

Little kids can know God through prayer

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(With additional ideas
from the original text)

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

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Why teach young children?

Whether you are a new teacher or one who is well seasoned, you have chosen to invest your time in one of the most fruitful ministries: teaching young children! Why teach young children? According to specialists, the first five or six years of a child's life are his most sensitive, receptive and crucial period of development. These years, in which he develops his will to learn, his creativity and his ability to perform, affect all of his subsequent learning. If intellectual development is half over by age five, then teaching the Bible to young children has the potential of laying some very important spiritual and intellectual foundations.

What young children are like

Players



Physically, young children's large muscles are developing. These growing muscles can actually cause discomfort if they sit still for too long. They need time to play and plenty of space to move around in. They need variety and activity in every learning situation. Let them role-play Bible stories and play-act situations and applications to allow movement and reinforce the lesson. In this series you will find dramatic activities, action rhymes and movement woven into the Bible lessons, songs and memory verse teaching to help you meet this need.

Mentally, young children are questioning, observing and learning all the time. They enjoy learning and do so through all five senses. It is important to use a variety of methods and materials that appeal to their senses and maximise learning. Young children are also literal-minded and need simple, clear terminology - words that mean what they say. This does not mean you should never use more challenging words. It is important to expose them to Bible words they may not learn anywhere else, such as "sin", "Saviour" and "worship". This series makes use of carefully chosen words and explanations, as well as a variety of sensory experiences.



Curious

Self-centred



Socially, young children see the world as revolving around themselves and their needs. They are limited to their own viewpoint. Avoid competition but reward them for individual effort. The welcome ideas, review games, creative and enrichment activities in this series give young children opportunities to succeed without competition.

Emotionally, young children are easily hurt and their feelings are often "on the surface". Provide security and a sense of love and belonging. Seek to build self-esteem with positive comments about their character and ways they are growing and learning to do more. Young children are trusting, so be accurate and truthful. Build trust by keeping your word and being consistent. The teaching objectives, main teachings and applications in this series direct them to their ultimate source of security and love - a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



Vulnerable

Credulous



Spiritually, young children eagerly accept Bible truth and are capable of learning basic doctrine in broad, simple terms. Some may also be ready to receive Christ as Saviour. Be sure to teach through repetition and give opportunities for response. Always keep in mind that their relationship with you, their teacher, will influence their relationship with God. Prayerfully commit your teaching ministry to the Lord and let His love for the children flow through you. This series provides a solid foundation of basic Gospel truths, relevant examples of sin and biblical applications repeated in words, actions and songs.

How to use this series

This volume is one in a series produced by *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® for use with young children. It is our conviction that little kids *can* know God!

This book contains all the information you will need to teach your class.

The complete lesson text is included in this book. Try not to read from the book but keep eye contact with the children. A lesson that is taught, not read, is more believable and interesting for the children. More experienced teachers may want to display the visuals on an easel at eye level to the children and teach from an open Bible. This allows the teacher's hands to be free for the variety of activities woven into the lessons.

Each lesson includes many opportunities for active involvement through dramatic activities, action rhymes and songs. Be sure to evaluate the needs of your group and choose the ideas that will work best and fit within your class time.

Scriptures are quoted from the New King James Version of the Bible. If desired, you may easily substitute another translation. The verse explanations and memory verse symbols are adaptable for any translation or language.

You will find the following symbols throughout these materials. Each indicates an activity.

Activity symbols



Song



Dramatic activity



Action rhyme

Tips on teaching young children

Be prepared and organised

- ◆ Study your lesson and class schedule thoroughly.
- ◆ Plan your time well.
- ◆ Prepare a written programme and follow it.
- ◆ Organise your materials.
- ◆ Be flexible to meet the needs of your class.
- ◆ Be prepared for interruptions - and surprises!

Plan a pre-session time

Planning a pre-session, of course, assumes you will be in the classroom and ready before the first child arrives! This not only helps you be better prepared to teach, it also provides a sense of security for the children. Have nametags available. These may be created with coloured card or fun foam and attached with a safety pin or double-sided tape. Also provide pictures to colour, storybooks to look at and recorded stories or music to listen to. These activities could be organised into “interest centres” around the room. Activities you choose should reinforce the lesson aim for the day, or provide a review of previous lesson aims. The suggestions in the welcome segment are designed to be used in pre-session time. These ideas are effective yet simple and require little preparation. It is good always to have a planned activity but sometimes the best pre-session activity is just to sit, and talk with the children as they arrive.

Have a routine

It is important to establish a routine and state expectations for each area of the room and each teaching segment. The children will feel secure when they know what to expect. A suggested class schedule is given at the beginning of each lesson to use as a guide. Try to follow the schedule you decide on, but be sensitive to how children respond to each activity and adapt accordingly. Routines that provide security and interest may include regular opening and closing songs; carpet squares to sit on; areas of the room designated for certain activities (eg story area, song area, craft area); rhymes or action rhymes to signal certain activities.

Involve the children

- ◆ **Helping** - Let children hold songs or other visuals, and hand out materials.
- ◆ **Role-plays** - Children enjoy acting out events of the lesson.
- ◆ **Prayer** - Have the children pray aloud in class for specific requests.
- ◆ **Action songs and rhymes** - Sing songs with actions and include action rhymes.
- ◆ **Questions** - Ask questions while you teach as well as in a review time. Allow children time to ask their own questions.

Engage the senses

Because young children learn through their senses, an effective teaching session will include experiences with all five: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching. When planning your lesson and class hour, put yourself in the story. What would have touched your senses if you were one of the characters? What would you have seen or heard? What might you have smelled or tasted? Are there objects or textures you would have touched? Asking yourself these questions will help you think creatively about what to bring to class for the children to experience. Here are a few examples:

- ◆ **Seeing** - Talk about the visuals you use and ask children questions about what they see.
- ◆ **Hearing** - Use your voice creatively to depict characters in your lesson. Let the children use their voices to imitate sounds or repeat dialogue. Include songs to reinforce the lesson.

- ◆ **Smelling** - Use lesson-related items that have an aroma (eg foods, spices, perfumes, incense). Also let the children pretend to smell aromas that would have been present (eg food cooking, flowers, animals).
- ◆ **Tasting** - Let the children taste foods mentioned or implied in the lesson and sample foods from different cultures.
- ◆ **Touching** - Provide safe lesson-related objects the children can touch. Include different shapes and textures and nature items. Also let the children help you hold flashcards, song visuals and memory verse symbols.

Use a variety of visuals

Use pictures and objects of various shapes, sizes and colours. The verse and song visuals can be presented in several different ways:

- ◆ Mount them on craft sticks.
- ◆ Add magnets to the back to use on a baking tray.
- ◆ Use clothes pegs and clip them to a string.
- ◆ Slide them in a pocket chart.
- ◆ Add flocked paper, paper towel scraps or sandpaper to the back for use on a flannelboard.

Teach with music

Music provides opportunities for movement and captures the interest of distracted listeners. It is not necessary to teach the songs word by word to the children. Just sing them. Children will learn the songs simply by listening. Even if you are not musically inclined, try to include plenty of songs. Young children often learn songs more quickly than any other part of the teaching.

Review often

Reinforce your lesson in a variety of ways. Use review games, songs, role-plays, crafts and object lessons. You can also let the children retell the lesson using your visuals.

Be friendly

Smile often. Speak to the children at their eye level. Be personal and try to always use the children's names. Show interest in each child as an individual. Be patient and be generous with praise and encouragement.

Discipline consistently

Be loving yet firm in your discipline and realistic in your expectations. Remember that young children need lots of movement and opportunity for response. When discipline problems do occur, be careful to discipline the behaviour, not the child (ie, the problem is not the child himself but his inappropriate behaviour). Keep in mind that being well prepared and providing plenty of interaction will eliminate most problems.

- ◆ Have well-defined rules and be consistent in upholding them. Review the rules verbally and possibly with a visual reminder at the start of every class. Designate how many children can be at each centre or activity.
- ◆ Give positive guidance by telling what a child should do, not just what he should not do. Say, "Do this," instead of, "Don't do that."
- ◆ When a child misbehaves, ask if he needs time to think about appropriate behaviour. If thinking time is needed, have him sit alone for one minute per year of age. When the time is up, ask if he is ready to behave appropriately. If so, he may rejoin the activity.
- ◆ Plan to have a helper sit close to a child who consistently causes a disturbance in class. Often a touch on the arm will help refocus the child.

Teaching 2s and 3s

Two- and three-year-olds are very teachable. Some even refer to these years as the "age of discovery." Because there is a wide range of maturity levels within this age group, you need to be sensitive to each child on his individual level.

Class schedule

Include an activity after every two or three minutes of teaching time.

Bible lesson

Use lots of repetition. This age group thrives on hearing the same lesson many times (at least two to four times) before going to a new one!

Songs

Choose two or three songs to use throughout the series. Sing each song several times during the class time. When using a visual for a song, have a different child hold the visual each time you sing it. Keep singing the same song until all who want to hold the visual have had a turn.

Memory verse

Repetition is the key to teaching a memory verse to these little ones. Say one short phrase at a time and have the children repeat it after you. With a small group of children have one child at a time repeat the verse. You may want to use stickers to encourage or reward them. Continue to work on the same verse during the series until the children have it memorised.

Why lead young children to Christ?

Can a young child be saved? The Lord Jesus said, "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Jesus gave His promise of salvation to "whoever believes" (John 3:16) without any other limitation. He spoke of little ones who believe in Him and the danger of offending them (Matthew 18:6).

Shirley Wisner, who for many years served as a teacher trainer and a columnist for *Evangelizing Today's Child*® magazine, based the accountability of a child on James 4:17 - "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." Mrs Wisner stated, "Any normal child knows right from wrong long before he is five. He learns early that there are certain things he is not to do because they are wrong and that if he does them he will be punished. This same child can easily be taught that God calls such wrongdoing sin and that there is a remedy for sin."

Statistics show that eighty-five percent of those who make decisions for Christ do so between the ages of four and fourteen. Josh McDowell, a renowned speaker and author, spoke about this statistic and said, "It's probably going to be ninety-five percent within five years." He also predicted the age span would likely decrease to four and

eight. It is clear that we need to reach children early and there is an advantage in doing so. Many Christian leaders were saved as preschool children. For example, Corrie ten Boom was saved at age five, Dr James Dobson at age three and Amy Carmichael at age three.

Most children who are converted at a very early (ie preschool) age have had the privilege of a Christian upbringing.

It is important that our first goal is to evangelise the children. As Dr Howard Hendricks stated, "To expect a child to live the Christian life when he does not possess it is to mock him. Until the Holy Spirit takes up residence in a person's heart he cannot live [a life] pleasing to God."

In Mark 16:15 the Lord Jesus commands us to preach the Gospel to "every creature." This includes children. David Livingstone, famous Scottish missionary and explorer, said, "Our business is to teach children about sin and the Saviour, without even a hint about a certain age to accept Christ. The Holy Spirit will, in due time, convict them of sin." God is able to draw a child to Himself. If you doubt the child's ability to communicate with God, do not doubt God's ability to communicate with the child!

Young children and salvation

As we work with preschoolers we endeavour to build Bible truths into their understanding, "block by block". Each teaching session will aim to lead them to understand a Bible truth or to deepen their understanding of a truth they have already learned. In this way they will be taught the basics of the Gospel and much more. As you teach, depend on the Holy Spirit to give them spiritual understanding and to draw them to Christ. Be mindful, however, that preschoolers really want to please their teacher so we must avoid professions made on that basis.

If a child has questions, answer them on the child's level; if he is not satisfied with the answer he will ask again, or he may have another question. Let the child set the pace and be very careful not to put pressure on a child to make a profession of faith. If a child is very clear about the Gospel and clearly wants to trust the Lord, you may find "Key questions for counselling" (see back cover) useful.

Play dough, clay, instruments and costumes

Below are some staple items for fun and learning. For a creative activity children can use play dough or clay to form lesson-related objects as you review the lesson. Rhythm instruments are great for providing active participation in a rhythm band or praise parade. Costumes allow children the fun of “dressing up” as they role-play various parts of the lesson.

Play dough

1 cup plain (all-purpose) flour
 ½ cup salt
 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 1 cup water with food colouring added

Optional: food colouring; vanilla, cinnamon, or other fragrance; glitter.

Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan, and stir over a medium heat until the dough forms into a ball. Allow to cool, and then knead until smooth.

Store in an airtight container (a zipped plastic bag with the air pressed out is good).

Craft clay

200 g cornflour
 2¼ litre water
 400 g baking soda

Mix all the ingredients together in a medium saucepan. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened to a dough-like consistency. Turn the mixture onto a flat surface lightly dusted with cornflour and knead. Cover with a damp cloth or keep in a plastic bag. The clay may be used for crafts or “models”, which can be painted when dry.

Rhythm instruments

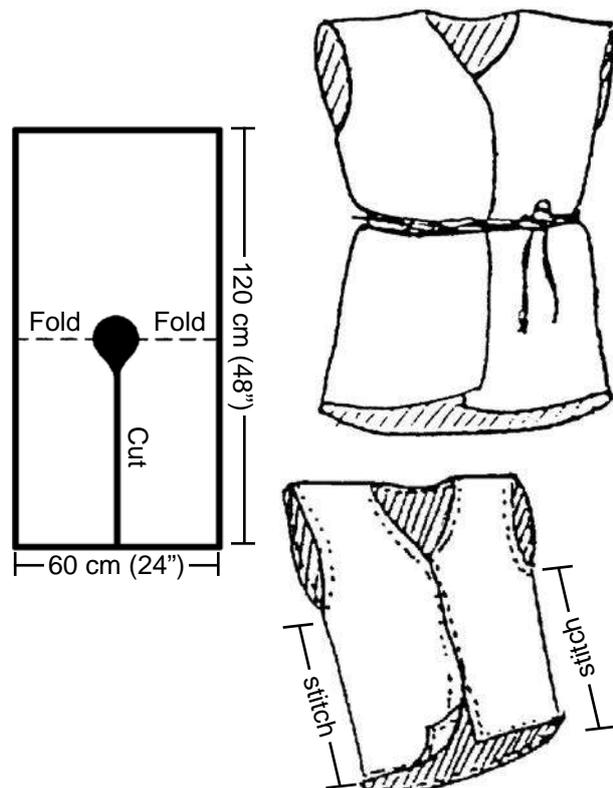
Make simple rhythm instruments from household items and decorate them with stickers, coloured tape, glitter, markers, crayons or other materials. (Do this before class or as a creative activity with the children.) Be sure to securely glue or tape the lids on instruments containing rice or beans.

- ♦ Small plastic boxes (each with a lid) filled with a few beans or rice for shakers.
- ♦ Small boxes open on one side with rubber bands stretched over the opening for harps.
- ♦ Tubes for horns.

- ♦ Biscuit tins or cardboard boxes for drums.
- ♦ Sets of two sticks or dowels for rhythm sticks.
- ♦ Bells on leather straps or ribbons for jingle bells.
- ♦ Disposable plastic containers with holes punched around the edges and bells attached with wool or ribbon for tambourines.
- ♦ Sets of two sanded wooden blocks with sandpaper glued to one side for rhythm blocks.

Bible costumes

This toga costume can be used for both male and female Bible characters. Use any material, but be sure to hem all the raw edges. Make three sizes for children: small (60 x 120 cm / 24” x 48”), medium (70 x 152 cm / 28” x 60”) and large (75 x 160 cm / 30” x 64”). (For adults and youth, experiment to determine the desired dimensions.) Create a rope or fabric belt for each toga. For simpler costumes, paper grocery sacks may be used. Cut arm and head openings in each.



Planning your class time

Below is a suggested schedule to help you plan a fun-filled 30-minute, 1-hour or 2-hour teaching time, presented once a week or daily. If you are teaching once a week, you will find there are many activities to choose from - and not enough time to use all of them! In a daycare setting these additional ideas and materials could be passed on to the daycare provider as a way to reinforce your teaching throughout the week. In a church setting these ideas would work well in a midweek service or other meeting.

To teach these materials in a Monday to Friday setting, choose one of the three plans according to the time available. If you have only 30 minutes, divide the memory verse and Bible lesson and spotlight on prayer between the five days as indicated below. A review time can be given daily or in place of the spotlight on prayer at the end of the week.

Day 1 **Day 2** **Day 3** **Day 4** **Day 5**
 Memory verse Bible lesson part 1 Bible lesson part 2 Bible lesson part 3 Spotlight on prayer

Time schedule

(Unless otherwise noted, time segments are given in minutes.)

	Class segment	30 minutes	1 hour	2 hours
	Welcome	Pre-session	Pre-session	Pre-session
	Worship	-	5	5
	Memory verse	5	5	10
	Stretch*	5	5	5
	Bible lesson**	15	15	20
	Review	5	5	10
	Spotlight on prayer	-	5	5
	Snack	-	-	10
	Creative activity	-	15	20
	Enrichment activity	-	-	25
	Going home***	-	5	10

* Use the suggested stretching activities or sing action songs.

** Include or omit dramatic activities as time allows.

*** While waiting for parents, have children help to tidy up, review the memory verse and sing songs.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Welcome	Worship	Memory verse	Stretch	Review	Spotlight on prayer	Songs and action rhymes <small>(Action rhymes are italicised)</small>	Creative activity <small>(Choose one)</small>	Enrichment activity <small>(Choose one)</small>
Elijah prays to the true God 1 Kings 16:30-33 1 Kings 17:1 1 Kings 18:1-39, 42-46	The true God is the only One we should pray to	I can draw a picture of me	"Jesus loves me" Prayer "I can know God" Offering	"... the Lord will hear when I call to Him" (Psalm 4:3) Clap rhythm	Head and shoulders, knees and toes	Praying hands	Matthew 6:9	"Praise Him, praise Him"	Prayer hand pictures Student activity sheets Play dough	Prayer box Giving praise
Jonah confesses his sin Jonah 1-3	Sin is disobeying God	I am thankful	"Praise Him, praise Him" Prayer "Jesus loves me" Offering	Review Psalm 4:3 Clap rhythm	God is everywhere	Noughts and crosses	Matthew 6:9-10		God makes me glad Student activity sheets Play dough	You can't hide from God Confession prayers

Overview (continued)

Lesson	Central truth	Welcome	Worship	Memory verse	Stretch	Review	Spotlight on prayer	Songs and action rhymes (Action rhymes are italicised)	Creative activity (Choose one)	Enrichment activity (Choose one)
Nehemiah prays in every situation Nehemiah 1 - 2 Nehemiah 4 Nehemiah 6:15-16	God wants you to pray to Him about everything	For our trip	“I can know God” Prayer “The prayer song” Offering	“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray ...” (Psalm 55:17) Stop and go	Let’s take a trip	Build Nehemiah’s wall	Matthew 6:9-11	“Praise Him, praise Him”	Prayer bookmarks Student activity sheets Play dough	Help me We need God
Jesus prays Acts 16:31 1 Timothy 1:15 Luke 11:1-13 Luke 22:39-43 John 17	It is important to pray to God	I can pray for you	“Jesus loves me” Prayer “I can know God” Offering	“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:17) Stop and go	Head and shoulders, knees and toes	Match the letter	Matthew 6:9-12	“Praise Him, praise Him” “I can pray”	Prayer wheels Student activity sheets Play dough	Prayer mural Time to pray

Overview (continued)

Lesson	Central truth	Welcome	Worship	Memory verse	Stretch	Review	Spotlight on prayer	Songs and action rhymes <small>(Action rhymes are italicised)</small>	Creative activity <small>(Choose one)</small>	Enrichment activity <small>(Choose one)</small>
God answers prayer for Peter Acts 12:1-17	God answers the prayers of His people	Paper chain	"I believe the Bible" Prayer "The prayer song" Offering	"Call to Me, and I will answer you ..." (Jeremiah 33:3) Verse with actions	Stop and go	Break the chain	Matthew 6:9-13	"I can pray" <i>"I can pray"</i>	Gospel hearts Student activity sheets Play dough	Yes, wait or no Setting Peter free
God answers prayer for Paul and Silas Acts 16:11-35	God wants you to pray to Him	Traffic lights	"I can know God" Prayer "The prayer song" Offering	"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things ..." (Jeremiah 33:3) Verse with actions	Follow the leader	Prayer concentration	Matthew 6:9-13	"Praise Him, praise Him" <i>"Praise Him, praise Him"</i>	Doorknob prayer reminders Student activity sheets Play dough	Prayer bears Paul, Silas and the jailer

Memory verse actions

Lessons 1 and 2

Clap rhythm

Psalm 4:3

“... the Lord will hear when I call to Him”

(Instructions for “clap rhythm” are included with both lessons.)

