



G. R. I. N. *

**MAKING
GOD
SMILE!**

***GOD REALLY IS NEAR**

elementary sunday school

Lighting The Way 'Til The Kingdom Comes!

MAKING GOD SMILE

G.R.I.N.*
(*GOD REALLY IS NEAR)

G.R.I.N. GOD REALLY IS NEAR
...MAKING GOD SMILE!



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COVERED IN PRAYER

Taken from "Covered In Prayer", Linda Vogel, *Stories for the Family's Heart*,
compiled by Alice Gray, Multnomah Press, Three Sisters, OR, 1998.

PRAY FOR EACH STUDENT.
USE THIS ESSAY AS A PRAYER GUIDE.

When you are covered with this blanket, know that you are covered in prayer. Each tiny stitch represents a prayer prayed for you. Here are my ten prayers for you:

1. Like a ball of yarn that turns into a beautiful blanket, God has a beautiful plan for your life. I pray you discover it.

I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the world. (Jeremiah 1:5NLT)

2. This blanket is made with my human hands. You are "fearfully and wonderfully made" by divine hands. I pray you will know how special you are to God.

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous –and how well I know it. (Psalm 139:14NLT)

3. If I miss a stitch, the blanket will unravel. God has wonderful plans for every step of your life. I pray you will look to Him for His plan and know that even when we as your family miss a stitch or make a mistake, God can redeem that as we trust Him.

People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy. (Proverbs 28:13NLT)

4. If I go back and correct a stitch, the blanket won't be "holey." If you go back and confess your sins, your life will be holy. I pray you will have the courage to confess wrongdoing so you can live a holy life.

If we confess our sins, He is righteous and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9KJV)



5. This blanket has many stitches, but they are nothing compared to the number of thoughts God has toward you. I pray you will think about God and know He thinks about you.

*How precious are your thoughts about me, O God!
They are innumerable!(Psalm 139:17NLT)*

6. It took three strands wrapped together to make a strong yarn for this blanket. It will take three parts (you, your family, and God) to make a strong life for you. And it will take three divine parts of God to keep you together. I pray you will depend on God and your family.

*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated,
but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better,
for a triple braided cord is not easily broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12NLT)*

7. The border on this blanket protects the blanket from becoming misshapen. God wants to put a border around your life to keep you safe from harm. I pray you will stay within the borders God sets for you.

You have always protected him and his home and his property from harm. You have made him prosperous in everything he does. Look how rich he is! (Job 1:10NLT)

8. My hope for this prayer blanket is to keep you warm and secure. How much more is God's plan! He wants to give you a "future and hope." I pray you will always put your hope in God.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."(Jeremiah 29:11NLT)

9. When you are covered by this blanket, know you are covered in love and prayer. God wants to also cover you with the love of His Son. I pray you will come to love Jesus at an early age.

*Those who obey my commandments are the ones who love me.
And because they love me, my Father will love them, and I will love them.
And I will reveal myself to each one of them. (John 14:21NLT)*

10. Although you will outgrow this blanket, I pray you will never want to outgrow your need for God.



G.R.I.N.* MAKING GOD SMILE! (*GOD REALLY IS NEAR)

Prayer should be the key of the morning and the lock of the night.

The Lord spoke to Joshua: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 NIV

G.R.I.N. Is a thirteen week Sunday School curriculum. Students learn how to pray in a broadly graded (K-Grade 6) series. Add preschool as desired.



G.R.I.N. features a cheerful visual theme using the popular "Smiley Face" character. He smiles from every corner reminding everyone of Christian lives that are filled with delight in the Lord when we take time to pray.

G.R.I.N. activity center groups visit an Opening, Bible Story Center, Snack/Memory Verse Center and Craft/Game Center for important lessons in prayer and an enjoyable motivation to "Come back next week."

G.R.I.N. curriculum divides material into *easy-to-prepare* activity centers allowing the staff to split the work between themselves and short term workers.

G.R.I.N. is Christ centered and light hearted. Groups learn about God's devotion and constant presence in an atmosphere of joy. Students discover their personal responsibility for prayer while maturing in their Christian faith.

COPY INSTRUCTIONS

For the convenience of the purchaser, permission is granted to copy any and all material. Copy as needed to present the program effectively for your church. Following the instructions allows CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES to continue producing fun Christian programming at low cost to churches across the nation.



G.R.I.N.* MAKING GOD SMILE (*GOD REALLY IS NEAR)



Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? ...No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us. Paul
--Romans 8:35-39

Kindergarten-Grade 6 students rotate through exciting activity centers during their one hour Sunday School session. Bible stories, scripture verses, snacks and music are featured. Create a continuing prayer event no one wants to miss!

SUNNY DAY OPENING

This is a get acquainted opening where all students gather to sing and leaders take attendance and collect offering.

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

This story center is the weekly focus of the prayer theme. Student groups enter a brightly decorated area and sit on the floor to hear how prayer makes God smile. Assure them that "God Really Is Near" in all circumstances.

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

This is a Snack/Memorization activity center. *Feed them and they will come!* This is an opportunity to enjoy a simple snack and learn a scripture verse at the same time.

REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER

Students enjoy a variety of kid styled activities chosen by their teachers. A list of game and craft options are included in the curriculum. Choose from our list or create your own fun.



DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR



Plan a creative quarter of Sunday School and watch your leaders respond with a spirit of fun and cooperation.

READ THE ENTIRE MASTER COPY PRIVATELY. When familiar with the program, present it to the teaching staff. Changes in activities are best recommended by the Director to avoid confusion.

MEET THE STAFF. Urge 100% attendance at one special meeting. Tell teachers where they will be working and exactly when they will be scheduled to teach.

DECORATE THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AREA. Do not neglect this part of the program. It promises staff and students that something very special is occurring in Sunday School.

SCHEDULE THE STAFF IN WRITING. See the schedule sheet in this workbook. Telephone teachers to be sure they are prepared.

VOLUNTEER STAFF. Recruit older youth, future teaching prospects, senior citizens and others who do not teach on a regular basis. This is an informal opportunity to offer teaching experience without extensive commitment. Supervise to be sure volunteers have a positive experience.

NURSERY-PRESCHOOL. The stories, snacks, crafts, games and songs are easily adapted for preschool use. Preschool teachers set up learning centers in separate classroom corners. Students remain in their familiar preschool area to maintain their personal comfort.

ACTIVITY CENTERS. Set up activity centers in well lit, large areas or separate class rooms. This theme does not lend itself to outdoor study but an



occasional outdoor snack time is a refreshing experience.

CRAFT IDEAS

During REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER, consider offering craft activities. We include ideas from several reputable companies. Shop online or order by phone. These are inexpensive, easy to organize and fun to create.

Use our curriculum suggestions to choose projects that reflect the prayer theme. There are other catalog craft suppliers and you may want to visit your local craft store to purchase supplies. OR—design homemade craft projects. Many imaginative craft books are available in Christian book stores and may fit your budget and creative needs nicely.



S&S ARTS AND CRAFTS CATALOG offers art supplies and decorative items. For a free master copy of their current catalog, call 1-800-243-9232. Check out their enjoyable web site: www.ssw.com

ORIENTAL TRADING CATALOG offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items for many fun themes. If you do not have their delightful catalog, call too free 1-800-228-2269. Order directly through the company at their easy to use web site: www.orientaltrading.com

GUILDCRAFT ARTS AND CRAFTS CATALOG offers Christian projects at great prices. See their terrific items at: www.guildcraftinc.com



DECORATIONS



Decorate SUNNY DAY OPENING, G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP, ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ and REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER to reflect the smiling theme. It is amazing what can be created with a few props and a little imagination. When the Activity Centers look and feel terrific, students respond joyfully.

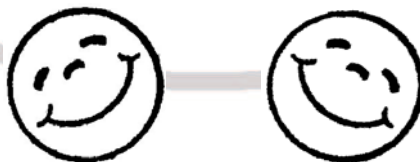
ARTSY CRAFTSY CREW

Organize a team of people who enjoy creating visual themes. Ask the crew to gather decorations and set up the Activity Centers before the program begins.

These suggestions may spark your imagination to make classroom atmosphere bright and joyful. Visit your local party store to find more items.

SMILEY FACE POSTERS: Purchase posterboard in neon colors. Yellow is the traditional smiley face color but use neon pinks, greens and blues as well. Cut circles. Print faces using black marker. Scatter the posters on walls of the learning centers. Make smaller faces in a variety of colors to scatter between the large posterboard faces.

Some faces may be the centers of flowers. Make flower petals and tape them to the backs of the circle faces. Others may have hands and feet attached as desired. Have fun designing the facial features.



SCRIPTURE VERSE SHAPES: Print each Bible verse on colorful, odd shaped (triangles, circles, rectangles, squares) paper. Place verses on the walls of each learning center. Sprinkle glitter to each verse.

PENNANTS: Brightly colored plastic pennants look terrific draped at the ceiling level of each room. ORIENTAL TRADING CATALOG offers a 100' neon poly plastic pennant with 48 pennants per string. Party shops also offer colorful pennants at good prices.

BALLOONS: Choose a variety of bright balloons to hang from the ceiling. Tie each balloon to curling ribbon and tape the dangling, curled ribbon to the ceiling allowing the balloon to hang downward opposite the curl. (*Hang the balloons high enough so students are not tempted to bat them as they enter the room.*) Attach groups of balloons to doors, walls, pianos and tables.

CURLING RIBBON: Purchase several spools of colorful curling ribbon. Cut various lengths of ribbons, combine the colors, curl using a sharp edged spoon or scissors and place in various visible spots around the room.

CREPE PAPER STREAMERS: Purchase several bright colors. Hang the streamers from the ceiling to the floor in each activity center.

SMILEY FACE PINATA: Hang pinatas from the ceiling and allow students to break them on the last Sunday.

S&S ARTS AND CRAFTS: Smile Face Pinata 16"CHG-SL455 \$8.99 EACH





STUDENT GIFTS

There are a variety of Smiley Face items available for use as student gifts. These items are inexpensive and so much fun for kids that it may be worthwhile to purchase a variety to hand out each week. Check local stores for other fun prizes using the Smiley Face theme. Christian book stores also use the character on many items. Reward for:

1. Memorizing verse.
2. Attendance.
3. Bringing friends.
4. Good behavior.
5. Helpful attitudes.
6. "Just Because You're You!"

Wait until the end of the hour to hand out the weekly gift. Students may be too distracted with the gift to listen if they hold them through the entire program. This is also true for candy. Wait until the treats can be eaten at home. Re-gather at SUNNY DAY OPENING area to say goodbye and reward students for various actions.

ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY

FOAM SMILE FACE RINGS: Wear a bright smile every day! Assorted colors. 3/4"
ZY-24/1164 \$3.95 GROSS

SMILE FACE WRAPPED BUTTERMINTS: Individually wrapped (@120 pieces per unit)
ZY-K627 \$5.95 UNIT (1 lb.)

