

Teach us to pray

A series of five lessons on prayer

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PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

The aim of the series is to teach the children the privilege and importance of prayer. Of course we don't want this just to be an intellectual knowledge; we really want them to learn to pray to God. Here are some ways in which you, the teacher, can help your pupils to learn to pray:

- 1 By explaining the principles of prayer, based on examples from the Bible.
- 2 By using illustrations from your own life. The children love to hear these examples. Each teacher can draw from his own experiences of how God taught him to pray and answered his prayers.
- 3 By giving illustrations of children who prayed to God. These up-to-date examples will help them to apply the principles of prayer, and the models of prayer in the Bible, to their own lives.
- 4 By helping the children to take part in prayer in the class, under your guidance and encouragement. Encourage the saved children to pray with you in the class, for specific topics, as you teach them. Before each lesson think of children who could take part (however briefly) in the class. You might also ask them to write their prayer on a slip of paper, if you think it would help them to be less nervous when it comes their turn to pray.
- 5 By encouraging the children to pray to God on their own, in their homes or wherever they are. Until they really pray to God on their own, they have not truly learned to pray. Or to put it another way, if as a result of these lessons the children are not praying to God, then the learning/teaching process has been ineffective or incomplete! You could ask children if they have prayed that day, commending them if they have, and if not, encouraging them to do so, suggesting practical helps and ideas. (Be careful to comply with child protection guidelines of your country.)
- 6 In the last lesson we have taught a little about the importance of corporate prayer. If you have children from Christian backgrounds, you can encourage them to take part in prayer in Sunday school and even in their church prayer meetings, as well as in their family devotional time and with you in the Good News Club®. You might even like to form a Prayer Band for the saved children of your class - they could meet for about 15 minutes before the regular class, or at some other time. You could help them by suggesting various topics for prayer, telling them how God is answering their prayers, etc.

Remember above all, that your aim is not only to talk about prayer, but to help the children to pray! Your example will be so important too, as the children see how much prayer means to you! Ask God to make your teaching and your example such a blessing that the lives of the children will be changed!

The flashcard series "A Quiet Time" could be used for 6 to 7 weeks (5-10 minutes each class) before the prayer time of the Club, as a follow-up to the present series.

Keep the unsaved children in mind too!

This series of lessons is not primarily evangelistic, though the Gospel has been included in various places. You can stress the need for salvation in other parts of the programme - for example in the songs, or in a short object lesson that you could include, or in a missionary story. It is important that the unsaved children know that you are available to help them if they have spiritual problems, and especially if they want to receive Christ as their Saviour. At any time during the hour's programme, or during the lesson itself, as the Holy Spirit guides you, you could say something like:

“If you have not yet asked Christ to be your Saviour, and you are concerned about your sin, you need to turn to the Lord today and receive from Him the wonderful gift of forgiveness and eternal life. You could do that right where you are sitting, or at your bedside when you go home. However, if you would like to talk to me about it, I would love to help you and show you how you can become God’s child today. After the others have left, come up to the front row. I’ll sit down and explain to you more about how you can become a true Christian.”

With regard to prayer, the over-all teaching for the unsaved child is: God promises to answer the prayers of His children, but He also delights to answer the prayer of the boy or girl who turns to Him in repentance and faith. Psalm 117:1, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” The psalmist, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calls on all creation to praise God. All men and women, boys and girls, owe Him a debt of praise and gratitude as the Creator and Giver of every good gift. It therefore seems correct to teach all children (whether saved or unsaved, preschoolers or older ones) to give thanks to God the Creator, for His goodness and blessings, His love and care. Nevertheless the joy of communicating with God as our Heavenly Father is restricted to those who have been born into His family, through faith in the Lord Jesus (John 1:12-13).

Therefore it probably would be wiser for the teacher not to ask for volunteers during the prayer time. It would be better for him to invite children whom he knows are Christians, to lead in prayer.

If however, unsaved children offer spontaneously to pray, we could allow them to do so, assigning to them topics like thanking God for His love in giving us loving parents, good homes, food and clothing, health, and friends. But it would be inappropriate for these unsaved children to give thanks, for example, for Christ dying on the cross for them, or for them to pray for the conversion of other children.

The central truth of each lesson

A “central truth” has been brought out in each lesson. You, the teacher, should keep this in mind as you give the lesson; don’t be content simply to tell Bible stories! In the outline of each lesson you will find the “central truth” stated (though the Holy Spirit may lead you to bring out some other main teaching from the Bible passages.)

Under the title “progression of events” and in the lesson itself the following abbreviations are used: “CTS” means the central truth applied to saved children; “CTU” means the central truth applied to unsaved children.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
It's a thrill to be able to talk to God Psalm 57:1 1 Samuel 22:1-5 1 Samuel 23:14 - 24:22	It is a joy and privilege to talk to God	Unsaved: You really cannot enjoy this privilege until you know Christ as your Saviour Saved: Talk to God about everything!	"... For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge ..." Psalm 57:1
Prayer - the Christian's spiritual oxygen 2 Kings 18 - 19	The Christian needs to pray	Saved: You should pray to God often in order to live the way God wants you to	Repeat Psalm 57:1
My prayers bring joy to God Matthew 21:10-17 Luke 17:11-18 Psalm 40:5 Revelation 5:11-14	God so loves to hear my prayers	Unsaved: Little is given in this lesson - in other parts of the programme (eg in suitable choruses) you can teach Gospel truths Saved: Praise and thank God, and so bring joy to Him!	"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise" Psalm 51:15
Other people need my prayers Genesis 18	God tells me to pray for others	Saved: Pray for family, teachers, missionaries, rulers, sick people and friends	"... Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you ..." 1 Samuel 12:23
Let's learn to pray better Daniel 9:1-4,16-19 Jeremiah 29:10-14 Mark 9:14-27	Learn to pray in a better way	Unsaved: This teaching is almost exclusively for Christian children - an evangelistic emphasis could be given in other parts of the programme Saved: Follow the guidelines about praying which God gives us in the Bible	Review the previous verses

Lesson 1

It's a thrill to be able to talk to God

Scripture for teachers

Psalm 57:1

1 Samuel 22:1-5

1 Samuel 23:14 - 24:22

This reading is quite long but it is a thrilling account of God's care for David. It will be a blessing to you and to the children, as you explain the lesson to them.

Central truth

It is a joy and privilege to talk to God

Application

Unsaved: You really cannot enjoy this privilege until you know Christ as your Saviour

Saved: Talk to God about everything!

Note for the teacher

As you tell the incidents from the life of David, don't become too involved in the details, or the lesson could become too long. Keep the central truth constantly in mind.

Preparation for participation by the children

At one point in the lesson, we have suggested that a child in your club (we have called her "Suzanne" in the notes) give a short testimony of an occasion when God answered a prayer. Choose a suitable older saved child, or a helper in your class. Talk to her (or him) a day or two before the club and help her to prepare the little testimony.

There are also places where some children can read verses. Choose suitable children and let them know beforehand if possible so that they can bring their Bible to club and be prepared to read.

Memory verse

"... For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge ..." Psalm 57:1

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 and 1-8

- ♦ Wordstrips: "It is a joy and privilege to talk to God" (central truth)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Jason pushed his bike into the garage ... **CTS**

Progression of events

- 1 David as a boy composes his prayer-songs to God **CTS**
- 2 Illustration: Sue prays to God in moments of happiness **CTU**
- 3 David overcomes the giant
- 4 David escapes from Saul
- 5 Testimony from saved child/helper/teacher of prayer to God in difficult moments
- 6 David's prayer to God in difficult moments
- 7 David in cave pursued by Saul
- 8 Examination of last verses of Psalm 57
- 9 Illustration: Paul's birthday party, and subsequent questions **CTU**

Climax

What a joy to be able to talk to God

Conclusion

Two or three children participate in prayer

Lesson

Flashcard 1-1



Jason pushed his bike into the garage, and carried his running shoes and sports kit into the house. He was just bursting to tell his mum and dad all about the 200-metre race at school. He did not quite know how to start, because he felt a little mixed up inside - he was so pleased and happy, but a little disappointed too as he had not done quite so well as he had hoped. He knew that they would understand exactly how he felt.

He ran into the room and shouted, "Guess what!"

"Well, how did you do?" asked his mum and dad, smiling.

Jason quickly pulled the bronze medal from his pocket, saying, "I came third!"

He told them about the race and how he had run as fast as he could, but Jim and Peter had just got to the finishing line before him. It was great to tell them every detail and when they hugged him and told him that they were very proud of him, he was so happy.

CTS

Show card with central truth: "It is a joy and privilege to talk to God".

You know, it is wonderful to have somebody like your parents or a good friend to whom you can talk - someone who will listen to you and understand how you feel. But it is just as good (in fact it is far better) to be able to talk to **God** about anything. A real Christian can always talk to God and be really happy inside knowing that God always has time for him, always loves him and understands exactly how he feels. Do you know those little cartoons that say, "Happiness is ... a warm hug" or "Happiness is ... having a good friend"? We will make up a better one - "Happiness is ... being able to talk to God in prayer." That's true, isn't it? Yes, it certainly is!