Lessons 3 and 4

Stop and go

Psalm 55:17

“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice”

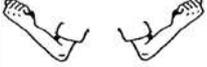
(Instructions for “stop and go” are included with both lessons.)

Lessons 5 and 6

Verse with actions

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things ...”

				
“Call”	“answer”	“show”	“great”	“mighty”
Cup hands around mouth while looking up.	Tilt head and cup hand behind ear.	Cup hands around eyes.	Spread arms wide.	Pull fists and forearms back toward body while flexing muscles.

Song lyrics and actions

The following songs are included in the *Little kids can know God - songbook and CD* which is available from your CEF National Office. If you need an address, contact the European Headquarters (address at the front of this book).

The CD notation indicates the vocal and accompaniment only track numbers on the CD.

(CD: 13/34)

Jesus loves me

- 1 (1) Jesus (2) loves me (3) this I know
(4) For the Bible tells me so.
(5) Little ones to Him belong;
(6) They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, (1) Jesus (2) loves me. (*repeat twice*)
(4) The Bible tells me so.
- 2 (1) Jesus (2) loves me (7) when I'm good,
(4) When I do the things I should.
(1) Jesus (2) loves me (8) when I'm bad
(9) Though it makes Him very sad.
Yes, (1) Jesus (2) loves me. (*repeat twice*)
(4) The Bible tells me so.

Actions: (1) *Touch right middle finger to left palm; touch left middle finger to right palm. (2) Hug self. (3) Point to head. (4) Hold hands like an open Bible. (5) Hold hands low. (6) Hold arms out with elbows bent and forearms limp then clench fists and flex muscles. (7) Extend hands, palms up, at waist level. (8) Shake head "no" and wave index finger. (9) Slump shoulders and bow head.

* You may need to explain that this reminds of how Jesus died on the cross for us.

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(CD: 9/30, 10/31)

I can know God

(*Adapted*)

- 1 (1) I may not be big (2) like the mountains so tall
(3) But I can know God, (4) Who made them all.
(5) I may not be strong (6) like the rivers that flow
(3) But I can know God, (6) Who makes them go.

Chorus

- (7) Yes, I can know (3) God. He's (5) big and strong.
(7) Yes, I can know (3) God and (8) sing His song.
(9) God loves me so much (7) and wants me to be
(10) A child in His own (11) forever family.
- 2 (12) I could not be there (13) to see Jesus die
(3) But I can know God (14) and understand why.
(1) I may not be big or tall (15) or so wise
(3) But I can know God (16) made Jesus alive.

Actions: (1) Stretch tall. (2) Touch fingertips together in a point above head. (3) Point up with index fingers. (4) Move hands, palms up, from in front of you to each side. (5) Flex muscles. (6) Wiggle fingers,

palms down, moving hands from right side of body to left. (7) Point to self. (8) Cup hands around mouth. (9) Hug self. (10) Hold hands low. (11) Look up while lifting outstretched hands. (12) Shake head "no" and wave index finger. (13) Make cross with index fingers. (14) Hold hands like an open Bible. (15) Point to head. (16) Raise hands, palms up.

Verse 1 by James L. Swindle. © 1986 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.
Verse 2 and adapted chorus by Shirley Person. © 2001 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. All rights reserved.

(CD: 18/39)

Praise Him, praise Him

- 1 (1) Praise Him, praise Him.
(2) Praise Him in the morning.
(3) Praise Him at the noontime.
(1) Praise Him, praise Him.
(4) Praise Him when the sun goes down.
- 2 (5) Love Him ...
- 3 (6) Thank Him ...

Actions: (1) Clap hands to rhythm. (2) Stretch and yawn. (3) Shield eyes with hand. (4) Lay head on hands and pretend to sleep. (5) Hug self. (6) Fold hands as if in prayer.

(CD: 19/40)

The prayer song

- 1 (1) I can pray, I can pray
(2) Anytime, anywhere.
(3) Praise the Lord and thank Him,
(4) Tell Him that I love Him
(2) Every day, every day.
- 2 (1) I can pray, I can pray
(2) Anytime, anywhere.
(5) Tell the Lord when I sin.
(1) Trust Him to forgive me
(2) Every day, every day.
- 3 (1) I can pray, I can pray
(2) Anytime, anywhere.
(6) Pray for other people.
(3) Tell the Lord we need Him
(2) Every day, every day.

Actions: (1) Fold hands as if in prayer. (2) Turn one hand palm up then the other. (3) Look up while lifting outstretched hands. (4) Look up while hugging self. (5) Point to self. (6) Point to others.

Lyrics by Shirley Person © 2001 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.

Song lyrics and actions (continued)

(CD: 5/26)

God makes me glad

(Tune: The B-I-B-L-E)

- (1) When I am feeling sad
- (2) Or someone makes me mad,
- (3) Without delay I'll stop to pray
- (4) So God can make me glad.

Actions: (1) Slump shoulders and bow head. (2) Put hands on hips. (3) Fold hands as if in prayer. (4) Smile broadly.

Lyrics by Barth and Sally Middleton. © 1989 Barth and Sally Middleton. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(CD: 11/32)

I can pray

(Tune: Oh be careful)

- 1** (1) I can pray every day (2) when it's light.
(1) I can pray every day (3) when it's night.
(1) I can pray every day;
(4) God will hear what I say.
(1) I'll remember to pray every day.
- 2** (5) Sometimes God answers (6) yes when I pray.
(5) Sometimes God answers (7) wait when I pray.
(5) Sometimes God answers (8) no
(9) Just because He loves me so.
(5) But I know God always answers (1) when I pray.

Actions: (1) Fold hands as if in prayer. (2) Move hands apart while spreading fingers, palms out. (3) Lay head on hands and pretend to sleep. (4) Cup hand around ear while looking upward. (5) Point up. (6) Raise right fist victoriously. (7) Hold hand up, palm out. (8) Shake head "no" and wave index finger. (9) Hug self.

Verse 1 by Shirley Person. © 2001 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. All rights reserved.

(CD: 8/29)

I believe the Bible

(Adapted)

- 1** (1) I believe the Bible. (*repeat*)
(1) I believe the Bible is the Word of God.
- 2** (2) I believe in Jesus. (*repeat*)
(2) I believe in Jesus; He's the Son of God.
- 3** (3) You and I have sinned. (*repeat*)
(3) You and I have sinned and that makes God sad.
- 4** (4) Jesus died for sinners. (*repeat*)
(4) Jesus died for sinners; Jesus died for me.
- 5** (5) Jesus Christ is risen. (*repeat*)
(5) Jesus Christ is risen; He arose for me.
- 6** (6) Will you now receive Him? (*repeat*)
(6) Will you now receive Him and be saved today?

Actions: (1) Hold hands like an open Bible. (2) Point up. (3) Point to others then to self. (4) Make cross with index fingers. (5) Raise hands, palm up. (6) Fold hands as if in prayer.

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Lesson 1

Elijah prays to the true God

Scripture for teachers 1 Kings 16:30-33
 1 Kings 17:1
 1 Kings 18:1-39,42-46

Central truth The true God is the only One we should pray to

Application Unsaved and saved: Pray to the true God of the Bible

Memory verse "... the Lord will hear when I call to Him" (Psalm 4:3)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do	
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 81), one per child Crayons, four per child A4 sheets of paper, one per child 	Welcome Activity	Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags. "I can draw a picture of me" Have each child draw a picture of himself. After the pictures are drawn, gather the children in a circle. Have the children take turns telling about their pictures. Let this lead into further discussion that will help you get to know the children.
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) "I can know God" visualised song Offering basket or bank 	Song Prayer Song Offering	(CD: 13/34) "Jesus loves me" (verse 1) Lead the children in prayer: "Dear God, thank You that You love us. Thank You that we can talk to You in prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen." (CD: 9/30) "I can know God" (chorus twice) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPRA-R1, PPRA-R2, PPRA-R3 and PPRA-R4 (page 77) Instructions (page 20) 	Verse Repetition	Psalm 4:3 "Clap rhythm"
 Stretch		Activity	"Head and shoulders, knees and toes" The following may be spoken or sung to the tune of "London Bridge" while doing the actions: Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Knees and toes, knees and toes, Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Clap your hands and praise Him.

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lesson text (page 23) ♦ PPRA1-1, PPRA1-2, PPRA1-3, PPRA1-4 and PPRA1-5 ♦ Before the class starts, cover the bottom picture on PPRA1-1 with paper (held on with Blu-Tack®) ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ A variety of things associated with wet weather - a raincoat, wellington boots, an umbrella, etc. 	Lesson <p>“Elijah prays to the true God” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Praying hands (page 81), one per child ♦ Flannelboard ♦ Questions (page 26) 	Game <p>“Praying hands” After a child answers a question, he may place his praying hands figure on a flannelboard.</p>
 Spotlight on prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Instructions (page 22) ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ Postcard, e-mail, letter and mobile telephone (or pictures of them) 	Spotlight <p>“Matthew 6:9”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	Break <p>Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> Prayer Snack <p>Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Prayer hand pictures (page 82), one per child ♦ Crayons or markers ♦ Glue ♦ Dried seeds or beans ♦ Student activity sheets, one per child ♦ Orange or red glitter ♦ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	Craft <p>“Prayer hand pictures” Help each child trace around his hand in the centre of the picture. Let him cover the outline with glue then dried seeds or beans.</p> Activity sheet* <p>“Elijah prayed to the true God” Assist the children in applying glue to the flames then shaking orange or red glitter on top.</p> Play dough <p>“Build an altar” Encourage the children to create stones and build an altar. Review the lesson with them as they do.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A decorated box (a 15 cm/6” cube is a good size) ◆ Objects representing things children can pray about (pictures showing family, friends, pets; tiny Bible; “play” food; items from nature; etc) ◆ Pictures of things God created 	<p>Activity “Prayer box” Before class put the objects and pictures in the box. (The more items you put in the box, the more the children will enjoy this activity.) Each child can come and take one item from the box. The child then thanks God for the thing or person represented by what he is holding.</p> <p>Activity “Giving praise” Suggest compliments the children might receive then turn each into a “praise” prayer (eg “You are smart” turns into “Thank You, God, for making children smart” and “You are fast” turns into “Thank You, God, for giving children strong legs to run fast”). The children can also share actual compliments they have received.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... the Lord will hear when I call to Him” (Psalm 4:3)

Introduction

What if you are in one room and your parents are in another room? You need help with something and call out to your parents but they do not hear you.

Call out, “Mummy! Daddy!” repeatedly with increasing intensity.

Have you ever called and called for your parents but they did not hear you?

Allow response.

I know Someone Who always hears you when you call to Him!

Presentation

The Bible tells Who it is in the book of Psalms, chapter 4 and verse 3. Psalm 4:3 is the address where you find this verse in the Bible. Let's say it in three voices - whispering, normal and loud.

Say the address each time while cupping your hands around your mouth. Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at Psalm 4:3. Read the verse then show PPRA-R1, PPRA-R2, PPRA-R3 and PPRA-R4.

Explanation

the Lord will hear - The Lord is a name for the true God. The Lord made you and the whole world. He can hear you no matter how big or small your voice is. He can hear you no matter where you are in His world.

when I call to Him - To call to the Lord is to talk to God. We do not need a telephone to call Him. We can talk to Him out loud or just think our words to Him. Talking to the Lord is called prayer.

Application

Unsaved: The Lord will hear when you call to Him and tell Him you know you have sinned and you are sorry.

Share examples of sin.

The Lord will hear when you tell Him you believe in Jesus, God the Son, as your Saviour because He was punished for your sin. The Lord will hear when you tell Him you want to believe (trust) in Jesus as your Saviour. You can tell Him that today!

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus, the Lord will hear you whenever you call to Him. He wants you to praise Him in prayer. The Lord loves to hear you praise Him for being your awesome God. He loves to hear you thank Him for what He does. He loves to hear you tell Him that you love Him.

Repetition

“Clap rhythm”

Say the verse to the beat of a clap rhythm: pat lap, clap hands together, pat, clap, pat, etc, patting your lap on the underlined words and clapping on the others as follows: “the Lord will hear when I call to Him.”

Spotlight on prayer

Matthew 6:9

Sing "The prayer song" (CD: 19/40).

How can we talk to other people - to our friends and mum and dad? If they are with us we can just talk to them. If they are far away we can send a postcard, an e-mail or a letter. We can text them or talk on the phone.

Have these things with you (or pictures of them) to show the children.

There are so many ways to talk to other people.

We can also talk to God. We cannot use phones or e-mail or send letters. The Bible, God's Word, tells us how we can talk to God - it is called prayer.

Jesus has made it possible for us to pray to God. He died on the cross to take the punishment that we deserve for the wrong things that we do. He was buried in a cave (tomb) and on the third day came back to life again. If you believe in Jesus as your Saviour and say sorry for your sin, you become part of God's family and you can talk to God, your heavenly Father, in prayer.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. He told them to begin with the words, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9).

Read this from your Bible.

Our Father in Heaven - is God.

Hallowed be Your name - is a way of saying that God's name should be worshipped and honoured and praised.

So when we talk to God we begin by thinking about Him and how much He deserves our praise.

Say a short prayer with the children, giving them time to repeat each phrase.

"Father in Heaven, You are very great. Amen."

Lesson - part 1

Show the children a variety of things associated with wet weather - a raincoat, wellington boots, an umbrella, etc. Talk about when they would see people using them.

Today we are going to find out about a country where there was no rain for a long time.

King Ahab lived long ago. He was a very bad king. He knew all about the one true God, but he disobeyed God's law and he did not care at all. He thought that disobeying God did not matter all that much. But he was very wrong. How he treated God mattered more than anything. The God that we learn about in the Bible is the one true God.

Show your Bible.

He is the maker and ruler of everything. We should all obey Him. But King Ahab did not. He decided that he would worship other gods. He thought that it would be all right to pray to other gods that people had made, but it was not. God was not pleased with King Ahab. God sent him a messenger called Elijah.

Ask the children to repeat this name.

Elijah spoke to King Ahab. "There will be no more dew or rain on the land until God says" (from 1 Kings 17:1).

Flashcard 1-1

Cover the bottom picture with paper (held on with Blu-Tack®).

Rain is needed to make things grow, like the trees and grass in this picture. It is God Who controls the dew (the water that is on the grass early in the morning) and the rain that comes from the clouds in the sky. It was now going to stop. No more water to help the plants and flowers to grow. No more water to fill up the rivers and streams with water to drink. No more rain at all. Soon the animals would have no grass to eat or water to drink. Soon the people would have no food because nothing would grow, and they would have no water to drink. But King Ahab still did not care about the true God. He thought that Elijah was a troublemaker. He did not change his ways at all.

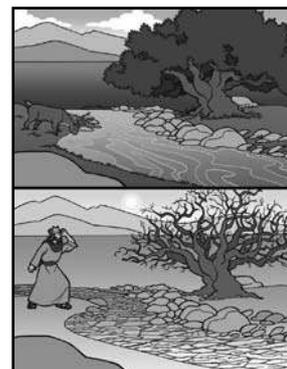
Many, many days went by. No rain came. When the people got up in the morning there were no dark clouds. At lunchtime there were still no clouds and at bed time there were no dark clouds. Maybe at first it was nice to have no rain, but as each day went by the grass got browner and the plants died. When harvest time came there was no grain to make bread. It was awful. People missed the rain. The little children would not have been able to remember what rain felt like.

Remove cover from the bottom part of the picture.



Explain how things should have looked (top picture) and what King Ahab saw (bottom picture).

Things were so bad that even King Ahab could see that there was very little grass for his animals to eat.





Walk around, pretending to look for water and grass. Pretend to find the rivers and springs nearly dry and no grass growing.

Part 2



Flashcard 1-2

Nearly three years had gone by. There had been no rain at all! Then God sent his messenger, Elijah, to speak to King Ahab.

When Ahab saw him he was very rude to Elijah. “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?” (from 1 Kings 18:17).

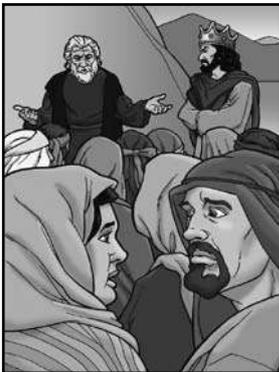
That was not the right way to speak to God’s messenger.

“I have not troubled Israel,” replied Elijah. “You and your father have brought trouble because you have ignored God’s commands” (from 1 Kings 18:18).

Then Elijah told King Ahab, “Bring the prophets of the false god to the mountain. Send for all the people to come too” (from 1 Kings 18:19).

Something very important was going to happen. All the people needed to be there to see.

The people came to the mountain. The prophets of the false god came to the mountain. King Ahab was there too.



Flashcard 1-3

Elijah spoke to all the people. “How long will you go on not sure what to do? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if the other god is true, follow him” (from 1 Kings 18:21).

The people said nothing.

Elijah wanted them to see that there was only one true God. He said to all the people, “I am the only prophet of the true God but there are many prophets of the god called Baal. Let’s make two altars (piles of stones) and put wood on them and a dead animal as a sacrifice, but we won’t add any fire” (from 1 Kings 18:22-23).

So they made an altar of stones, a bit like a pile of bricks. Some wood was put on top. Then a dead animal was put on top. But there was no fire to burn it.

“Let the prophets of Baal call to Baal and ask him to send fire on their altar. I will call to the true God and ask Him to send fire on the other altar,” said Elijah (from 1 Kings 18:24).

The prophets of Baal were to go first. This was a test to see if Baal would answer. Was he a real god who could answer prayer or not? Elijah wanted the people to find out. The people thought it was a good idea. They waited to see what would happen.

Flashcard 1-4

The prophets of Baal began to call to Baal to send fire. They started in the morning and they kept on calling out to Baal. But nothing happened; no fire came.

They called out, "O Baal, answer us" (from 1 Kings 18:26).

But no answer came. Then they started to jump around the altar, but still no answer.

