

*Get Ready!***The Best Habit**

By: Myra Montgomery

**Text**

Various texts are used throughout the lesson and activities

Key Quest Verse

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

Bible Background

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15) God answers our prayers according to his will (and according to his wisdom, his love for us, his holiness, etc.).

Where we trip up is assuming we know God's will, because a certain thing makes sense to us! We assume that there is only one right "answer" to a specific prayer, assuming certainly THAT would be God's will. And this is where it gets tough. We live within the limits of time and limits of knowledge. We have only limited information about a situation and the implications of future action on that situation. God's understanding is unlimited. How an event plays out in the course of life or history is only something He knows. And he may have purposes far beyond what we could even imagine. So, God is not going to do something simply because we determine that it must be His will.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: The different ways to pray

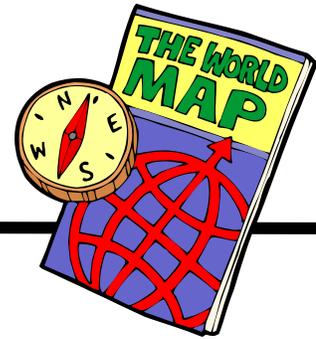
Feel: A purpose and need for prayer

Do: Have a strong prayer life

Leader's Devotion

Is it difficult to hand over your troubles to God? Do you talk to Him and ask for His help? Let's declare today the day you give yourself permission to relax without being afraid or feeling guilty and leave the stuff we cannot handle or change to God? Is it a deal? Great! But what shall we do about the person who thinks we are slacking off too much? You guessed it. Just leave it to God!

Get Set!

**Option A**

Display the following items on a table:

Telephone, Newspaper, Letters & Envelopes, a Road Map, and a Radio

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

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: White board, markers, or chalkboard

Kids love to write on the board. As they arrive, tell them to write as many ways they can think of that they can pray, such as how, where or when. They may come up with standing, walking, kneeling, bowing, singing, quietly, lying down, in bed, with hands together, with outstretched hands, in the morning, at night, etc. After the opening prayer, have a short discussion about their suggestions.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

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

James 5:13 Have the students find the passage in the Bible. Ask for volunteers to read the passage or if you prefer read the passage to the students yourself.

Get Set!



Bible Story

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Have the kids find Jeremiah 29:11-13 in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the passage or if you prefer read the passage to the children yourself.

Discussion Questions:

1. Will God listen when we pray?
2. What kind of plans does God have for us? (Plans to prosper and keep us from harm, hope and a future)
3. How can we seek and find God?
4. God wants to give us hope and a _____? (Future)
5. When we pray we should pray with _____? (All of our heart)

Go!**Why Pray?****GAME**

Materials: Cup of water, piece of fruit, hand drawn map of the church, picture of a stop sign, index cards

Quest Connection**Preparation:**

Hand draw a map of the church, Print questions below on index cards

1. I'm hungry, can you help me?
2. I need water for my plant, can you help me?
3. I really like your church. Can you tell me how to get to the sanctuary to attend the service?
4. I'm thinking about joining a gang, what do you think about that?

Procedure: Place the first four objects on a table and ask for two volunteers. The first volunteer will be given the index cards, and will verbally ask the questions of the second volunteer. The second volunteer may use any of the objects on the table to answer the questions, but may not speak. See how many of the questions can be answered. If time permits, allow for other volunteers to play the two roles.

Close

After the questions have been asked and answered to the best of the students' ability, explain the following: The cup of water and the piece of fruit represent how God answers our prayers for our physical needs. By supplying food, drink, homes and medicine, He shows that he cares for us.

The Map and picture of the stop sign represent how God speaks to us through His written word, the Bible. The Bible is much like an owner's manual or a map for our life.

God also speaks to us through the Holy Spirit, that's the part of us that feels guilty or bad when we know in our hearts that we did something wrong. It is also the part of us that feels happy and joyful when we worship and praise God.

Go!**Don't Worry****DISCUSSION****Materials:** Worksheet "Don't Worry"**Quest Connection****Procedure:**

First give each child a copy of the handout, and have them examine the pictures. Explain to the class that everything on the page is something enjoyable. Having a happy birthday, getting a shiny new bike, being able to play in "the big game of the season", going to the circus and of course, getting a new little puppy. Ask the children "Which of these would you like to have or do?" Then explain that worrying can take away from being able to fully enjoy these things. "What kinds of things do you worry about?"

If the children do not offer examples of things they worry about, you can suggest the following:

1. Worrying about getting a good grade on a test
2. Worrying about whether other children in the neighborhood will like you
3. Worrying about you mom or dad finding out you did something wrong
4. Worrying about what others will think if you don't do well at sports
5. worrying about the way you look

As you share the first example of something the children might worry about, have them tear off the Birthday cake from the handout, and toss it in the trash. Give another example and have them tear off the bicycle and toss it into the trash. Repeat giving examples and tearing until the last picture is thrown away, and the children have nothing left.