WOODEN GOOFY SMILE FACE PADDLEBALL GAMES. Assorted designs 9"
ZY-20/141 \$4.95 DOZEN



MAKING GOD SMILE

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SMILE FACE SPIRAL NOTEPADS. Send someone a smile! Assorted designs. 3" x 5" 30 pages. ZY-9/712 \$2.95 DOZEN

VINYL HAPPY FACE FOLDERS. Assorted colors with a snap closure. 13" X 19" Great for organizing teacher materials! ZY-12/2363 \$5.95 DOZEN

POLY NON WOVEN SMILE FACT TOTE BAGS: Carry a smile with you always. 6" x 6" with 3" handles. ZY-14/51 \$5.95 DOZEN

Much more! Including Smile Face Badge Holders, Coin Purse Key Chains, Yo-Yo's, Wristbands, Slap Bracelets, Water Bottles and Stickers!!!

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PUBLICIZE! PUBLICIZE! PUBLICIZE!

The more excited your church and community become with this unique Sunday School approach the more your children benefit from the program. Use all reasonable publicity gimmicks to attract teachers and students.



CHURCH NEWSLETTER. Print short, catchy announcements in the church newsletter beginning one month before the program begins.

-G.R.I.N. MAKING GOD SMILE (*GOD REALLY IS NEAR) will make you "grin" from ear to ear. Come learn about prayer in Sunday School! Kindergarten-Grade 6 kids come and bring a friend!*

-HEY! LET'S SEE THAT G.R.I.N. Get yourself to Sunday School where huges smiles are encouraged. Find out that it is true...God Really Is

CHURCH BULLETIN. The worship folder/bulletin reaches weekly worship attenders. Explain the Sunday School theme and advertise for volunteer staff.

POSTERS. Place G.R.I.N. posters in strategic areas of the church and in local shops to spark community interest. Add tear off sheets so people take the time, date and place with them.

POST CARDS. Send post cards to students on file. This personal touch is an extra dose of caring that works wonders. Address the card to the individual child. Are there three kids in a family? Send three cards! Attach Smiley Face stickers to each post card.

TELEPHONE. Call potential students 2-3 days prior to the program. It is the great last minute reminder. *"We are doing something fun and special. We don't want you to miss it! Need a ride?"*



LOCAL NEWSPAPER. Community press is always looking for an organization with a new angle on an old tradition. Submit an article with photos. Print the names of everyone on the back of the photo. Send it with a self addressed, stamped envelope. (HINT: Newspapers frequently print articles accompanied by photos. It is worth the extra effort.)

PHOTOGRAPHY. Take student pictures at the learning centers. Display the pictures on the church bulletin boards as the program progresses.

VIDEO. Assign a crew to take video. Show the tape at some point during the last Sunday's events.

ENCOURAGE VISITORS. Encourage folks to bring their cameras and walk through the areas taking pictures. It sparks interest when people know there are special effects to see.

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SUNNY DAY OPENING

"My great concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side." -A. Lincoln



Meet as a large group to record attendance, collect offering and sing. Begin on time even if students and teachers are still arriving. The activity centers are timed and the schedule is delayed if you wait for latecomers.

DECORATION. Follow the decorating suggestions in the curriculum. Make the opening area bright and cheerful.

MOOD MUSIC. As students are arriving, play contemporary Christian music. Welcome them and talk to each student as they enter the opening area.

ATTENDANCE. Assign two or three people who know the students to take attendance as they arrive.

OFFERING. Collect offering during SUNNY DAY OPENING. Agree to combine class offerings for one quarter or provide separate containers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Make important announcements during the opening.

SEATING. Seat activity center groups together so they are ready to travel. Announce the names of each group separately and move them to their first activity center. Groups may be named by color if desired.

SING. Sing familiar songs. A few suggestions are *Shine, Jesus, Shine, This Little Light of Mine, Shine Down, In right, Outright, Upright...Happy All the Time, He Has Made Me Glad* and *The Light of the World Is Jesus*. Be sure a pianist is



available each week.

WILD AND WACKY SUNDAYS



Announce occasionally that the next Sunday will be a "Wild and Wacky" Sunday. Tell students (and parents) to bring or wear what you tell them. Be sure to take pictures to preserve the memory. Here are some wild and wacky options:

Crazy Hat Day—Wear your favorite fun hat. Decorate it to make it wilder.

Red Sock Sunday—Wear one or two red socks. They don't have to be your own. They don't have to fit and you do not necessarily have to wear them on your feet.

Stuffed Animal Day—Bring your favorite "unlive" animal. Line them up in a hallway.

Barefoot Day-- Come prepared to take off shoes and socks. No smelly feet please!

Popsicle Day—Come and have a wild and wacky popsicle—on us!

Backwards Day—Wear all your clothing backwards—just for one day.

Inside Out Day—Wear your clothing inside out—just for one day.

T-Shirt Day—Wear your favorite T-Shirt.

Mismatch Day—Wear anything that does NOT go together.

Friend Day—Bring a friend for lunch, served after Sunday School and Church.

Umbrella Day—Bring an umbrella. Decorate your umbrella. (Spray students under umbrellas with garden hose.)

Publicize these special days a week or two in advance. Announce it in the church bulletin to give parents fair warning. Because of the



unique nature of the program, students do not have to wear normal “dress up” church clothing. Parents need to hear this from the leaders.

G.R.I.N.* MAKING GOD SMILE

SCHEDULE



Telephone potential staff and ask them to volunteer for a specific task on a specific date. Explain each job so there is no doubt about what is expected. Once they agree to teach, write name and telephone number on the appropriate schedule sheet. If they are bringing supplies, remind them during your telephone call a few days before their activity center.

PLAN SNACKS: To avoid confusion, plan snack menus before the series begins. It is easy to carry through on a weekly basis if the decisions are made in advance.

PLAN CRAFTS: Decide which craft projects are desired from the list found with REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER information. Tell volunteers where to find their project supplies. Encourage them to make a sample. Keep in mind the activity center time limits.

COMMUNICATE: Give each teacher a folder with a dated copy of their individual lesson plan. Include teacher information to give them a clear job picture.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: Provide substitute teachers in case of illness or forgetfulness. These people must be able to prepare a lesson quickly.



TIPS FOR USING SCHEDULE

This schedule is a tool to make staff organization easy. Fill the teaching slots completely before Week #1. Speak to each teacher and assistant personally. The program may be carried out by one person in each area but if assistants are available, give them responsibilities.

1. Place the date on the blank line.
2. Fill in full names and telephone numbers of each teacher and assistant. This makes contact easy on a weekly basis. Post the schedule near your telephone.
3. Give teachers completed forms as a reminder of their responsibility. Highlight their specific information in yellow to communicate the date and learning center.
4. Use the completed worksheet as a telephone reminder during the week. Call staff members to be sure they arrive prepared for the day's lesson, snack, craft or musical activity.



G.R.I.N. SCHEDULE

___ WEEK #1: CALL HOME!

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #2: DON'T WORRY, TALK TO GOD

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #3: WHERE ARE YOU, LORD?

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #4: "ACTS" OF PRAYER

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #5: NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #6: DANGEROUS DAN THE PRAYIN' MAN

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:



ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #7: TWO MEN/TWO PRAYERS

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #8: IS GOD REALLY NEAR?

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #9: SOUNDS OF SILENCE

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

___ WEEK #10: PROMISES IN PRAYER

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER

___ WEEK #11: THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER

___ WEEK #12: POP UP PRAISE!

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:
ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:
REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:

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___ WEEK #13: MAKING GOD SMILE

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ:

REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER:



QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS....

WHY ARE WE PLANNING DIFFERENT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMMING?

Teachers and students enjoy a change from normal routine especially during traditionally low attendance times. Teachers need time to revitalize. Place students in different settings and challenge them in new ways to learn about the Lord.

HOW WILL "G.R.I.N." BE ORGANIZED? Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-6. Each student group becomes an activity center team.

The Sunday School hour is divided into four activity center sessions. Groups travel for 12-15 minute teaching times.

1. SUNNY DAY OPENING is where all students gather for attendance, song time and announcements.
- 2 G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP teachers present ways to make God smile with prayer.
3. ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ is a snack and memory verse session.
4. REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER leaders surprise the students each week with a game or craft activity.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING OBJECTIVES OF "G.R.I.N.-MAKING GOD SMILE"?

1. Students learn about prayer through the stories of Jesus and His



contemporaries.

2. Students memorize scripture highlighting weekly Bible themes.
3. Students participate in activities ranging from stories to snacks to scripture memorization with games and crafts added for fun.

HOW CAN I MAKE “G.R.I.N.–MAKING GOD SMILE” A SUCCESS?

PREPARE. Know what is going to happen in each activity center. Understand your individual responsibilities.

READ THE LESSON PLAN. Use the lesson plan as the basis for preparing the activity center.

ORGANIZE THE STUDENTS. Keep student groups together at all times. If weather and activity seem appropriate, take the group outdoors.

GATHER SUPPLIES. Sunday School pays for materials. Request a check before purchasing items or turn in a bill. Save all receipts. Know the church tax exempt number.

PRAY BEFORE EACH SESSION. We can be clever, work hard and love children but we do them and ourselves a great disservice if we leave the Lord out of our plans.

WHAT IS MY PERSONAL TEACHING SCHEDULE? The director divides duties according to date and activity center. Teachers are assigned one activity center each Sunday, teaching a rotation of two or three groups. If you become ill, inform the director.





ACTIVITY CENTERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

DIVIDE STUDENTS INTO SMALL GROUPS. Nursery-Preschool meets separately. Older groups meet in individual activity centers to complete their activity.

IT'S DIFFERENT! Games, stories, puppets, drawing pictures, forming clay and singing lead children into deeper understanding of scriptural truth.

WHERE? Four corners of a large room may be used to set up activity centers. Classrooms lend themselves to individual activity centers. Move to other church areas if space and time allow.

DECORATE! Each area must be theme related and colorful. This does not have to be expensive. Borrow items from friends. Shop garage sales and catalogs. Make decorations using simple art supplies.

TIMING! Time at each activity center is approximately 12-15 minutes. This depends upon the length of local Sunday School time. Activities must be quick, exciting and hard hitting. When it is time to move, students must move quickly.

THE KIDS! Noise and chatter are inevitable during the moves. Encourage the interaction. Urge students to become involved in the next activity center immediately.

PREPARATION! Prepare one activity using the lesson plan as a guide. The activity may vary slightly depending upon age. Adapt the material to create



a better atmosphere or lesson suited to your personality.

GUIDE THE GROUP! Make the time as efficient as possible. Teach one idea well rather than crowding too much material in the time allotted.

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TIPS FOR ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ TEACHERS



This activity center lasts 12-15 minutes. Serve snacks and teach a scripture verse. Serve snacks as suggested in the curriculum or create your own fun food. Do not serve students an entire meal but offer them a tasty treat as they fellowship while learning their scripture verse.