At lunchtime Elijah said to them, "Shout louder, maybe your god Baal is busy, or he's gone away. Maybe he is on a journey or he's asleep and you need to wake him up" (from 1 Kings 18:27).

The prophets of Baal kept on calling out to Baal. Still nothing happened. They called to him all day long but no fire came. There was no answer from the god called Baal.

Part 3

Then Elijah called the people together. He built an altar and he got it ready for the fire. But then he did something very unusual. He dug a big hole (which we call a trench) all around the altar. He gave instructions for water to be poured over the wood and stones - not just one big jar of water but lots of them until the wood was soaking wet. The water ran down over the altar and into the trench that Elijah had dug all around it. If fire did come to the altar the people would know that it was not from Elijah. He could not make a soaking wet pile of wood burn. No-one but the true God could do that.

The altar was ready. Elijah spoke to God.

Read the following verses from your Bible.

"Lord, ... let it be known this day that You are God ... Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God" (1 Kings 18:36-37).

Flashcard 1-5

Then the fire fell on the altar. The true God had heard Elijah's prayer. Elijah did not have to shout or jump around. The true God that we learn about in the Bible always hears His people when they pray to Him. He is the only One we should pray to. He had heard Elijah's prayer.

When the people saw the fire they fell down on the ground and they said, "The Lord, He is God!" (1 Kings 18:39).

They had seen how the god called Baal was nothing. Baal was not real so he could not hear anyone. But God was real and could hear and did answer. The God of the Bible is the true God and He is the only one that we should pray to. When you pray, talk to the God of the Bible - He is real.

When everything was over Elijah went to the top of the mountain. He told his servant to go and look out over the sea. What do you think



they were looking for? Rain clouds! The servant kept on looking and then he saw something off in the distance.

“I see a rain cloud as small as a man’s hand” (from 1 Kings 18:44).

The sky grew dark with clouds, the wind blew and then down poured the rain. God had sent the fire and now He sent the rain. The God of the Bible is the true God. We can pray to Him. He is the one true God and we should praise Him.



Sing “Praise Him, praise Him” (CD: 18/39).

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who hears when you call to Him? (The Lord; the true God.)
- 2 How do you call to the Lord? (By talking to Him in prayer out loud or just thinking the words.)
- 3 Tell me something you could say that would be praise to God. (Answers will vary, but could include, “God, You are great/powerful/the Creator/perfect, etc.”)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Who was leading the people to believe in false gods instead of the true God? (King Ahab.)
- 2 Who controls the dew and the rain? (God.)
- 3 Where do we learn about the true God? (In the Bible.)
- 4 Who did God send to speak to King Ahab? (Elijah.)
- 5 Where did the people, the false prophets, Elijah and King Ahab meet? (On the mountain.)
- 6 When the false prophets prayed to their god what happened to their sacrifice? (Nothing at all.)
- 7 How did God show King Ahab and the people that He was the true God? (He sent fire from Heaven to burn up Elijah’s sacrifice and altar.)
- 8 When the people saw God’s power and believed, what did they do? (They worshipped and praised God.)
- 9 Who is the only one that we should pray to? (The one true God that we learn about in the Bible.)

Spotlight on prayer

- 1 What do we call talking to God? (Prayer.)
- 2 How can we begin our prayers? (“Father in Heaven.”)
- 3 Who has made it possible for us to talk to God in prayer? (Jesus.)

Lesson 2

Jonah confesses his sin

Scripture for teachers Jonah 1- 3

Central truth Sin is disobeying God

Application Unsaved and saved: You need to say sorry to God for your sin

Memory verse Review Psalm 4:3

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player ♦ Nametags (page 81), one per child ♦ Crayons, four per child ♦ A4 sheets of paper, one per child 	<p>Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags.</p> <p>Activity “I am thankful” Have each child draw pictures of things he can thank God for. Offer suggestions if necessary. After the pictures are drawn, gather the children in a circle. Have each child show his picture, tell about it and say a “thank you” prayer.</p>
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ Offering basket or bank 	<p>Song Prayer (CD: 18/39) “Praise Him, praise Him” Lead the children in prayer: “Dear God, thank You for (<i>name people or things in the children’s pictures</i>). Thank You that You gave us these things because You love us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”</p> <p>Song Offering (CD: 13/34) “Jesus loves me” (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)</p>
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PPRA-R1, PPRA-R2, PPRA-R3 and PPRA-R4 (page 77) ♦ Instructions (page 30) 	<p>Verse Repetition Psalm 4:3 “Clap rhythm”</p>
 Stretch		<p>Activity “God is everywhere” As you say the following statements, the children can follow your lead and do the actions: God is everywhere. (Stretch arms wide.) God is on the mountain. (Climb.) God is on the ground. (Lie on the ground.) God is in the park. (Run and jump.) God is in the ocean. (Swim.)</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 33) ◆ PPRA2-1, PPRA2-2, PPRA2-3, PPRA2-4 and PPRA2-5 ◆ PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d ◆ Parachute (or blue piece of cloth) ◆ Sponge cut into a simple boat shape 	<p>Lesson “Jonah confesses his sin”</p> <p>Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fish and Jonah circles (page 83) ◆ Four pieces of yarn ◆ Bulldog clips ◆ Flannelboard ◆ Questions (pages 35-36) 	<p>Game “Noughts and crosses”</p> <p>Clip four pieces of yarn to a flannelboard to make a noughts and crosses grid. When a child answers a question, he may place a symbol in the grid. The next child to answer may place the other symbol. Continue playing until three of the same symbol line up horizontally, vertically or diagonally or until the grid is full. Do not divide into teams unless you have older preschoolers. Younger preschoolers enjoy placing the symbols and the surprise of finding three in a row.</p>
 Spotlight on prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 32) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) 	<p>Spotlight “Matthew 6:9-10”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	<p>Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> <p>Prayer Snack Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ “God makes me glad” visuals (page 84), one set per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scissors ◆ Glue ◆ Craft sticks, four per child ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Tiny fish stickers ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “God makes me glad” take-home visuals</p> <p>Allow the children to colour and cut out the visuals then mount them on craft sticks. Use this time to sing the song “God makes me glad” (CD: 5/26) with the children. Let them have fun making faces like the ones on the song visuals.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Jonah confessed his sin”</p> <p>Let the children add tiny fish stickers to the water around Jonah.</p> <p>Play dough “In the sea”</p> <p>Guide the children in making different creatures that live in the sea (fish, starfish, octopus, etc) while you review the lesson with them.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d 	<p>Drama “You can’t hide from God” Let the children hide anywhere in the room. Ask, “Can God see you now?” Lead children to say, “Yes, God sees me now!” Repeat several times.</p> <p>Review “Confession prayers” Hold up flashcards PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d one at a time and guide the children in how they might pray a “confession” prayer for each situation. Use other pictures or verbal suggestions as time allows.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... the Lord will hear when I call to Him” (Psalm 4:3)

Introduction

If you hear me call your name, stand up.

Call the children's names from places where the sound will be muffled, eg behind cupped hands, facing into a corner, bowed low to the floor, behind a door.

You couldn't hear me call very well, could you? Who can always hear us when we call? (God.) No matter where you are when you call to God, He will hear you as clearly as this: *(call the names clearly until all the children are standing)*.

Presentation

The Lord promises to hear us. Do you remember where to find that promise in the Bible? (Psalm 4:3.) Let's say that address in three ways.

Say the address while cupping your hands around your mouth, while bowed to the floor and while standing tall. Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at Psalm 4:3. Read the verse then show PPRA-R1, PPRA-R2, PPRA-R3 and PPRA-R4.

Explanation

the Lord will hear when I call to Him - The Lord God will hear you no matter where you are - in your bed, at the dinner table, on the playground, in the car, anywhere! We call to God by talking to Him in our normal voice or just by thinking the words. We do not need special fancy words to pray to God - just our normal words. God understands every language so any person in the world can talk to Him!

Application

Unsaved: If you have not yet believed in Jesus as your Saviour, the Lord God will hear when you pray to do that. He wants to hear you say you believe in Jesus as your Saviour because He was punished for your sin.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus as your Saviour, the Lord will hear whenever you call to Him. You can ask God to help you obey Him and He will! But when you choose not to obey, you sin. You will still be God's child but God wants you to confess (tell Him about) your sin. Then you can continue to trust Him to forgive you.

Repetition

“Clap rhythm”

Say the verse to the beat of a clap rhythm: pat lap, clap hands together, pat, clap, pat, etc, patting your lap on the underlined words and clapping on the others as follows: “the Lord will hear when I call to Him.”

Spotlight on prayer

Matthew 6:9-10

Sing "The prayer song" (CD: 19/40).

Who is it that we can pray to? (God in Heaven.)

Who has made it possible for us to pray to God? (Jesus.)

The Bible, God's Word, tells us about prayer. In the Bible we can learn about how to pray to God. We can read how Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

Read Matthew 6:9-10 from your Bible.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We begin our prayers with God's name - "Father in Heaven". If I talk to you, I can begin with your name. If I talk to a friend on the phone, I begin with their name. So when I talk to God, I begin with His name.

Then I can praise and worship God by saying how great He is.

Next Jesus taught His disciples to ask for the things that pleased God to happen.

So when you and I pray we should think about God first. Let's pray to God together.

Say a phrase at a time so that the children can repeat it after you.

"Father in Heaven, You are very great. Please help things happen on Earth the way You want them to. Amen."

Lesson - part 1

Jonah was in a big hurry. He had a boat to catch. He had decided to go to a town called Tarshish. He was not going there to visit family or to have a holiday. In fact we have no idea what he was planning to do when he got there - because Jonah was running away to Tarshish. He just wanted to get away. It did not really matter where to - it just had to be a place really far away. So he packed his bag and took some money and went to find a boat that would take him away. But why was he going and who was he running away from?

Flashcard 2-1

The Bible tells us that God had given Jonah a job to do. God had told Jonah to go to a town called Nineveh and give them a message from God. But Jonah did not want to go. He did not like the people in Nineveh. He did not want to go and tell them about God.

“I’m not going!” he said to himself.

That was wrong! Jonah was disobeying God and the Bible calls that sin.

Jonah ran away in the opposite direction. He paid his fare and got onto the boat and off he went. He was not going to Nineveh for anybody! He was going to do just what he wanted to do!

Flashcard 2-2

The boat was out at sea. Jonah went below deck to have a sleep - he was probably tired from his journey.

Suddenly the wind changed. It blew stronger and stronger. This was a bad storm!



Play a parachute “storm” game. Sit the children in a circle around a parachute that is flat on the floor. Place a sponge (cut into a simple boat shape) in the centre. The parachute represents the sea. (If you do not have a parachute use a blue piece of cloth.) Narrate the storm, as the waves get bigger the children make the parachute move more rapidly. Then return children to their seats for the rest of the lesson.

The sailors were frightened. The boat was being tossed about by the huge waves. The wind was howling and blowing, water was getting into the boat. The sailors began to pray to their gods but it was no good. Their gods were not real and could not help them. They needed to make the boat lighter. What could they do?

Part 2

Flashcard 2-3

The sailors threw the luggage into the sea; anything that they could find went into the water. But still the boat was in danger.

The wind blew, the ship rocked from side to side thrown about by the waves and Jonah lay fast asleep. The captain of the boat found him sleeping.



“How can you be asleep?” he said. “Pray to your God. Maybe He will help us and we won’t all die in this storm” (from Jonah 1:6).

The sailors asked Jonah, “What has happened that this terrible storm has come to us? Who are you? Where are you from? What do you do?” (from Jonah 1:8).

Jonah told them, “I worship the Lord of Heaven Who made the sea and the land” (from Jonah 1:9).

This terrified the sailors because Jonah had told them that he was running away from God.



Flashcard 2-4

The sea got rougher, the waves bigger. The storm was getting worse.

“What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” the sailors asked (from Jonah 1:11).

“Pick me up,” Jonah said, “and throw me into the sea. Then the storm will stop. I know that it’s my fault that this storm has happened to you” (from Jonah 1:12).

Jonah knew that he had disobeyed God.

We are the same as Jonah, we have disobeyed God. When you do not do what your mum and dad say you are disobeying God because He has said that you must obey them.

You could use visuals PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d to explain sin to the children.

Jonah was one of God’s people but he had refused to do what God said. Maybe you have already asked Jesus to be your Saviour and you are part of God’s family. You still need to say sorry to God when you sin. You do not need to ask Jesus to be your Saviour all over again - you just need to say sorry when you sin, just like Jonah did.

The sailors did not want to throw Jonah into the stormy sea. They were sure he would die if they did that. So they tried hard to row the boat back to land.



Everyone row.

Part 3

The sailors kept on rowing, but no matter how hard they tried they could not fight against the waves. The storm grew wilder. They had no choice. They took hold of Jonah and threw him into the sea. The sea became calm, the storm had stopped. The sailors knew that the God Who had made the sea had calmed the storm.

Down, down, down went Jonah. Down into the deep, cold sea. He probably could not swim. He needed help, but who could help him now? Only God could help Jonah now. God sent a huge fish that swallowed Jonah up in one big gulp.

Flashcard 2-5

That was where Jonah stayed. He was inside the stomach of the huge fish. It was dark and smelly (*all hold noses*) and lonely, but there was Someone Jonah could talk to and there was something he needed to say. Jonah talked to God in prayer. He told God that he was sorry.

You and I need to say sorry to God for our sin - the wrong things that we think, say and do. We can tell God that we are sorry when we pray and we can ask Him to forgive us. God heard Jonah's prayer. We know that God forgave him because God told the huge fish to cough Jonah up onto the land. He had been inside the fish three days and three nights.

Count to three together.

Then God spoke to Jonah again, "Go to the town of Nineveh and give them my message" (from Jonah 3:2).

This time Jonah did not try to run away. He set off for Nineveh to tell the people there about God. Now he was obeying God.

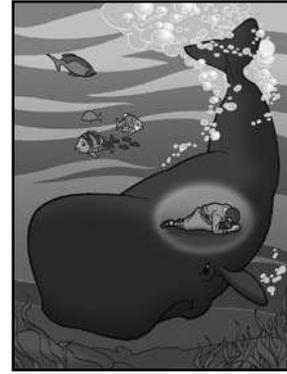
Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 What does it mean to call on God? (To talk with Him in prayer.)
- 2 Who will always hear when you call to Him? (The Lord; God.)
- 3 What words will God hear? (Any words; in any language.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Why was Jonah in a big hurry? (He was running away.)
- 2 What had God told Jonah to do? (Go to the town called Nineveh and give them a message from Him.)
- 3 What do we call disobeying God? (Sin.)
- 4 What did God do to the sea? (He made it stormy.)
- 5 What happened to the storm after the sailors threw Jonah into the sea? (God stopped the storm.)
- 6 How did God save Jonah from drowning in the sea? (He sent a big fish to swallow Jonah whole.)
- 7 What did Jonah do while he was inside the fish? (He prayed to God and said sorry for his sin.)
- 8 How do we know that God forgave Jonah? (The fish coughed him up onto dry land.)
- 9 When Jonah was out of the fish what did he do? (He obeyed God.)



Spotlight on prayer

- 1 Who has made it possible for us to talk to God? (Jesus.)
- 2 When we pray Who should we think about first? (God.)
- 3 What should we ask to happen when we pray? (Ask for the things that please God to happen.)

Lesson 3

Nehemiah prays in every situation

Scripture for teachers Nehemiah 1 - 2
Nehemiah 4
Nehemiah 6:15-16

Central truth God wants you to pray to Him about everything

Application Unsaved and saved: Pray to God in every situation

Memory verse "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray ..." (Psalm 55:17)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do	
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 81), one per child Crayons, four per child A4 sheets of paper, one per child 	Welcome Activity	Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags. "For our trip" Have the children draw things they would take on a trip. Offer suggestions if necessary. After the pictures are drawn, gather the children in a circle. Have each child show his picture and tell about it. You may also ask them about a trip they have taken.
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) "I can know God" visualised song Offering basket or bank 	Song Prayer Song Offering	(CD: 9/30) "I can know God" (chorus twice) Lead the children in prayer: "Dear God, thank You that we can worship You anywhere and at any time. Thank You that we can worship You by singing, listening to stories and praying. In Jesus' name. Amen." (CD: 19/40) "The prayer song" (verses 1-2) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPRA-g, PPRA-h, PPRA-i, PPRA-j and PPRA-k Or PPRA-R5, PPRA-R6, PPRA-R7, PPRA-R8 and PPRA-R9 (pages 78-79) Traffic lights (page 85) Instructions (page 40) 	Verse Repetition	Psalm 55:17 "Stop and go"

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Stretch		Activity <p>“Let’s take a trip” As you say the following statements, the children can follow your lead and do the actions: Let’s walk on our trip. (Walk.) Let’s drive on our trip. (Drive with engine sounds.) Let’s fly on our trip. (Fly with aeroplane sounds.) Let’s ride a horse on our trip. (Gallop.) We have finished our trip. Now we can sit down. (Sit.)</p>
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 43) ◆ PPRA3-1, PPRA3-3, PPRA3-4 and PPRA3-6 ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ◆ Cardboard houses (made from cartons or shoe boxes) ◆ Duplo or wooden bricks ◆ Large sheet of paper and marker ◆ Envelopes, one per child 	Lesson <p>“Nehemiah prays in every situation” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wooden, large Lego or large milk carton blocks (cut the tops off two cartons and push one open end in the other; cover with contact or construction paper) ◆ Questions (page 46) 	Game <p>“Build Nehemiah’s wall” When a child answers a question, he may add a block to help build a wall. Try to have enough blocks so each child may add one to the wall.</p>
 Spotlight on prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 42) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ◆ Box, basket or bag filled with items of food that children need (or pictures of food) 	Spotlight <p>“Matthew 6:9-11”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	Break <p>Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> Prayer Snack <p>Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Creative activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prayer bookmarks (page 86), one per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Glue ◆ Sand or cornmeal ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “Prayer bookmarks” Repeat the Bible verse with the children as they colour their bookmarks. Talk with them about the different ways God answers our prayers. Sing the song “I can pray” (CD: 11/32).</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Nehemiah prayed in every situation” Help the children spread glue over the ground area in the picture then shake sand or cornmeal over it.</p> <p>Play dough “Nehemiah’s wall” Have the children make bricks to build into a wall as you review what happened in the lesson.</p>
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>		<p>Activity “Help me” Begin by saying, “Let’s think about times we can ask God to help us.” Have one child come to you. Whisper a situation in his ear. Have the child act out the situation, allowing the others to guess what he is doing. Then let another child have a turn. Situations could include: tying shoelaces, reading, tidying toys, going to sleep, riding a tricycle.</p> <p>Drama “We need God” Suggest a situation when children would be afraid, need to sit quietly for a long time or share. Have the class pose in that situation then together say a prayer, asking God for help to do the right thing.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray ...” (Psalm 55:17)

Introduction

Tell me one thing you do before you go to bed.

Allow a few responses.

The Bible tells us something God would like us to do every evening before we go to bed. Can you guess what it is?

Allow response.

Presentation

Psalm 55:17 will tell us the right answer. Let’s say that Bible address while we lay our heads on our hands like a pillow for “evening”.

