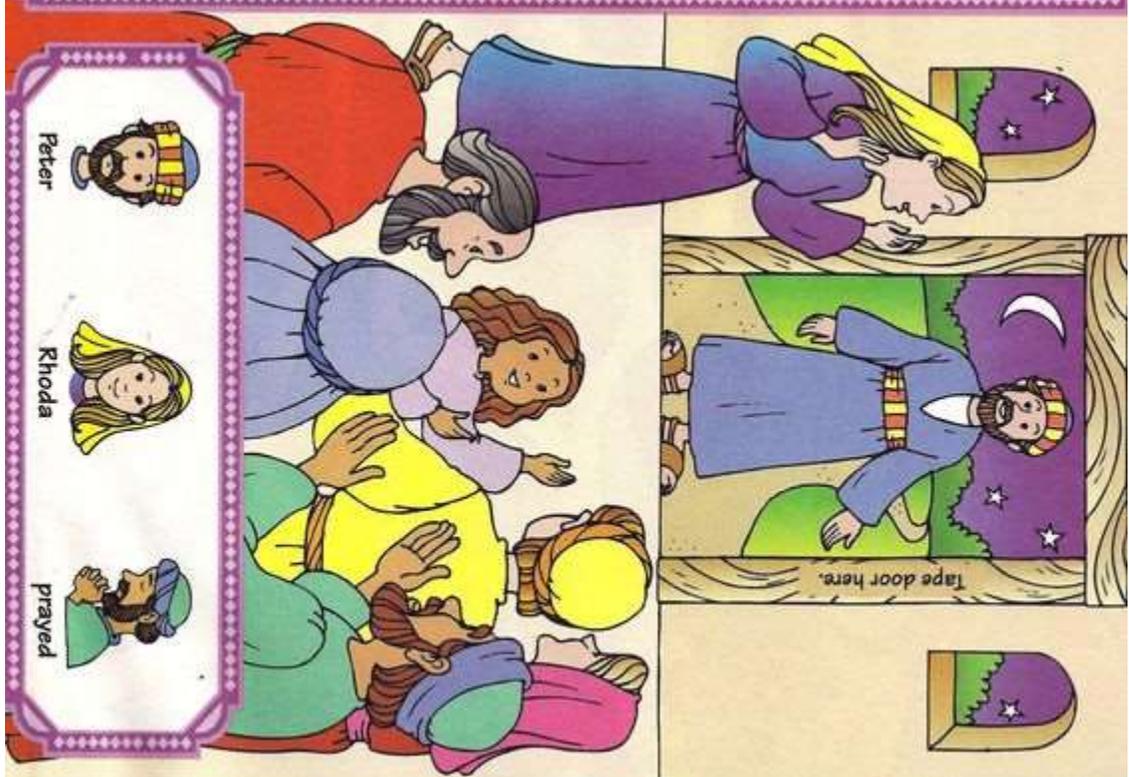
ANSWER
 EFFECTUAL
 LIGHT
 PRAY
 RIGHTEOUS

The Early Church Prays

Acts 12:1-17

Tape a door onto the house. Then read the story. Open the door to let Peter inside.

1.  was in prison.
So God's family  for him.
They told God about .
And the trouble he was in.
2. One night they met at Mary's .
And  the whole night through.
They  and  and waited
to see what God would do.
3. A servant girl named .
Heard a knock, and knock again.
But when  heard "It's
I!"
She forgot to let him in!
4. Then someone opened up the .
God's family was surprised!
 stood there, safe and sound,
Before their very !
5. They were amazed! They laughed and cheered!
They thanked God for His care—
For how He heard and answered when
They called to Him in prayer.



Peter



Rhoda



prayed

Lesson 8 – Making Prayer a Priority

Supplies/Preparation:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, Bibles, crown for King Darius, robe for Daniel, printed copies of script (with character parts highlighted), grocery store items

Print situations for older students to act out.

Print this historic grocery store picture to show students.