DECORATION: Set up card tables and folding chairs near the church kitchen. Cover the tables with colorful plastic. Place a cheerful centerpiece on each table. Make the area look like a café by scattering green plants, trees, light posts, twinkle lights, archways and other outdoor accessories. Create your own café by looking around your home and church to discover delightful decorations. Add accessories from the curriculum suggestions and you have a terrific snack and memory center!

TEACH SCRIPTURE VERSE: Follow activity ideas on the MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES sheet or make up your own method to teach each verse. Take time to review. Print verses on posterboard and place on the wall. Use the Bible versions of your choice for memorization.

SNACK IDEAS: Choose from the following lists of popular kids' snacks or develop your own snacks to be served each week as students memorize their verse. Do not plan an entire meal. This is designed as a quick food break.

Do not be held hostage to students who dislike the treat. Resist the temptation to provide alternative snacks. If someone does not like what is served, say, "Oh, I'm sorry. Maybe you'll enjoy next week's snack. Could I get you a glass of ice water?"

Never announce what next week's snack will be. Some students base their attendance on whether or not they like that food. Surprise is best. The only alternative snacks should be for students who have health or allergy problems.



FRUIT SNACKS

CHOCOLATE COVERED BANANAS: Dip fresh banana slices into melted chocolate. Place on waxed paper and refrigerate overnight. If desired, roll in crushed walnuts before chilling.

FRUIT SALAD: Mix canned fruits and a few fresh fruits (bananas, apples). Chill and serve in small, disposable cups.

ORANGE DELIGHT: Serve canned oranges mixed with miniature marshmallows. Option: Add coconut.

ORANGE SMILES: Slice large, fresh oranges. Cut slices in half and pull the edges to split the fruit and widen the "smile".

FRUIT FLAVORED JELLO SALADS: Choose from many jello fruit desert recipes.

APPLE DUMPLING: Place one half peeled apple into a square of pastry dough. Bake until golden brown. Serve with ice cream or cinnamon sauce. Make one dumpling per student.

SNACK SIDES

CRACKERS: Serve a variety of crackers with any fruit.

CHEESE AND CRACKERS: Make a large platter filled with a variety of cheeses and crackers. Students may choose what they like from the platter.

MARSHMALLOWS: Place a dish of large marshmallows in the middle of the table. Students may choose one or two to eat with their fruit snack.

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY SANDWICHES: Make sandwiches and cut out with cookies cutters.

POPSICLES: Serve popsicles on an especially hot day.

RICE KRISPIES TREATS: Make these cereal favorites and top with a cherry, orange slice or banana.



BREAKFAST SNACKS

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE: In a 9 x 13 sprayed pan, place fresh bread cubes or torn bread. Cover the bread with a mixture of 6-8 eggs, milk, cooked sausage or crumbled bacon, shredded cheddar cheese and optional ingredients: diced onion, salt and pepper, diced green pepper. Pour mixture over bread and refrigerate overnight. Bake in 350 degree oven approximately 1 hour. Serve warm with ½ slice toast and fruit juice.

POP TARTS: Toast in toaster and serve warm. Provide a variety of flavors cut in several pieces. Serve with milk.

LEGGO WAFFLES: These toaster treats are a kid favorite. Serve with syrup and milk.

DOUGHNUTS AND MILK: Serve fresh doughnuts cut in half for smaller appetites or buy the smaller doughnut "holes". Provide a variety of flavors.

SANDWICH SNACKS

Serve a variety of sandwiches on a platter with a side of potato chips and pretzels. PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY, HAM AND CHEESE, CHICKEN/TUNA SALAD, JELLY AND CREAM CHEESE, JELLY AND BUTTER OR OTHER LOCAL FAVORITES.

EGGY MUFFIN: Toasted English muffins, eggs cooked your favorite way, slice of ham cut wafer thin, sprinkle of cheddar cheese. Cut sandwich in half and serve with milk or juice.





ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

Choose a memorization game or activity from this list. Vary activities from week to week. Repeat games the students especially enjoy. Offer a small reward for successful memorization and individual effort.

Keep track of the verses each student learns and present special awards at the end of the quarter. Weekly prizes may be awarded as desired.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

FILL IN THE BLANK: Print individual words on separate 3x5 cards. Place the cards in proper order on the table or floor. Remove one card as the students say the verse aloud. Keep removing cards until they can say the verse without assistance. Ask individuals to repeat the verse aloud from memory.

FOLLOW THE BOUNCING BALL: Bounce a large ball around the circle and say the verse aloud. Each bounce represents one word in the verse. Once the verse is memorized, toss the ball to individual students who say the verse aloud.

ERASE A WORD: Print the verse on a chalkboard. Allow students to erase one word of their choice. The group repeats the verse until it is memorized.

UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE: Print each word on 3x5 cards. Play FILL IN THE BLANK until the verse is memorized. Mix up the cards. Give one card to individual students and ask them to place the words in proper order by lining up in a certain time limit. (Make it fun by encouraging others to mix them up by shouting incorrect information.)



CIRCLE VERSE: Assign one word to each student seated in a circle. Point to a student who must say their word. Point faster and faster until it sounds like one person saying the verse. Ask individual students to say the verse aloud once it is memorized.

RELAY GAME: Once a lot of verses have been memorized, line up two teams. Stand at one end of the room. Give the reference of a verse. Teams send one student to tag you and say the verse. The first person tagging you gets to try first. If he/she errs, the second team has a chance to say the verse.

WHISTLE THE VERSE: Teacher says the verse omitting one word. When the teacher reaches that word she blows a whistle. The first person to fill in the blank gets one point.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE





TIPS FOR THE G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

DECORATIONS

Begin with an empty room. Students do not need tables or chairs. Choose from the following accessories to make the area look inviting.

SMILEY FACE: Fill every wall with large smiley faces. Use every bright color available. Neon colored poster board works well. Make large, medium and small faces. Draw the facial features with black marker only. Outline each circle in black for emphasis.

SCRIPTURE VERSES: Print scripture verses separately on large, round pieces of poster board. Any variety of colors will work. If desired, print all verses on the same color for consistency.

PILLOWS AND RUGS: Make the students comfortable by scattering large pillows and soft, fluffy rugs throughout the room.

FAN: Place a large fan in one corner of the room. Circulate low speed air through the room and cool the students during story time.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

The scripture verses are memorized during ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ but take time to introduce them and review them briefly with the students.

TEACHING THE G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP LESSON

Teach the same material three times to separate learning center groups. Take your time and enjoy the students. Involve the group by interacting with the material using simple activities. If time remains, quiz students on the information





a safe area.

presented and encourage them to learn how to....Make God Smile.

TIPS FOR REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER

Choose a large area where games may be played or crafts completed. The room will need space for craft tables at one end. If desired, play some of the suggested games outdoors in

DECORATIONS

Follow the suggestions listed in the section titled DECORATIONS. This gives many ideas which can be adapted easily to any local church.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

The weekly scripture verses are memorized during ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ but take time to introduce them and review them briefly with the students.

REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER ACTIVITIES

This activity center is designed to be a joyful expression of faith expressed through crafts or games.

We offer many choices. The specific activity is your decision!

If teachers are artistically oriented, plan 13 small craft activities. If teachers are athletic and/or game oriented, plan 13 game activities. However, a mixture of craft and game people may produce activities that are divided equally between the two types of activities. Choose activities before the program begins to avoid confusion. Schedule leaders according to their skills and desires. Make the craft project apply to the theme by printing the scripture verse on the completed project.

Option: If some craft projects take more than 15 minutes to complete, consider allowing two weeks. Store the projects in the activity center. Be sure student names are clearly marked on the projects.



CRAFT SUGGESTIONS

Here are craft suggestions from S&S arts and crafts catalog. Call 1-800-566-6678 to receive a copy. Browse through the catalog and choose projects that are appropriate for the prayer theme. (Prices may change.)

Homemade craft projects may be planned if your church has a amazing storage room filled with leftover projects or pieces of projects that need to be used.

Beaded Cross Key Chains. So colorful and so much fun to make! A great way to encourage children to carry the cross with them wherever they go. Includes beads, lacing, brass chains and instructions. 2" x 2 3/4".

SD9-RE199 \$6.99 per pack of 12. \$5.99 per pack, 6+. 58 cents per project.

Bible School Coloring Visors. Guard your eyes from the sun and look sporty, too, in our white craft board visors. Four printed designs (TRUST IN THE LORD, PRAY AS YOU GO, SING HIS PRAISES, JESUS LOVES ME) to custom color with markers. Includes visors, elastic, non toxic fin line markers and instructions. Add glitter, shells and more for added interest. One size fits all.

SD9-RE271 \$9.39 per pack of 24. 39 cents per project.

Shining Light Panels. Heavy translucent paper lets light shine through for a stained glass effect. Includes three different printed designs (CHURCH STAINED GLASS WINDOW, RAINBOW), permanent markers, gold braid, non toxic glue, walnut look cardboard framing strips and instructions. 8" x 17".

SD9-RE43 \$19.99 per pack of 25. 80 cents per project.

Inspirational Sand Art Assortment. Ideal for large groups. Includes 4 assorted designs in pastel colors. Precut, self adhesive panels are ready to decorate with colorful sand (sold separately in the catalog). 5" x 7" Requires approximately 1 oz. Of sand per board. Sand colors may be mixed to create other shades before applying to boards.

SD9-PE955 \$3.99 per pack of 4. \$3.59 per pack, 12+.



Springy Springtime Flowers. Making this cheerful arrangement is sure to bring a smile to everyone's face. Sharing it with a special someone is sure to bring on a big hug! Kids paint the foam base, twirl the pipe cleaners and decorate the bobbing flowers. Pack includes foam half balls, jumbo chenille stems, sponge sheets, precut construction paper flowers, non toxic green acrylic paint and glue, crayons and instructions.

SD9-GP1268 \$17.99 pack of 24. 75 cents per project.

Pompon Note Holders. A craft favorite for many years. Pack includes spring clothes pins, multi color pompons, wiggly eyes, pipe cleaners, magnetic tape, non toxic glue and instructions. 3" long.

SE9-GP548 \$12.99 per pack of 25. 52 cents per project.

GAME SUGGESTIONS

Enjoying a game benefits the students and the leaders. What better way to get acquainted than to run, play and laugh together. Choose games that last about 15 minutes. Begin with this list of game suggestions and feel free to add your own favorites.

PAPER PLATE GOLF. Print #1-9 on separate paper plates. Make "putters" by rolling newspapers into long shafts. Tape the newspaper with masking tape. Purchase whiffle balls or sponge (nerf) balls. Students begin at plate #1 and work their way to plate #9 in as few strokes as possible. The size of the course depends upon how much space is available indoors or outdoors.