Flashcard 1-2



Many years ago, in fact over a thousand years before the Lord Jesus was born, lived a young man called David. He talked a lot to God in prayer. This story about David is from the Bible, and so of course it is true.

David was very good at playing the harp. He had learned to play while he was a boy watching his father's sheep out on the hills. He was even asked to play for King Saul. In the Bible we have many songs or psalms that he made up, to sing and accompany himself on the harp. In fact they are mainly **prayers** to God, because David loved God. He enjoyed so much being able to speak to Him and tell Him all that was in his heart and mind. Sometimes he was very, very happy and his heart was just bubbling over with happy things to tell God. At other times he had real problems, for example he had enemies who made fun of him and tried to harm him. He told God about his problems too, in fact he sang them to God, and he felt so much better afterwards.

Are there moments when you feel especially happy to have the Lord as your Saviour and friend? Isn't it wonderful just to be able to talk to Him about everything, like David did away back in Bible times?

Flashcard 1-3

Sue was a nine-year old girl who attended Good News Club®. Sue had enjoyed the club so much that Friday afternoon. She had been thrilled to hear the Bible story and to sing some of the songs that they all liked so much. Sue had put her trust in the Lord Jesus as her Saviour the previous year and she was so happy to be a true Christian.

After club she skipped home and went to her bedroom. Her mum and dad did not go to church. They did not know or love the Lord, so Sue could not talk too much with them about the wonderful things she was learning from the Bible. So by her bedside she knelt down and poured out all her joys to God in prayer.

If you have Jesus as your Saviour you can do this too - you can tell God all that is in your heart. But maybe there are some boys and girls in this class who have not received Christ as their Saviour. Your sins have not been forgiven and God is not your Heavenly Father. You know, you need to turn from your sins, the laziness and the selfishness, the bad temper and other ugly things that separate you from God. You need to ask Jesus to be your Saviour and to come into your life, like Sue did. Will you do that today? Take Jesus to be your Saviour this very day and start living to please Him.

Flashcard 1-4

But let's go back to the story of David. While he was still quite young, God chose David in a wonderful way to become king of Israel, after the evil King Saul who was reigning at that time. Later David became a brave warrior too. I am sure you know the great story of how God helped him to kill the giant Goliath. He was young and his only weapon was a sling and a stone. But he had learned to trust God, and God gave him the victory.

Everyone began to praise him as a wonderful fighter and said that he was even better than the wicked King Saul. Of course that made Saul very angry and from that moment he made up his mind to kill David. David had to run for his life. And do you know something? It seems that from then on he wrote many more songs or psalms to God. He had so many problems, and he felt afraid and sad sometimes. So he talked to God many, many times. Nearly every time by the end of the prayer, he was feeling much happier, remembering that God knew all about his troubles, and that God was in control of everything.

Flashcard 1-5

Yes, Saul was really determined to kill David, and he had to hide in desert places and in the mountains far from the king's palace. It wasn't

CTS



CTU



1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:9.



You might like to help “Suzanne” by having her give her testimony about prayer in the form of a short interview, answering some questions like these:

“Suzanne, was it a happy or sad occasion that you are going to tell us about?”

OK, will you tell us about it please?

How did you feel before you prayed?

Did you feel the same after you had prayed?

Isn't it wonderful to be able to talk to God about things like that?”

Perhaps a child or your helper could read these words too. The more the children participate in the lesson, the better they will remember.

that David was a coward, but God did not want him to fight in order to become king. God had promised he would be king in good time.

Thousands of years ago King David talked to God about his great difficulties. Today many people still face difficulties and problems about which they would need to pray to God. I have asked Suzanne here if she would tell you of a time when she talked to God in prayer about something that had happened in her life, and about how God answered.

But let's get back to our exciting story from God's Word. How did David feel during the years of hiding and being hunted like a rabbit? Wouldn't it be interesting to be able to see right into his mind at that time? Well, the thrilling thing is that we **do** know what he was thinking, because he wrote down some of his prayers that he later sang to God. He taught his family and his friends the words of his songs, and they learned to sing them too. Many people still sing these lovely psalms or prayers to God when they go to church on Sundays.

Let's hear the words from the beginning of one of these prayers.

Before the class, have two or three older children look up Psalm 57 and prepare to read the first two verses.

John, will you read the first verse and, Mary, you read the second verse of Psalm 57. We will all think about what David is saying to God as he starts to pray.

The two children read the verses.

“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by. I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me.”

Aren't those lovely verses? What is David saying to God?

Let the children answer.

Yes, he is asking God to be merciful to him and to help him, just like a mother hen protects a little chicken under her wings when there is trouble. Isn't it great that God is so powerful and so loving. He wants to care for you.

Do you know when this prayer was written? If you look at the top of Psalm 57 it says these words in some of our Bibles, “... of David when he fled from Saul into the cave.”

Flashcard 1-6

Let me explain to you some more about what happened. Several times David had to hide from Saul. On one occasion he and his band of men were hiding in a very big cave when Saul was nearby hunting for him with his army. In fact Saul went right into the cave for a rest. David and his men backed away into the darkness and pressed up against

the walls of the cave. Saul did not even know that they were there and David could easily have jumped out and killed him.

Indeed, David's soldiers said to him, "Now is your chance. God has brought him here so that you can kill him."

But David answered that he would never take the life of the king. That would be sinning against God. David let Saul escape, and did not harm him. I am sure that in his heart he was thanking God that he himself and his men had not been killed or captured.

Let's look again at the prayer that David wrote one day in one of those caves. You remember that at the beginning he was asking God to protect him. And God answered his prayers many, many times. What does David say to God as he comes to the end of his prayer?

Let two children read verses seven and nine.

"My heart is steadfast [fixed], O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise ... I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations."

How did David feel at the end of his prayer?

Let the children answer.

Yes, talking to God certainly did help him, didn't it?

Flashcard 1-7

We all have difficult times, even Christians who love the Lord Jesus. Let's think of an example that just might happen to you. Let's imagine that it is Paul's birthday. He's one of your best friends at school, but for some reason that you don't understand, you are not invited to the party. It hurts to watch the other boys going into Paul's house just down the street, and to feel so left out! What do you do?

Let the children think and answer.

Yes, the very wisest thing - you close your eyes and talk to the Lord in prayer. Now boys and girls, you help me imagine the words that you would pray to God in a situation like that.

Ask the children to raise their hands and suggest what might have been said in prayer. The Christian child might tell God of his sadness; thank God that He loves him and understands how he feels; and he might ask God to help him to still be a good friend to Paul. You may need to help them a little, as they think over this situation.

Then ask one or two more questions like these:

- 1 How do you think you would feel after praying? (Probably a good deal happier, knowing that God understood your sadness.)
- 2 Do you think Paul would invite you to the party after all? (Probably not. God does not always change the circumstances. More frequently He changes our reaction to them - how we feel about them.)



- 3 How do you think you would behave towards Paul the next day? (You could ask God to help you to be kind and forgiving.)

Flashcard 1-8

CTU

Show card with central truth.



What a joy it is to be able to talk to God about happy things and sad things too. This is a special privilege for God's children. If you still do not belong to God's family, because you have not turned from your sins and have not trusted in Jesus as your Saviour, then this privilege is not yours. But if you are concerned about your sins, this very afternoon you could come to Christ and ask Him to be your Saviour. He loves you, He died for you and He wants to forgive you and give you new life. Come to Him today!

We are going to finish our lesson today by letting two or three of you talk to God in prayer. It would be sad to have a whole lesson on prayer, and then not to pray, wouldn't it?

Help the children to suggest things that they would like to talk to God about, and gently encourage some to take part aloud. Make sure that each child who is to take part, knows when it is his turn, and then he remembers clearly what he is going to tell God.

Review questions

- 1 Why was Jason very happy but a little disappointed too? (He had won a bronze medal in the race, but was disappointed not to have come first.)
- 2 In what way was Jason's conversation with his parents a picture of prayer between a Christian and God? (A Christian can tell God all that is in his heart; God understands completely; God can comfort us where we have failed; etc.)
- 3 What did Sue want to tell God in her prayer after the Good News Club? (She told Him all about the wonderful things she was learning from the Bible.)
- 4 We read a part of a psalm today in which King David was praying to God. Which one was it? (Psalm 57.)
- 5 What did he pray at the beginning of the psalm? ("... For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge ..." Psalm 57:1.)
- 6 What did he pray at the end of the psalm? ("I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations." Verse does not need to be quoted exactly.)
- 7 When did David pray these words to God? (When he fled from Saul and was hiding in a cave.)
- 8 We imagined in our lesson that you had not been invited to a birthday party and that you prayed to God about it. For what could you thank God, even though you would feel left out? (For example, that He loves you and understands how you feel.)

- 9 What could you ask Him for in this hard situation? (For example, for you to keep on being a good friend to Paul; for God to comfort you.)
- 10 Think of two other **difficult moments** when a Christian boy or girl can pray to God. (Answers will vary.)