Close

Worrying can be like this. If we spend too much time worrying, or if we worry about too many things, what should be enjoyable isn't any more. So what should we do when something happens that might cause us to worry? The Bible says, "Cast all your worries upon Him, because he cares for you" (1Peter 5:7) so let Jesus do the worrying, so you can do the enjoying.

Go!**Keep Close****FOOD****Materials:** A large bowl of popcorn**Quest Connection**

First divide the children equally, and have them stand in two lines facing each other about 10 feet apart. Each child will need to be facing one other child, because they will be tossing a piece of popcorn back and forth to the same person. If you have an odd number of children, the extra child can be the one to keep track of how many successful catches are made each time.

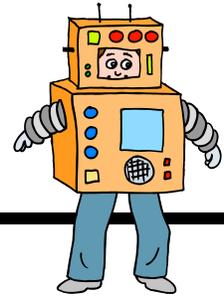
Give all the children in one row, called row "A", a piece of popcorn, and tell them that on your signal, they will toss the piece of popcorn 10 feet across to the person directly facing them in row "B". Older children should be instructed to use only one hand to toss or catch the popcorn. Tell the kids that the popcorn in this activity represents our relationship with God. Give the signal and have the children toss the popcorn, being that far apart, many of the tosses will not be caught. Count the number of pieces that were caught and write that number on a chalkboard or whiteboard.

Make sure each child in row "B" has a piece of popcorn and have them take one step towards row "A". Then on your signal, have the children toss the popcorn again. Count the number of tosses that were caught and write that number on the board. Do this several more times, each time taking one step closer until the two rows are together. Once together, the children can simply drop the popcorn into the hands of the other child, resulting in no misses.

Close

Our relationship with God is similar to what we just did. The further away from each other, the harder it was to catch the popcorn. Likewise, the further we are from God, the harder it is to have a relationship with him. On the other hand, the closer we are to God, the easier it will be to have a strong relationship with Him. How do we get close to God? (Reading the Bible, prayer, , etc.)

Go!



Yes, Master!

GAME

Material: Jar of peanut butter, few slices of bread, paper plate and plastic knife, two adults

Quest Connection

One of the two adults will be the human robot. Inform the kids that the object of this exercise is to get the robot to make a peanut butter sandwich. The robot cannot do anything on its own. The robot must get every instruction from the kids. To be successful, the children must give very specific instructions to the robot.

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

Vague commands such as "make a peanut butter sandwich" will not work. The robot will look confused and shrug its shoulders. Vague commands such as "put the peanut butter on the bread" may cause the robot to put the jar of peanut butter on top of the bread. If too many kids talk at once, the robot will get confused. The other adult, if needed may help the children with giving specific commands. Let the human robot ham it up, the kids will love it.

Close

God doesn't want us to be like human robots. When we pray, He wants us to pray from deep within our hearts and talk to Him as our father, telling Him everything. We are not just to repeat prayers we have heard, like a robot would do. Robots may be funny at first, but they quickly become boring. A robot just does what you tell it to do, it can't love you or befriend you. God does not want us to pray mechanically like robots. He wants us to pray heart-felt prayers. He wants us to tell Him our desires, our fears, our hopes, and He wants us to sing songs of joy to Him when we are happy. Praying before meals and bedtime is good, but He wants to hear from us more often than that. He wants to be involved in our lives, to comfort us when we are sad, strengthen us when we are scared and laugh with us when we are happy. God will give true meaning and direction to our lives. We need to make Him part of our lives throughout the day by reading His Word, the Bible and seeking Him through prayer.

Go!**A.C.T.S.****CREATIVE WRITING**
Materials:**Quest Connection**

We learned that prayer is communicating or talking with God and that we should pray earnestly and not half heartily. We will discuss the purpose of prayer or in other words what do I pray for? The word ACTS will help you remember what to pray for.

A = Adoration

Adore God, love Him and praise Him for who He is.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all."

1 Chronicles 29:11

C = Confession

Admit your sins to God, ask for His forgiveness through faith that Jesus died for our sins.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

T = Thanksgiving

Thank God for answered prayers, for the good things He has done in your life. For growth.

"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20

S = Supplication

Pray for your family and friends, for those who are sick or sad. Pray for those who are not Christians yet. Pray for your own spiritual growth and any other needs that you may have.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:7

*Go!***Quest Connection**

1. What is a good word to remember when you are trying to remember the purpose of prayer?
- 2) What does the letter A in the word acts remind us to pray for?
- 3) What does the letter C in the word acts remind us to pray for?
- 4) What does the letter T in the word acts remind us to pray for?
- 5) What does the letter S in the word acts remind us to pray for?

