

Scripture Text: Psalm 143

Memory Verse: "I lift my hands to you in prayer. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain." Psalm 143:6

Biblical Truth That Will Be Learned: Prayer is the most effective activity the church can participate in. (Acts 4:31)

Biblical Characters: David



1 Have the children make a "Prayer List" poster or mural to hang on the wall for several Sundays. Let them write on it, or attach, names of children or adults that they would like to pray for to be saved. Add names to the poster throughout the series. Make this poster or mural a very important part of this process, and remember to pray for each name during your prayer time in class. Give each child a small card, a colored rubber band or ring, a bracelet or something similar that they can have with them at all times to remind them to pray for the people on the "Prayer List" poster even when they aren't at church. Emphasize the importance of praying for the people on your list. We can see great results from the power of prayer. (Acts 4:31)



2 Teach the kids how to pray. Many of them are afraid to pray because they don't know how. Of course, our greatest example comes from Jesus Christ in what we call the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6. Work with the children to come up with a pattern for this prayer. You could use acronyms such as A-adoration; C-confession, T-transgressions, S-supplication, or develop one of your own. Make this very interesting and kid-friendly so that they will connect and get involved.



3 Discuss and explore the concept of "fasting." Explain it from examples in the Bible and from the very words of Jesus. Discuss the possibilities of fasting from kid "stuff" not just food. For example, a kid could fast one hour of video games and spend that time praying from the "Prayer List" poster and reading the Bible. To encourage accountability, have the children take home charts and fill them in during the week with the various "fasts" they have done throughout the week. Here is a great way to teach by example. Have the students make you accountable to fast and pray for them during the week.



1. Trusting In God

Materials: Several visual items that people trust in, such as, a GPS or compass, money, toy car, pictures that symbolize friends, etc.

Ps. 20:7-8 "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God".

Read Ps. 20:7 and explain this verse to the kids. Discuss how in Old Testament times chariots and horses were very important. When faced with a battle against the enemies of God, the Israelites (God's people) were reminded to trust in God, not in their chariots and horses.

One at a time, discuss the items that you have and how people trust in them. Show some money and explain how people trust their money to make them happy, or even to get them to heaven. Discuss each item and emphasize the idea of trusting. Then explain that as Christians, we trust God for all of these things- happiness, protection, guidance, security, and eternal life.

Verse 8 of Ps. 20 promises that if we trust in God, we will rise up and stand firm!



2. God Never Runs Out of Anything

Materials: pitcher of water, cups, large candy bar

Pour each of the kids a cup of water from a pitcher. Ask them what happens to the water in the pitcher as they are filling their cups. Give each child a piece of the candy bar and again ask them what is happening to the candy bar as each person gets a piece. Discuss with them how our resources on earth are limited and will run out. Just as the water in the pitcher runs out when everyone is served and the candy bar gets smaller

and smaller, so will the resources we use every day eventually run out.

Explain that with God, this concept is exactly the opposite. In His kingdom, He never runs out of resources. When we pray for strength, for courage, for love for our friends (and enemies), God just keeps on giving it to us and it never runs out. His power working in us will always be there and each one of us will always have plenty.

3. God's Plan



Tell the students they are going to plan a big party for the class. Get them excited about this thought and ask them what would be the first thing they would have to do. Guide them to realize they will need a plan to organize the party. Let them go through the process of planning this party. At the right time, tell them that their plan reminds you of another huge plan- the plan of God. Discuss with them the plans God had for Noah in building the ark, the plans for Moses and the tabernacle, the plans for Solomon and the temple and help them to discover the plan God has for mankind. Using the following Scriptures, let them discover what the plan is and what the plan isn't: Ephesians 3:11, 2 Timothy 1:9, Matthew 18:14. Remind them that because of sin we are separated from God. However, His plan is to bring everyone back to Him. Ask the students to think of God's plan and ask what that plan meant for His Son, Jesus.

Explain to the students that when they become Christians, the plan of God becomes their plan, also. God wants everyone to come to Him and follow Him. So as Christians, we want everyone to come to Jesus and to be Christians and we begin to do things to make that happen.

Discuss ways that the children can bring others to Christ. Let them come up with their own ideas. Remind them that none of our plans will be successful without our prayers and the power of our prayers.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of prayer that you have given to us and for allowing us to talk to You at anytime. Help us to understand the power of prayer and to be diligent in our prayers for those who do not yet know You. Amen.



Take It Home:

Provide the students with a prayer/fasting chart to be used this week. Offer an incentive for those who are successful in their attempts.

PRAYER