Lesson 2

Prayer - the Christian's spiritual oxygen

Scripture for teachers

2 Kings 18 - 19

You will not need to explain all the events of these two chapters to the children, but you need to be familiar with the story and the historical background.

Central truth

The Christian needs to pray

Application

Saved: You should pray to God often in order to live the way God wants you to

Preparation for participation by the children

At the end of the lesson it is suggested that the children use a piece of paper to draw (or explain in words) three situations when they would **need** to pray to God. You could photocopy the outline on page 47.

The children could do this work at home or right there in the class (if there is time and space) and in this case you will have to provide pencils, colours, etc.

Memory verse

Repeat Psalm 57:1

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7 and 2-8
- ◆ Wordstrips: "The Christian needs to pray" (central truth) and "You should pray to God often in order to live the way God wants you to" (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

The diver on the ocean floor **CT**

Progression of events

- 1 The Assyrians conquer surrounding countries
- 2 Even Samaria falls **CTU**
- 3 The Assyrians march against Jerusalem
- 4 King Hezekiah's urgent need is to pray to God and to trust in Him in this emergency
- 5 Illustration: situations in which Christian children would need to pray to God
 - Temptation to steal money **CTS**
 - Threatened by a bully in the street **CTS**
 - Facing a difficult subject at school **CTS**
 - Confessing sin to God **CTS**
- 6 Hezekiah receives the threatening letter from Sennacherib
- 7 He prays to God for deliverance **CTS**
- 8 God answers through Isaiah that He will save His people

Climax

He sends His angel to destroy 185,000 Assyrians

Conclusion

Hezekiah and Jerusalem saved **CTS**

Lesson

Flashcard 2-1

Have you ever seen a film of a diver going down into the depths of the sea to look for ships that were wrecked years previously, or maybe to search for treasure? It is an exciting world down there at the bottom of the ocean, isn't it? But it is also a dangerous place to be. It is difficult to live and work in that watery, blue-green world that is so different to the world we are used to in the sun and air and warmth up above. There is one thing that keeps the diver alive and able to do his work. Do you know what it is? Yes, it is the oxygen that he takes down in the aqualung that he carries on his back, or that comes to him through a long tube from the ship up on the surface of the sea. He breathes the oxygen to keep himself alive. But if he were not able to breathe it in, he would very quickly die there on the ocean floor.

CT

Do you know, children, that prayer for us as Christians is like oxygen for the diver. We live in a world where it is difficult to do what is right and to please the Lord. We are surrounded by sinful things that would quickly drown us spiritually. That is why it is so important that we pray continually to God and trust in Him. Prayer is like our spiritual oxygen that we breathe in.

Last week I taught you how wonderful it is to be able to speak to God in prayer. But I don't want you to think that prayer is simply something pleasant that we can do sometimes, like eating ice-cream. It is much, much more important than that. It is so important that if you don't pray, it is really impossible to live the way God wants you to, and to grow into a strong Christian and to work for Him.

Show card with central truth: "The Christian needs to pray".

Flashcard 2-2

Today we're going to think about a man in the Bible, God's Holy Word. This man realised that the only way out of a terribly dangerous situation was by prayer to God. His name was Hezekiah and he was the king of Judah, who lived about 700 years before the Lord Jesus came to Earth to live. He was a good king who loved God and tried to guide his people in following God's laws (2 Kings 18:6).

Flashcard 2-3

But the people of Judah had a cruel and powerful enemy - the army of the Assyrians. This great army fought against the other countries one by one and defeated them. At last they reached the city of Samaria, which was right next to Judah. The people of Samaria had heard God's Word many, many times as it was taught by God's prophets and messengers. But they had not heeded the many warnings that God had given them, to turn from their sinful ways and trust in Him. And now God allowed the Assyrians to conquer the city and to carry the people away as slaves into a foreign land.



Boys and girls, you must be very careful to heed what God says to you through His Word. Here in this very class, I have often told you how God wants to save you from your sin. He even sent His own dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be punished for your sin. But I am afraid that some of you have not listened to God's Word which tells you to turn from **your** sin and trust Jesus as your own Saviour. If you don't turn away from your sin and turn to the Lord Jesus, God will have to punish you one day for your disobedience to His voice. Turn to Him this very afternoon and receive the wonderful gift of salvation that He offers to you.

Flashcard 2-2 (again)

Maybe Hezekiah had thought that the Assyrian army would never conquer Samaria. But God allowed them to do so.

"Now, whom will the Assyrians attack?" Hezekiah wondered.

Well, do you know what happened? This terrible army turned south to attack the land of Judah where Hezekiah was king. I am sure that the people of Judah were very, very frightened. King Hezekiah sent much gold and silver to Sennacherib the king of the Assyrians to keep him from attacking. But on and on came the mighty army.

If you had been able to go up close to King Hezekiah and whisper some good advice into his ear, what would you have told him to do? Let me make some suggestions and you tell me which is the most important:

- 1 "Organise your army really well and train the troops."
- 2 "Give all your soldiers good spears and shields."
- 3 "Make the walls and towers round your cities bigger and thicker."
- 4 "Tell God all about your terrible trouble and trust Him to guide you and help you."

Yes, that advice to pray to God and trust in Him was the most important action that Hezekiah could take. He did the other things as well, but to pray and trust in God was by far the most important. Do you think he realised that?

Flashcard 2-4

That's the lesson that you and I have to learn too in many difficult moments in our lives.

For example, what would you do if one day Satan put a terrible thought like this into your mind? "Look, you want to play with the video machines, don't you? Well, go and sneak a couple of euros from your mother's purse. She'll never know and you can have lots of fun playing down in the video arcade." Yes, you would need to pray very quickly, "O Lord, help me. I can't overcome this temptation without

CTU



CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "You should pray to God often in order to live the way God wants you to".



Your help!” And make up your mind that by the Lord’s help you won’t steal that money. He will help you!

Or maybe in your street there is a bully who frightens you. You could pray, “O Lord, thank You that You are with me and that I can trust in You.” Or you could pray the words of King David that we learned in our memory verse. Let’s say it again together.

Say the memory verse together.

God can take away your fear and give you peace in your heart.

Flashcard 2-5

Or maybe there is some subject at school that you find difficult. You need to pray about that too, don’t you?

Or suppose that one day you lost your temper and said bad words. How much you **need to pray** to God to forgive you, asking Him too to help you not to get further from His side and not to do other wrong things.

As God’s children we need to pray a lot each day don’t we? That’s the way to keep close to the Lord and live lives that please Him.

If you think it appropriate, this would be a good moment to let children tell of experiences of their own when they have prayed to God in difficult moments. Or you could encourage them to think of situations where they could pray to God for help.

Boys and girls, you’ll notice a wonderful thing - as you take these problems and difficult situations to the Lord in prayer, He’ll bring peace into your heart and He’ll take away the storm of worry and fear.

But let’s get back to King Hezekiah again. Forward came the terrible and powerful army of the Assyrians, right up to the walls of Jerusalem, the capital. King Sennacherib, their wicked leader, sent three messengers to call for the surrender of the people of Judah. They stood near the city and roared out their insulting words. They wanted not only King Hezekiah’s messengers to hear the threats, but also all the people of Jerusalem who were listening from their positions up on the broad walls that protected the city.

Flashcard 2-6

Sennacherib’s men shouted, “Don’t trust Hezekiah your king. He can’t possibly save you. And you need not trust in God either! He can’t save you! Did the gods of other kingdoms that we have conquered, save them? Of course not!” (From 2 Kings 18:29,33.)

He even compared the true God of Heaven to the false idols of the heathen people! The people of Jerusalem trembled at those wicked threats and insults against them and even against God Himself.

Sennacherib also wrote down all these threatening messages in a letter which he sent to King Hezekiah. What do you think Hezekiah did when he received it? Let’s look at what the Bible tells us. Sharon (or



Show card with application for the saved child.



my helper) is going to read it to us. I want you to listen very carefully and tell me four things that King Hezekiah did when he received the letter, and then I want you to think, which of the four things he did was the most important?

Sharon reads 2 Kings 19:14-15a.

“And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord.”

Now let’s think, what were the four things?

Let the children help find them. It may be necessary to read the verses again.

Yes, he read the letter, he went up into the House of the Lord, he spread it out before the Lord and he prayed.

Flashcard 2-7

And which is the most important? Yes, he prayed. I want to read to you a little of his lovely prayer.

Read as much of this wonderful prayer (2 Kings 19:15-19) as your pupils will be able to listen to with attention. You may want to shorten it according to their attention span. But trust the Lord that the children will capture something of God’s great power and Hezekiah’s trust in Him.

Do you think that God heard the prayer of Hezekiah, His child? Yes, of course, just as He will hear yours, no matter what it is, and in any problem situation. I am sure that right away Hezekiah felt that wonderful peace in his heart. He too was making his refuge in the shadow of God’s mighty wings! God not only heard his prayer, but He answered.

First of all He spoke to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah and told him that the Assyrians would not conquer Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:20,32-34). They would not even shoot an arrow into the city, nor hurl a spear against its walls! But how could God save His people from this powerful and cruel army?