Close

Today we learned the purpose of prayer. A neat way to remember the purpose of prayer, is to remember the word ACTS. We can pray for A - Adoration of God, C - Confession, T - Thanksgiving and S - Supplication. We also learned that God wants to be involved in our lives on a daily basis, so we need to pray, read our Bibles and acknowledge that the world we live in was created by God. Look around you, see the beauty, and be thankful.

Go!**Prayer Purpose****Worksheet/Discussion**

Materials: A copy of the worksheet “Prayer Purpose” for each student, a copy of the Teacher guide

Quest Connection

Procedure: Divide the students into pairs. Let them fill out the answer to the questions on the worksheet. Have students share their answers with the rest of class. Share the answers that are provided on the Teacher’s Guide and discuss it with the class.

Close

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

Books of the New Testament

1. HATETWWM _____
2. ARKM _____
3. KEUL _____
4. ONHJ _____
5. TCAS _____
6. ONMSAR _____
7. ANSCHRNOTII _____
8. TAAIGNLSA _____
9. NPAHSEEIS _____
10. LSAIIPHNIPP _____
11. CSSLANOSIO _____
12. HNSISALOTANSE _____
13. YHITTMO _____
14. TSTIU _____
15. IPMHELON _____
16. EWSBRHE _____
17. SEAMJ _____
18. TEREPA _____
19. EDJU _____
20. NETOEIRLVA _____

Trust in God

Matt 9:22 ...Your faith has made you _____.

Mark 9:23 ...All things are possible to him that _____.

Romans 11:20 By their _____ they were broken off.

1 John 5:4 ...The victory that _____ the world, even our faith.

Psalms 33:21 For our heart shall _____ in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing _____.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good _____ of the faith.

Proverbs 29:25 ...Whoever puts his _____ in Jehovah shall be safe.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatever you shall ask in _____, believing, you shall receive.



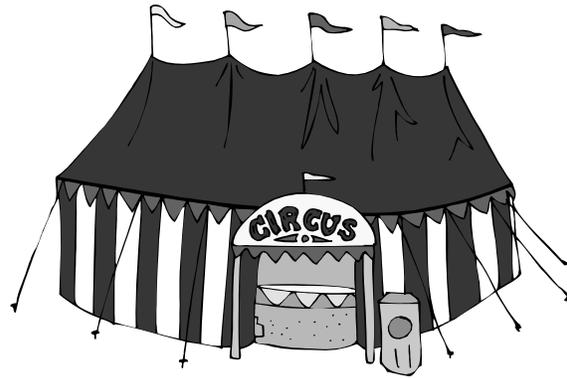
Happy Birthday



New Bike



A New Puppy



A day At the Circus



Playing in the Big Game

Prayer Purpose



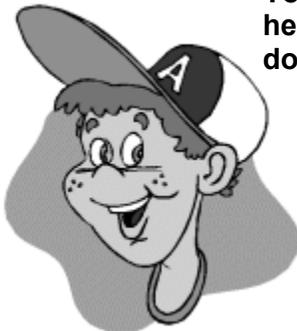
You are taking a walk after dinner and not paying attention. Before you know it you are lost in a strange neighborhood. It's starting to get dark when you see a policeman. Should you ask him for directions or maybe a ride home?

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for the student to write their answer to the question.

Friends call and leave a ton of messages on your answering machine. You never return their calls. How do you think that would make them feel?

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Your friend sends you an invitation to her birthday party. You say you'll come to the party but then you never show up. How would that make her feel?

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Your friend is outside knocking on the door. You see that he has his baseball and glove. What will happen if you don't answer the door?

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Prayer Purpose Teacher Guide



You are taking a walk after dinner and not paying attention. Before you know it you are lost in a strange neighborhood. It's starting to get dark when you see a policeman. Should you ask him for directions or maybe a ride home?

God is always there for us. God wants to protect and comfort us. All we have to do is ask.

Friends call and leave a ton of messages on your answering machine. You never return their calls. How do you think that would make them feel?



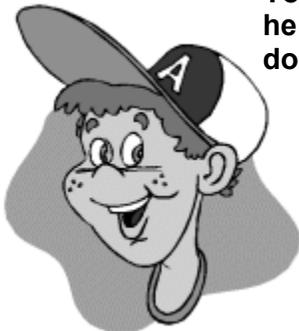
God communicates with us in many ways. One way He communicates with us is through the Bible. God loves it when we pray and worship Him. It's one way we can answer God.

Your friend sends you an invitation to her birthday party. You say you'll come to the party but then you never show up. How would that make her feel?

God wants us to come and enjoy a good life. He has sent the invitation out to everyone. It saddens God when people don't accept the gift of Salvation.



Your friend is outside knocking on the door. You see that he has his baseball and glove. What will happen if you don't answer the door?



God has many good things planned for those who open their hearts to Him. Sadly, many people never ask Jesus to come into their lives.