Repeat with stretching and yawning for “morning” and shielding eyes for “noon.” Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at Psalm 55:17. Read the verse then show PPRA-g, PPRA-h, PPRA-i, PPRA-j and PPRA-k; or PPRA-R5, PPRA-R6, PPRA-R7, PPRA-R8 and PPRA-R9.

Explanation

Evening and morning and at noon - These are times of the day. Evening is when the sun goes down (*lay head on hands*). When does the sun come up again (*stretch and yawn*)? (Morning.) What do we call the middle of the day (*shield eyes*) when the sun is high in the sky? (Noon.)

I will pray - God wants His children to pray (*fold hands as if in prayer*). Prayer is talking to God. We pray when we talk to God with our words and our thoughts. We can pray at any time of the day. Evening, morning and noon are good times to pray to God.

Application

Unsaved: God wants you to receive Jesus as your Saviour. You can pray to Him and do that today if you want to. I would be happy to help you later.

Saved: If you have received Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to pray. You can pray to Him every day, at all times of day.

Repetition

“Stop and go”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase, practising the actions (as outlined above).

Then use the symbols to recite the verse. Use “traffic lights” with a red light on one side and green on the other. Say the verse together, stopping when red shows and starting again when green shows. Do this three times, always stopping at the end of a phrase or natural pause. Do this three more times letting some of the children hold and turn the sign.

Spotlight on prayer

Matthew 6:9-11

Sing "The prayer song" (CD: 19/40).

Can you remember Who we are talking to when we pray? (God Who is in Heaven; Father in Heaven.) He is the God Who made everything. He is very great and wonderful.

How is it possible that we can pray to God? (Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment that other people deserve.) If we trust in Jesus as our Saviour God promises to hear our prayers (Jeremiah 33:3).

First of all we tell God how great He is when we pray. We begin by using His name - Father God - and we praise Him for being so great and wonderful.

We can also ask God to give us the things that we need. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11).

Read this verse from your Bible.

The disciples needed bread to eat. "Our daily bread" means all the food we need, not just bread.

Let's find out what we need.

Have a box, basket or bag filled with the food children need (or pictures of food). Let each child choose one and place on a plate.

Let's pray to God and tell Him how great He is and ask Him to give us the things that we need.

Let the children repeat the prayer phrase by phrase.

"Father in Heaven, You are very great. Please give us everything that You know we need. Amen."

Lesson - part 1



Build a walled city with the children. Have some cardboard houses that you have prepared (from cartons or shoe boxes). Have the children build a wall all around with duplo or wooden bricks. (To make it easier place everything on a large sheet of paper and draw a line where you want the wall to go. Remember that young children find it challenging to work together - you could assign them different sections of the wall.)

Many years ago cities had big walls all around them with gates that were shut tight every night. The wall kept everyone in the city safe. But sometimes if there had been fighting the walls could be knocked down and the gates burnt. Then the city was no longer safe.

Nehemiah had heard some news about his home city of Jerusalem.

Have the children repeat these two names several times. Make sure they know which one is a man's name and which one is a city.

He lived far away from home but he always wanted to hear news of Jerusalem. How was the city? How were the people who lived there? He asked his brother for news.

“The city wall is all broken down and the gates have been burned with fire,” his brother said (from Nehemiah 1:3).

This was very bad news.

Flashcard 3-1

Nehemiah sat down and he cried and was sad. Even grown-ups can get upset when they hear sad news. But Nehemiah had Someone he could talk to, Someone Who would listen and understand, and that was God. The Bible tells us that Nehemiah prayed to God. When you are sad, when you have had some bad news, you can pray to God. Tell Him how you feel and ask Him to help you.

Nehemiah prayed to God. He was still sad, but he knew he could talk to God about everything.

Flashcard 3-3

Nehemiah's job was to serve the king his drinks. Nehemiah was always cheerful when he served the king. But on this day the king noticed something different about him.

“Why do you look so sad even though you aren't unwell. You must feel sad about something,” the king said (from Nehemiah 2:2).

Now the king was a very important and powerful man. If you were his servant you were meant to be really happy around him, even if you did not feel it. Nehemiah was frightened by the king's words. Was he going to be in trouble? Nehemiah told the truth.

“I am sad because I have heard bad news about Jerusalem. The city gates are burned with fire. The city is in ruins,” he told the king (from Nehemiah 2:3).



The king was not angry. "What do you want?" he asked Nehemiah (from Nehemiah 2:4).

What a question! What could Nehemiah ask for from the king? Nehemiah prayed to God right where he was. He did not talk out loud - he prayed quietly, just thinking the words in his head. Could God still hear him? Yes!

When you and I talk to God in prayer we can talk quietly to Him - we can just think the words. It does not make any difference, God can still hear us. Nehemiah could pray to God at home or while at work in the palace, it did not make any difference. You and I can pray to God anywhere, at home, at nursery school, at grandma's or in the park. We can talk out loud or just think the words in our head. God wants us to pray to Him about everything.

Part 2

Nehemiah had prayed to God to ask for God's help. God had heard his prayer. He made Nehemiah brave to ask the king for help.

"Let me go to Jerusalem" (from Nehemiah 2:5).

The king, sitting on his throne said, "How long will you be gone? When will you get back?" (from Nehemiah 2:6).

Nehemiah told the king how long he needed. He was helped by God to ask for the things he needed for his journey and to ask the king for wood from the royal forests to rebuild the city gates.

The king said, "Yes!"

God was helping Nehemiah. God was answering Nehemiah's prayer. The king allowed Nehemiah to go and gave him letters to help his journey go smoothly.

It was a long journey to Jerusalem, but with letters from the king Nehemiah could travel safely.



Pretend to ride horses (slap legs for sounds). Give each child an envelope (to represent the letter from the king) to pass to a helper.

It was night time when Nehemiah went out secretly to look at the walls of Jerusalem. He went out on his horse but the wall was so broken down and there was so much rubble everywhere that his horse could not move. The gates were burned. Everything was as bad as Nehemiah had been told.

The very next day Nehemiah told all the people that they should start to rebuild the wall together. He told them how God had helped him so far, with wood from the king's forests and letters to help him on his journey.

"We must rebuild the wall," Nehemiah told the people (from Nehemiah 2:17).

Say to each other, "We must rebuild the wall."

Part 3

Flashcard 3-4

The people began the work of rebuilding the wall. It was a big job! They needed to move large blocks of stone and repair all the holes in the wall.



Pretend to be builders carrying heavy bricks and blocks of stone.

Not everyone was pleased to see the walls of Jerusalem being rebuilt. The enemies of the people laughed at what the people were doing. They made fun of them. They tried to put them off. They wanted to stop them.

Nehemiah told the enemies of the people, “The God of Heaven will help us to finish the wall” (from Nehemiah 2:20).

He believed that God would answer his prayers. He trusted God.

The enemies of God’s people tried very hard to stop the wall being put back together. They were getting angry.

“Are they going to finish in a day? Look at those weak and feeble people trying to build!” they said (from Nehemiah 4:2).

“Even a fox could knock down that wall” (from Nehemiah 4:3).

What could Nehemiah do? Building the wall was really hard work and the people were being laughed at! Nehemiah prayed to God. He knew he could ask God to help them. If people are unkind to you, ask God to help you. You can talk to God about everything.

The enemies of God’s people wanted to stop them from finishing the wall. They had tried laughing at the people and that had not worked, so now they planned to attack! But God protected His people. The attack never happened. The people were able to carry on building. Every time the enemies tried to stop the people building, Nehemiah prayed and asked for God’s help.

Flashcard 3-6

The people worked and worked, and in hardly any time at all, the huge wall of Jerusalem was finished! Everyone who saw or heard about the wall knew that God had helped His people. He had answered their prayers. Nehemiah and the people praised and thanked God. They knew that God had heard their prayers.



Sing “Praise Him, praise Him” (CD: 18/39).



Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 What is prayer? (Talking to God.)
- 2 When can you pray? (At any time.)
- 3 How can we pray to God? (With our words out loud or our thoughts.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 What news from Jerusalem made Nehemiah sad? (The wall was broken down and the city gates were burned.)
- 2 Who did Nehemiah talk to first about this sad news? (God.)
- 3 What can you do when you are sad? (Pray to God.)
- 4 What was Nehemiah's job? (He served the king his drinks.)
- 5 Why did Nehemiah not need to pray out loud? (God was able to hear him even though he did not pray out loud.)
- 6 Where do you need to be when you pray? (You can be anywhere.)
- 7 Who worked to rebuild the city wall? (Nehemiah and God's people.)
- 8 What did the enemies of God's people do ? (Laughed and made fun of them building the wall.)
- 9 When the people saw how God helped them, what did they do? (They praised and thanked God.)

Spotlight on prayer

- 1 Who has made it possible for us to talk to God? (Jesus.)
- 2 What is one of the things we can we ask God for? (The food that we need.)
- 3 What else should we tell God? (How great He is.)

Lesson 4

Jesus prays

Scripture for teachers Acts 16:31
 1 Timothy 1:15
 Luke 11:1-13
 Luke 22:39-43
 John 17

Central truth It is important to pray to God

Application Unsaved and saved: Follow Jesus' example - pray to God

Memory verse "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player ♦ Nametags (page 81), one per child ♦ Crayons, four per child ♦ A4 sheets of paper, one per child 	<p>Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags.</p> <p>Activity "I can pray for you" Have the children draw people for whom they can pray. Suggest family members and friends. After the pictures are drawn, gather the children in a circle. Have them take turns telling about their pictures. Let this lead into further discussion that will help you get to know the children.</p>
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ "I can know God" visualised song ♦ Offering basket or bank 	<p>Song Prayer (CD: 13/34) "Jesus loves me" Lead the children in prayer or let them pray with you, phrase by phrase: "Dear God, thank You that You love me and my family and friends. Thank You that we can be in Your forever family when we believe in You as Saviour. In Jesus' name. Amen."</p> <p>Song Offering (CD: 9/30) "I can know God" (verse 1) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ PPRA-g, PPRA-h, PPRA-i, PPRA-j, PPRA-k, PPRA-l, PPRA-m and PPRA-n Or PPRA-R5, PPRA-R6, PPRA-R7, PPRA-R8, PPRA-R10, PPRA-R11 and PPRA-R12 (pages 78-79) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ Traffic lights (page 85) ◆ Instructions (page 50) 	<p>Verse Psalm 55:17</p> <p>Repetition “Stop and go”</p>
 Stretch		<p>Activity “Head and shoulders, knees and toes”</p> <p>The following may be spoken or sung to the tune of “London Bridge” while doing the actions: Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Knees and toes, knees and toes, Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Clap your hands and praise Him.</p>
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 53) ◆ PPRA4-1, PPRA4-2, PPRA4-3 and PPRA4-4 ◆ Before the class starts, cover the “bubbles” on PPRA4-3 and PPRA4-4 with paper (held on with Blu-Tack®) as explained in the lesson text (page 54) ◆ PPRA-c and PPRA-d ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 14-15) 	<p>Lesson “Jesus prays”</p> <p>Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Letters (page 83), two sets ◆ Flannelboard ◆ Questions (page 55) 	<p>Game “Match the letter”</p> <p>Place one set of letters across the top of a flannelboard. Place the other on a flat surface nearby. When a child answers a question, he may pick up a letter and try to place it below the same letter on the flannelboard. You may want to let the children play the game several times.</p>
 Spotlight on prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 52) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ◆ Packet of sweets or teddy bear ◆ PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d 	<p>Spotlight “Matthew 6:9-12”</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	<p>Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> <p>Prayer Snack Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prayer wheel circles (page 87), one set per child ◆ Prayer pictures (page 88), one set per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scissors ◆ Glue ◆ Paper fasteners ◆ Clear contact paper (optional) ◆ Pictures of people from magazines (optional) ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Stickers ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “Prayer wheels” Let the children colour and cut out the pictures and glue them around the edge of their whole circle. Fasten the circles together at the centre, with the cut-out circle on top. The pictures will show through the “cut-out” as the top circle is turned. To make the wheel easier to turn, you may want to place clear contact paper over the picture circle before assembling the wheel. <i>Optional:</i> Provide a variety of appropriate-sized magazine pictures of people the children can pray for (eg family, friends, neighbours, teachers, preachers, government officials, sick, poor, etc). They can choose the pictures they want and glue them to the bottom circle.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Jesus prayed for Himself and others” Help the children place a cross sticker on the Bible or a stuffed animal sticker on the bed.</p> <p>Play dough “Where Jesus prayed” Guide the children in making various scenes showing places where Jesus prayed (eg mountains, gardens, lakes, temple, etc).</p>
 Enrichment activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Long sheet of heavy paper (eg roll of brown packing paper) ◆ Tape, thumb tacks or reusable adhesive ◆ Crayons or chalk 	<p>Activity “Prayer mural” Attach the paper to a wall. Have the children draw pictures showing situations in which they would need to pray for themselves or others. When the mural is finished, let each child explain his part to the class. The pictures from the welcome activity may also be added.</p> <p>Activity “Time to pray” Suggest times and places the children can pray for their family and friends (eg meals, bedtime, birthday parties, playing in the playground, riding in the car, etc). Lead the children in play-acting the situations if possible. End by praying together for family and friends to know God and choose to obey Him.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:17)

Introduction

Sing “I can pray” (verse 1) together (CD: 11/32).

Presentation

Do you remember the address of the verse that tells about praying at different times of the day? (Psalm 55:17.) Let’s say that Bible address in our whispering “sleepy time” voice.

Repeat with a medium “waking up” voice and a loud “playing outside” voice. Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at Psalm 55:17. Read the verse then show PPRA-g, PPRA-h, PPRA-i, PPRA-j, PPRA-k, PPRA-l, PPRA-m and PPRA-n; or PPRA-R5, PPRA-R6, PPRA-R7, PPRA-R8, PPRA-R10, PPRA-R11 and PPRA-R12.

Explanation

Evening and morning and at noon I will pray - God wants His children to pray to Him at all times of the day and night.

and cry aloud - We pray when we talk to God with our words and our thoughts. We can talk or cry out to God at any time of the day.

and He shall hear my voice - God will hear you when you pray. Whether your voice is happy or sad, whether it is a whisper or loud, whether you say the words or think them, God will (*cup hand behind ear*) hear your prayers. God is never too busy or far away to hear your prayers. God can hear the prayers of all people at the same time and understand all of them. He is interested in everything you tell Him.

Application

Unsaved: If you are not yet God’s child, God wants you to receive Jesus as your Saviour. You can pray and tell God you know you have sinned and you are sorry. You can tell God you believe Jesus died for your sins and came alive again. You can ask God to make you His child. God will hear when you pray. I would be happy to help you do that later.

Saved: If you already are God’s child, God wants you to pray for yourself and others. You can tell God what you are feeling and thinking. You can pray to God anywhere

at any time about anything. God will hear when you pray.

Repetition

“Stop and go”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase, practising the actions (as outlined above and on page 40).

Then use the symbols to recite the verse. Use “traffic lights” with a red light on one side and green on the other. Say the verse together, stopping when red shows and starting again when green shows. Do this three times, always stopping at the end of a phrase or natural pause. Do three more times letting some of the children hold and turn the sign.

Spotlight on prayer

Matthew 6:9-12

Sing "The prayer song" (CD: 19/40).

Role play: Teacher and helper pretend to be arguing over who has the last sweet from a packet, or both trying to play with the same teddy bear (both holding on and pulling in different directions).

When we have a fight with someone else or we argue, what do we need to do? We need to say sorry.

Jesus taught His disciples to say sorry to God when they prayed.

Read the first part of Matthew 6:12 from your Bible.

"And forgive us our debts" (Matthew 6:12).

Explain that "debts" is a different word for sin - the wrong things that we think, say and do.

We all sin.

Show flashcards PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d and talk about them with the children.

When we pray we need to say sorry to God for the wrong things we have thought, said and done.

Pray with the children, giving them time to repeat each phrase.

"Father in Heaven, you are very great. Please forgive us for the wrong things that we have thought, said and done. Amen."

Jesus also taught His disciples that they needed to forgive anyone who had been unkind to them.

Role play: Teacher and helper finish by arguing over the sweet or toy and then saying sorry to each other.

Lesson - part 1

Flashcard 4-1

We have learnt a lot about how to talk to God already. We call talking to God prayer. The Bible tells us about how Elijah prayed, how Jonah prayed and how Nehemiah prayed. Each time God heard their prayers and He answered them. Today you and I can pray! We can talk to God. If you have believed in Jesus as your Saviour, God promises to hear you when you pray.

But why do you and I need to believe in Jesus? We have broken God's law. When you do not do what your mum says you are breaking God's law because God has said we must obey our mum and dad.

Show PPRA-c and PPRA-d and talk about the pictures.

The Bible calls breaking God's law sin. The Bible tells us that all sin must be punished (Romans 6:23). But God sent Jesus to take the punishment that we deserve when He died on the cross. On the third day Jesus came alive again and He is now in Heaven. You and I need to be sorry for our sin and pray to God and ask him to forgive us. We need to believe in Jesus as our Saviour. The Bible says in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

Read this from your Bible.

Jesus came to Earth from Heaven to be the Saviour. He is the only One Who can save people from the punishment that they deserve. He was born as a baby and He grew up to be a man. Jesus never sinned. He never needed to say sorry to God in prayer, but still He talked to God in prayer. The Bible tells us about some of the times that Jesus prayed.

Sometimes Jesus went and found a quiet place to be by himself. There He would talk to God. Even when He was busy, with crowds of people following Him, He found time to talk to God. When you have lots of things to do, toys to play with and friends to play with, do not forget to talk to God. Maybe you could pray just before you go to sleep at night or when you first wake up in the morning.



Sing "Praise Him, praise Him" (verse 1 - CD: 18/39).

Part 2 (Luke 11:1-13)

Flashcard 4-2

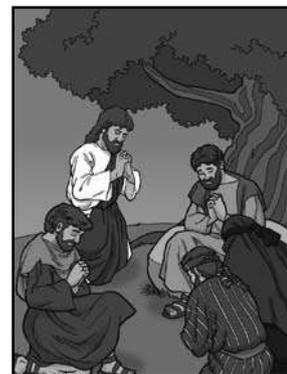
One day Jesus' disciples (followers) were with Him when He was praying to God.

They asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

So Jesus told them what they should pray.

Read the prayer from your Bible - Luke 11:2-4.

Jesus told His disciples that they should keep on praying to God. He told them that God would hear their prayers.



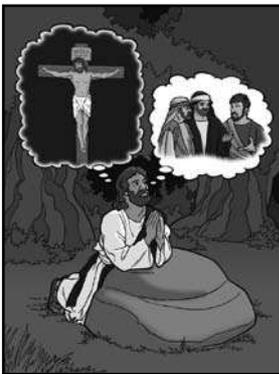
We should keep on talking to God. It is good to pray every day. We do not have to use the exact words that Jesus used. We can thank God for everything that He has given us. We can say sorry to God. We can ask for God's help for ourselves and for other people. God wants you to talk to Him.

 Sing "I can pray" (verse 1 - CD: 11/32).

Sometimes when you pray you might ask God to give you a new toy and it does not come! You might ask for a friend who is unwell to get better and they do not. God answers prayer in three different ways - yes, no and wait. It can be hard to wait for something and it is sometimes difficult to understand why God is saying no, but we can trust God. He loves us and He always does what is right.

 Sing "I can pray" (verse 2 - CD: 11/32).

