

PRAYER

LESSON 1: WHY PRAY? ☆

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This first Sunday school lesson of a series that will introduce children to the importance of prayer in their daily lives.

TOPICS

Christian Living, Knowing God, Listening, Prayer, Relationships

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Display the following items on a table:

Telephone Newspaper Letters & Envelopes Road Map Radio

As the children arrive, give them a sheet of paper and ask them to list what they think the items on the table have in common. Just before class starts let the kids know that all the things displayed on the table are used to communicate with each other. Today our lesson is about another way we communicate. More specifically, it is about how we communicate with God.

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

MEMORY WORK (12 MINUTES)

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

Write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a group several times. Then erase one word. Have the kids say the verse correctly again with the missing word. Then erase another word and say the verse again. Continue erasing words until the kids can say the entire verse without seeing the words.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

Introduction:

Today we will learn that prayer is communicating or talking with God. We may not be able to call God on the telephone or send Him a letter, but prayer is just as real as e-mail or newspapers. Why should we pray? Because it makes our relationship with God stronger. Could you imagine trying to have a best friend without communicating with them? Prayer is seeking God and His direction for our lives. Praying also helps keep us out of trouble. Jesus told us to pray, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Matthew 26:41)

Read James 5:13-16 (The Prayer of Faith)

Have the kids find James 5:13-16 in their Bibles. Ask for a volunteer to read the passage, or if you prefer, read the passage to the children yourself.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is prayer? (*Prayer is spiritual communication between ourselves and God.*)
2. Can you pray when you are in trouble? (*Yes.*)
3. Can you pray when you are happy? (*Yes.*)
4. What is another name for happy prayers? (*Praises.*)
5. What are some of the examples of why to pray mentioned in James 5:13-16? (*When you are in trouble, when you are happy, when you are sick, to show faith, for confession of sin, and to pray for others.*)
6. What else can we pray for? (*Some examples include: Guidance, Protection, Strength, Wisdom.*)
7. Is the prayer of a righteous man powerful? Is it effective? (*Yes the Bible tells us in James 5:16b that the prayers of the righteous are both powerful and effective.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (5 MINUTES)

Answers Without Speaking (Activity) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (20 MINUTES)

Jesus Pillow (Craft) [Click here](#)

APPLICATION (2 MINUTES)

Why pray? It's simple, to talk with God and to get His direction for our lives. God is so good and will help us when we are happy, sad, sick or even when we're in trouble. God will give us wisdom, strength and understanding if we only ask Him. In fact God is willing to give us many good things as long as we ask for them in accordance to His Will. God answers our prayers with signs, the Holy Spirit and His Word, the Bible. When we pray our relationship with God grows.

NEXT WEEK

Did you ever see a human that thought he was a robot? If not, be sure to come back next week.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home. Click here for [NIV](#) or [KJV](#) [PDF]