Flashcard 2-8

Well, that same night God sent His angel into the camp of the Assyrians to destroy them, and in the hours of darkness 185,000 men. When the remainder got up in the morning, there were thousands of dead bodies all around them. They could not possibly attack Jerusalem now! So they turned back to their own country and Hezekiah, his people and the city of Jerusalem were saved! They could not have beaten Sennacherib’s army, but God did it, when they prayed to Him and trusted in His power. Hezekiah and his soldiers did not even have to put on their armour!

There are many moments each day when, as a Christian boy or girl, you need to pray to God. You need to ask Him to help you with the particular problem you face at that time. It may be opposition such



CTS



CTS

as Hezekiah faced, or it may be the danger of falling into sin. Or you may need to ask God for His forgiveness if you have done something that is wrong.

Review questions

- 1 A diver has a very dangerous job working under water. What keeps him alive? (Oxygen.)
- 2 In what ways is a Christian living in this sinful world like a diver? (We are surrounded by sinful things that would quickly drown us spiritually - prayer is like our spiritual oxygen that we breathe in.)
- 3 What was the king called whom we studied today? (King Hezekiah.)
- 4 Who was the powerful enemy of King Hezekiah and his people? (Sennacherib, the Assyrian king, and his army.)
- 5 Why did God allow the Assyrian army to capture the city of Samaria? (The people of Samaria had not heeded the many warnings God had given them to turn from their sinful ways and trust in Him.)
- 6 When the army got close to Jerusalem, what did the leaders do to frighten the people of the city? (King Sennacherib sent three messengers who stood near the city and shouted for the surrender of the city.)
- 7 What were the four things that Hezekiah did with the threatening letter that he received? (He read the letter, he went up into the House of the Lord, he spread it out before the Lord and he prayed.)
- 8 Think of three difficult situations when you could “spread your problem out before the Lord in prayer”, like King Hezekiah did. (Answers will vary. Examples in the text include the temptation to steal money; being threatened by a bully in the street; facing a difficult subject at school; confessing sin to God.)

Carry-over activity

A Christian needs to pray

I am going to give you each a pencil, some colouring pencils and a piece of paper, divide into three parts.

I want the younger ones to draw three pictures of times when you need to pray to God - maybe at school when you are struggling with a difficult problem; or maybe in your own home when the devil tempts you to tell a lie; or maybe playing in the street when you want to ask God to protect you from some danger; or maybe even in the Good News Club as you ask God to help you to listen to His Word. Think of places where you need to pray for God's help, as King Hezekiah did.

You may wish to photocopy the template on page 47.

The older ones can draw a picture or describe three situations in a paragraph or two. Put a title over the top, "A Christian needs to pray" and at the bottom "at home", "at school", "in the street", "in Good News Club" or whatever you choose.

Remember that if you are still not a Christian, a child of God, the Lord only promises to answer the prayers of His children. But of course you can draw the pictures. We are praying that very soon you too will be a true Christian.

Lesson 3

My prayers bring joy to God

Scripture for teachers

Matthew 21:10-17

Luke 17:11-18

Psalm 40:5

Revelation 5:11-14

Central truth

God so loves to hear my prayers

Application

Unsaved: Little is given in this lesson - in other parts of the programme (eg in suitable choruses) you can teach Gospel truths

Saved: Praise and thank God, and so bring joy to Him!

Note for the teacher

If you have a copy of "Handel's Messiah", prepare to play the chorus "Worthy the Lamb" where indicated in the text (or a good recording of the chorus "Thou art worthy"). This is not indispensable, but will be a thrilling experience for the children if you can introduce a short excerpt of this magnificent chorus in your lesson.

This lesson is complementary to lesson 1, where you taught that prayer brings joy and peace **to the Christian**. Here you want to teach that our prayer can bring joy **to God**, especially as we praise Him and thank Him.

Preparation for participation by the children

At various points in the lesson (marked with ☆ in the outline) questions are suggested for the children to think about and give their answers. Be sure to include these or other questions to involve the children more in the learning process.

Memory verse

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise" Psalm 51:15

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-8, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8

- ◆ Wordstrips: "God so loves to hear my prayers" (central truth) and "Praise and thank God, and so bring joy to Him!" (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

The mother sheep and her lamb **CTS**

Progression of events

- 1 Christ cleanses the temple
- 2 The children acclaim Him as the "Son of David"
- 3 Their praise is accepted with joy by Christ **CTS**
- 4 Explanation of praise ☆
- 5 Christ heals the ten lepers
- 6 One returns to give thanks
- 7 Christ's feelings of joy mingled with sorrow ☆
- 8 Discussion
 - Things that we can see for which to give thanks **CTS** ☆
 - Things that we cannot see for which to give thanks **CTS** ☆
 - The difference between "praise" and "thanksgiving" **CTS** ☆
- 9 The importance of praying to the Lord each morning and evening **CTS**
- 10 Scene of adoration in Heaven (Revelation 5)
- 11 The chorus of "Worthy the Lamb" (from "Messiah" by Handel) **CTS**

Climax

If you know Jesus as your Saviour, praise Him every day

Conclusion

Offer to take unchurched children with you to church

Lesson

One day when I was out for a walk I saw a big flock of sheep in a field. One little lamb, however, had poked his way through a hole in the hedge and found himself out on the road away from the other sheep. Suddenly he felt a bit lonely and began to bleat “baa, baa” in his thin little voice for his mum. The big mother sheep had very quickly noticed that her baby lamb had wandered off and she began to call to him and to search for him. In a moment she heard his bleat and right away she ran as fast as she could towards the hole in the hedge to help the lamb find his way back. She really seemed to be so happy to hear the little bleat of the lamb!

Flashcard 1-8

In a way that makes me think of us as we pray to God. In our first lesson we were thinking about how wonderful it is to be able to talk to God - how happy it makes us! Then last week we were learning how important and necessary it is to pray. But today I want us to learn an even more thrilling and wonderful truth - it is that God is also so pleased when we talk to Him. Just like the mother sheep being so glad to hear the voice of the lamb, God, in a much more wonderful way, loves to hear the voice of His children!

In Psalm 40:5 David wrote, “Many, O Lord my God, are ... Your thoughts toward us.” That just means that God is constantly thinking about us and waiting for us to speak to Him. You know the Lord never sleeps (Psalm 121:4). He does not need to rest like we do. He is constantly awake and His thoughts are turned toward you, just as if He were waiting to hear you speak to Him when you wake up. As soon as you wake in the morning, you can remember that God is already thinking about you. At the beginning of the day you can spend a few moments thanking Him for that, talking to Him and being close to Him.

Flashcard 3-1

One day while He was living here on Earth, the Lord Jesus went into the temple. Maybe He wanted to pray, or to listen to God’s Word. But when He went in, do you know what He found? In the courtyard of the temple there was a market taking place. There were lots of men selling animals and doves that were used to sacrifice to God. Other people were changing the money of travellers who came from all around.

Everyone was chattering and talking and shouting as they did their business. No-one had remembered that they were in a building that had been made to pray to God and to sing praises to Him and to hear His Word. They did not think about God for one moment! The Lord Jesus was hurt and angry. The Bible tells us that He drove all these merchants and money changers out of the temple, shouting to them



CTS

Show card with central truth: “God so loves to hear my prayers”.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



that God has said, “My house shall be called a house of prayer’, but you have made it a ‘den of thieves” (Matthew 21:13).

Flashcard 3-2

When the noisy, chattering merchants were gone, some other needy people came forward to meet with Jesus. Who were they? Well, they were the blind and the lame people. With love and tenderness Jesus healed them there. There were some children watching too and when they saw the wonderful things that Jesus was doing they began to shout happily, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” The “Son of David” meant the Messiah or the Saviour Who had come to save His people! They were so excited and pleased that Jesus had come!

But there were still some other people watching - the chief priests and the scribes, the religious people who were supposed to explain God’s Word and God’s thoughts to the people. Instead of being very happy to hear the children shouting praise to the Lord Jesus, they were angry and displeased.

They turned to Jesus and asked Him, “Do You not hear what they are saying? Do You not hear that they are calling You the Messiah and Saviour?”

What do you think Jesus replied?

He said, “Yes, I do hear. God has caused these little children to praise Me.”

He was so very pleased to receive their praise. Those children had called Him the Son of David. You can call Him other wonderful names. You can call Him “my God” and “my Saviour”. You can praise Him because He is so great that He holds the whole world in His hands. You can praise Him that He is so loving and so powerful, that He is everywhere and yet so close to you.

Flashcard 3-3

Have you ever thought that only adults can pray and praise God? There in the temple the adults had no praise to offer Him, but the children did! Jesus not only allowed them to praise Him, He was really pleased to hear their loving words. I don’t know if some of you go to a prayer meeting in your church. Of course, you can always pray and praise quietly in your heart, but don’t be afraid to pray out loud, too. Some older people might find it strange to hear a child praying, but the Lord Jesus will certainly hear you and He’ll be very glad to hear your voice.