Part 3 (Luke 22:39-43 and John 17:1-26)



Flashcard 4-3

Cover the "bubbles" with paper (held on with Blu-Tack®). You may wish to number the pieces of paper with pencil, the cross being number 1 and the disciples number 2.

The night before He died Jesus prayed to God. Jesus knew that He would soon die on the cross. Jesus asked that God would be glorified in what was going to happen. He wanted God to be praised. Jesus had been sent to be the Saviour.

Remove cover from the cross picture (number 1).

Now He was near to finishing the job He had been sent to do. He asked for God's help. Do you think God heard Him? Yes! God sent an angel from Heaven to strengthen Jesus.

Remove cover from the picture of the disciples (number 2).

Jesus also prayed for His disciples. Jesus knew that He would soon be back in Heaven, so He prayed for His disciples, that God would be with them and help them. He prayed that they would be able to tell other people about God and that God would take care of them.



Flashcard 4-4

Cover both "bubbles" with paper (held on with Blu-Tack®).

But there were other people that Jesus prayed for too. He talked to God about all the people who would in the future believe in Him as their Saviour.

Remove cover from the pictures of the children.

If you have believed in Jesus as your Saviour - that's you! Jesus prayed that all who believe in Him would know how much God loves them.

After Jesus died He came back to life again. Today He is in Heaven. Jesus has not stopped praying. He talks to God about all the people - men,

women, boys and girls who have believed in Him as their Saviour.

Let's thank God in prayer that Jesus has shown us that we should keep on talking to God in prayer.

Finish with a short prayer - "Thank You, God, that Jesus has showed us how we should pray. Thank You that He prays to You. Amen."

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 When can God hear you pray? (Anytime - evening, morning, noon - in any situation.)
- 2 What is prayer? (Talking to God out loud or silently thinking the words.)
- 3 What does God want you to talk to Him about? (Anything - praise God; confess your sin; ask God to help you, your family and friends; etc.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Why do we need to believe in Jesus? (We have broken God's law.)
- 2 What did Jesus never do? (Sin.)
- 3 What did Jesus always find time to do? (Pray.)
- 4 What did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them? (How to pray.)
- 5 What are the three different ways that God answers prayer? (Yes, no, wait.)
- 6 What did Jesus do the night before he died? (He prayed.)
- 7 Who did God send to strengthen Jesus ? (An angel.)
- 8 Where is Jesus now? (In Heaven.)
- 9 What is Jesus doing in Heaven? (Praying for those who have trusted in Him.)

Spotlight on prayer

- 1 When we fight or argue with someone what should we do? (Say sorry.)
- 2 What do we need to say to God when we pray? (Sorry for the wrong things we think, say and do.)
- 3 What should we do when someone says sorry to us? (Forgive them.)

Lesson 5

God answers prayer for Peter

Scripture for teachers Acts 12:1-17

Central truth God answers the prayers of His people

Application Unsaved and saved: Thank God that He answers the prayers of His people

Memory verse “Call to Me, and I will answer you ...” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player ♦ Nametags (page 81), one per child ♦ 2.5 cm x 15 cm (1" x 6") strips of construction paper in different colours ♦ Glue sticks or tape 	Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags. Activity “Paper chain” Have the children use the strips to make paper chains. Connect all the chains.
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 14-15) ♦ “I believe the Bible” visualised song ♦ Offering basket or bank 	Song Prayer (CD: 8/29) “I believe the Bible” Lead the children in prayer or let them pray with you, phrase by phrase: “Dear God, thank You that we can talk to You in prayer. We love You and praise You. We are sorry for our sin. Thank You for helping my family and friends and me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.” Song Offering (CD: 19/40) “The prayer song” (verses 1-3) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PPRA-R13, PPRA-R14 and PPRA-R15 (page 80) ♦ Instructions (page 60) ♦ Actions (page 13) ♦ Telephone (optional) 	Verse Repetition Jeremiah 33:3 “Verse with actions”
 Stretch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Stop/go sign (page 89) 	Activity “Stop and go” Tell the children to walk on the spot when you show the green sign and stop when you show the red sign. Do the same with hopping, jumping, running and twirling on the spot.

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 62) ◆ PPRA5-2, PPRA5-3, PPRA5-4, PPRA5-5 and PPRA5-6 ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ Piece of paper and marker ◆ Traffic light picture (page 85) ◆ Costume for a helper to dress up as “Peter” (optional) 	<p>Lesson</p> <p>“God answers prayer for Peter”</p> <p>Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paper chain(s) made with fifteen links of 2.5 cm x 15 cm (1” x 6”) strips or use the paper chain(s) from the welcome activity ◆ Questions (pages 64-65) 	<p>Game</p> <p>“Break the chain”</p> <p>When a child answers a question, he may come forward and break a link in the chain. Or give each child his own chain and let him break a link for each question.</p>
 Spotlight on prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 61) ◆ PPRA1-5, PPRA3-3, PPRA2-5 and PPRA4-6 ◆ Music CD and CD player, songbook or lyrics (page 14) 	<p>Spotlight</p> <p>“Matthew 6:9-13”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	<p>Break</p> <p>Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food.</p> <p>Snack</p> <p>Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Creative activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Take-home Gospel hearts (page 90), one set per child ◆ Yellow, black, red and green crayons, one set per child ◆ Scissors ◆ Paper punch ◆ Paper fasteners, one per child ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Pieces of fabric, one per child ◆ Glue ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Activity “Take-home Gospel hearts” Let the children colour the hearts as indicated on the pattern page. Punch a hole at the tip and insert a paper fastener. Older children may enjoy cutting their own hearts out of squares of coloured card stock. Practise sharing the Gospel together. Explain that the yellow heart reminds us of Heaven, God’s home and a place where there can be no sin; the dark heart reminds us of being dirty with sin; the red heart reminds us that Jesus died for us; the clean heart reminds us that we can be forgiven and made clean from our sin; and the green heart reminds us that God’s children need to grow (get to know God better and learn to obey Him more and more).</p> <p>Activity sheet* “God answered prayer for Peter” Guide the children in applying glue to Rhoda’s head scarf and adding a piece of fabric.</p> <p>Play dough “Make and break the chains” Have the children make and break chains as you review the events of the lesson.</p>
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Small box with the sides labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, 50 and 100 ◆ Stop/go/wait signs (page 89) 	<p>Activity “Yes, wait or no” Have the children line up along a wall in an area with open floor space. Let them take turns tossing the box. Using the number that lands face up, ask, “Can you take (<i>number</i>) step(s)?” If the number is 50 or 100, the helper holds up the “stop” sign and helps the class understand that 50 or 100 would be too many steps, so “no” is a good answer. If another number lands face up and the children can easily take that many steps, the helper holds up the “go” sign and leads them in walking the steps. As the children approach the opposite wall, the helper holds up the “wait” sign and leads the children to pause then take the steps.</p> <p>Drama “Setting Peter free” Let the children take turns being Peter, two guards, the angel and the believers kneeling in prayer. First the angel awakens Peter and leads him out of prison. Then Peter goes to the believers, who are praying. Finally the believers stand and say, “Praise God, Peter is free!” Play-act the drama without props and repeat it several times to let the children pretend to be different characters.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“Call to Me, and I will answer you ...” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Introduction

Pretend to make several phone calls. Make beeping sounds as you “dial” then pretend to get a busy signal, an answering machine, no answer and finally no dial tone.

Sometimes it’s hard to reach someone by phone. But I know Someone we can call anytime and He will answer. We do not even need a phone! Do you know who I am talking about? (God.)

Presentation

God will answer when we call to Him. He tells us that in the Bible in Jeremiah 33:3. Let’s pretend to call (*name three helpers*) on our telephones and tell them that address. Let’s tell (*helper’s name*) the address.

Repeat with other helpers. Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at Jeremiah 33:3. Read the verse then show PPRA-R13, PPRA-R14 and PPRA-R15.

Explanation

Call to Me - God is talking in this verse. He says we can call Him. But we do not need a telephone! We call to God in prayer with our words. We can say them out loud or think them in our heads. We do not need to pray in a special language or with special fancy words. We can call to God in our regular words, just like we talk to each other. When can we call to God? (Anytime and from anywhere.)

and I will answer you - God says He will answer you when you call to Him. God is never too busy to answer. He can hear and answer your prayer. God does not talk to you in a voice like someone on the other end of the telephone. But God will answer your prayer.

Application

Unsaved: If you are not yet a child of God, you can call to God in prayer, telling Him you believe on Jesus as your Saviour. You can know God will answer your prayer and make you His child.

Saved: If you are already a child of God, you can be sure that if you call to God at any time, anywhere, about anything, He will hear and answer your prayers.

Repetition

“Verse with actions”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase, practising the actions (page 13). Then use the symbols to recite the verse.

Spotlight on prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

Sing "The prayer song" (CD: 19/40).

Begin with a prayer, letting the children repeat each phrase after you.

"Father in Heaven, You are very great.

"Please make things happen on Earth the way You want them to.

"Please give us everything that You know we need.

"Please forgive us for the wrong things that we have thought, said and done.

"Amen."

We always talk to God at *Good News Club*®. *(Insert the name of your group if different.)* But did you know that we can pray to God wherever we are?

Elijah prayed on a mountain *(show PPRA1-5)*, Nehemiah prayed in a palace *(show PPRA3-3)* and Jonah prayed inside the belly of a huge fish *(show PPRA2-5)*.

You do not need to be in a church to talk to God. You can be anywhere.

Show PPRA4-6 and talk about where the children are when they pray.

You can pray to God at home, at a friend's house, at grandma's, at nursery school. You can pray when you are outside and when you are on holiday. It does not matter where you are!

Sing "The prayer song" (verse 1 - CD: 19/40).

Lesson - part 1

Peter was fast asleep. But he was not in a warm comfortable bed at home - he was inside a cold prison! What was he doing there? What had happened?



Flashcard 5-2

Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. He loved Jesus and now that Jesus had gone back to Heaven Peter told everyone he met about Jesus. Many people listened and they believed in Jesus, but some people hated what Peter and the other disciples were doing. They tried to stop them talking about Jesus. One of those people was a man called Herod. He was a very unkind man. He had some of the followers of Jesus put in prison.

Flashcard 5-3

One day, even though he had done nothing wrong, Peter was taken to prison. Herod thought that would stop Peter talking about Jesus. Herod wanted to keep the enemies of Jesus happy. He knew that having Peter thrown into prison would make him popular with them.

Herod gave the order, "Have sixteen soldiers to guard him!"

On a piece of paper draw sixteen figures (stick men will do) to give an idea of number.

That was a lot of soldiers to guard one man - especially as he was not dangerous! One was on each side of Peter. The others guarded the room.



Flashcard 5-4

It was night time and Peter lay sleeping.



Everyone pretend to be asleep.

Some distance away in the town a group of people were meeting together in someone's house. They were Peter's friends. They loved Jesus too. They knew that they could not rescue Peter or go and fight the prison guards. But they knew they could talk to God and ask Him to help their friend. So that evening they met together to pray to God. That was a very good thing to do. They could have all stayed at home and just worried about Peter, but instead they talked to God. They knew that God would listen and He could help. When you have worries you can talk to God. If you know someone who needs God's help you can ask God to help them. Talking to God is a good thing to do.

Part 2

Peter was sleeping with a soldier on either side of him. I am sure that it was a horrible place to be, but Peter trusted God and so he slept. He was not kept awake with lots of worries. He was kept in chains and more soldiers stood guard by the door.



Suddenly someone else appeared in the room! It was not another soldier - it was an angel. A bright light shone all around. The angel tapped Peter on the shoulder.

“Quick, get up!” (From Acts 12:7.)

The chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

“Put on your clothes and sandals,” the angel said. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me” (from Acts 12:8).

Peter did as he was told. He followed the angel out of the prison! They walked straight past the guards who did nothing to stop them. Peter had no idea that it was all really happening. He thought it was a vision (a wide-awake dream). They came to the big iron prison gates. They were locked tightly shut. But amazingly the gates opened by themselves for them.

The children may be very familiar with automatic doors, so explain to them how unusual this was.

Peter and the angel were outside the prison. Peter had been rescued. They walked together down the street and then the angel left. Peter just stood there. Then he realised it was real! God had answered the prayers of His children!

“I know God sent His angel to rescue me from Herod,” Peter said (from Acts 12:11).

Now Peter knew where to go. He set off for the house where the other followers of Jesus had met to pray. God had heard their prayers. We do not know exactly what they said, but we know that they had prayed to God for their friend and God had sent His angel to rescue Peter. God had answered their prayers.

We can thank God that He always answers the prayers of His people - those who have trusted in Jesus as their Saviour and are part of God’s family. God does not always give a “yes” answer. He may say “wait” for what we have asked, or He may say “no”. But He is always good and always does what is right.

Print and colour the traffic light picture (page 85) to help you to explain the three ways God answers.



Sing “I can pray” (verse 2 - CD: 11/32).

Peter arrived at the house. He must have felt excited and relieved to be out of the prison. He knocked on the door.

Part 3

Make a knocking sound on a table.

Flashcard 5-5

A servant girl came to the door. She did not open it right away.

Maybe she asked, “Who is it?” because it was late at night.



When Peter answered she was so excited and happy that she raced back to tell everyone, "Peter is at the door!"

In her hurry and excitement she forgot to open the door! The people in the room thought that it was too good to be true.

"You're going crazy," they told her (from Acts 12:15).

"But he is!" she kept saying.

All the while Peter was knocking on the door!



Flashcard 5-6

Then they opened the door and everyone could see it was Peter. They were so excited! Peter had to get everyone to be quiet. Eventually when everyone had settled down he told them what had happened.

Have a helper dress up as Peter and pretend the children are the people in the house. "Peter" explains briefly the events of the night.

"I was fast asleep and in chains. There were guards all around. Suddenly an angel was there. He told me to put my clothes on and my sandals and cloak. I followed him past the guards and to the gates. You know how big and heavy they are, but they just swung open. And I was out in the street. Then the angel left and I realised it had all really happened. God had sent His angel to rescue me."

God had heard the prayers of Peter's friends. God had rescued Peter.

The next day there was a commotion at the prison. Where was Peter? Had he escaped? How had he escaped? Peter's friends knew - God had heard their prayers and had rescued Peter.

 Sing "I can pray" (CD: 11/32).

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you"? (God.)
- 2 How do you call to God? (Pray - talk to God out loud or silently think the words.)
- 3 What does God say He will do if you call to Him? (He will answer you.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 What was Peter doing at the beginning of the story? (Sleeping.)
- 2 Where was Peter? (In prison.)
- 3 Who was Peter always telling others about? (Jesus.)
- 4 What did Peter's friends do when he was put in prison? (They met together to pray.)
- 5 What can you do when you are worried? (Pray to God.)

- 6 How did God answer their prayers? (An angel led Peter out of prison.)
- 7 Where did Peter go when he was rescued from the prison? (To the house where his friends were praying.)
- 8 Who heard Peter knocking at the door but forgot to open it? (A servant girl.)
- 9 What are the three ways God answers prayer? (Yes, no, wait.)

Spotlight on prayer

- 1 Who do we talk to when we pray? (God.)
- 2 What are some of the things we can say when we pray? (Any of the following: we can say sorry; tell God how great He is; thank God for everything that He gives us; ask for what we need.)
- 3 Where do we need to be to pray to God? (We can be anywhere.)

Lesson 6

God answers prayer for Paul and Silas

Scripture for teachers	Acts 16:11-35
Central truth	God wants you to pray to Him
Application	Unsaved and saved: Pray when you are happy and when you are sad
Memory verse	“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things ...” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player ♦ Nametags (page 81), one per child ♦ Traffic lights (page 85), one per child ♦ Red, green and yellow crayons, one set per child 	<p>Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags.</p> <p>Activity “Traffic lights” Give each child three crayons and a traffic light. Have them colour the top circle red, the middle circle yellow and the bottom circle green. Talk about what these lights mean when you see them on the road.</p>
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ “I can know God” visualised song ♦ Offering basket or bank 	<p>Song Prayer (CD: 9/30) “I can know God” (verse 1) Lead the children in prayer or let them pray with you, phrase by phrase: “Dear God, thank You that I can know You and love You. Thank You that You love me. You answer my prayers in the best way. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”</p> <p>Song Offering (CD: 19/40) “The prayer song” (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)</p>
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PPRA-R13, PPRA-R14, PPRA-R15 and PPRA-R16 (page 80) ♦ Instructions (page 70) ♦ Actions (page 13) 	<p>Verse Repetition Jeremiah 33:3 “Verse with actions”</p>
 Stretch		<p>Activity “Follow the leader” Do an action and then let the children follow: run on the spot, jump up and down, stretch tall, etc. Then let different children be the leader.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lesson text (page 73) ♦ PPRA6-1, PPRA6-2, PPRA6-3, PPRA6-4, PPRA6-5 and PPRA6-6 ♦ PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ Bowl of warm water and some cotton wool balls 	Lesson <p>“God answers prayer for Paul and Silas” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Felt circles, fifteen with a Bible sticker in the middle and fifteen with a praying hands sticker (these or similar stickers are available at Christian bookstores) ♦ Flannelboard ♦ Questions (pages 75-76) 	Game <p>“Prayer concentration” Place the circles on a flannelboard picture side down. When a child answers a question, he may pick any two circles. If they match, he may hold them until the game is over. For younger preschoolers, place the circles with the pictures showing. A child who answers a question may take two matching circles off the board.</p>
 Spotlight on prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Instructions (page 72) ♦ Music CD and CD player, songbook or lyrics (page 14) ♦ Coloured traffic lights (page 85) 	Spotlight <p>“Matthew 6:9-13”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	Break <p>Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> Prayer Snack <p>Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Doorknob hangers (page 86), one per child ♦ Crayons or markers ♦ Stars or other stickers ♦ Scissors ♦ Student activity sheets, one per child ♦ Flavouring extract (eg orange, almond, peppermint) ♦ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	Craft <p>“Doorknob prayer reminders” Give each child a doorknob hanger to colour, decorate with stars or other stickers, and cut out. Help them cut along the dotted lines. (For younger preschoolers, have the prayer reminders cut out ahead of time.) Encourage the children to place the doorknob hangers over a doorknob at home as a reminder to pray.</p> Activity sheet* <p>“God answered prayer for Paul and Silas” Place a drop of flavouring extract on each child’s finger and let him use that finger to touch the food in the picture.</p> Play dough <p>“A meal for Paul and Silas” Guide the children in creating different foods to represent the meal the jailer served Paul and Silas.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer bears (page 88) or bear sticky notes (laminated) from a teachers' supply store, one per child 	<p>Activity</p> <p>“Prayer bears” Have a prayer and share time for your class. Show students a prayer bear, explaining that its purpose is to help them think about and pray for others. A child wanting to share a request or praise selects a prayer bear, returns to his seat and keeps the bear until his turn. Holding a prayer bear helps children wait their turn.</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>“Paul, Silas and the jailer” Let the children take turns being Paul, Silas, the jailer and the other prisoners. Have everyone shake like an earthquake. The jailer then kneels before Paul and Silas, saying, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul and Silas reply, “Believe on the Lord Jesus.” Play-act the drama without props and repeat it several times to let the children pretend to be different characters.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things ...” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Introduction

Call a helper over and over, having previously instructed the helper not to answer.