DODGE BALL. Bunch up the students in a circle. One person gets on each side of the circle and rolls a regular ball through the center of the circle to hit the people. The people in the circle try to dodge the ball. When a person is hit, he has to go out and sit down. The game is over when everyone is out.

DRIBBLE BALL RELAY. Arrange the teams in parallel lines. Players on each team are six feet apart. Give the first player of each team a ball that will bounce (basket, soccer, volley). At signal, the first player turns around once and bounces it to the second. The ball should be thrown so that one bounce will put it into the hands of the next player. The second player, after receiving the ball, turns around once and bounces it to the third. The ball is in this way bounced to the end of the line and back to the starting point; the team returning the ball to this first player first wins.



POTATO TOSS. (Much “dryer” than a water balloon toss!) Team students into teams of two. Teams stand opposite each other in a long line. Teams should begin just one step away from each other. Toss the potato. Take one giant step backward and toss again. Keep stepping backward. When one team member drops the potato, that team is out of the game. The final team tossing their potato successfully is the winning team. Play several times. Mix up the teams.

PARACHUTE TOSS. Two sheets, two bean bags (water balloons, balls or other tossable object). Divide the group into two teams. Each team holds their sheet at the edges with the object in the middle of the sheet. The object is to successfully toss their object into the air so that the other team can catch it in their sheet. It may take awhile to get the “hang of it” but the groups should have fun with a lot of screaming involved.

OBSTACLE COURSE. Set up an obstacle course using any items available. Make it fun and complicated. Time the students as they run through the course completing the activities you design. Lowest time is the winner. (Students enjoy running the course but they also enjoy watching the others run the course and become competitive for the lowest scores.) Allow students to better their time if desired and if time remains.

VIDEO FUN

Choose a few Christian videos to show during this time. When choosing a video, consider the short time allotted. The best videos are music and cartoons.

PENCIL PUZZLE AND COLORING PAGES

Purchase a book of Sunday School related crossword puzzles, word puzzles and picture puzzles. Allow students to work together for prizes. Younger students enjoy coloring pages.



WEEK #1: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

CALL HOME!



MEMORY VERSE

Casting all your anxiety upon Him
because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

INTRODUCTION:

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Supplies: Newsprint (one sheet for each activity center group), black marker.

Prayer is simply talking to God. We cannot see or hear God like we see or hear human beings but He is always present and knows what we think at all times. God cares about our problems. He wants us to be happy so He designed a way for us to get to him quickly, any time of the day or night.

Just like talking to a good friend, talk to God about what is happening every day. God wants us to share our life with him, to tell him what makes us happy, sad and afraid. He wants to know what we want and what we would like him to do for others. When we pray, we let God make good changes in us.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7



Let's make wonderful discoveries about talking to God. We will learn not to worry and we will discover where God is. There are many Bible people who learned lessons about God through prayer. We will hear their stories. Let's begin by listing some things we are concerned about today. Since God is concerned about us, He will answer every prayer even if it is small. Do you think He will say "Yes" to every prayer? No. God answers prayer the way He feels best suits each situation. So, don't expect a yes when you ask for a pony!!!

TAPE NEWSPRINT TO ONE WALL.
STUDENTS NAME ANY REQUEST THEY DESIRE.
NO CRITICISM ALLOWED!
ANYTHING THEY THINK OF IS FINE.
PRINT CLEARLY WITH A LARGE BLACK MARKER.
PRAY ALOUD FOR EACH REQUEST.

BIBLE STORY:

ADAM AND EVE WALK AND TALK WITH GOD

Genesis 2:8-22 I cannot imagine how wonderful the Garden of Eden must have been when Adam and Eve lived there. These verses in Genesis explain how beautiful Eden was. There were plants and trees, sparkling water and finally Adam was given the love of his life, Eve. God thought of everything to make Adam a happy man.

To top off the gifts, God gave Himself to this new and beautiful creation. He personally spoke to Adam and Eve and walked in the garden. Can you imagine having God as your personal teacher? Of course, it was all very normal to Adam and Eve. They were happy to know and love God.

Genesis 3:1-24 Until that horrible day when the crafty serpent tempted Eve to taste the fruit from the forbidden tree. It looked delicious! The serpent convinced her that God was cheating her out of something good. Instead of looking at all the other delicious fruit God gave them, Eve could only think of the one fruit God forbid and she tasted that forbidden fruit. Eve gave some to Adam who tasted it. They both discovered their disobedience led to sin against God.



Later they heard God walking in the garden so they hid among the trees. God said to Adam, "Where are you?" They were caught. There would be no more walking in the garden with God on a cool evening. There was a price to pay and Adam and Eve paid dearly. They were banished from the Garden of Eden. They became dirt farmers trying to find food in the hard, dry earth. God stationed an angel with a flaming sword at the gate of the garden.

The most tragic result of Adam and Eve's sin was their separation from God, their Creator and Friend. No longer did God seek them face to face. They must have felt that God was angry and distant. Perhaps they felt they deserved to be parted from their lovely home.

Good news! God loves us so much that He could not stay separated from us for long. He designed a second plan so that we can have fellowship with Him. The plan included a manger, a mission, a cross and.....rising from the dead! (Whose life is that? Jesus!) It also included *prayer*, a way to talk to God anytime, anywhere. That's what we are going to study-Prayer!

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS: WAYS TO PRAY

Print each theme phrase on a Smiley Face. Attach to the wall as you talk.

Let's think of ways we can communicate this short message to God:

GOD, HELP ME-- QUICK!

SHOUTING: God will hear us when we pray quickly and loudly using our voices.

WHISPERING: Even the smallest whisper can be heard by our Heavenly Father.

SILENT PRAYER: When we pray with our minds, God is there.

WRITTEN PRAYER: Writing our thoughts to God on paper (or computer) is another way to make contact with God.



SONG PRAYER: When we want to feel God's presence, a song is a wonderful way to speak to Him. *"Whisper a prayer in the morning. Whisper a prayer at noon. Whisper a prayer in the evening. I'll keep your heart in tune."*

ARTISTIC PRAYER: A beautiful way to express our feelings to God is through artwork. Draw pictures, design sculptures, build gardens or create majestic buildings which draw others into the presence of the Lord.

SPOKEN PRAYER: The best way to speak to God is talking in the same tone of voice you would use to speak to a dear friend. Don't use flowery words and high and mighty thoughts. Just talk to God and trust that He will speak to you.

Are there other ways you can imagine that talking to God works? Can we use the telephone to call God? How can we discover the best way to pray? Practice talking to God in your favorite way this week!

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #1:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

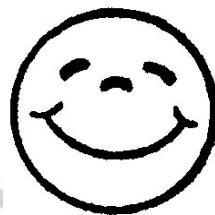
Casting all your anxiety upon Him
because He cares for you.

I Peter 5:7

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #1:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

Casting all your anxiety upon Him because He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #2:

G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

DON'T WORRY, TALK TO GOD



MEMORY VERSE

Give your burdens to the Lord,
and He will take care of you.

Psalm 55:22A (NLT)

INTRODUCTION:

WORRY NEVER PAID THE RENT

WORRY NEVER PAID THE RENT.

Can you understand this sentence? There are some people who are afraid of everything. They are concerned about whether they will have friends, be smart, get good jobs or pay their bills. They often become frozen with worry and fear.

Let's pretend you have a job and lots of bills to pay. You live in a nice little apartment and every month you stretch your money to pay the rent on your apartment. Some months you cannot do it. The people who own the apartment come and threaten to kick you out. You worry and worry. Yet, each month you struggle with the same problem—too little money and too much rent. Soon you find yourself on the sidewalk with all your belongings piled around you. You worried but all your worry never paid the rent.



How could you have handled this serious problem in a better way?

Get a part time job to make up the extra amount of money needed.

Ask the landlord to lower the rent for a little while.

Move to a smaller, less expensive place until more money came.

Your family or a friend could help.

Ask a friend to become your room mate and share the cost.

PRAY!

Did you hear the word "worry" in these solutions to our problem? No, not once. God doesn't want us to live our lives filled with fear and worry. He stands nearby at all times waiting to help us solve our problems. How? We pray, He answers.

BIBLE STORY:

PETER WORRIES HIMSELF INTO THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-32 After spending a day with Jesus, the disciples climbed into their boat. Jesus climbed the mountain to pray alone. Jesus understood the importance of praying and He prayed often, especially after a busy day.

A strong storm hit the lake and beat against the little fishing boat. The disciples rowed hard but they could not make much progress. The waves got higher and the boat could not stay upright. The men were tired. One time Jesus was with them and stilled the storm. He wasn't there now and the storm raged on!

Far away on the mountain Jesus heard the storm and knew His friends needed Him. Jesus walked on the water just as easily as if it had been land. He didn't sink and He didn't swim--He WALKED!

The frightened disciples saw a person walking on the waves. They thought they were seeing a ghost because everyone knows human beings cannot walk on top of water. Jesus called to them, "Do not be afraid, for it is I." The men could hardly believe it was Jesus. Peter shouted, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you walking on the water."

Jesus said, "All right, Come to me."

Peter jumped over the side of the ship and started walking--on the water--to Jesus! The men were amazed. What great power Jesus had!



Peter was having a different feeling. The moment he began walking on the water he could feel the strong wind blow him from side to side. He heard the waves and the thunder. He felt the rain and stinging spray of lake water. Peter began to worry!

Can you hear his worried thoughts? "No one can walk on water! Listen to that storm! Oh no, my good tunic is getting wet! I'm going to sink! Aahhhhh!" As soon as he took his eyes off Jesus, he did just that—he sank into the rough waves.

Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" Jesus wondered why Peter was so worried about his safety. Instead of trusting in Jesus, Peter worried himself right into the water.

By the way, as soon as the two men climbed into the boat the others rejoiced and immediately the storm stopped.

Peter learned a valuable lesson about worrying and so can we. When we pray about our problems, we can trust God to answer our prayers. Do not doubt His love and concern. Do not think that He hasn't heard your prayer. Above all, stop worrying! Trust God!

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

POSITIONS FOR PRAYER

Print each theme word on a Smiley Face. Attach the themes to one wall as you talk about each one.

How should we get our bodies ready for prayer? Is there a proper position we should get into before talking to God? Here are a few suggestions:

KNEEL: The Bible says that someday "*every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.*" Kneeling shows great honor and reverence to God. It is one way of saying we want to do things God's way. Kneeling gives us the right attitude to have in prayer.

Jesus walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayer. 'Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.' Luke 22:41-42



STAND: It is also proper to stand to pray. Often we stand together in church as we pray together. If you are alone, stand for prayer to show honor to the Lord. Stand on the edge of a mountain or stand in the beautiful woods to worship God.

LIFTED HANDS LOOKING UP: People want to feel connected to the Lord while they pray. It is a nice feeling to look toward heaven and lift your hands toward God. We often feel like God is looking back at us, holding our lifted hands in His ever loving embrace.

Should we fold our hands when we pray?