Do you understand now what it means to “praise the Lord Jesus”? Let’s see who can explain it to me.

Let the children answer. Help them express what it means to tell the Lord how wonderful He is to us - that He is great and powerful, loving, all-wise, etc.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



CTS



Show card with application for the saved child: “Praise and thank God, and so bring joy to Him!”.

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

But let me tell you about another time when the Lord Jesus was pleased with the words that a man said to Him.

Flashcard 3-4



One day the Lord Jesus was making a journey along the dusty roads of Palestine with His disciples. As He came near a village He could see a group of men who were keeping far away from Him, and were shouting something to Him. Why did they not come a little closer? Jesus listened to what they were shouting. These men were suffering from a horrible disease called leprosy, so they were not allowed to come near other people in case they caught the disease too. In those days there was no way of curing leprosy, but somebody must have told them that Jesus could, and that He was passing through that village.

So now they were standing and calling to Him so earnestly, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

Jesus was full of love and power, and of course He wanted to help them. He simply said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

The priests were the men who decided if a person had leprosy or not. In other words, Jesus was saying to them, “Go to the priests and show them that I have healed you.”

Hardly daring to believe that that could be possible, they stumbled off on their crippled feet to see the priests in the city. As they went, they suddenly discovered that they were healed. The leprosy was gone. Their skin which had been diseased and marked, was clean and healthy again. How happy they felt as they ran on shouting and laughing!

Flashcard 3-5



★ Question for the children to think about and answer.

But one man stopped right there and turned back. Where was he going? Back to where Jesus had met them! When he found the Lord Jesus, he fell on his face before Him, giving Him thanks for having healed him. How do you think Jesus felt? In part, He felt very, very happy and in part He felt sad. I wonder could anyone of you explain why He felt happy and sad at the same time.

Let children make their suggestions.

Yes, He felt very happy because this man had come back to thank Him for having healed him, but at the same time He felt sad that the nine others had not bothered to say “thank you” to Him.

Flashcard 3-6

CTS

Now, let’s think of some things that we can give thanks to the Lord for. We can thank Him for things that we can see like food and clothes, and we can thank Him for spiritual blessings that we can’t see like having our sins forgiven. Can you think of three more spiritual blessings?

Let children suggest things. You can help them to think of things like Jesus dying on the cross for us, giving us eternal life, always being with us, preparing a home in Heaven for us, etc.

And three other things that we can see, for which we should give thanks?

Let the children take part again. Maybe you can help them to suggest things like our parents, our class, our friends, the Bible, etc.

Now here is a really hard question. What is the difference between “praising the Lord” and “giving thanks to the Lord”?

Pause for the children to take time to think and suggest an answer or two.

Yes, when we “praise the Lord”, we praise Him for **what He is** - He is powerful, He is loving, He knows everything. “Giving thanks” means thanking Him for **what He has done for us** - dying on the cross for our sins, forgiving us, taking care of us, giving us our food each day, etc.

Are both “praise” and “giving thanks” important? Yes, they are. When we offer our praise and our thanks to the Lord, He really is pleased and glad to hear our voices. Will you try each day to bring joy to the Lord’s heart in this way? Every morning before you go off to school, you can take a few minutes to kneel down by your bedside and read a few verses of the Bible, and think about them carefully. Then you can pray to the Lord, asking Him for His help and blessing on the day, but also remembering to praise Him and thank Him.

Very often in the verses you read you will find out something about God or the Lord Jesus, and as you think about that, you can praise Him for it. Then as you go to bed at night, just before you go to sleep, do thank Him for all His love and care. That will bring happiness to His heart and to yours too!

Flashcard 3-7

Now one last look for today at God’s Word. I want you to hear something very beautiful in Revelation, the last book of the Bible. John, the writer, was guided by God to describe what Heaven is like. God showed him this wonderful place and right in the middle of Heaven John saw a throne on which God the Father sat. Then some time later he saw the Lord Jesus on the throne. John calls Him the Lamb. Do you understand why he gives Him that name? Let me explain a little. Before Jesus came to live on Earth, when anyone wanted to come into God’s presence, he had to bring an animal (very often it was a lamb) and it was killed and offered to God on an altar.

That person was really saying in this way, “I have sinned and done wrong things. I deserve to die for disobeying your commands, O Lord, but this lamb is dying in my place - it’s dying instead of me.” Those animals could not really take the place of the people who sinned. They were just a picture of the Lord Jesus Who came years later. He was called the Lamb of God and indeed He did die for our sins on

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.



Show card with application for the saved child.



the cross. But after He had died, He rose again from the grave, and went back to Heaven. He is now waiting there for us who love Him, to come and join Him one day.

And in the book of Revelation John describes this wonderful scene in Heaven. The throne of God is surrounded by thousands and thousands of people who have been saved from their sins. They are all praying to God and to the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God. What are they saying and singing? Let's listen to the words that we find in Revelation 5:13.

If you have a recording of Handel's "Messiah" you might let the children listen to the wonderful chorus, "Worthy the Lamb". I'm sure it would really be a blessing, and would help them to praise Him. (If you don't have a recording, you could read the verses from your Bible.)

Flashcard 3-8

CTS



Show card with application for the saved child.

Isn't that a wonderful song of praise? If you have asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour, and you love Him, one day you too will be in Heaven singing those wonderful words! But you don't have to wait until you get to Heaven where you will praise the Lord perfectly (much better than we can now). God wants you to praise Him every day. You can do so every morning as you speak to Him in prayer, and on Sundays too He would be pleased if you made a point of going to church or Sunday school. In church we meet together with other people who love the Lord to pray to Him, to praise Him and to listen to His Word. The hymns that Christians sing are very often hymns of praise to God. If you are a true Christian, you can sing them with all your heart to the Lord, knowing that He is listening and pleased with your praise. If you don't go to church, I'd be happy to take you with me. I would, of course, talk to your parents first about it.

Make arrangements to take unchurched children with you on Sunday to church.

Review questions

- 1 What did David the Psalmist tell us about God's thoughts (Psalm 40:5)? (David wrote, "Many, O Lord my God, are ... your thoughts toward us" - that just means that God is constantly thinking about us and waiting for us to speak to Him.)
- 2 What did the children in the temple lovingly call Jesus? (The "Son of David".)
- 3 What wonderful names can we call Him? ("My God", "my Saviour", etc.)
- 4 Can you tell me what "praise" means? (To tell the Lord how wonderful He is to us - that He is great and powerful, loving, all-wise, etc.)
- 5 How do you know that the Lord would love to hear a child praise Him in the church prayer meeting? (When the children in the temple praised Him, Jesus was really pleased to hear their loving words.)

- 6 Why was Jesus glad and sorry when one of the lepers came back to thank Him? (He was glad because this man had come back to thank Him for having healed him, but sorry that the nine others had not bothered to say “thank you” to Him.)
- 7 Suggest five things that we can see for which to thank God. (Answers will vary. Examples in the text include food; clothes; our parents; our class; our friends; the Bible.)
- 8 Suggest three invisible spiritual blessings for which we can thank God. (Answers will vary. Examples in the text include having our sins forgiven; Jesus dying on the cross for us; giving us eternal life; always being with us; preparing a home in Heaven for us.)
- 9 Think of two good moments of each day for praising and thanking the Lord. (In the morning at the start of the day and in the evening before going to bed.)
- 10 What does Psalm 51:15 say? (“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.”)

Lesson 4

Other people need my prayers

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 18

Central truth

God tells me to pray for others

Application

Saved: Pray for family, teachers, missionaries, rulers, sick people and friends

The aim is to teach the saved children that they can serve as they intercede for others. We would also want them to realise that to fail in our responsibility to pray is a sin against God, as the memory verse indicates.

Preparation for participation by the children

At the end of the lesson, we suggest that each child be given a page and pencil to list five groups of people for whom he needs to pray. The teacher needs to have these supplies before the class, and to work out whether the children can use their seats or benches to lean on. Alternatively, you might need to get some sheets of stiff cardboard.

This application is meant for saved children, but the unconverted ones can also take part.

It would be helpful too if you, the teacher, made the drawing of a hand and put the words on a chalkboard, or on a sheet of card with felt-tip markers, as you explain the activity to the children (see the instructions at the end of the lesson).

The smaller children can just draw the “hand” without adding the words.

Memory verse

“... Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you ...” 1 Samuel 12:23

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8

- ♦ Wordstrips: “God tells me to pray for others” (central truth)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Do you know what an intercontinental missile is?

Progression of events

- 1 Abraham a man of prayer, always building altars to God **CTS**
- 2 God visits Abraham and Sarah
- 3 Abraham entertains his three guests
- 4 God promises Abraham a son
- 5 God reveals the possibility of the destruction of Sodom **CTU**
- 6 Abraham realises that he can help by prayer **CTS, CTU**
- 7 Abraham prays for Sodom and Lot **CT**

Climax

God destroys Sodom but saves Lot because of Abraham’s prayer

Conclusion

God wants you to pray for others - He can bless them through your prayers **CTS**

Lesson

Do you know what an intercontinental missile is? It is a terrible weapon of war that can be fired in one part of the world. It goes far up into the sky and then comes down in some other part of the world, and explodes with tremendous power, doing terrible damage.