Have you ever called and called for someone but he did not answer?

Allow response.

Who will always answer when we call to Him? (God.)

Presentation

In the Bible God tells us He will answer. The address is Jeremiah 33:3. Let's say that address while we stretch as high as we can.

Repeat the address while stretching arms wide, then stretching arms low. Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at Jeremiah 33:3. Read the verse then show PPRA-R13, PPRA-R14, PPRA-R15 and PPRA-R16.

Explanation

Call to Me, and I will answer you - God is talking to you in this verse from His Word, the Bible. God says that when you call to Him, He will answer you. You can call to God in prayer anytime and talk with Him about anything. You can be sure God will answer you. Sometimes God answers “yes”, sometimes “wait” and sometimes “no”.

and show you great and mighty things - God will show you the great and mighty things He will do in answer to your prayers. God is great and powerful. God knows everything about everything! He always knows the right answer to every prayer. God can show you great and mighty things because God is great and mighty!

Application

Unsaved: If you are not yet a child of God, you can call to God in prayer, telling Him you believe on Jesus as your Saviour, and asking Him to forgive you for your sin. God will answer your prayer in a great and mighty way by making you His very own child!

Saved: If you are already a child of God, you can be sure God will answer your prayers in the way that is best. Sometimes God answers “yes”, sometimes “wait” and sometimes “no”. But God will answer in His wise way.

God will show you great and mighty things as He answers your prayers in the way that is best.

Repetition

“Verse with actions”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase, practising the actions (page 13). Then use the symbols to recite the verse.

Spotlight on prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

Sing "The prayer song" (CD: 19/40).

Show the coloured traffic lights (page 85).

Traffic lights can help us understand how God answers our prayers when we ask Him to give us what we need or want.

The red traffic light means the cars must stop. It helps us to remember that sometimes God answers our prayers with a "no". Maybe what we have asked for is not right for us. God always knows what is best, so sometimes He says "no".

The orange/yellow light means the traffic is waiting ready to go. It helps us to remember that sometimes God will give us the answer "wait". We need to be patient!

The green light tells the traffic to Go. It reminds us that sometimes God will answer with a "yes"!

God gives these answers when we pray. He will always give the best answer that He knows is good.

Let's thank Him that He answers prayer.

"Father in Heaven, You are very great. Thank you that You answer our prayers with a 'yes', 'no' or 'wait'. Amen."

Lesson - part 1

Flashcard 6-1

Down by the river the women sat listening to Paul and Silas telling them about Jesus. Paul and Silas told them that Jesus was God the Son, the only Saviour. He had died on the cross and come back to life again. The Bible tells us that one of the women, Lydia, believed what Paul and Silas said about Jesus. She had known about God but now she understood the truth about Jesus and she believed in Him as her Saviour.



Flashcard 6-2

But not everyone in Lydia's town liked what Paul and Silas said. Some people were very angry about what they heard. They did not believe in Jesus. They dragged Paul and Silas into the town and they told lies about them to get them into trouble.



Paul and Silas were beaten and dragged off to prison. They had not done anything to deserve that! It must have hurt them. The jailer was ordered to lock them up in the very middle of the prison and to put their feet in the stocks. Even though they were not dangerous they were put in the middle of the prison so they could not escape.

Flashcard 6-3

Show the stocks on the picture.

In the middle of the night when it was really dark outside Paul and Silas sang songs of praise to God and prayed to Him. They were in a horrible prison. They had their feet in the stocks and they hurt from being beaten, but they were singing! The other prisoners listened. I wonder what they thought? It was a very unusual thing to hear people singing in prison. Paul and Silas knew that they could talk to God in prayer. We do not know exactly what they said, but we know that they talked to God and He helped them. Even though Paul and Silas were in prison, they talked to God. You and I should talk to God when we are having fun and we are happy, but also when we are sad or angry.



 *Pretend to sit in stocks on the floor and sing "Praise Him, praise Him" (CD: 18/39).*

Part 2

Suddenly the ground shook violently - an earthquake!

 *Everyone shake in their seats.*

The walls were shaking and the chains came loose. The doors flew open. The jailer woke up.

"Oh no!" he thought. "Everyone will escape and then I will be punished. It's not worth living. I will kill myself" (from Acts 16:27).

But Paul shouted out to him, "Don't harm yourself, we are all still here" (from Acts 16:28).



Flashcard 6-4

The jailer called for someone to bring lights. He rushed into the room where Paul and Silas were and he knelt down in front of them trembling.

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” he asked (Acts 16:30).

What a good question to ask! The jailer knew he needed to be saved or rescued. He asked Paul and Silas for help.

They told him, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

It is the same for you and me. The only way we can be saved is to believe in Jesus. We need to be saved from the punishment we deserve of being far away from God forever. We need to say sorry to God for the wrong things we have thought, said and done.

Show the visuals PPRA-a, PPRA-b, PPRA-c and PPRA-d and talk about them with the children.

We need to believe that Jesus died on the cross and came back to life again to save us from the punishment of being away from God forever. Today you can talk to God in prayer and say sorry to Him for your sin. You can tell God that you believe in Jesus as your Saviour. The Bible tells us in Romans 10:13 that “whoever [everyone who] calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Read this verse from your Bible.

Calling on God’s name is a way to describe praying to God. When a person prays to God asking to be saved, God has said that He will save them. He will always hear that prayer and always answer “yes”.

The jailer knew he needed to be saved. He believed in Jesus and he was saved.

Part 3

Flashcard 6-5

That night the jailer listened as Paul and Silas told him about Jesus. He washed their wounds.



Have a bowl of warm water and some cotton wool balls. Allow the children to wipe the back of their hands with the damp cotton wool.

That made Paul and Silas feel better.

Flashcard 6-6

The jailer took Paul and Silas to his home. There they had a meal with him and his family. The Bible tells us that the jailer’s family believed in Jesus as their Saviour. That night all of them became part of God’s family. That made Paul and Silas very happy! What an exciting night it had been!



The next day, Paul and Silas were allowed to leave the prison. They did not have to go back to prison. They went to Lydia's house and saw her and others who believed in Jesus.

Paul and Silas had prayed to God in prison and sung praises to Him. He had heard their prayer and helped them. They had been able to carry on telling people about Jesus. They knew that even when they were in prison they could pray to God. Let's thank God that we can pray to Him wherever we are and however we feel.

Say the prayer a phrase at a time to allow the children to repeat it after you.

“Dear God, thank You that we can pray to You wherever we are. Thank You that we can pray to You when we are sad and when we are happy. Amen.”

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who will show you great and mighty things when you call to Him? (God.)
- 2 Why can God do great and mighty things? (God is great and mighty!)
- 3 What is one way God answers prayer? (Yes, no, wait - the best way.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Where were Paul and Silas teaching people about Jesus? (By the river.)
- 2 What did the people who were angry with Paul and Silas do? (They had them beaten and put them in prison.)
- 3 What did Paul and Silas do while they were sitting in prison at night? (They prayed and sang songs.)
- 4 What suddenly happened in the night? (An earthquake shook the prison, opened the doors and broke the chains.)
- 5 What did the jailer think when the earthquake happened? (Everyone would escape and he would be in trouble.)
- 6 What question did the jailer ask Paul and Silas? (“What must I do to be saved?”)
- 7 What do you and I need to be saved from? (The punishment we deserve because of our sin.)
- 8 What did Paul and Silas tell the jailer he needed to do to be saved? (“Believe on the Lord Jesus.”)
- 9 How did the jailer care for Paul and Silas? (Washed their wounds and gave them a meal.)



Spotlight on prayer

Use the traffic light symbols from page 85 as you ask the questions.

- 1 What does the red traffic light remind us about prayer? (God sometimes says “no”.)
- 2 What does the orange/yellow light remind us of? (God sometimes answers “wait” and we need to be patient.)
- 3 What does the green light remind us of? (God sometimes answers “yes”.)

Memory verse symbols

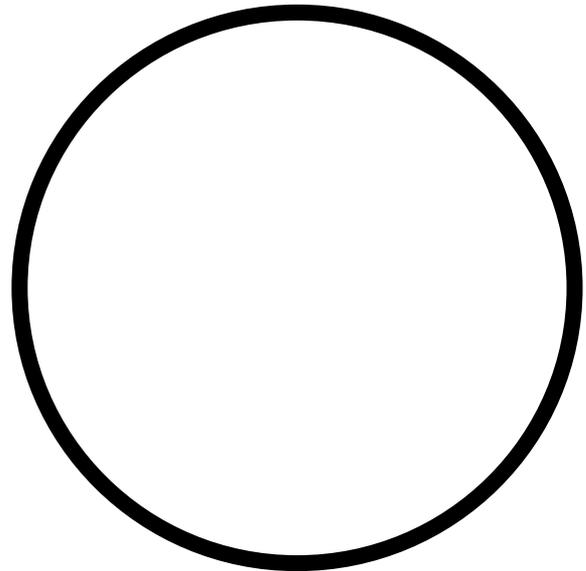
Lessons 1 and 2

Photocopy, colour and cut out the verse symbols. For suggestions on usage, see tips under “Use a variety of visuals” (page 5).



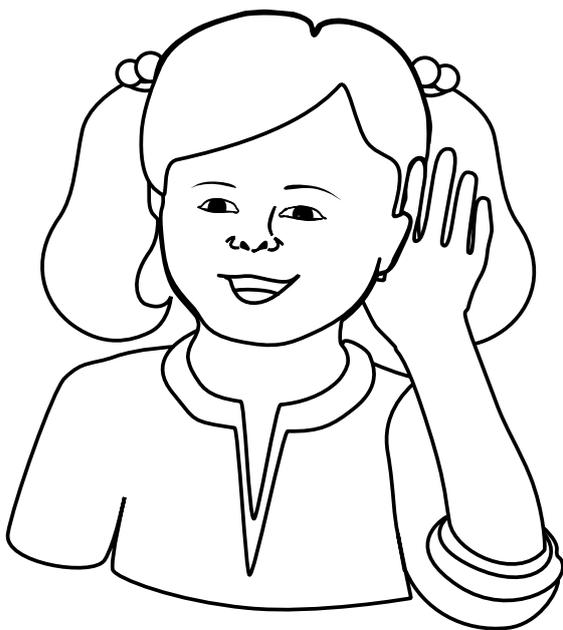
“Psalm 4:3”

PPRA-R1



“... the Lord”

PPRA-R2



“will hear”

PPRA-R3



“when I call to Him”

PPRA-R4

Memory verse symbols

Lessons 3 and 4

Photocopy, colour and cut out the verse symbols. For suggestions on usage, see tips under “Use a variety of visuals” (page 5).



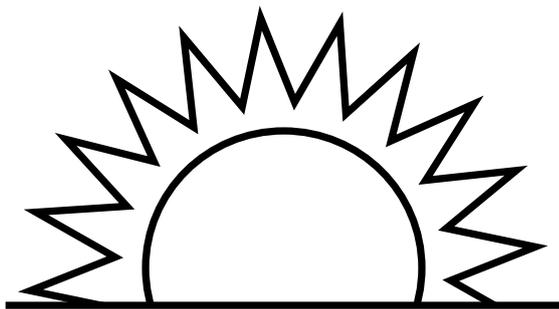
“Psalm 55:17”

PPRA-R5



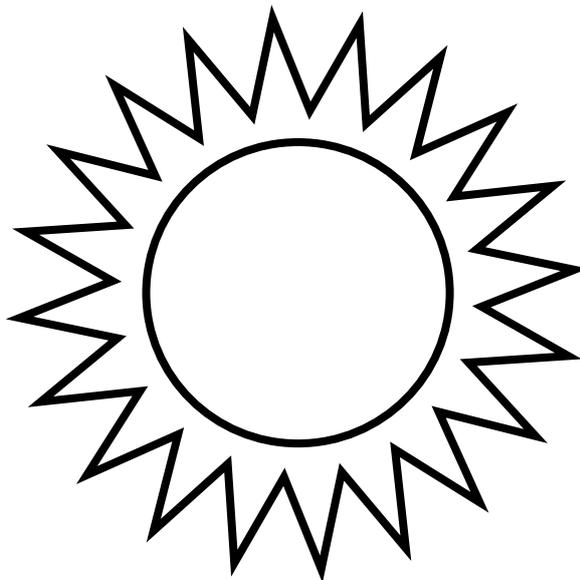
“Evening”

PPRA-R6



“and morning”

PPRA-R7



“and at noon”

PPRA-R8

Memory verse symbols (continued)

Lessons 3 and 4



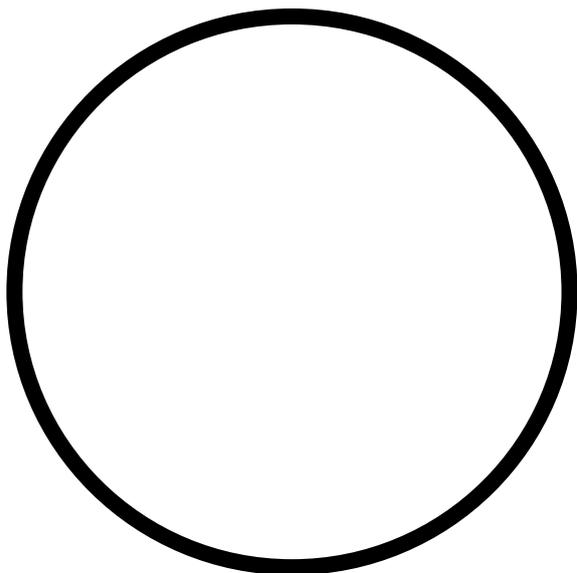
“I will pray”

PPRA-R9



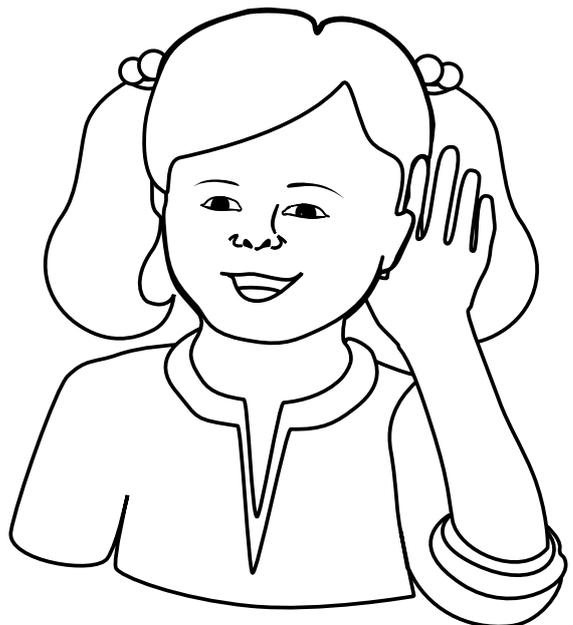
“I will pray, and cry aloud,”

PPRA-R10



“and He”

PPRA-R11



“shall hear my voice”

PPRA-R12

Memory verse symbols

Lessons 5 and 6

Photocopy, colour and cut out the verse symbols. For suggestions on usage, see tips under “Use a variety of visuals” (page 5).



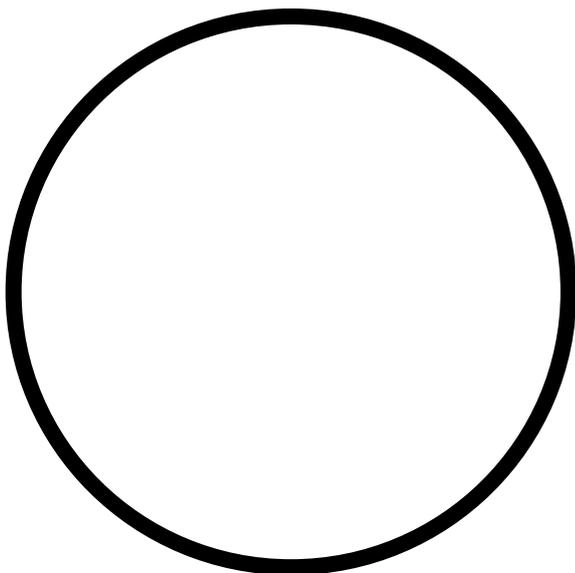
“Jeremiah 33:3”

PPRA-R13



“Call”

PPRA-R14



“to Me, and
I will answer you,”

PPRA-R15



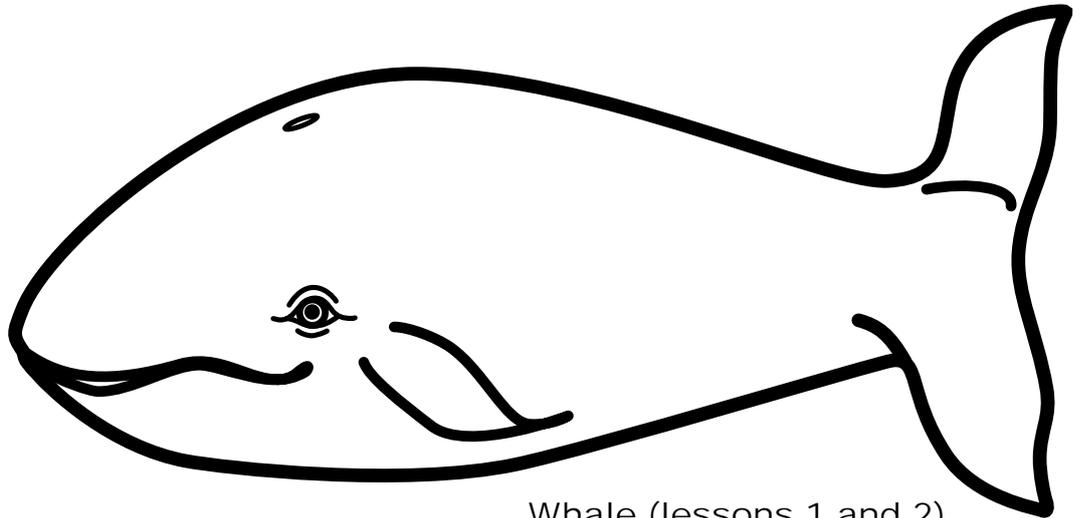
“and show you great
and mighty things ...”

