

Teacher's Info: August 16th

Here is some quick info on the different components of the lesson, including games and activities.

Teacher's Devotional - Gives some background info on the lesson as a whole and prepares the teacher for Sunday. (Do before Sunday)

Order of Service -

- Worship - One Way, by: Hillsong Kids (feel free to come up with your own motions or look up some options)
- Bible Story Center - Includes the intro and story that will be taught.
- Verses - Acts 12:1 -19 + Jeremiah 29:12
- God's Word and Me - A great collection of questions to ask the children after the lesson.

- Game - **Four Corners**

Description: Write the numbers 1,2,3, and 4 on four separate pieces of paper. Then pick one child to stand in the middle of the room with their eyes closed. Then tell the kids to run around in a circle and once the music stops they have to pick a corner with one of the numbers. When the music stops the person in the middle will choose a random number and yell it. Everyone in that corner is out and has to sit in the middle with the person yelling the numbers. The last person left wins! It is kinda like musical chairs but more activity! Have fun! :)

- Craft - Hand Verses

Description: Have kids grab a jar and decorate it. Then take craft sticks and have kids write as one prayer request on each stick. Ex. Pray for my family, pray for my dog, and/or pray for my church. They can be more specific if needed. Encourage kids to take their jar home and choose a new stick each day and say a prayer, because GOD answers prayer!



Example:

* it should look similar to this.

- Coloring Page - Can be used during Sunday time or something for the kids to take home.
- Puzzle Center - Given to children as they exit.

Services Notes:

- If able, play some music through the aux cord during the beginning of class. (Hillsong Young and Free has some great kids worship)
- Try to keep everything flowing as quickly as possible.
- All the supplies and papers needed for your lesson will be found on the craft cart.
- Make sure to have a quick word of prayer before your helper arrives, or with your helper to set the tone for kids' church.
- If able, arrive 45 to 30 minutes early just in case you need to set up or grab more materials.
- Don't hesitate to call, text, or email with any further questions, comments, or concerns.

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P.S. I could not find jars, so I brought up cups to decorate instead.

God Answers Prayer



Teacher's Devotional

Have you ever noticed how we tend to emphasize some Scriptures over others? We're big on the Ten Commandments, and rightly so. We're unlikely to steal our neighbor's car or tell a lie in court. But there's one verse in Scripture we often forget or deemphasize when we are in the middle of a worrisome or difficult time: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

God's Word tells us not to worry! And for a child of God, worry is not an option—but prayer is! We are to pray not only about our worries, needs and requests, but also to thank God as part of that process. We can rage, cry, whine and complain in prayer as King David did! David confidently says, "Listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me" (Psalm 86:6-7). Then, also like David, we must move on to praise the God who is big enough to not only listen to us rage, cry, whine and complain but also to completely change the situation we describe to Him! David didn't try to "nice up" his prayers for God but was sure that his loving Father heard.

Honesty, confidence and thanks may not always be features of our prayers. But God encourages us not only to be honest with Him, but also to thank Him in faith that He will *do something* about what we've asked! After all, God invites us to call upon Him and pray to Him (see Jeremiah 29:12). And He promises to listen and answer. We may not get the answer we expect, but that is because He loves us more than we love ourselves and is wiser than we ever can be. So certainly, He will do something that will result in our good and His glory—and surprise us every time! Anticipate that He will hear you when you call and will answer!

God's Word

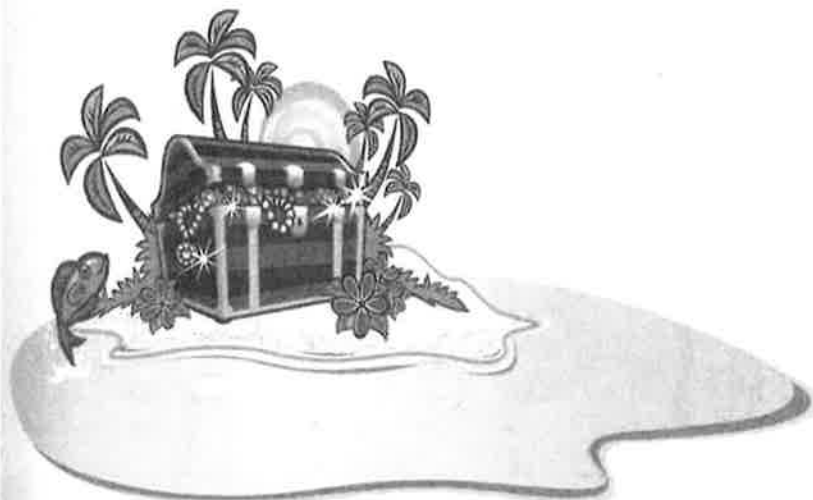
"Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12

For Younger Children:

"Call upon me . . . and I will listen to you."

God's Word & Me

We can pray to God because He promises to hear and answer our prayers.





Bible Story Center

FOR OLDER CHILDREN
Acts 12:1-19



Collect

Bible.

Introduction

Tell children a Knock, Knock joke or invite a few children to tell any Knock, Knock jokes they know. **Listen to hear why someone was so surprised when she found out who was really knocking on her door.**

As you tell the story, lead children in using their feet to create sound effects at different parts of the story (use both feet to make loud marching steps when it is mentioned that the soldiers were sent to arrest Peter; make two heavy stomps when it is mentioned that Peter's chains fell off; tap one foot quickly on floor to make knocking noises; quickly stamp both feet to make the sound of Rhoda running).

Tell the Story

It was time for the Passover, usually a joyful time to worship God in Jerusalem. But for God's growing family, it was a SCARY time. You see, Herod, the Roman ruler, had sent soldiers to arrest and KILL James, one of Jesus' followers! Everyone in God's family was very sad. And they were wondering what that cruel ruler Herod would do next!

It wasn't long before Herod did something else to make them afraid. He sent soldiers to arrest Peter, another one of Jesus' friends. Herod had Peter put in prison. Herod was planning to keep Peter in prison until the Passover holiday was over. Then Herod planned to accuse Peter of doing something wrong and put him on trial, so Herod could kill him, too.

Peter's friends knew that Peter might be killed. So guess what they did. They prayed! They met at the house of a woman named Mary and prayed and prayed with all their might, asking God to protect Peter and to help them.

The night before Herod was going to have Peter killed, God sent an angel to Peter's prison cell. The angel said, "Quick, get up!" And the chains around Peter's arms just fell off! Then Peter and the angel walked right past the guards—they were sound asleep and didn't wake up!

When Peter and the angel got to the huge iron gate leading to the city, the gate opened as if an invisible hand was pushing it! Peter followed the angel to the end of the street. Then the angel simply DISAPPEARED!

Peter hurried to the house where his friends were praying. He knocked on the door. A servant girl named Rhoda called out, "Who's there?"

"Peter!" he answered. Rhoda was so overjoyed that she ran to the room full of praying people without even opening the door!

"Peter's at the door! Peter's at the door!" she cried.

"WHAT?" they asked. "You must be crazy! Peter's in prison. He CAN'T be at the door."

But Peter kept knocking on the door! When Rhoda finally opened it, Peter's friends were amazed—and happy to see him!

Draw a large copy of a phone's keypad onto a sheet of paper. Write the following numbers on the paper: 267-9377 and 772-9377. Place paper in a treasure chest.

At the end of the story, volunteer removes paper and displays for others to see. Children work together to figure out the coded message: "answers prayers."



Treasure Chest Option

"God heard your prayers for me," Peter said. "God rescued me! God sent an angel in answer to your prayers!"

Everyone was VERY glad that Peter was safe. They knew then that God had heard and answered their prayers! And so they prayed again—to THANK God for sending Peter safely back to them!

God's Word & Me

Sometimes when we pray, we may think that God doesn't hear us because He doesn't answer us when we expect He will or in the way we expect He will. But God really DOES hear—and He DOES answer our prayers. Sometimes He answers our prayers in good ways that we don't expect! He loves us and He loves to surprise us!

- ☞ What did Peter expect would happen? What did his friends do?
- ☞ How did God surprise Peter? (Sent an angel to his prison cell.) When were Peter's friends surprised? (When Peter came to their house.)
- ☞ What are some reasons we pray to God? (To show our love for Him. To praise and thank Him. To ask Him for an answer or for understanding.)
- ☞ What are some things kids your age might ask God to do? (Help in getting along with others. Help when afraid of something at school.) Thank God for?
- ☞ What might be a reason God doesn't answer every prayer with a "yes"? (God knows what is best for us. Some things we ask for might not be good for us. God may have a better plan for us.)
- ☞ Read Jeremiah 29:12 aloud. What does this verse say that God wants us to do? When we pray, we can pray knowing and trusting that God will hear and answer our prayers. Pray, Dear God, thank You for hearing and answering our prayers. Amen.



An angel frees Peter.

Acts 12:1-19



**Peter thanked God for answering his friends' prayers and rescuing him from the jail.
What is something you want to thank God for? God answers our prayers.**

FOLLOW THE CLUES!

1. It is not in any of the books which are laying flat.
2. It is to the left of Romans.
3. It is not a book which has the same name as another book.
4. It has more than four letters in its name.
5. It has the same name as something in an address.

One of the books below has a story about a talking animal. Find where the story is by reading the clues below.



Read _____ 22:21-34 for the story about what happened!
 (book you discovered)



In one of the books below you can read about two miraculous escapes from prison.

1. It is not any of the books which are stacked in a pile.
2. It is to the right of Exodus.
3. It is not a book with a person's name.
4. It is not an Old Testament book.



Read _____ 12:5-11 and 16:16-40 to find out who prayed in these stories. What can you ask God for or praise Him for?
 (book you discovered)