Flashcard 4-1

In one way prayer is like that, but instead of doing damage it does just the opposite, it does good. You can be praying in one part of the world, God hears your prayer up in Heaven and then the answer to your prayer may be felt with tremendous power in some other part of the world, maybe thousands of miles from where you are living. God can bless there in that place because you prayed.

Yes, one of the most important kinds of prayer is praying for the needs of other people. In the Old Testament we have the story of a man who loved to pray. I wonder if you can guess his name. Here are a few clues:

- 1 He lived about 2,000 years before Christ was born.
- 2 God called him to leave his home in the city and to go on a long journey.
- 3 Often he did not know where God was taking him.
- 4 He was travelling constantly.
- 5 He lived most of his life in a tent.

Flashcard 4-2

Did you guess who it was? The man was called Abraham. Everywhere that Abraham went, he built an altar of stones to God. On these altars he would offer a lamb or some other animal to God and there he would speak to God in prayer and draw close to Him. Abraham must have left a long line of altars behind him because he was on the move for many, many years. Are you a bit like Abraham? Everywhere you go you talk to God in prayer - at home, at school, on your bike (of course you would have to keep your eyes open as you pray on your bike!), in church, on the sports field. It really is wonderful to be able to talk to our loving Heavenly Father in any place, knowing that He is always by our side, ready to listen.

One day when Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old, God decided to visit them. God wanted Abraham to be able to see Him, and so He appeared to him in the form of a man. There were two other persons with Him - probably they were two angels.

Flashcard 4-3

Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day when he saw these three visitors coming towards him.



CTS



Abraham was very kind and though he was very old, he ran to meet them. He brought them back to his tent and got a servant to wash their feet. Then Sarah prepared a lovely meal for their three guests - tender meat, butter, milk and tasty cakes.

When the meal was finished God made a wonderful promise to Abraham. He told him that Sarah would have a son. She was very, very old and had never had any children, so she could hardly believe what God promised. But, as God Himself said to Abraham, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14a). Of course not. Sarah would have her son as God had promised.

Flashcard 4-4

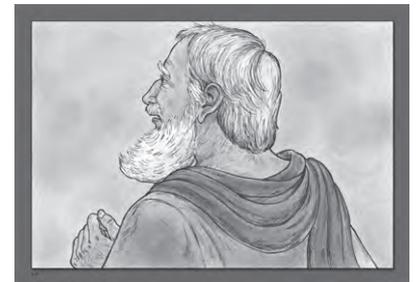
But God had some sad news to tell Abraham also. God had been watching the wickedness of the people in a city near to where Abraham lived. It was called Sodom, and Abraham's nephew Lot lived there. God looked on Abraham as a very dear friend. He had decided to tell him that the people of Sodom had been so wicked that He would have to destroy them and their city. God must have felt very sad and so must Abraham.

Sometimes we think that God is so kind and good that He could not possibly punish sin. But the Bible teaches us very clearly that God is not only very loving and kind. He is also completely holy, just and perfect. Sin is something very ugly and horrible to Him. God had to punish the sin of the people of Sodom because they would not turn from their wicked ways. Do you think that you can sin against God, doing all kinds of wrong things like being unkind, telling lies and cheating and do you think that God will take no notice? God can't just ignore your sin. But He does not want to punish you. In fact He sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus, down to this world to take the punishment that you deserve. If you will turn from your sin and ask Jesus to be your Saviour, God will forgive your sin. He will be so glad to do that. He has no desire at all to punish you because He does love you so much. But if you go on ignoring His love and continue in your sin, God will punish you.

Why don't you make up your mind to turn away from your sin today? Come to Jesus and trust in Him as your own Saviour. He promises, "the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37). He promises to receive you. Before you leave the room today your sins could be forgiven!

What could Abraham do to help Lot down there in Sodom where he was in such terrible danger? It was so wonderful to be God's friend and to be able to have these lovely times of talking to God and listening to Him. He was so glad that he did not have to fear God's punishment. But what about Lot? Abraham thought of one thing that he could do to help. He could pray for his nephew, his wife and family.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 4-5

CTS

In this class there are quite a few boys and girls who are saved. You belong to God. You are a bit like Abraham. You are friends of God. You can talk to Him in prayer and enjoy His company. You don't have to worry about being punished for your sin because you know that Jesus took your place and was punished for you. But what about your friends? Are you concerned for them, the way Abraham was concerned for Lot? Do you pray earnestly for them that they might come to know Jesus? Other people need your prayers - your unsaved friends in school, maybe even some members of your own family. Make sure that you take time regularly to pray to God for their salvation.



CTU

Make yourself available for personal counselling.

I would like to say to you boys and girls who are still not saved, that I often pray for you and I was praying that even today some of you might trust in Christ as your Saviour. If you would like to talk to me about how to trust the Lord, I will be very happy to help you personally after the class. You are always very welcome to stay behind and I would love to help you. Come right up to my table here and I will be glad to talk to you.

Flashcard 4-6

Abraham began to pray to God for Sodom.

He said, "If there were fifty righteous people (fifty people who want to obey and please You) in the city, would You be willing to spare the city for their sake?"

God said, "Yes, I will spare the city if there are fifty righteous people."

Then Abraham very humbly asked, "What would happen if there were forty-five people who want to obey you?"

God replied, "I won't destroy the city if there are forty-five."

Abraham then said, "But if there are only forty?" and God assured him that He would spare the city for the sake of forty.

Abraham kept on praying, "Lord, don't be angry, but if there were only thirty?"

Wasn't he persistent? He was so concerned for Lot and his family.

"No," God answered, "I will not destroy the city even if there are only thirty righteous people in it."

CT

Show card with central truth: "God tells me to pray for others".

But Abraham still had not finished - he asked twice more! You know, God wants us to keep on praying for our unsaved friends who are in such danger. Let's be like Abraham who went back again and again to the Lord. He just kept on praying and praying for the people in Sodom.

At last he asked, "If there were only ten people who wanted to do right?"

God's love was so great that He assured Abraham that He would spare Sodom if He found only ten people in it who obeyed Him.

Abraham felt sure that there must be at least ten people in Sodom who loved God, so he stopped praying. He felt so relieved to have received these promises from God, and so this long conversation with the Lord ended.

Flashcard 4-7

But do you know that God did not find ten righteous people in Sodom and God had to destroy that wicked city. He sent fire on the city and burnt it up completely and the people perished. It was like a great earthquake and a volcano erupting all at the same time.

But what about Lot? Was all Abraham's praying in vain? No it wasn't. God remembered Abraham's prayers. Let's read what it says in Genesis 19:29.

"And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt."

Flashcard 4-8

Just as Abraham was a wonderful blessing to Lot through his prayers, even though he was miles away from where Lot was living, God wants you to pray for other people and He can bless them through your prayers. You can pray for unsaved people but also for Christians, that God will help and bless them in their lives and in their work.

Review questions

- 1 In what way is prayer like an intercontinental missile? And in what way is it completely different? (Both can be launched in one part of the world and affect another part. The difference is that the intercontinental missile does damage but prayer does good.)
- 2 What did Abraham leave behind him, everywhere he went? (Altars.)
- 3 Why did he build altars? (On these altars he would offer a lamb or some other animal to God and there he would speak to God in prayer.)
- 4 Where was Abraham when God went to visit him? (Sitting at the entrance to his tent.)
- 5 What was the promise that God made to Abraham and Sarah? (Sarah would have a son.)
- 6 What was the sad news that God gave to Abraham? (He was going to destroy the city of Sodom and all the people in the city.)
- 7 Why had God decided to destroy Sodom? (The people in Sodom had been so wicked.)



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with central truth.



- 8 What do we learn about God as we think of Him destroying Sodom? (God is holy, just and perfect and He must punish sin.)
- 9 What did Abraham do to help his relations in Sodom? (He prayed for them.)
- 10 What was the smallest number of righteous people that Abraham could imagine in Sodom? (Ten.)
- 11 Did God answer Abraham's prayer? In what way? (Yes - He destroyed the city but saved Lot.)
- 12 Which are the five groups of people that we have learned to pray for? (Family; teachers, preachers and missionaries; rulers; weak and sick; my friends.)

Questions to think about, but not to answer out loud

- 1 Do you pray for me your teacher? Will you start today?
- 2 Are you praying for your unsaved friends? Are you as earnest as Abraham?
- 3 Have you thought of making a little list of people that you should pray for? It's a good idea Why don't you begin now?
- 4 Have you thought that it is a sin against God not to pray for others? (1 Samuel 12:23.)

Carry-over activity

Praying for others

We're going to do something together that is very simple, but very important too. My helper is going to hand out a page of paper and a pencil to each of you right now.

Hand out paper and pencil.

Now I want you to put your left hand down on the paper and draw round it carefully with your fingers spread, like this big drawing on the board (or card).

The older ones will write words beside each finger. The younger ones don't have to do that, but they will be able to remember what I say too. We are going to think together of five kinds of people for whom we need to pray.