Craft supplies: construction paper, scissors, white paper, glue, markers

Welcome

Display a toothbrush and toothpaste. Ask: What happens if you don't brush your teeth every day? Discuss cavities, rotten and/or missing teeth, bad breath, and illness.

Ask: What happens if you do not talk to Jesus every day?

Discuss how daily prayer helps us remove rotten attitudes and forgive others. Prayer keeps the love of Jesus in our hearts. Prayer prepares us for Heaven.

Bible Lesson – God Honors Daniel's Daily Prayer (Daniel 6)

Give everyone a copy of the script and assign parts. The king wears a crown. Daniel wears a robe. Choose four leaders (or one student to read the parts in different voices). The teacher can be the narrator.

King Darius: Hear ye! Hear ye! Princes and leaders! Come to my office for a meeting.

Daniel: Yes, Sir. (Salute.) Here I am. All the other leaders are with me.

King Darius: Good to see you, Daniel! You are the top president of our country. I appreciate your excellent attitude and your hard work for our kingdom.

Leader #1: (Whisper loudly.) Did you hear that? Daniel always does everything right. I am so jealous. How can we bring him down?

Leader #2: After this meeting is over, let's try and find something he does wrong.

Leader #3: I've been spying on him for days. He never does anything wrong. He runs the government according to all the rules. He works hard. He tells the truth. He chooses what is right and best for the kingdom. He is excellent!

Leader #4: I've got an idea!

Narrator: Several days later . . .

King Darius: Greetings, leaders of the kingdom! Do you have a question?

Leader #1: Oh, King! Live forever! (Bow before the king.) As the spokesman for our group, I want to propose a new law.

King Darius: OK. Tell me about it.

Leader #1: Make the people obey this command for the next thirty days: Don't let anyone pray to any god or person except you. If any person is caught praying to anyone but you, the person will be thrown into the den of lions.

King Darius: (Act proud.) Great plan! (Act as if signing the law.)

Daniel: I can't believe he signed! Wow. Someone is out to get me. This is getting scary. The den of lions! I can hear those lions roaring. What should I do?

Narrator: Daniel walked home. He was probably scared and nervous. The windows of his house were open toward Jerusalem, just like every other day. Daniel knelt down. He prayed and thanked God. This was his daily habit.

Leader #4: (Act as if spying on Daniel.) I caught him! I caught him! Look! He's in his house praying to the one true God! Tell the king! Hurry!

Leader #3: King! We found Daniel disobeying the new law! He's praying to his God!

King Darius: Oh, no! Not Daniel, my favorite president! I don't want Daniel to be hurt!

Narrator: The king tried everything to save Daniel. Finally, at sunset he gave up. There was no way to change the law.

King Darius: I am sending Daniel to the lion's den. But the God he serves is able to keep him safe.

Daniel: (Peer down as if looking at hungry lions. Tremble and shake.) Here I go!

Narrator: Clank! Boom! A large stone covered the lion's den. Daniel stayed with the hungry lions all night.

King Darius: (Lie down. Act as if trying to sleep.) I have been awake all night! I can't eat. I can't listen to music. I am so worried about Daniel. (Toss and turn.) Finally! The sun is coming up. I am going to look inside the lion's den.

King Darius: Daniel! (Cry loudly. Act as if peering into a deep hole.) Daniel! Are you OK? Did your God, the one you pray to every day, deliver you from the lions?

Daniel: O king! Live forever! God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me.

King Darius: Oh, Daniel! I am so happy for you. Helpers—pull him out. Look at you, Daniel! Not even one scratch! God took care of you! From now on everyone in my kingdom will respect and honor Daniel's God. He is the living God that rules forever!

Life Application

Ask: Why do you think God honored and helped Daniel?