PPRA-R16

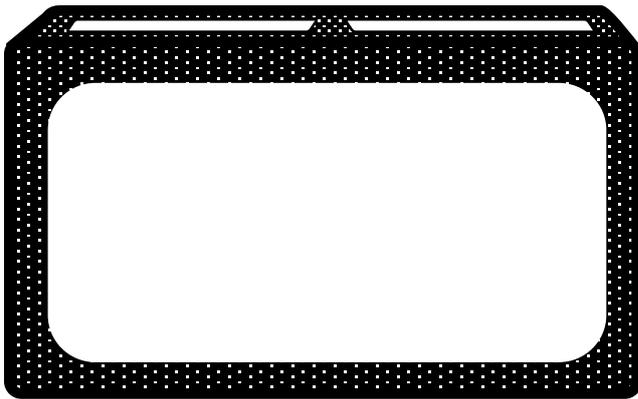
Nametag patterns

Lessons 1-6

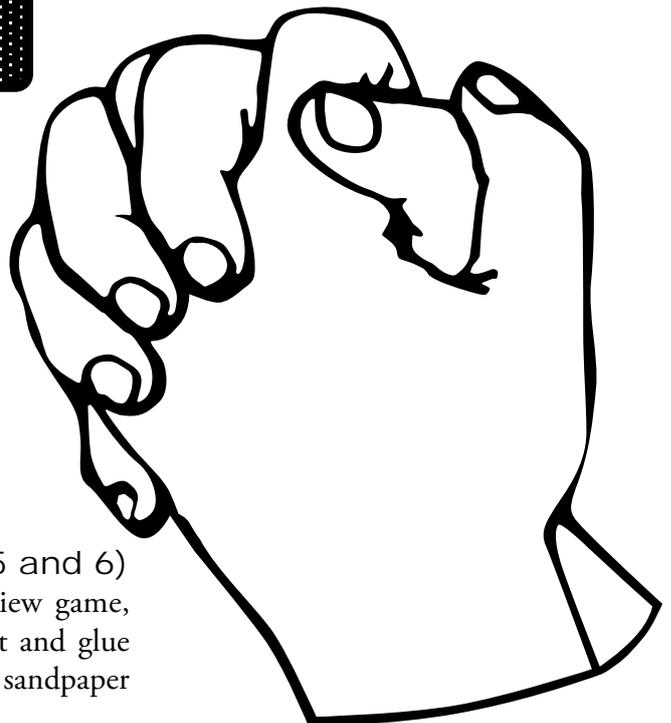
Photocopy the patterns below and cut out enough nametags to allow one per child and plenty of extras. The nametags may be created with coloured card or fun foam, and attached with a safety pin or double-sided tape.



Whale (lessons 1 and 2)



Wall block (lessons 3 and 4)



Praying hands (lessons 5 and 6)

For lesson 1 “praying hands” review game, photocopy one per child. Cut out and glue flocked paper, paper towel or fine sandpaper scraps to the back.

Prayer hand picture

Lesson 1

Photocopy on to card, one per child. Cut along the box frame of each.

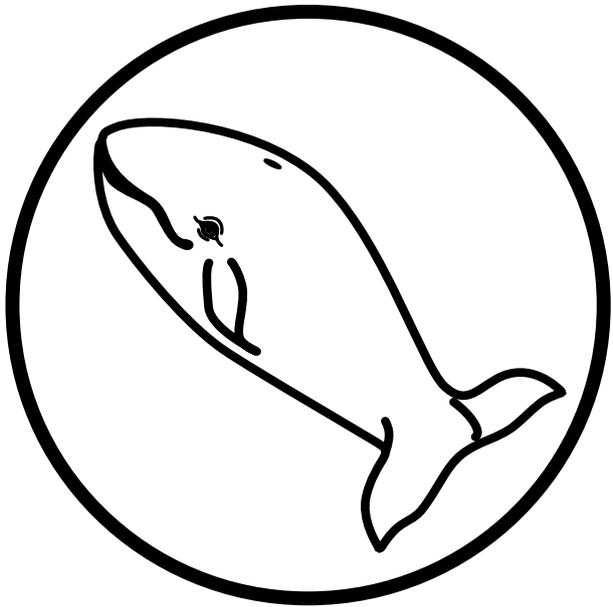
I can use

my hands to pray.

Fish and Jonah

Lesson 2

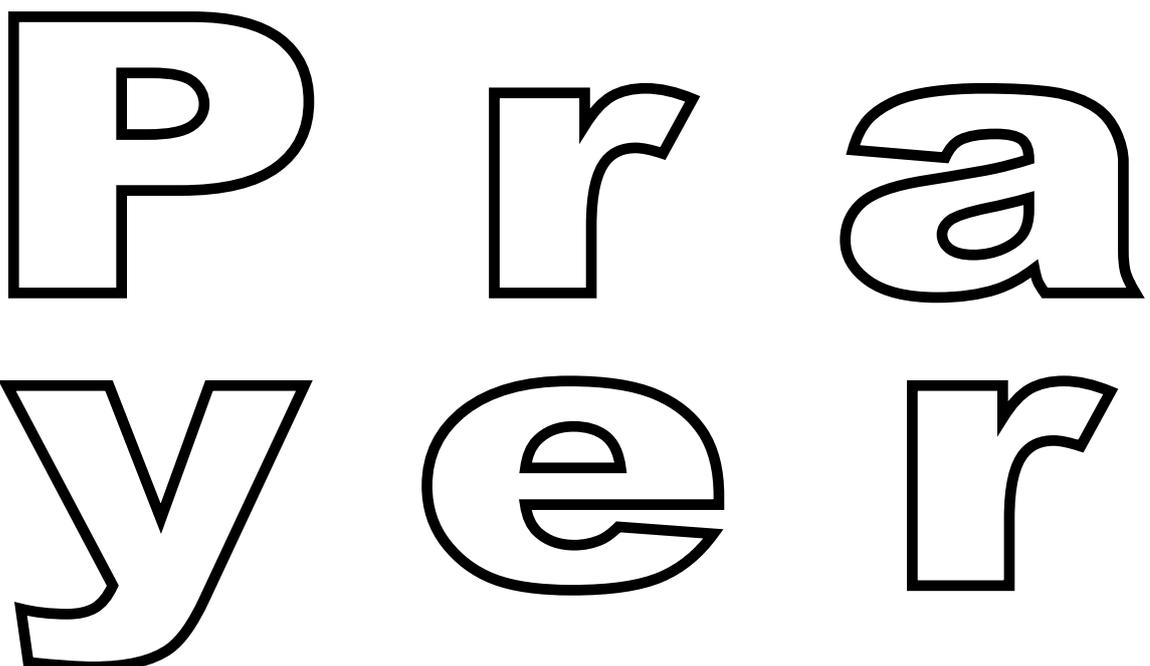
Photocopy five fish circles and five Jonah circles on to card and cut them out. Back with flocked paper, paper towel or fine sandpaper scraps.



Letters

Lesson 4

Photocopy the patterns below and use them to cut out two sets of felt letters (or photocopy them on to card and back with flocked paper, paper towel or fine sandpaper scraps).



“God makes me glad” visuals

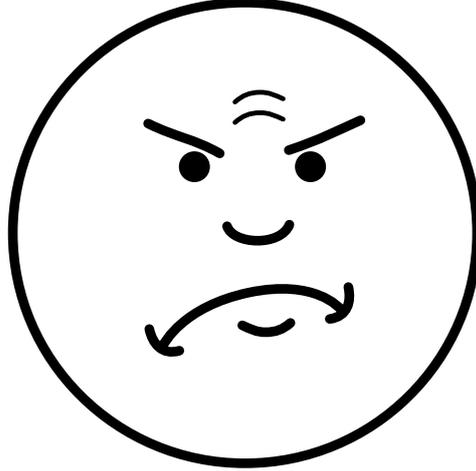
Lesson 2

Photocopy the visuals on to card, one set per child.



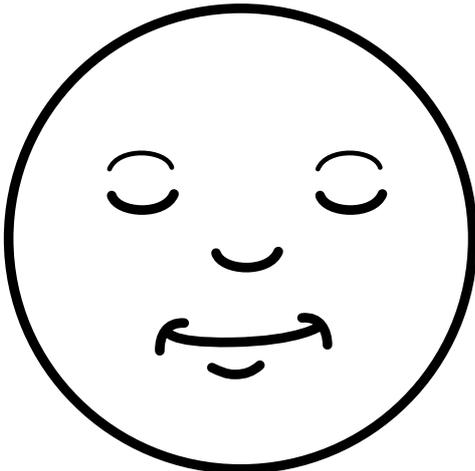
When I am feeling sad,

1



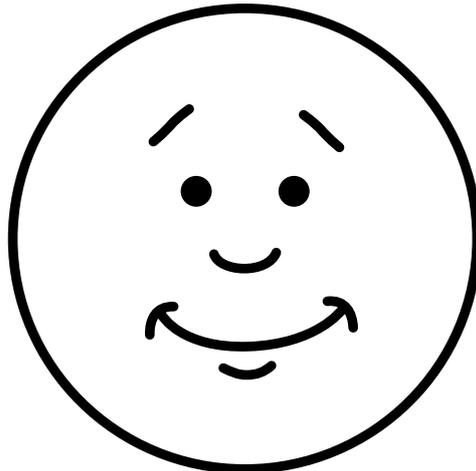
Or someone makes me mad,

2



Without delay I'll stop to pray,

3



So God can make me glad.

4

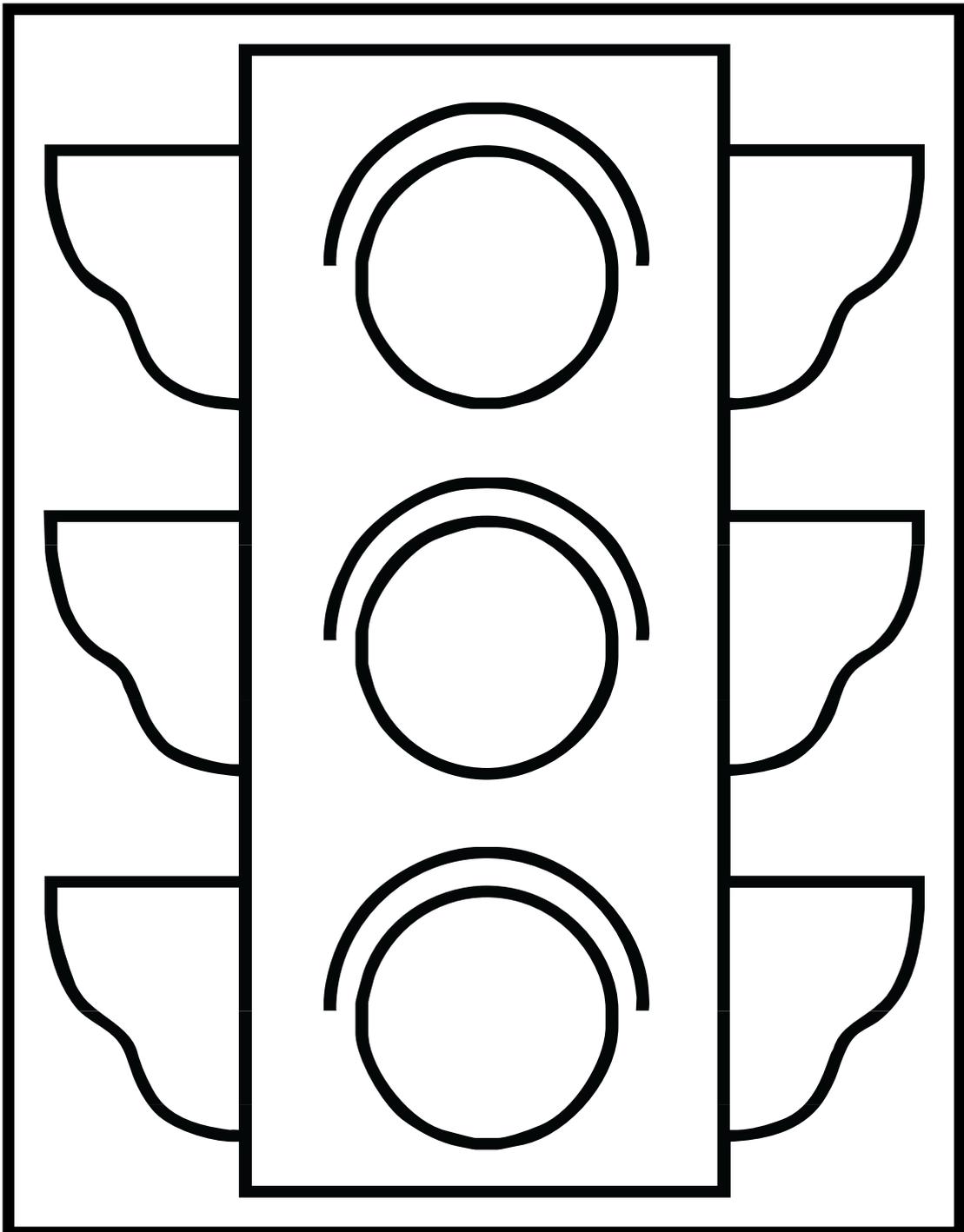
Traffic light

Lessons 3, 4, 5 and 6

For lessons 3 and 4 (memory verse) photocopy two sets on to coloured card and glue together back to back. Colour the red light on the front and the green light on the reverse.

For lesson 5 (Bible lesson) and lesson 6 (spotlight on prayer) photocopy on to coloured card and colour the top circle red, the middle circle yellow and the bottom circle green.

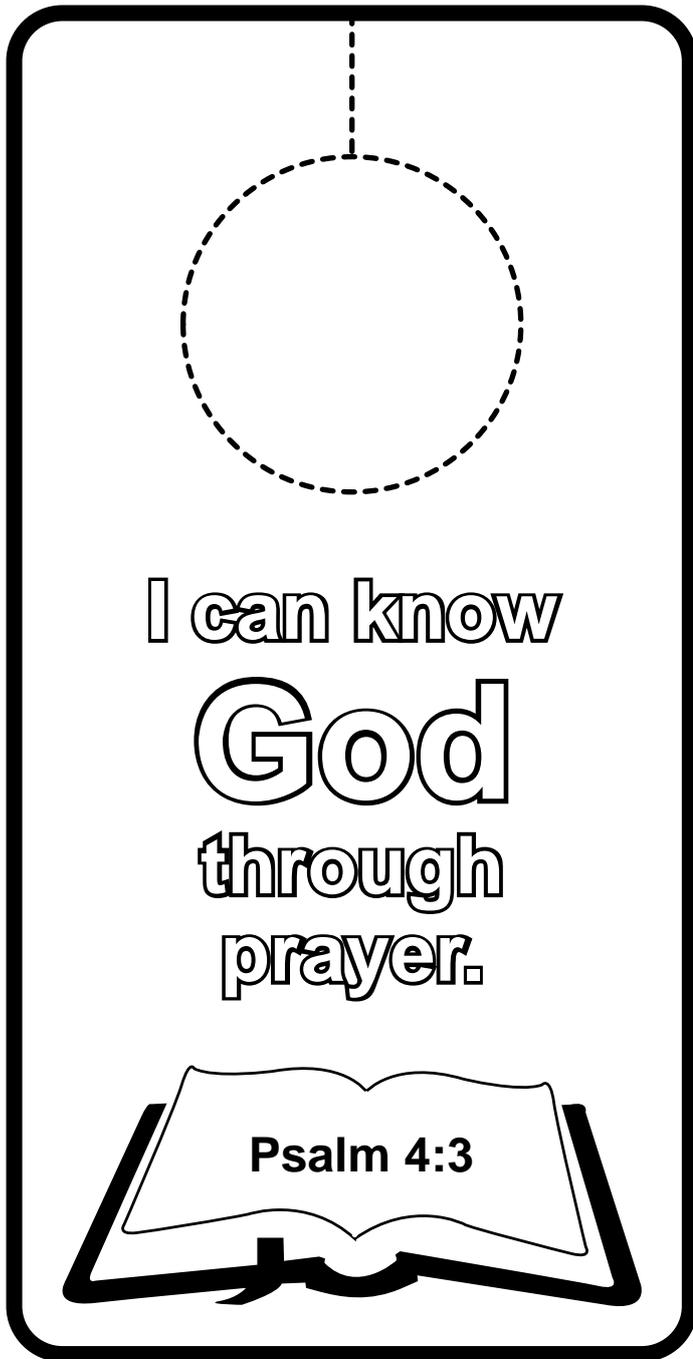
For lesson 6 (welcome activity) photocopy one sheet per child. Cut along the box frame of each.



Doorknob prayer reminder

Lesson 6

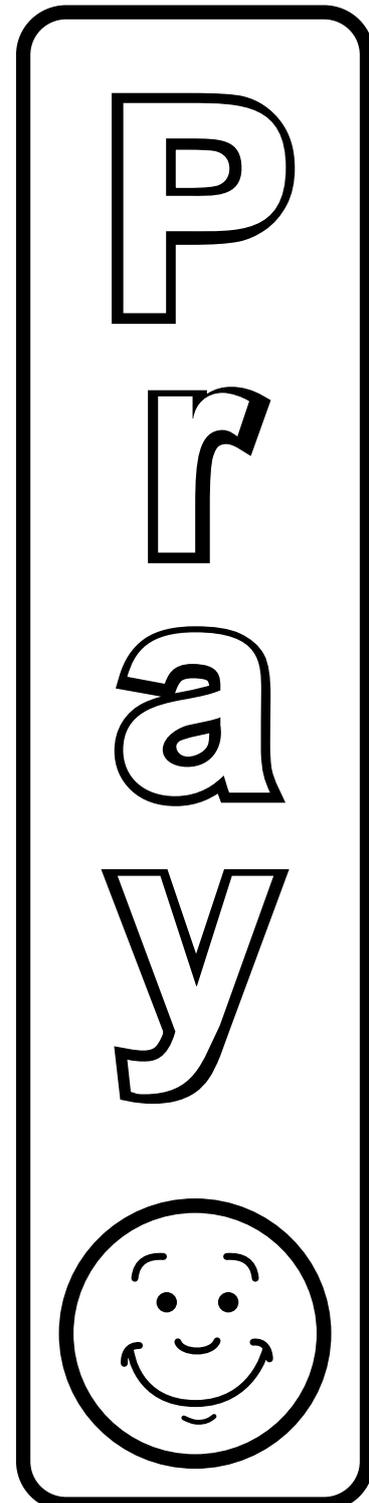
Photocopy on to card, one per child.



Prayer bookmark

Lesson 3

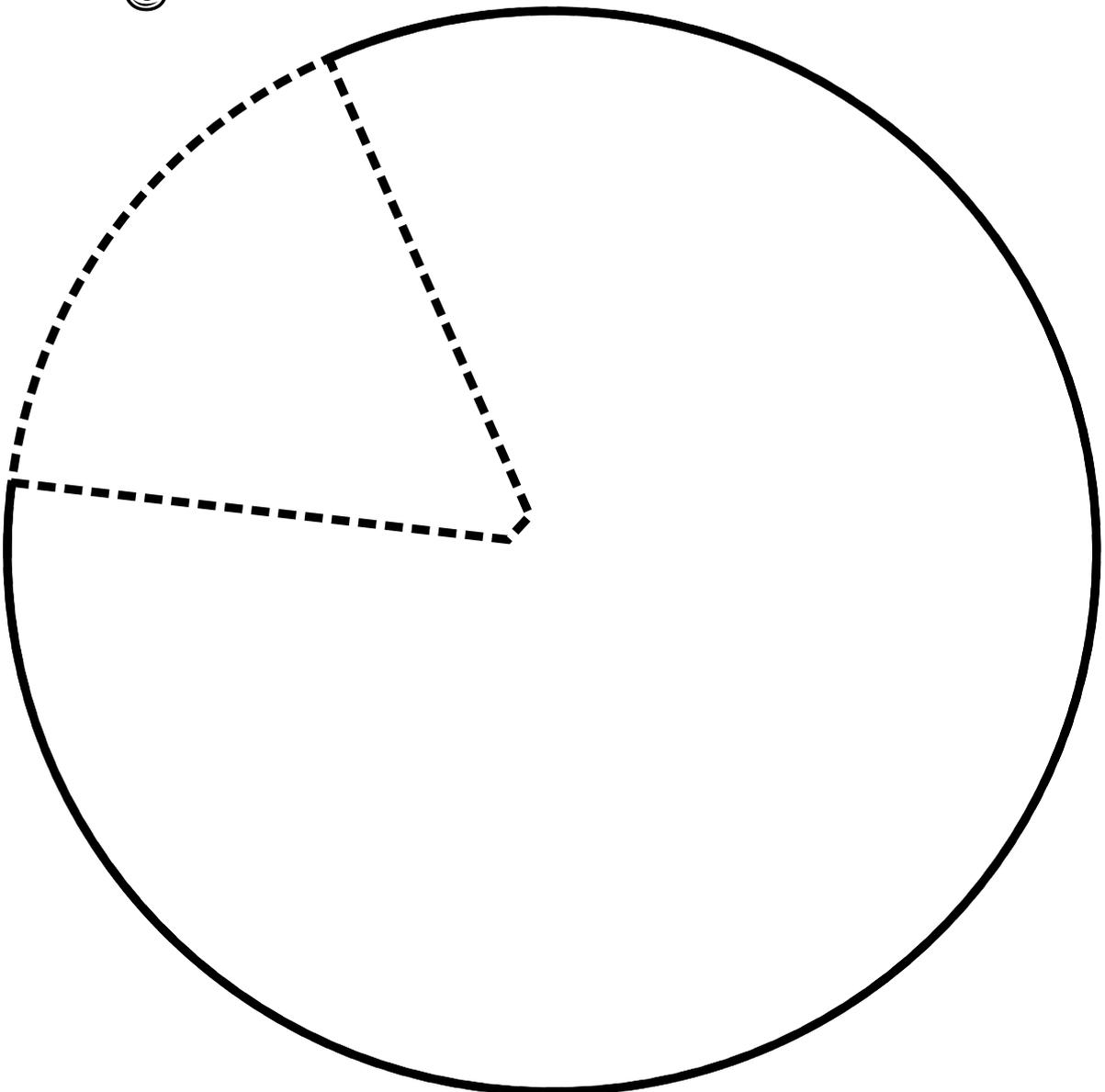
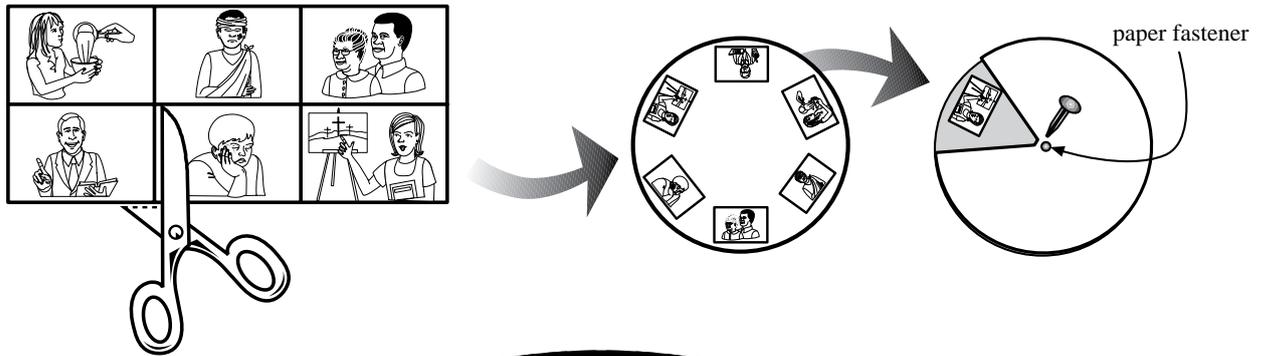
Photocopy on to card, one per child.



Prayer wheel circles

Lesson 4

Photocopy the pattern on to card and cut out two circles for each child. Cut the wedge out of one circle in each set.



Prayer pictures

Lesson 4

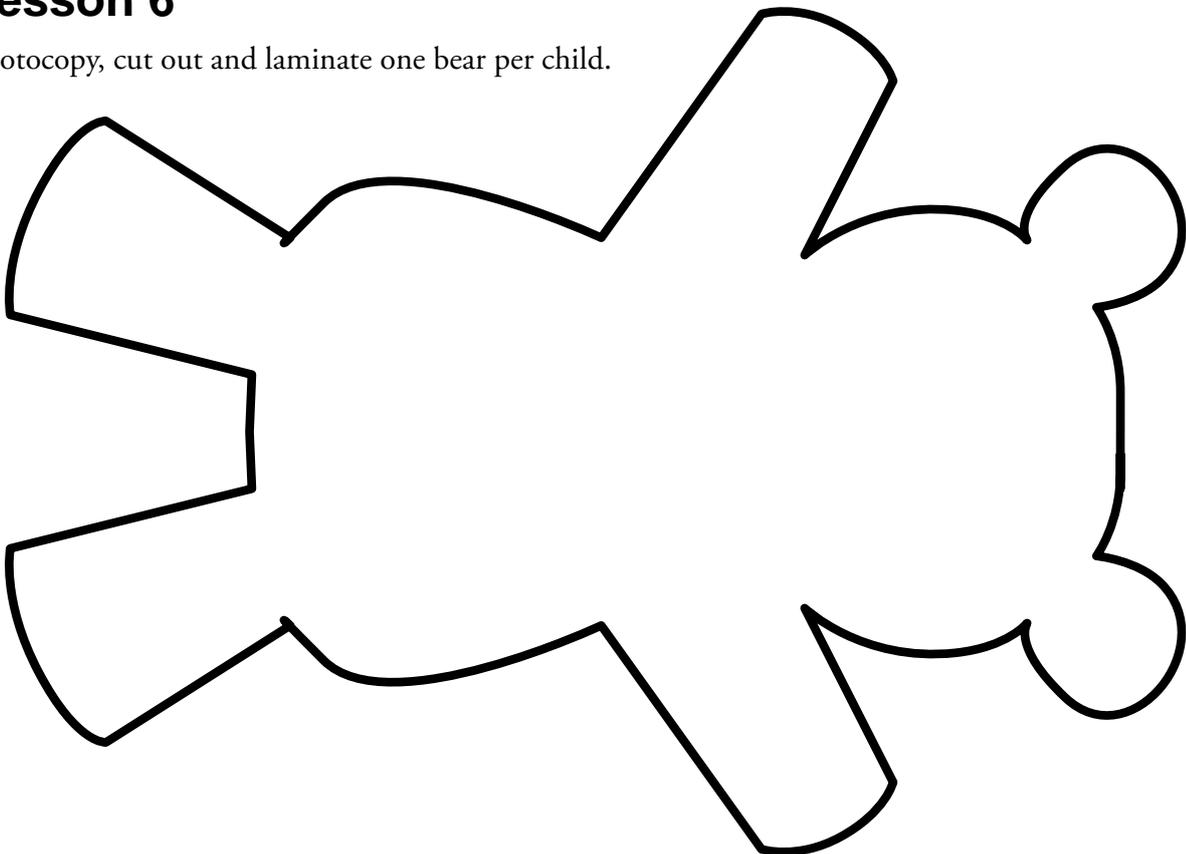
Photocopy, cut out and laminate one set per child.



Prayer bear

Lesson 6

Photocopy, cut out and laminate one bear per child.

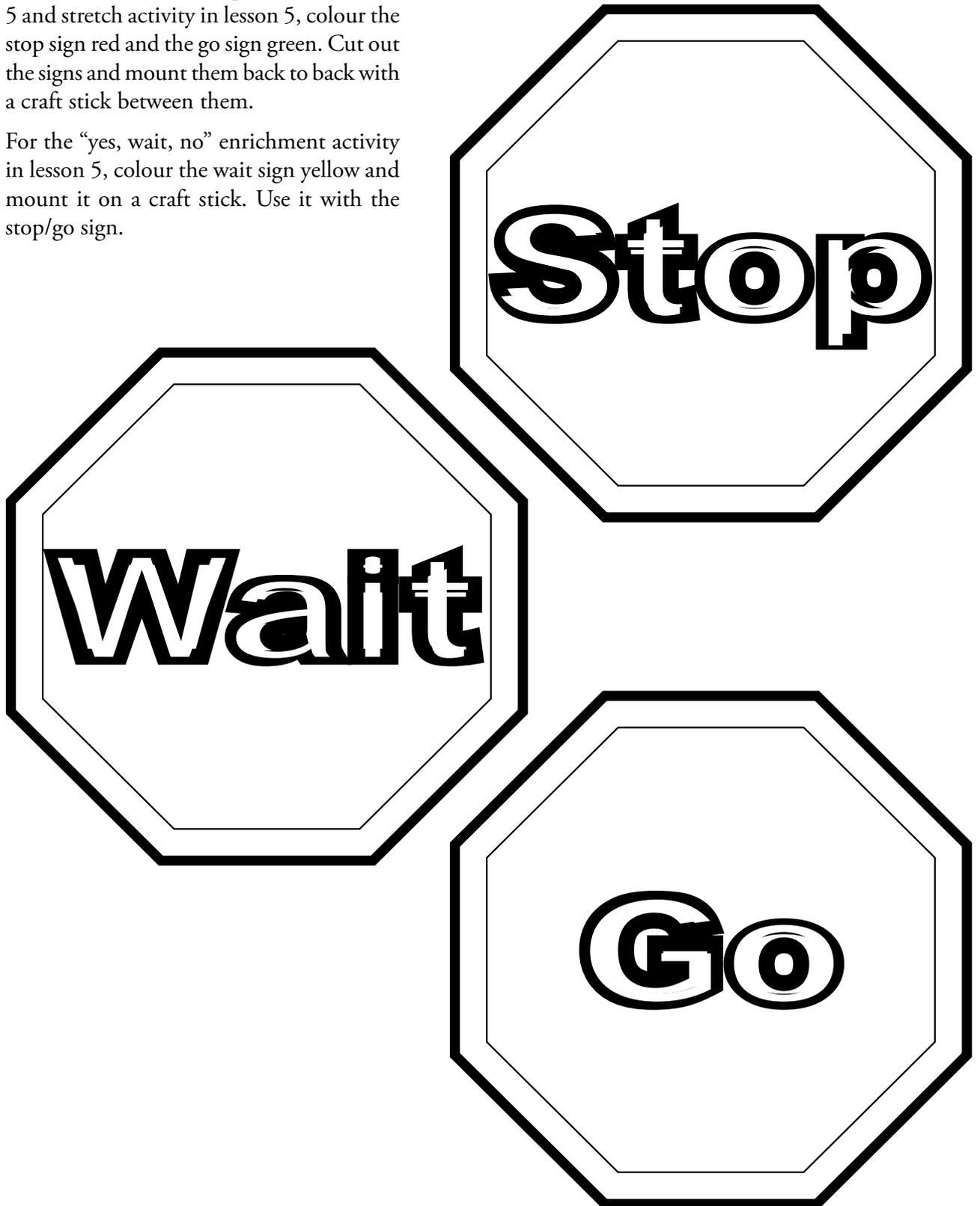


Stop, go and wait signs

Lesson 5

For the memory verse repetitions in lesson 5 and stretch activity in lesson 5, colour the stop sign red and the go sign green. Cut out the signs and mount them back to back with a craft stick between them.

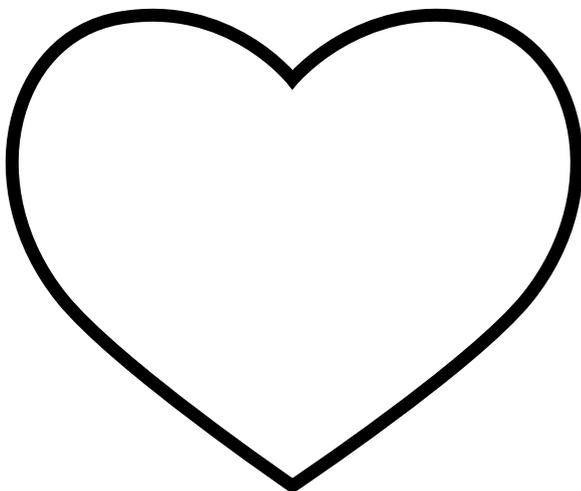
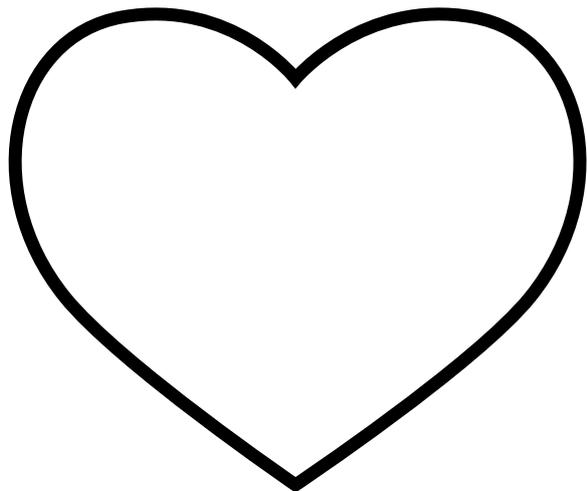
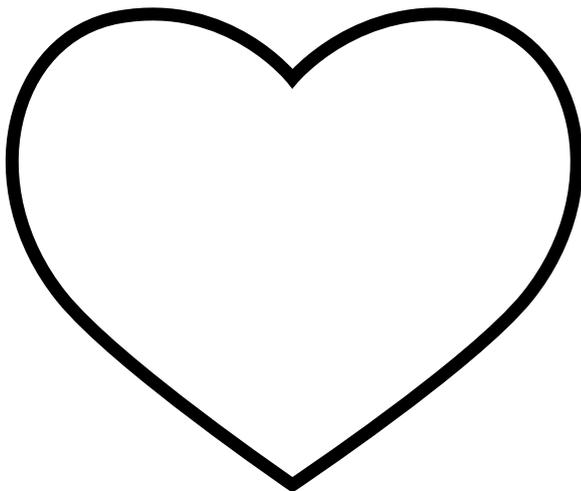
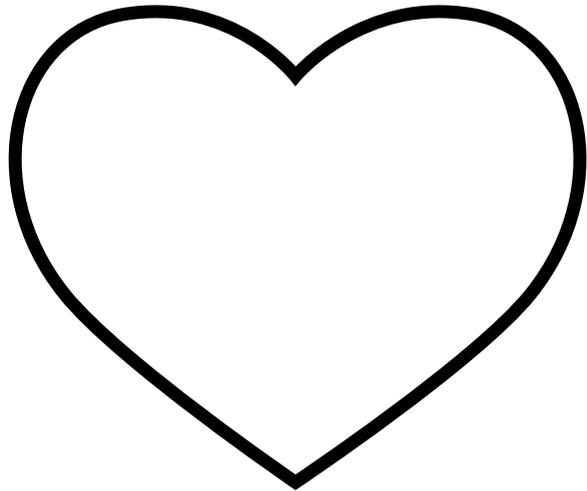
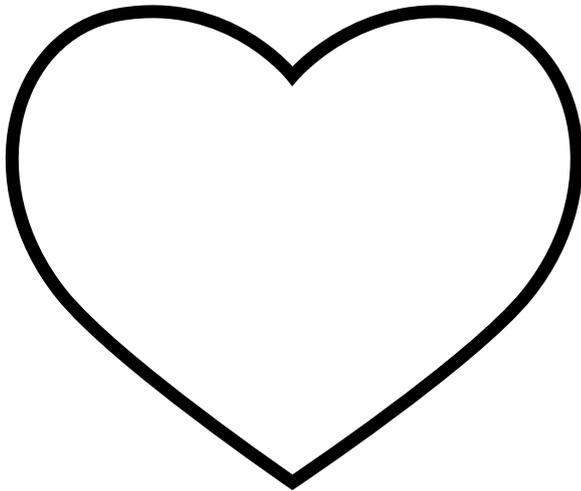
For the “yes, wait, no” enrichment activity in lesson 5, colour the wait sign yellow and mount it on a craft stick. Use it with the stop/go sign.



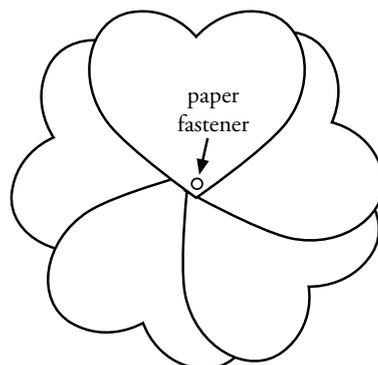
Take-home Gospel hearts

Lesson 5

Photocopy one set of hearts per child. Guide the children in colouring four of the hearts: one yellow, one black, one red and one green. The other heart should remain white.



(diagram)



How to lead a child to Christ

The following symbols represent key parts of the Gospel message. Sample truths and verses that may be used with each are listed below. You may want to photocopy and cut out “Key questions for counselling.” Place it in your Bible to use when counselling a child for salvation.

God’s Person and love for the child

- ♦ God is the Creator; He made you.
- ♦ God is holy (sinless, perfect).
- ♦ God loves you.
- ♦ The Bible says, “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

The child’s problem or condition before God as a sinner

- ♦ Sin is anything you think, say or do that displeases God.
- ♦ You were born with a “want to” to do things your own way.
- ♦ You sin by ___ (*give examples on a preschool level*).
- ♦ The Bible says, “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23).
- ♦ The punishment God gives for sin is death - separation from God forever.

God’s remedy: forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ

- ♦ Jesus is God the Son.
- ♦ Jesus never sinned.
- ♦ Jesus willingly bled and died on the cross to take God’s punishment for sin.
- ♦ The Bible says, “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).
- ♦ Jesus died and after three days came back to life (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- ♦ Jesus is now in Heaven.

The way to trust Christ as Saviour

- ♦ Be prepared to say “no” to sin.
- ♦ Thank the Lord Jesus for dying on the cross for you.
- ♦ Ask Him to forgive all your sins and to give you everlasting life.
- ♦ The Bible says, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). (*Quote this condition/promise verse or another, such as Acts 16:31 or John 1:12. A condition/promise verse gives a condition that must be met for God to fulfil a certain promise. In John 3:16 the condition is belief in Jesus and the promise is everlasting life. Tell the children when and where they can talk with you during the next activity if they would like to trust Christ.*)

Key questions for counselling

The need



- ♦ I think I know why you came to talk to me, but would you tell me?
- ♦ Why do you need the Lord Jesus?
- ♦ What is sin? Who has sinned? (Romans 3:23.)
- ♦ Can you think of something you have done that God calls sin?

The remedy



- ♦ Why did God send the Lord Jesus to Earth?
- ♦ Who is the Lord Jesus?
- ♦ What did Jesus do about your sin? (1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)
- ♦ What happened three days after Jesus died and was buried?

The way



- ♦ (*Show, read and let the child say after you one condition/promise verse; eg John 3:16, John 1:12 or Acts 16:31.*) What does God promise to do for you?
- ♦ What do you want God to do for you now? (*If the child is clear on his need, let him pray. Helps for guiding prayer: tell God about the sin problem between you and Him; what you believe Jesus did because of your sin; what you want Him to do for you today.*)

Assurance and growth



- ♦ What did God just do for you? How do you know? (*Show same condition/promise verse.*) Thank God for saving you.
- ♦ Will God ever leave you? (Hebrews 13:5.)
- ♦ God will help you say “no” to sin. If you do sin, what should you do? (1 John 1:9.)
- ♦ Allow the child to say a “thank you” prayer.