Our hands can be in any position. Most people fold their hands to show respect and that they are bringing a request. Sometimes it's good to fold hands to focus on prayer. God's people sometimes raised their hands!

So wherever you assemble, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy. 1 Timothy 2:8

Should we close our eyes when we pray?

It is much easier to concentrate when we shut our eyes. We can pray with our eyes open. Eyes open or shut don't matter to God.

The tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner' Luke 18:13

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS: How wonderful to have Christians friends who want to pray together. Feeling a connection to one another comes when everyone stands in a circle and holds hands.

LYING DOWN: Before we sleep, we thank God for the blessings of the day and ask Him to help us with the challenges of tomorrow. The trick to this is not falling asleep!

ANY POSITION AT ALL: It is wonderful to worship our Heavenly Father who encourages us to speak to Him anytime, anywhere and in any position. He's



waiting to hear from us 24 hours a day.

The Bible tells of people praying in all sorts of positions. Some stood and raised their hands. Some lay down on the ground. Some put their head between their knees. Some sat down. Some kneeled. Some stood but bowed their head and beat on their chest. We can pray in any position.

STAND IN A CIRCLE, HOLD HANDS AND
CLOSE IN PRAYER.

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WEEK #2:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

Give your burdens to the Lord
and He will take care of you.
Psalm 55:22A (NLT)

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #2:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

Give your burdens to the Lord
and He will take care of you.
Psalm 55:22A (NLT)

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #3: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

WHERE ARE YOU, LORD?



MEMORY VERSE

...For He hath said,
"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5

INTRODUCTION:

IS

GOD NEAR?

Supplies: Hershey Kisses or other favorites candies that come in small, separate pieces. Print today's question on a circle Smiley Face.

Seat students on the floor and toss candy into the group. Students may not touch the candy until you give the signal. Be sure that some of the candy lands far from the group, some next to students and some directly in their laps.

Hey kids, mmmm! Look around you but don't touch! I must say that this is some of my favorite candy. The question we must answer today is one that people have asked for centuries:

IS GOD NEAR?

Our Sunday School series is titled G.R.I.N.* MAKING GOD SMILE (*GOD REALLY IS NEAR). Do you feel like God is near? Some of you might think God is just a name in a book or at the very best, He is far away on a fancy throne, floating in a cloud.

It's a little bit like believing in a country you have never visited. People have told you about the faraway land but you have never been there. That does not stop you from believing the country exists. Even if we cannot see God, we know He exists and is near. The Bible says so, we have met God's people and because it makes sense to us. By faith we believe and trust that God is near



even though He is invisible. God is invisible because He does not have a body like ours. God is not trying to hide from us!

From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

Romans 1:20

Look at the candy around you. It looks so tempting and delicious. Some of it is far away and you cannot reach it from your seat. Some is very close and you can reach out and touch it whenever you choose. Other pieces are right in your lap waiting for you to unwrap and eat. You alone must make the effort to reach out and take the delicious treat for yourself.

God Really Is Near. He is waiting for us to reach out and touch Him. God wants us to talk to Him all the time. He will never force Himself into your life.

You must find Him for yourself. God's Word helps, friends who know the Lord speak of His promises and prayer connects us to heaven. YOU are the key.

OKAY! Reach out and enjoy the candy!

BIBLE STORY: TOO LATE FOR LAZARUS

John 11:1-54 Martha paced back and forth on the road to Bethany. Jesus was coming but it was too late. His friend Lazarus was dead. Martha and her sister, Mary, could not believe that Jesus would not come when they sent word that Lazarus was sick. Jesus healed so many others. He could have healed their brother too. "Where are you, Lord?" Martha fumed.

Jesus finally arrived and comforted Martha. He said Lazarus would rise again. Martha had great faith in Jesus but she could not imagine what was going to happen. Jesus loved his friends and was troubled by all the hopeless grief He was witnessing. Even Mary was grieving without faith. It did not appear that either sister had taken time to ask God for help. Everyone knows that death is the end. *Or is it?*

Jesus went to Lazarus' tomb. It was a cave with a stone rolled across the entrance. He encouraged the sisters by reminding them, "Didn't I tell you that you will see God's glory if you believe?" Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus came out, wrapped in



graveclothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus said, "Unwrap him and let him go."

Many people believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. During the four days Lazarus was dead, they asked, "Where Are You, Lord?" Jesus knew the circumstances but He knew the greater answer to prayer He would give by being late. In fact, He told the disciples, "Lazarus is dead. And for your sake, I am glad I wasn't there, because this will give you another opportunity to believe in me. Come, let's go see him." (V. 14) What a wonderful and amazing ending this story had for Lazarus and his sisters!

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

WHAT TO DO WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST

*Print today's tip on a large circle Smiley Face.
Attach to the wall as you speak.*

Today's G.R.I.N. prayer tip is short but it is important to remember:

WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST, PRAY ANYWAY.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SURPRISE GOD HAS IN STORE
FOR THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH.

When we pray for someone not to die and then they die, does that mean that God didn't love them?

No! It doesn't mean God doesn't love that person or that you did not have enough faith when you prayed. The Bible says God loves everyone. God hates death but death is not the end. God's people can look forward to eternal life in heaven. It is okay to cry when our loved ones die. We miss them very much. If they are Christians, they are going to heaven and that is much better for them!

The Lord's loved ones are precious to him; it grieves him when they die.

Psalm 116:15



How does God answer our prayers?

God is so powerful that he can use anything he wants to work out his plans. One way he can answer prayer is by using other people. He can use doctors and medicine. He uses generous Christians to give money to people in need. Sometimes God uses angels to help in some way. Sometimes he uses the weather.

Sometimes God just changes us! He works in us to make us more like Jesus in the way we think and act.

Even strong believers in Jesus are tempted to cry, "Where are you, Lord?" If you have this experience, don't forget to listen to God's answer.

He may say, "I'm right here listening and I will comfort you."

Or, "The time for Me to answer is not right."

Or, "Watch this! It's a miracle!"

Or, "Wait and see the wonderful thing I will do in your life because of this hard thing."

God Really Is Near, you know.

Don't forget to pray.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #3:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

...For He hath said,
"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #3:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

...For He hath said,
"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #4: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

"ACTS" OF PRAYER



MEMORY VERSE

Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

INTRODUCTION:

BUILDING A PRAYER

Print each theme phrase on a brightly colored circle Smiley Face. As you speak, spell the word ACTS using the circles attached to the wall.

Prayer does not have to be formal and serious. You do not have to use big words. Prayer can be like talking to a friend. Whenever we have a need, we can talk to God. We can tell Him what we are excited about, what worries us, or ask Him for help. So when we pray, we are talking to our best Friend. We can pray about anything, anytime, anywhere, because God loves us.

I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me, freeing me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4

Let's learn how to BUILD A PRAYER. There are a few things we can put into every prayer to make God Smile.

A-ADORATION: Begin your prayer by telling God how much He means to you. Include words of praise for the wonderful ways God takes care of you. Take a few moments to appreciate being in His presence. You can even sing a song to tell Him: "Father, I adore You. Lay my life before You. How I love You."

C-CONFESSION: Sin is part of being a human being. Confession is saying to God, "I'm sorry for my sins." God wants to forgive our sin and tells us in His Word,

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9



T-THANKSGIVING: When you do something nice for someone, do you like to be thanked? God does too. Each time you pray, think of things God has done for you that make you grateful for His watchful care. When we think about it, there are many things we have for which to say thanks every day.

S-SUPPLICATION: Supplication simply means “asking”. This is the part of our prayer where we ask God for the desires of our heart. We must agree with Him that if we receive what we are asking for it will be pleasing to Him and will make our life better and more peaceful.

There it is—a prayer built upon words that make God smile. What does it spell? ACTS! Remember that word when you pray and include each part to make your prayer complete.

BIBLE STORY: JESUS PRAYED ALL NIGHT

One day soon afterward
Jesus went to a mountain to pray,
and he prayed to God all night.

Luke 6:12

*Today's Bible story is complete in one verse.
Let's learn a few lessons from Jesus' prayer life:*

- 1. JESUS PRAYED TO GOD.** Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father. He thought talking to God was important. If there was anyone on earth who had reason to skip prayer time, it would have been Jesus. He knew His strength came from God. Many times Jesus went off by Himself to pray.
- 2. JESUS PRAYED ALL NIGHT.** Have you ever prayed all night? How long have you prayed at one time? Many of us run out of things to say after a minute or two. If you practice using the ACTS method of prayer, you will find yourself spending more time talking to the Lord..
- 3. JESUS PRAYED ON A MOUNTAIN.** Where do you pray? Is there a private place where you feel you and the Lord can have a quiet conversation? Find a quiet prayer place far from the busy life you normally lead where God can comfort you.



4. JESUS PRAYED ABOUT IMPORTANT DECISIONS. Jesus had a big decision to make. It was time for Him to choose 12 friends who would follow Him and learn from Him and someday die for Him. Jesus prayed all night in His private place to get God's vision of who these men should be.

There may be more things we can learn from this one verse Bible story. Let's just say this is enough for one day. Think about how Jesus prayed and do the same in your prayer life.

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

JUST DO IT!

Do you think you have to pray perfectly in order to pray? Not true! We all learn how to talk to God a little at a time. God wants us to come to Him like little children filled with joy and excitement and wonder. If the only word we express to Him is "Thanks!" Or, "Help!" Or, "Please!", that's enough for Him. He will fill in the blanks. The G.R.I.N. Prayer Tip for the day is: (Print this sentence on a circle Smiley Face.)

JUST DO IT!

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #4:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #4:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #5: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN



MEMORY VERSE

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

INTRODUCTION: NAME THE TROUBLE

Listen to a few symptoms of BIG trouble.

When I give you the hints, see if you can tell me the trouble.

I am a person who is mean to every kid I see. I say things that are not nice to hear. Sometimes I punch kids in the bus just for the fun of it. I am a -----**BULLY**.

I am a person who tries to make my life seem more adventurous than it is. I make up stories about things that have happened to me. I don't tell the truth. I am a-----**LIAR**.

I am a person who takes things from people. If my friend has a book or toy I like, I hide it under my shirt and sneak it home with me. I am a -----**THIEF**.

These people are big trouble to themselves. However, if these people are your friends, who else has trouble? YOU. Trouble doesn't just come to the person who does the bad thing, trouble affects everyone around that person and causes anger, frustration and sadness.



Here are a few BIG trouble symptoms of life events
we cannot control:

I am so sad. My dad lost his job and all my toys are now in boxes stored away.
We have nowhere to live right now so we sleep in the car.

HOMELESS FAMILIES

I am so angry. My mom and dad don't love each other anymore. They live in
separate houses and I pack my suitcase every week to visit my dad.

DIVORCE

I can't figure out the easiest math problems in school. I cannot read very well
and I hate to go to school. Everyone is so much smarter than I am.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

How about trouble that we cause for ourselves?