Read this story to the students before leading a discussion about daily prayer:

Regular Customers

(Based on a true story)

Long ago a man owned a small grocery store in Minnesota. (Display picture.) Customers at this store did not push a cart down long aisles, choosing cans and boxes from shelves. Instead they stood at a counter and ordered items from the store owner. After he handed the items to the customers, they paid with cash. There were no ATM machines or credit cards. If a regular customer did not have enough money, the owner would allow the person to pay later. The person's name and the amount owed was written in a notebook.

One day a stranger came to the store. He ordered milk, eggs, bread, and vegetables, but he did not have enough money to pay for everything.

"I'm sorry," said the owner. "Please come back when you have the money."

"Why can't I pay later? Like your regular customers?"

"My regular customers have earned my trust. I see them every day. I know them and help them."

When we pray daily, we become one of God's regular customers.

Ask students to share their ideas about blessings God provides for His regular customers.

Prayer

Ask each student to find a partner. Instruct them to pray for and with one another. Lead the prayer, asking the Lord to help everyone develop a daily habit of prayer.

Learning Activities

Younger students can play grocery store and apply their actions to the lesson.

Give older students situations to act out. Suggestions:

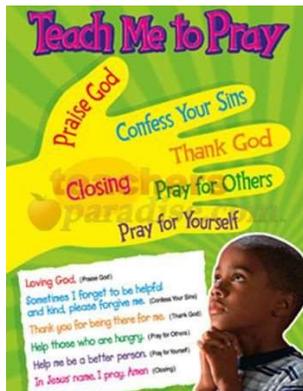
Your cousin makes fun of you because you pray every morning before school. What will you do?

Your baseball team practices late every night. You are too tired to pray when you get home. What will you do?

One day you pray. The next day you forget. This keeps happening over and over. What will you do?

A friend asks why it is important to pray every day. What will you say?

Craft Idea



(From studentsundayschool.com)

Have students trace their handprints on white paper and write the areas of prayer, as shown in the picture, on their hand shapes. Then have students cut out their handprints and glue the shapes on construction paper. Have students take the artwork home for a daily prayer reminder.

EXTRA IDEAS

See www.kidsprayer.com

The Lord's Prayer coloring pages/booklet:

<https://ministry-to-students.com/lords-prayer-coloring-pages/>

A fun activity to fill extra time or to calm rowdy students . . .

Guess that Student

1. Begin by saying something similar to: **“This person is right-handed, has blue eyes . . .”**
2. The one who guesses the mystery student gets to take the next turn describing another student.

~From *The Power of Positive Teaching* by Yvonne Bender

Ribbon Prayer for the Lord's Prayer

From <https://childrensministry.com/ribbon-prayer/>

For each person, provide 4 inches each of blue, white, purple, green, yellow, red, orange, and gold ribbon. You'll also need a Bible.

This craft is designed to help children learn the Lord's Prayer. Using [Matthew 6:9-13](#), have children tie their ribbons together in the order of the prayer.

Tell kids:

*Blue is the color of fathers. Say, “Our father who art in heaven” as you hold the blue ribbon.

*White represents holiness. Say, “Hallowed be Thy name” as you tie white to blue.

*Purple is a majestic color. Say, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done” as you tie purple to white.

*Green is the color of the Earth. Say, “On earth as it is in heaven” as you tie green to purple.

*Yellow reminds us of wheat. Say, “Give us this day our daily bread” as you tie yellow to green.

*Red reminds us of Jesus’ blood. By trusting in Jesus, we’re forgiven. Say, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” as you tie red to yellow.

*Orange is the color for the darkness of evil and temptation. Say, “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” as you tie orange to red.

*And gold reminds us of God’s heavenly kingdom where he reigns forever. Say: “For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” as you tie gold to orange.

*Now let’s use the ribbons to say the entire prayer together.

Talk teasers: From the Lord’s Prayer, what does God want us to pray about? What attitude does God want us to have as we pray? What do we learn about God from this prayer? Use this ribbon to practice saying the Lord’s Prayer. Then tie the ribbon around your neck and take it home as a reminder to pray in your own words each day.

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