If you hold your hand like this (*fingers pointing up*) your thumb is closest to your body, isn't it? Well the thumb reminds us to pray for the people who live closest to us - our own family: mum and dad, our brothers and sisters and other members of our family. Do you ask God to bless your family? That's the first group of people that we can pray for. Write "**family**" beside the thumb.

Write each word at the appropriate moment on the board or card.

Now, the finger that we sometimes call our index finger. Who uses this

finger a lot, pointing and moving it like this?

Extend index finger and move it.

Yes, teachers, preachers, pastors and missionaries who teach and preach God's Word. You have seen me too using my finger like that here in Good News Club, haven't you? So this finger reminds us to pray for teachers, preachers and missionaries. Do you sometimes pray for me, your teacher? You could really help me by your prayers! I would really appreciate that! What about our missionaries? I know we pray here in class for them, but when you are on your own, do you remember to pray for them? You could launch an intercontinental missile of blessing thousands of miles away! Write "**teachers, preachers and missionaries**" beside that finger. Put in the name of our missionary too.

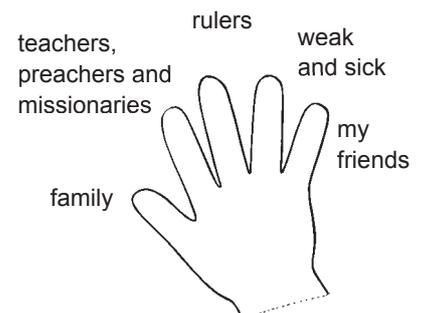
Now this tallest, middle finger. Who do you think it reminds us to pray for? The big, important people of our country. I mean the people who govern our land - the Prime Minister, the Queen, the Government, the Mayor of the city. God tells us in the Bible to pray for these people so that they may make wise decisions and rule the country fairly (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Write the word "**rulers**" beside that finger. Maybe you never thought of praying for those important people, but God wants you to!

Next we come to the fourth finger - the one that sometimes has the wedding ring. In a way this is the weakest finger. If you play the piano you will know that it is the one that seems to have the hardest time playing the right notes. You can make nearly any finger stand up by itself, but if you try to raise this finger by itself it takes quite an effort. Try it! So whom would this finger remind us to pray for? Yes, for those who are weak - the old, the sick, for widows, orphans and the poor. They all need your prayers too. Don't forget about them. Write the words "**weak and sick**" beside that finger. Do you know of anyone who is sick right now that you could pray for?

Lastly we come to the little finger. Whom does this finger remind us to pray for? It tells us to pray for children, who are smaller than the grown-ups. As we think of the little finger, we remember to pray for all the boys and girls who are our friends. Some are Christians and they need our prayers. But many do not know the Lord. Are you praying for your good friends who aren't saved? Be a good friend to the lost like Abraham was to Lot! Write "**my friends**" beside the little finger. Maybe you could put the name of one friend who is a Christian and one who is unsaved. Pray faithfully for them!

Can you remember those five groups of people for whom God wants us to pray? They need your prayers!

I have been asking you to pray for me. I need your prayers. But I want you to know that I pray often for you too! For you, boys and girls who are not saved, that very soon you will trust in Jesus as your Saviour; and for you, Christian young people, that you will grow more and more



in your spiritual life. It's a wonderful privilege to pray for others. Let's do so faithfully!

Lesson 5

Let's learn to pray better

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 9:1-4,16-19

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Mark 9:14-27

Central truth

Learn to pray in a better way

Application

Unsaved: This teaching is almost exclusively for Christian children - an evangelistic emphasis could be given in the choice of choruses or other parts of the programme

Saved: Follow the guidelines about praying which God gives us in the Bible

Preparation for participation by the children

- ◆ Make sure that you include some questions as you teach. There are over thirty included in the text. Not all require answers but they stimulate the children to think and learn. Some important questions have been marked * in the margin. The answers to these (or similar ones that you think of) will be a good indication to you whether the children are listening to your teaching, understanding it, and applying it to their own lives.
- ◆ At the end of the lesson, we have included a list of questions which review the teaching given. Divide the children into two teams and make the quiz lively using some sort of visual aid. The quiz will also provide a good learning experience.

Memory verse

Review the previous verses

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 and 5-8
- ◆ Wordstrips: "There must be no unconfessed sin in our lives", "We must pray according to God's will" and "We must pray in faith"

Lesson outline

Introduction

Isn't it funny to hear a baby say his first words?

Progression of events

- 1 Rule 1: There must be no unconfessed sin in our lives **CTS**
- 2 Short moment of prayer for confession
- 3 Rule 2: We must pray according to God's will **CT**
- 4 Example: prayer not according to God's will **CT**
- 5 Bible example: Daniel's prayer
- 6 How can we know if we are praying according to God's will?
- 7 Through Bible reading
- 8 Through the Holy Spirit Who guides us in our prayers
- 9 Rule 3: We must pray in faith **CT**
- 10 Example: not praying in faith
- 11 Bible example: Father praying for son with unclean spirit

Climax

"Lord, I believe"

Conclusion

Let's ask God to help us learn how to pray in a way that pleases Him and in a way that He will love to answer

Lesson

Flashcard 5-1



Do you happen to have a baby brother or sister who is learning how to talk? Isn't it funny to hear them say their first words? Probably the first words that a baby says is "mama" or "dada". He makes his own little sounds too, to tell you what he wants. When he says "baba" for example, maybe he means "I'm very hungry. Please can I have some food soon?" But he can't say such a mouthful of words yet, so he just says "baba" and probably his mum understands what he wants.

But wouldn't it be terrible if a baby never learned to talk properly and all his life said "baba" when he wanted some food; or if he just started to cry like little babies do, when he wanted to say, "I feel pretty tired and need a good sleep"?

You know, some Christians are a bit like a person who has never learned to talk well - I mean when they talk to God in prayer. They have never learned to pray and improve their prayers as they become older Christians. I expect that God understands their prayers, but it would please Him much more if they learned to pray better.

I'm sure that you want to learn to pray well, don't you? Not always to be a beginner in prayer, like a person who has just been born into God's family. Now I don't mean that you have to learn big words and use very nice expressions. No, there are much more important things than that, and God has given us some rules in the Bible so that we can pray really effectively and in a way that pleases Him.

Flashcard 5-2

Show card rule 1: "There must be no unconfessed sin in our lives".



The **first rule** that we are going to look at is: **there must be no unconfessed sin in our lives** as we come to pray. Let me explain that to you. Sometimes when you start to pray, you suddenly remember some wrong thing that you have done - something for which you have not asked God's forgiveness. This fills your mind so that you can hardly remember what you are trying to express to God in prayer. The Bible teaches us very clearly that God won't hear if there is unconfessed sin like that in your life. Listen to these very serious words in the Bible.

Read some or all of these four verses, but leave out the references.

"Your sins have hidden His [God's] face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2b).

"Then they will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear them" (Micah 3:4a).

"There is no answer from God" (Micah 3:7b).

"'They called out and I would not listen,' says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 7:13b).

Aren't those very solemn words? How terrible to pray to God, but in such a way that God refuses to listen to us!

So, if we are aware that there are wrong things in our lives that we have not confessed to the Lord, we must do so right away. Otherwise the sin will be like a great barrier between us and God, so that our prayers cannot be heard by Him.

As we tell God about our sin, and sincerely ask for His forgiveness, He promises to forgive us and to cleanse us from all our sin (1 John 1:9). Then we can talk to God about other things - we can pray for ourselves and for others.

Now can you remember the first rule? Yes, there must be no unconfessed sin in our lives. Do you understand what that means?

Let children answer.

Before continuing with our lesson we are going to pause just for a moment and be quiet. If you are a true Christian but know that there is some sin in your heart, just right now in the silence you can tell the Lord about it and ask Him to forgive you. Maybe it's a lie you told your parents, or something you took that does not belong to you. Ask God's forgiveness right now. Later you might have to go to that other person as well, against whom you sinned, and ask their forgiveness too.

Leave a few moments for the children to pray in silence.

Now let's continue. I know that you want to learn more about prayer today. God not only tells us in His Word that we should pray with no unconfessed sin in our hearts, but also that **we should pray according to God's will**.

Flashcard 5-3

What does that mean? It means that God wants us to pray for something to happen and that He also wants that same thing to happen. God could not possibly do what you are asking, if He did not agree with your prayer, could He? Let me give you an example. Suppose a little boy of four years old came to his mother and said, "Mum, I want you to give me five euros to buy a great big bag of sweets." He would be asking for something that his mother could not possibly agree with. All those sweets would make him sick, and would be very bad for his teeth. So his mum would have to say, "No, I'm sorry, I can't do that."

Sometimes Christian boys and girls are a bit like that little boy - their prayers are really quite selfish and not according to God's will. For example, a boy might pray for a big, shiny, new bike. But God sees into his heart and knows that he really wants it to show off to the other children and to boast that he has the best bike in the street. If that is why he is praying, it is quite likely that God will say, "No, I can't give you that bike. It would only be harmful to you."

But if that boy was praying that God would help him to get some

CTS

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

Show card rule 2: "We must pray according to God's will".

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

CT



money, and he is planning to share some of that money with others, and to give some in the missionary offering, then it is more likely that he is praying according to God's will, don't you think?

Flashcard 5-4

In the Bible we have a wonderful story of a man who prayed according to God's will, and God answered his prayer. His name was Daniel. Yes, the same man who was thrown into the lions' den!

He was living in the land of Babylon a long way from his home. The Jews had been carried away into slavery in Babylon because of their sin. Do you remember that I told you in an earlier lesson how the Assyrians had attacked Jerusalem but when King Hezekiah prayed, God destroyed the enemy army? Years later the Jews were still disobeying God and doing wrong, and at last God allowed the Babylonian army to capture Jerusalem and to destroy it. Many people were killed and others were carried away into slavery.

Daniel was among those who were carried away to Babylon where he lived for many years, far from his own land. When he was quite old he was reading in the Bible one day. In the book of Jeremiah he read (Daniel 9:2 and Jeremiah 29:10-14) that after seventy years in Babylon, when the Jews turned away from their sins, and turned back to God and obeyed Him, God would take them out of that foreign land and bring them back to their own country.

What do you think Daniel did when he read those verses from the Bible?

Let children answer.

Yes, he began to pray. He confessed his sins and the sins of his people and he asked God to allow them to go back to Jerusalem, so that the city would no longer be empty and abandoned (Daniel 9:16-19).

Was Daniel praying according to God's will? Yes, he was! How do you know?

Let children answer.

Yes! Because God had already said in His Word that it was His will for His people to go back to Jerusalem after seventy years.

Some time later those prayers were answered. Thousands and thousands of Jews returned to their own land, to rebuild the broken-down temple and the whole city of Jerusalem which was in ruins.

Flashcard 5-5

Now you and I also want to learn how to pray according to God's will, don't we? I am going to ask you quite a hard question: how can we know if we are praying according to God's will?



☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

☆ Questions for the children to think about and answer.

☆ Question for the children to think about and answer.

Let children think, and answer.

Yes, I really have given you quite a lot of help towards getting the answer.

One way to know God's will is as we read His Word, just as Daniel did!

In the Bible God tells us what His plans are, and what pleases Him. The more you read God's Word, the more you will understand His will. That is why every day as you pray, it is just as important to read a few verses of God's Word, and to think carefully about what you read. In that way you will learn to pray more and more according to God's will.

Now I wonder if we could think together of some things that are definitely according to God's will, things that God clearly tells us in His Word are part of His plans. I am going to suggest four prayers and I want you to think with me, which of these prayers would be according to God's will, and which not. If you think the answer is "yes" try and think of a verse from the Bible that would prove it. Do you understand? Maybe all four of these prayers are according to God's will, maybe only one or two, or none. Let's see. Here's the first prayer.

Flashcard 5-6

- 1 "Dear Lord, please send more missionaries to preach the Gospel."

Is this according to God's will? Yes, that prayer is according to God's will. And a verse to prove it? Mark 16:15b - "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

- 2 "O God, please save boys and girls in our Good News Club."

Is this prayer according to God's will? Yes, that too is according to His will, isn't it? And a verse to prove it? Matthew 18:14 - "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

- 3 "Dear God, help each one of us who are saved to become strong Christians."

Is this prayer according to God's will? Again, the answer is yes. In 2 Peter 3:18 God commands us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

- 4 "Heavenly Father, help us control our tongues, and speak only what is true and good."

Is this prayer according to God's will? Yes, because over and over in the Bible God tells us to watch our lips and our tongues (eg Ephesians 4:29).

So, all four prayers are according to His will.



Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



★ Question for the children to think about and answer.

Show card rule 3: "We must pray in faith".

★ Question for the children to think about and answer.

★ Question for the children to think about and answer.

★ Question for the children to think about and answer.



Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

We also know what God's will is by the Holy Spirit Who lives in the Christian. I'm going to read you a verse. Think hard about it and see if you can understand.

Read middle part of Romans 8:26.

"... For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought ..."

That's true very often, isn't it? We don't know what we should pray for. But in the same verse we find out how we can know God's will. The first part of the verse says, "The Spirit also helps our weaknesses." That just means that God's Holy Spirit Who lives in us, helps us in our weakness and helps us to pray according to God's will.

Isn't that wonderful? When you pray you can thank God with all your heart that the Holy Spirit lives in you. Just ask God that the Holy Spirit would guide you as you pray. He wants to help you pray according to God's will.

Flashcard 5-7

Now let me give you the **third rule** - it is that **we must pray in faith**. What were the first two rules?

Let the children answer.

Yes, that's right. When you are praying with no unconfessed sin, and you are asking God to help you to pray for things that He can completely agree with, then you and I need to pray in faith.

What do you think "pray in faith" means?

Let the children answer.

It means believing that God is able to do what you are asking Him. Could you give me an example of how someone could pray and not believe that God could do what He is asking?

Let the children answer.

I'll give you another example. Suppose that in Good News Club you have prayed that God would bring other children next week. But when you go outside and you see your friend Tom you think, "Oh I need not invite him. He'll never come anyway." Were you really praying in faith, believing that God would bring new children?

Flashcard 5-8

When the Lord Jesus was here on Earth, a father came to Him one day in terrible distress. He brought his only son to Jesus. The son had an evil spirit which made him shout out, and foam at the mouth, and tried to destroy him by throwing him into a fire or into deep water. You can imagine how this poor father felt, especially because his son had had this terrible problem for many years.

He asked Jesus very earnestly, "If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us" (Mark 9:22b).

He did not really sound too hopeful, did he?

Do you know what Jesus replied? He also started his sentence with the words “If you ...”

He said, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believe” (Mark 9:23).

Then the father cried out, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24b).

That was a good answer, wasn't it? He realised that his faith was not very strong but yet He did believe that Jesus could cure his son. And the Lord Jesus wonderfully healed his son and drove out the evil spirit.

Sometimes you and I feel like that man, too. As we pray we could say, “Lord I believe that You are able to do this, but help my unbelief. I want to pray with faith that You are willing and able to answer my prayers.”

Did you notice what Jesus promised in that conversation? He said all things are possible to him who believes. Isn't that a great promise for us all? God can do all those difficult things, that are completely impossible to us.

Can you remember our third rule for prayer now?

- ◆ God wants us to pray in faith.

And the other two rules?

- ◆ Pray with no unconfessed sin in our lives.
- ◆ Pray according to God's will.

I am sure that each boy and girl here who knows the Lord Jesus and loves Him, really wants to learn to pray better and better. If you have some problems about praying or questions you would like to ask, don't be afraid to come and talk to me after the class, and I will help you all I can.

Let's bow our heads just for a moment and ask God to help us to learn how to pray in a way that pleases Him and in a way that He will love to answer.

Lead in prayer.

Review questions

- 1 What is the first rule we have learned about praying? (We must pray with no unconfessed sin in our hearts.)
- 2 If you start to pray and you remember something wrong that you have done what should you do? (First of all, ask the Lord to forgive you. Secondly, you might have to ask another person to forgive you too.)
- 3 What does God promise to do if we confess our sins to Him? (To forgive us and to cleanse us from all our sins - 1 John 1:9.)

* Question for the children to think about and answer.

Show cards with the three rules.

Make yourself available for personal counselling.

- 4 What is the second rule that we have learned about prayer? (We need to pray according to God's will.)
- 5 What does that mean? (It means praying for something that God completely agrees with.)
- 6 Give me an example of when a child asks his mum or dad for something that is not according to his mum or dad's will? (Answers will vary. Example from the lesson: the child who asks for five euros to buy a bag of sweets.)
- 7 Give me an example of a prayer that would not be according to God's will. (Answers will vary. Example from the lesson: "Give me a lovely new bike, so that I can show the others that mine is the best in the street.")
- 8 There are two ways that we can know what God's will is. What is one way? (By reading God's Word.)
- 9 What is the other? (By the Holy Spirit Who lives in the Christian's heart - He will guide him in his prayers.)
- 10 Give me an example from the Bible of someone who prayed according to God's will. (Daniel praying for the Jews to return to Jerusalem.)
- 11 Could you give me an example of a prayer today that would be according to God's will? (Answers will vary. For example, "Help me to obey my parents" - Ephesians 6:1.)
- 12 What was the third rule? (We must pray in faith.)
- 13 What does that mean? (We must believe that God is able and willing to answer our prayers.)
- 14 When the father with the son who was tormented by an unclean spirit came to Jesus, he started his prayer with the word "if". Could you complete the sentence? ("If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." The words would not have to be exactly right.)
- 15 Jesus replied with a sentence beginning also with "if". Can you complete it? ("If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.")
- 16 The father then said a wonderful sentence, showing that he was struggling with his doubts, but that he did believe the Lord could answer his prayer. What did he say? ("Lord, I believe; help You my unbelief!")

A Christian needs to pray

Carry-over activity - lesson 2

A Christian needs to pray

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our Heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).