Nobody likes me, everybody hates me.

I think I'll go eat worms.

Little bitty, squishy ones,

Big, fat gooey ones.

Oh, how they tickle and they squirm.

POOR ME

God wants to be in the midst of our troubles. He is waiting for us to ask Him to
help us. There is no trouble too big for God. Do you believe that? Ask Him
about the troubles you are facing today and see what happens.

G.R.I.N. BIBLE STORY: ELIJAH'S BIG TROUBLE

I Kings 19:1-21 Elijah was a prophet of God. With God's help, he accomplished
amazing feats and pointed men to God. Elijah had embarrassed and killed the
priests of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel by calling fire from heaven to destroy
an altar to false gods.

Queen Jezebel flew into an angry rage when her priests failed and were dead.
She sent a messenger to Elijah, "Tomorrow at this time if you are not as dead as
my priests, let the gods kill me too."

Elijah got up and ran into the dark stormy night. He must escape from the



queen. Elijah was so afraid! He did not call on God in his trouble. He thought Jezebel would leave him alone when she heard how powerful God was. Jezebel did not pay any attention to God. She planned to get even with Elijah.

Trouble, trouble, trouble was chasing Elijah. He ran to a great wilderness, threw himself on the ground and prayed to die. He fell asleep from exhaustion. An angel woke him up. "Come and eat". There were delicious cakes baking on a small fire and a bottle of water. Elijah ate but he was so tired that he went to sleep again.

The next time he awoke the angel fed him so miraculously that he was not hungry again for forty days. The food gave him strength to climb a mountain where he found a cave. Elijah was still discouraged and afraid of Queen Jezebel so he crept into the cave to hide.

He could not hide from the Lord. The Lord said, "What are you doing here?" Elijah told the Lord all that had happened. "The people have forsaken your law, thrown down your altars and even killed your prophets. I am the only one left and now they want to kill me."

God answered, "Come out of the cave and stand on the mountain." God caused a strong wind to sweep across the mountain. Even the rocks crumbled but Elijah knew that God was not in the great strong wind. God sent an earthquake and the ground trembled beneath Elijah's feet. Still he knew God was not in the earthquake. Then fire broke out on the mountain and burned many trees but Elijah knew God was not in the fire.

After the fire, everything grew quiet. Elijah heard a still small voice and he knew this was the voice of God. He wrapped his coat around his face and stood in the door of the cave to listen. "What are you doing here?" God asked. When Elijah repeated all his troubles, God said, "You are wrong. There are seven thousand people in Israel who have never worshiped Baal."

Elijah was surprised that he was not the only believer. He began to have hope again. Now he was not afraid to return to Israel even though Queen Jezebel still hated him.

Trouble? It doesn't mean a thing when God is in control.



G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE IN TROUBLE

What kind of trouble do you usually get into?

Wait for student response.

Everyone gets into trouble sometimes. Trouble can be of our own making or it can come upon us because of someone else or some huge event like a car accident, fire, flood or earthquake.

Today's G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIP is easy to remember:

WHEN IT'S HARDEST TO PRAY,
PRAY HARDEST.

Don't wait for a calm time after trouble is over. Pray immediately. Ask the Lord to sort through all of the troubling issues and help you understand what to do. Tell Him how much you are depending upon His help.

Then, relax! Let God do what He's best at doing—helping us out of trouble. And He will!

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

Colossians 4:2

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #5:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #5:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #6: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

DANGEROUS DAN THE PRAYIN' MAN



MEMORY VERSE

As for me, I will call upon God
and the Lord shall save me.

Psalm 55:16

INTRODUCTION: PUT PRAYER IN IT'S PLACE

Print each word on separate smiley faces. Choose students to hold them.

Where should we pray? Is there a place where we can go and know that God hears us better than any other place? Let's think about a few places to pray:

CHURCH: Praying in church is the place we think of first. The pastor prays, Sunday School teachers pray and often older people stand and pray in public for people in need.

OUTDOORS: Nature is beautiful. When we visit a beautiful mountain or stand beside a crystal lake, we often feel God is near. Prayer comes "naturally"!

FRIENDS: Christians pray with others who believe in Jesus. Scripture says there is power where two or three believers gather to pray.

FAMILY: How wonderful it is if your family enjoys praying together. Families often pray at meals and at bedtime.



IN A PRAYER CLOSET: Talking to the Lord is easy because we can pray ALONE--wherever we are, any time of the day or night. No one else has to hear us. We don't even have to speak the words aloud. God knows our thoughts.

A prayer closet is a private place where a person can pray without anyone else around. The peace and quiet helps a person spend quiet time with God, praying honestly without be watched by other. A prayer closet could be a real closet where a person can shut the door but it can also be other kinds of places.

Where are some places at your house where you can be alone?

It can be a quiet spot in the house, outdoors, or somewhere else: Basement, attic, bedroom, closet, kitchen, garage, backyard, front porch. It is any special spot where you and God can talk. When the great preacher, Billy Graham, was a young boy, he went into a farm field by an old stump. He could pray and sing without anyone but God knowing where he was.

Jesus said, When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

THE PERFECT PLACE: Pray all the time wherever you are. If you are traveling in a car, pray. If you are walking to school, pray. Sitting in your seat at school wondering about the test you are about to take is a great place to pray. There is not a place you can name that is wrong. There is not one place that is better than another to pray. God is everywhere all the time.

Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18

BIBLE STORY:

DANGEROUS DAN THE PRAYIN' MAN

Daniel was God's man in a foreign land. Daniel was captured and taken to Babylon as a teenager. He loyally served several kings while being faithful to God. **Every day Daniel prayed three times** facing his home, Jerusalem. He was visible to others because he prayed in the window of his home.

As the years rolled on, Daniel made enemies among leaders in Babylon. They were angered by his honesty and his brilliant leadership. They were jealous of his personal relationships with their kings. As hard as they tried, they could not find anything to report. Finally they decided, "The only way we can find fault with him is in the way he obeys the laws of his God."



It offended them that Daniel prayed to God. They hatched a plot to destroy Daniel. Knowing that King Darius enjoyed being king, they encouraged him to sign a law stating that anyone who made a request of any god or man except the king should be thrown into the lions' den. It sounded good to the king and he signed the law.

Daniel heard about the law but he did not obey it. Just as before he knelt three times every day and prayed by his window opened toward Jerusalem. The leaders found him here on his knees thanking God.

At last they had a way to get rid of Daniel. King Darius was sorry he had listened to the leaders. Darius knew he could not save Daniel. He ordered him thrown into the lions' den. The king told Daniel how sorry he was to do this. "The God you serve so faithfully will surely save you from the lions," the king said.

Daniel was placed in the den with the king's seal attached so no one would dare move it without his permission. The king returned to his palace and refused to eat any food or listen to music. He could not sleep all night. He kept thinking about Daniel.

When morning came, the king hurried to the den. He shouted, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God saved you from the lions?" From deep in the pit he heard Daniel answer, "O King, live forever. My God has sent his angel. The angel shut the lion's mouths and they did not harm me. God knew I had done no wrong."

The king was thrilled and called his servants to pull Daniel out and then commanded that the leaders who plotted against Daniel be thrown into the den. He also wrote letters to people of every nation saying, "Peace be with you. I make a decree that in every part of my kingdom men shall fear Daniel's God. He is the living God, steadfast forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed and his rule shall not end. By his power he has delivered Daniel from the lions."



G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

PRAY WHEREVER YOU ARE

PRAY
WHEREVER
YOU ARE!

Daniel prayed several times every day in the window of his home. He knew the power God gave him when he spent time with God. Daniel was proud to face God in front of his neighbors. He prayed in the lions' den too! Daniel is a wonderful role model for us. Get into the habit of praying wherever you are.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
CLOSE IN PRAYER
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



WEEK #6:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

As for me,
I will call upon God
and the Lord shall save me.
Psalm 55:16

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #6:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

As for me,
I will call upon God
and the Lord shall save me.
Psalm 55:16

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #7: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

TWO MEN/TWO PRAYERS



MEMORY VERSE

God have mercy on me,
a sinner....
Luke 18:13

INTRODUCTION: WHERE DID JESUS PRAY?

Last week we talked about many places we can pray. Let's think about where Jesus prayed and we may discover the best place for our own prayer spot.

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS:

MATTHEW 6:5-6 : *When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, **go away by yourself**, shut the door behind you and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.*

MATTHEW 14:23: *Afterward he went up into the hills **by himself** to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.*

MATTHEW 26:36: *Then Jesus brought them to an olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here **while I go on** ahead to pray."*

MARK 1:35: *The next morning Jesus awoke long before daybreak and went out **alone** into the wilderness to pray.*



We have been peeking into Jesus' prayer time. What is common in each one? Jesus went somewhere ALONE to pray. He found a quiet, private place to speak to His Heavenly Father. Perhaps this is good advice for us. Find a quiet private place. It really is no one else's business what we say to the Lord during our prayer time.

Can you name some good private places where you can go to pray?

BIBLE STORY: TWO MEN/TWO PRAYERS

Luke 18:9-14 Jesus told this prayer story about religious leaders who were VIP'S (very important people). They made the rules and they watched people to make sure they followed those rules. Tax collectors were at the opposite end of life. Nobody liked a tax collector!

Two men went to the temple to pray. One man was a Pharisee (a synagogue leader) and the other man was a tax collector. Tax collectors were hated in Israel. They were Jews who worked for a foreign government taking more money from the people than they should.

The Pharisee stood and prayed loudly and proudly for all to hear, "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, unrighteous, unjust, unfair in business dealings or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all I own."

The tax collector stood by himself. He would not even lift his eyes toward heaven when he prayed. Bowing his head, he beat his chest and said, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

Jesus ended his story by saying,, "I tell you, this tax collector, and not the proud Pharisee, went home with God's blessing. For whoever lifts himself up in his own sight is not pleasing to God, but whoever humbles himself shall be lifted up."

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS: HUMBLE PRAYERS

It is never wise to approach God like a V.I.P (Very Important Person). We must come to the Lord as humble children, learning from Him and needing His help. God knows our hearts when we pray. He smiles when we admit our needs in a kind hearted way.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #7:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

God have mercy on me,
a sinner.
Luke 18:13

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #7:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

God have mercy on me,
a sinner.

Luke 18:13

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #8: G.R.I.N BIBLE SHOP

IS GOD REALLY NEAR?



MEMORY VERSE

Come near to God
and He will come near to you.

James 4:8

INTRODUCTION: PRAYER AND THE BIBLE

What does prayer have to do with the book in my hand? Yes, this is God's Word. Prayer is the way we speak to God and the Bible is how God speaks to us. The Bible is one way we can know that God Really Is Near (G.R.I.N.).

Take time to read God's Word!

TEACHER: Hold your Bible in your hand with a firm, five finger grip, noting that it takes all five fingers for the firmest grip. Show that it doesn't work well trying to hold it with one, two, three or four fingers. -The larger the Bible, the more effective this demonstration.

Five Finger Grip!

1. HEARING (LITTLE FINGER) When we attend Sunday School and church, we listen to teachers and the pastor talk about the Bible. Hearing is very important ("Faith comes by hearing....the word of God." Romans 10:17) However, hearing does not give you a very strong grip on the Word of God.

Would it be hard for you to take this Bible away from me when I'm holding it with only my little finger?



2. READING (RING FINGER) A wonderful reason for learning to read is having the ability to read God's words of love. Reading helps us cover a lot of information. When we add personal reading of the Bible to hearing, we begin to have a better hold on God's word...but it's still a weak grip.

Does it work well to hold God's Word with just my ring finger and little finger?

3. STUDYING (MIDDLE FINGER) We make notes, organize outlines and even print messages in the margins of our Bibles as we study specific Bible verses. Studying means **thinking** about what we have read.

How does it work now to use three fingers to hold God's Word?

4. MEMORIZE (INDEX FINGER) Have you ever heard of a doctor who has not memorized all the bones of the body? What good is a football or basketball player if he refuses to memorize the plays? We memorize the things that we dare not forget. When I add memorization to the other fingers representing hearing, reading and studying, I have a firm grip. (*"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee"* Psalm 119:11).

Now I have four fingers on God's Word. Is it working better? Is my grip firm?

5. MEDITATING (THUMB) Hearing, reading, studying and memorizing God's Word won't do much good unless we take time to think about what we have learned. This is when God can do His best work in our hearts. Now when I hold the Bible in my hand, I cannot lose my grip.

Look at my firm grip! Do you think this grip will work now?

BIBLE STORY:

JOSIAH AND THE FORGOTTEN BOOK

II Kings 22: Josiah became the king of Judah when he was eight years old. He loved the Lord and followed His commands. When he was still a young man, he ordered a housecleaning in the temple of the Lord. He found it sad that the temple had become neglected and misused by those who worshiped false gods.



The high priest cleaned one room of the temple. Hidden away beneath some rubbish, he found a strange scroll. He looked at it carefully, then unrolled it and began to read. He recognized the scroll as the book of the Law. Moses wrote it and commanded that it be read to all the people once each seven years. This had not been done and the book was forgotten.

The high priest was excited at his great find and Josiah was excited too! As the book was read, Josiah discovered God's promise to punish the people if they forgot Him and worshiped idols. His people had disobeyed God's law. Surely God would punish them as he had said. He tore his clothes and cried.

He did not want to forget the words of God's law and his people needed to hear them. He prayed for his disobedient people. God's message to Josiah was that because he had humbled his heart and wept tears of sorrow for the sins of his people, God would not let the people be punished while Josiah lived.

Josiah combined **hearing, reading, studying, memorizing and meditating** on God's Word with a healthy dose of **prayer**. He communicated with God and God communicated with him. It was a wonderful relationship!

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

SOUL FOOD

There is a unique combination of reading God's Word and Prayer that makes the perfect connection to our Heavenly Father.

BIBLE + PRAYER
= SOUL FOOD
CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #8:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

Come near to God
and He will come near to you.
James 4:8

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #8:

REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

Come near to God
and He will come near to you.

James 4:8

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #9: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

SOUNDS OF SILENCE



MEMORY VERSE

If you believe,
you will receive whatever you ask for
in prayer.
Matthew 21:22

INTRODUCTION:

DOES GOD REALLY ANSWER PRAYER?

Let's be totally silent for 30 seconds. I mean really silent—no wiggling, no whispering, no movement of any kind. Your assignment is to listen very carefully to what you hear in the silence.

Some people think that when they pray God is totally silent. They feel He does not answer their prayers. Is that true? What do you think about answered prayers? Unanswered prayers?

Today's memory verse says it all. God is a Promise Keeper! If we believe, He will answer our prayers. That does not mean that God is a wish giver or will give us things that are unhealthy for us. It means He will honor each request with His considered opinion and will answer as He sees best for us as believers.

IF YOU BELIEVE.....God answers prayers for believers. This is important to know. Our first step to prayer must be a solid belief in the Lord.

YOU WILL RECEIVE....This is plainly stated and we must believe it! How does this happen? Each time we pray, God has a variety of responses He may choose to answer our prayer. Tune in to His will as He answers prayers.



YES!

Sometimes God answers our prayer with a quick "Yes"! There are times when God's "Yes" comes after a period of time. No matter when God's "yes" comes, it is always joyful and always reassuring.

NO!

Sometimes God must say "No". God knows when our prayer is not in His plan. We often feel disappointed at God's *no* response. Never forget how much God cares and wants to give each believer the best gifts. If we don't understand God's "No" now, He will explain it later. Trust Him to know what is best!

WAIT!

Where is God? Did He forget I prayed? The "Wait" prayer is when we feel the Sounds of Silence most. Why isn't He jumping in to save me? This is another opportunity to trust that God is in the business of perfect timing. In due time, He will answer your prayer and give you the perfect gift.

YES, AND HERE'S MORE!

When we pray, we don't see the whole picture. God loves to give us the desires of our hearts. It is truly a wonderful, joyful experience to have the answer to a prayer be "Yes! And here's more"!

BIBLE STORY: JAIRUS' DAUGHTER IS HEALED

Mark 5:35-43 *Jairus fell down at Jesus' feet and cried, "My daughter is dying; but if you will come and lay your hands on her, she will be made well." Jesus may have known Jairus since he was a leader in the synagogue in Capernaum. Jesus followed the man. The disciples went and the crowd followed. As the crowd pressed in, Jesus felt the touch of another person who needed to be healed. He stopped, healed the woman and said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."*

Jairus waited impatiently for Jesus to come to his house. What if his daughter died before they reached her? Sure enough, a servant came with the sad news, "Do not trouble the Master any longer, for it is too late."



Jesus heard the sad message and knew that Jairus was feeling terrible. He had prayed and done all he could to save his daughter and yet she was dead. Jesus said to him, "Do not be afraid; only believe and she shall yet be made well." They continued to walk to his house.

Many friends and neighbors had gathered to weep with the girl's mother. Jesus asked, "Why do you weep? The girl is not dead but sleeping." They laughed at him, for they knew the girl was dead.

Jesus sent everyone out of the room except for a few disciples and the girls' parents. Taking the girl's hand, He said, "Little girl, get up!" At his command she opened her eyes, got up and walked around the room.

Now that was an answer to prayer that seemed like "No" at first, continued on to "Wait" and ended up, "Yes, and here's more"!
What a Promise Keeper!

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS:

BEST GIFTS

Name some of the best gifts you have ever received.

Luke 11:11-13 speaks of how God gives good gifts. He says that if an earthly father knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more your heavenly Father will give....

We think the best things to have are material things, things of the world, things that will make life easy and pleasant for a while. While He makes material provisions for us, His greatest and most lasting gifts are those connected with spiritual things. (Example: Love, peace, mercy, patience)

DESIRE EARNESTLY
THE BEST GIFTS.

In believing that God is willing to give, let's not only believe that He will give, but let us ask for the best He has—spiritual blessings.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #9:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

If you believe,
you will receive whatever you ask for
in prayer.

Matthew 21:22

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #9:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

If you believe,
you will receive whatever you ask for
in prayer.

Matthew 21:22

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #10: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

PROMISES OF PRAYER



MEMORY VERSE

God will supply all your need
according to His riches in glory.
Philippians 4:19

INTRODUCTION: WHAT ARE GOD'S PROMISES?

**IF WE ASK EXPECTANTLY
.....HE WILL ANSWER
AND SHOW US GREAT
AND MIGHTY THINGS.**

When God made this promise, Jeremiah (33:3) was being held captive by unbelieving rulers of Israel. In the middle of this dark picture God says, "Call unto Me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things."

**IF WE ASK BELIEVING
....WE SHALL RECEIVE!**

God promises that whatever we ask believing, we shall receive (Matthew 21:22). This is hard because we are always tempted by Satan to doubt God's love and willingness to make provision for us.

**IF WE ASK ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL
....WE SHALL RECEIVE THE ANSWERS TO PRAYER WE DESIRE.**

A train cannot travel in just any direction. It must always follow the track. God is also restricted to the path of His will in answering prayer. He sees the future. He knows what others will do. His answers will match only to His will, which is "good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).



IF WE ASK IN JESUS' NAME ...HE WILL DO IT.

What does it mean to “ask in Jesus’ Name”? It means to ask on the basis of the authority Christ has given to us as believers so that the Father may be glorified. Another way of saying it is that no matter how weak we are in our faith, God has given us permission to pray using the name of Jesus. We become spiritually powerful because of who Jesus is to us.

BIBLE STORY:

BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:16-52, Luke 18:35-43 People were on their way to Jerusalem for Passover. A crowd traveled with Jesus and his disciples. Many of them heard Jesus teach and watched him heal the sick. Even before Jesus reached a town, news spread that he was arriving. Families brought their sick loved ones to the edge of the road. Leaders gathered to observe Jesus. Others just watched him pass by their area.

Outside the city of Jericho Bartimaeus sat begging. He was blind and had to depend upon someone telling him that Jesus of Nazareth was going by. He had heard of Jesus. Who hadn't? Probably someone had told him how Jesus had healed the man who had been blind since birth. Bartimaeus really wanted to see!

He stood by the roadside shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” People who stood nearby tried to quiet him. Instead he called out more loudly, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” He was acting with strong faith and a belief that Jesus would answer his prayer.

Jesus stood still. He called for Bartimaeus and the people nearby said, “Be of good comfort. Come, he calls for you.” A very happy Bartimaeus threw off his coat and went to Jesus. Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Right away Bartimaeus said, “Lord, give me my sight.” Jesus answered, “Go your way. Your faith has made you well.” Immediately his blind eyes could see. He followed Jesus, glorifying God. When the people saw what had happened, they too praised God.



G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS: GREAT EXPECTATIONS

EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD,
ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD.

We must ask God to help us ask for the right things and when He does this He will give us the faith to believe His promises.

Why be content to trust Him just for the little things?

Why not ask God to "move mountains?"

Why not ask Him to work in a special way in your life or the life of a friend to glorify Himself.

Pray according to the promises of God and then claim the promises by faith.

What BIG THING can our group pray for today,
expecting God to do a great thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #10

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

God will supply all your need
according to His riches in glory.
Philippians 4:19

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #10:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

God will supply all your need
according to His riches in glory.

Philippians 4:19

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #11: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER



MEMORY VERSE

If you forgive men when they sin against you,
your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:14

INTRODUCTION:

PRAYER WALK

Before the Prayer Walk, plan the route. Take index cards and tape with you. Tag items which can be used to sponsor prayers of thanksgiving and praise. Flowers, birds nests, trees, grass, cars of church families, etc. A spot with a wide view like lawn or sky is a good spot for a prayer reminder about missionaries we know.

Take the group personally and lead in prayer at each prayer reminder card. Allow students to pray sentence prayers at each spot. At the end of the route, seat students on the grass, blankets, chairs, etc. Take time for personal prayer. Sing a quiet song before returning to the activity center.

BIBLE STORY:

WORDS FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus was a terrific teacher! He sat down on the Mount of Olives with many people around Him. Jesus taught how Christians should live, how they should pray, how they should treat their enemies and their friends, and how God loves and cares for them. He said so much that we cannot talk about all of it today. Let's choose one part to learn. We usually call this *The Lord's Prayer* but it really should be called *The Disciple's Prayer* since this is how each of us should pray.

SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER ALOUD.

The Lord's Prayer is a guide, not the exact words we must say every time. It shows us a good way to pray and some good topics to pray about.



READ MATTHEW 6:9-13 ALOUD.

Matthew 7:24-27 The words of Jesus' prayer really touched the hearts of His listeners and believers still pray like this today. At the end, Jesus said:

Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the flood waters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash.

What kind of person do you want to be? The wise man who builds a firm foundation of faith or a foolish man who builds his faith on whatever sounds good at the moment?

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS: THE DO NOT'S
DO NOT PRAY LOUDLY
WHERE EVERYONE CAN HEAR YOU.

Jesus said some people pray so their friends think they are special. They pray loudly on street corners and stand in churches where everyone can see them. Jesus said that's all the reward they will ever get for all their showy words. It is better to go away by yourself, shut the door and pray to your Father secretly. Our God, who knows all your secrets anyway, will answer your prayer.

DO NOT BABBLE.

Some religious people think God will hear them when they repeat themselves again and again. They choose a few words to repeat and often the words don't have real meaning. Jesus said we don't have to do that because God knows what we are going to ask before we even say the words. Prayer is easy if we do it like we are talking to a close friend. Tell the Lord about your day. Tell Him how much you appreciate His friendship and ask questions. He'll get the message!

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #11:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

If you forgive men when they sin against you,
Your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.
Matthew 6:14

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #11:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

If you forgive men when they sin against you,
your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:14

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #12: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

POP UP PRAISE



MEMORY VERSE

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.
Psalm 117:1

INTRODUCTION: PRAISING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Seat students in a circle on the floor. Give them time to think about one praise they can give to the person sitting next to them. Make some suggestions about what praise means. (Applaud, compliment, congratulate, celebrate, honor, worship, cheer, adore, idolize, flatter.)

Think about the good qualities of the person next to you. Often, we think only about the bad qualities each of us has. That's not fair! Even if you do not know someone well, even if that person is not your close friend, you can think of something nice to say. Do they sing well, treat others nicely or take time to care about people? Every person has something good about themselves that they may not realize. Let's remind each other of those good things and in the process praise each other.

BIBLE STORY: A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Mark 14:1-9, Luke 7:36-50 Praise does not have to be offered only in words. Try praising someone with a thoughtful good deed to show them how much you appreciate them. That's what happened not long before Jesus died. The customs of those days are very different than the polite customs we observe today. Those everyday customs may seem a little odd to us.

As was the custom, Jesus and other guests rested on couches facing the dinner table. They were guests of Simon who wanted to see if Jesus would make a mistake he could criticize. While they ate, an uninvited woman entered the room. She looked from one guest to another until she saw Jesus. With her hair she wiped away the tears that fell on his feet. She poured costly perfume on



his feet and kissed him.

This was just what Simon, the Pharisee, wanted to see. He knew she was a great sinner. Why did Jesus let such a woman weep at his feet? Imagine his surprise when he saw the woman anoint Jesus' feet with costly perfume. In his heart Simon said, "If Jesus were a prophet, he would not allow this woman to come near him. He would know what a sinner she is."

Jesus could tell what Simon was thinking, "Simon, when I came into your home, you did not treat me like an honored guest. You did not give me water to wash the dust from my feet, but this woman has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss of welcome, but this woman has kissed my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil as you anoint the heads of your friends, but this woman has poured costly perfume on my feet. I tell you that her many sins are forgiven, for she has loved much. Those who have little forgiven, love little."

This uninvited woman, a sinner, gave Jesus her sacrifice of praise. She risked embarrassment and ridicule to enter Simon's home. In those days women did not untie their long hair let alone wipe someone's feet in front of a room filled with people. The perfume was expensive. It may have cost as much as a year's salary. This perfume had probably been a special gift. Yes, this woman was giving Jesus the ultimate compliment of herself. It was a sacrifice of praise.

G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS: PRAISE THE LORD

Look for opportunities to praise, celebrate, compliment and applaud people. It makes a difference to be appreciated. Do it often.

Take time to praise the Lord. Tell Him how much you appreciate Him. Let's take time to praise Him now. These are the words of David in the Psalms.

Allow reading students to take turns reading praises.



PSALM 111

*Praise the Lord! I will thank the Lord with all my heart
as I meet with his godly people.*

*How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!
All who delight in him should ponder them.
Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.
His righteousness never fails.*

*Who can forget the wonders he performs?
How gracious and merciful is our Lord!*

*He gives food to those who trust him;
He always remembers his covenant.
He has shown his great power to his people
by giving them the lands of other nations.*

*All he does is just and good,
and all his commandments are trustworthy.
They are forever true, to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.*

*He has paid a full ransom for his people.
He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.
What a holy, awe inspiring name he has!*

*Reverence for the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.
The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him.
Praise his name forever!*

CLOSE IN PRAYER.



WEEK #12:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.
Psalm 117:1

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.
Create your own delicious snack.
Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #12:

REJOICE IN THE LORD FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.
Psalm 117:1

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:



WEEK #13: G.R.I.N. BIBLE SHOP

MAKING GOD SMILE



MEMORY VERSE

Call unto Me
and I will answer thee
and show thee great and mighty things
which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

INTRODUCTION: THE POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is the great problem solver.

Yet even the church found it hard to believe prayer would work...

.God holds out His hands and says, 'Ask and it shall be given you....' The lack of power for the average Christian

finds its explanation in the words of....James,

'You do not have because you do not ask' -R.A. Torrey

God's Word is very clear that prayer is the key that unlocks the power of heaven. Many times Christians do not believe that God will *really* answer prayer. James, the brother of Jesus and one of the disciples, scolds believers and also gives a warning when he says we don't have because we do not ask. If we could sum up all of the lessons about prayer that we have learned, it would be:

PRAYER--JUST DO IT!

There is great power in prayer. The earliest believers found that out one dark and gloomy night.



BIBLE STORY:

PETER'S POWERFUL PRAYER PEOPLE

Acts 12:1-23 King Herod so wanted to be popular with the Jews that he had James, the brother of John, killed. The leaders were so pleased that Herod ordered Peter put in prison. The Jesus believers felt the loss of James and they could not spare Peter too. Each day they met and prayed for his release. Days passed and still Peter remained in the dreary prison. Finally the church met at Mary's home to pray all night.

Meanwhile, back at the prison, Peter was asleep chained to two soldiers. Outside his door other soldiers stood on guard. While Peter slept, an angel came and awakened him. The angel said, "Get up quickly." When Peter stood the chains fell off his hands.

The angel told Peter to dress, wrap up in his coat and follow. Out of the cell and past the guards they walked. When they came to the great iron gate that led to the city, it swung open before them. Out they walked. As they started up the street, the angel disappeared.

Peter thought he was dreaming but now he knew this was real. He hurried to Mary's home where the believers were praying for him. He knocked at the gate and Rhoda, the serving girl, called out, "Who is it?" When she heard Peter's voice, she was so excited that she did not open the gate but ran to tell the good news. "Peter is here! Peter is here!" she shouted.

Those who had been praying did not believe her! They said, "You are crazy. It must be his angel." The entire time this argument was going on, Peter was standing outside the gate, knocking. Finally they went to see for themselves. When they opened the gate, there he stood! There was a lot of excitement in Mary's house that night!

How strange that the believers said they believed in prayer and they were gathered to actually pray and they were even going to lose a night's sleep to pray. Yet, when God showed His magnificent power and miraculously released Peter from prison, they didn't believe it!!!



G.R.I.N. PRAYER TIPS: JESUS' BEST TIPS

Learning about the life of Jesus gives us the best picture of how we should pray. Let's see how Jesus handled prayer.

1. JESUS ALWAYS THANKED GOD. When we pray, we should thank God for what He has done and for everything He will do. People think they are bothering God with constant requests. The only way we disappoint God is by not asking.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

2. JESUS DREW NEAR TO GOD. Jesus stayed in God's presence at all times. We should draw near to God in mind, in heart and in spirit.

Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:8

3. JESUS PRAYED FOR OTHER BELIEVERS. Jesus prayed for His friends who loved God and served Him.

My plea is not for the world but for those You have given Me because they belong to You. John 17:9

4. JESUS TRUSTED GOD TO ANSWER PRAYER THE BEST WAY. The prayer that begins with trust and endures waiting will always end in thankfulness, triumph and praise.

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here that they may believe that you sent me. John 11:41

5. JESUS PRAYED ALL THE TIME. Prayer should be the key of the morning and the lock of the night.

Pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:17



GRIN CONCLUSION

Teacher: Use this short series conclusion as desired. It is added as a unique way to answer questions children may have about ending their prayer.

Why do we say "In Jesus' Name, we pray...."?

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

John 14:13-14

These words tell us that whatever we ask—anything at all—if we ask it in the name of Jesus, he will do it for us. It is not a kind of spiritual "Abracadabra" magic. When we pray we must always think carefully about our requests. Don't misuse prayer and don't misuse the name of Jesus.

1. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are saying that Jesus Christ is the only way to God. (Hebrews 10:19-20)
2. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are saying that his name is the supreme (highest) name in the universe. (Philippians 2:9-11)
3. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are saying there is no power to answer your prayers in any other name, including your own. (Acts 4:12)
4. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are giving your will to his will because he knows what is best.
5. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are asking that God's be honored through the answer to your prayer. (John 14:13)
6. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are asking that everything you ask for line up with God's will and God's Word. (Romans 10:13)



Why do we say "Amen" when we're done praying?

Amen means "so be it" or "it is true." It is simply a way of closing a prayer. We close letters with a similar word—sincerely. Amen means that we have said what we mean and believe that God has heard our prayer.

To say amen—"so be it"—is a way of saying that we trust God to answer. It reminds us that God has everything under control.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Psalm 106:48

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
CLOSE IN PRAYER.
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



WEEK #13:

ACROSS THE SMILES CAFÉ

MEMORY VERSE

Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee
great and mighty things which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

SNACK

Choose a snack from the curriculum list.

Create your own delicious snack.

Teach today's verse during snack time.

Instructions:



WEEK #13:

REJOICE IN THE LORD
FUN CENTER

MEMORY VERSE

Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee
great and mighty things which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

CRAFT/GAME ACTIVITY

Choose a craft or game activity from the curriculum list.

Instructions:

