

Things to take:

- Question box with pens & paper.
- Door welcome sign, register & rules.
- Memory verse sign.
- List of words for game from the CD.
- Hexagonal shape with words for last game.
- Backing paper for response time.
- Bread, trays and newspaper for last game.
- Cards with mixed up Lord's prayer from the CD.

Session Aim:

Aim- to teach what prayer is and to encourage them to do it!

"Always be joyful and never stop praying."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Game as they arrive and register: Giant rock, paper, scissors

This is a bit like rock, paper, scissors but in teams. The group is split into two even teams. They stand with quite a big gap in between them, opposite each other. Each group huddles and decides whether they want to be a rock, paper or scissors. There are actions for each of the characters (crouch for rock, arms like crocodile for scissors and hands up for paper). The teams approach each other and on 3 they must perform the action of their character. Team that wins chases the other team and tries to tag them before they get back to their starting place. If a member of the losing team is tagged, they join the other team. This can go on until there are no members left in one team.

Game: Taboo

Split the group into two teams. Using the list of words on the 'extras' section of the CD, get a leader to stand with the list of words. One member of the team has to come and get a word and describe it to the rest of their team without using the word itself or words listed beneath it. Each time a word is guessed correctly, the child who guessed runs to the leader for the next word to be described. Winning team is the one who completes the list first.

Memory verse:

First, see if anyone has remembered last week's verse (John 3:16) - give prizes accordingly.

"Always be joyful and never stop praying." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Explain what joy means. Hold up the memory verse and set a timer going. When someone thinks they have memorised it they can put their hand up. Hide the verse and see if they can remember it. If you want you can give everybody else chance to beat their time by doing the same again.

Rules & answer questions in the question box**Talk:**

Make two signs, one which says 'true', the other 'false.' Stick them at opposite sides of the room. Read out the following statements and get the kids to move to the side of the room they think is correct.

- Prayer is talking with God. (*True*)
- Prayer is only about asking God for things. (*False*)
- Jesus often got up early to pray. (*True*)
- You can only pray if you have been good. (*False*)
- The Bible tells us to pray at all times. (*True*)
- You can only pray in church. (*False*)
- You can pray about anything at all. (*True*)
- The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. (*True*)
- Jesus prayed when he was dying on the cross. (*True*)
- God only answers our prayers sometimes. (*False*)
- God always answers our prayers, but not in the way we might want! (*True*)
- Sometimes prayer means listening to what God has to say to us. (*True*)
- God is only interested in important things, not the everyday things that happen to us. (*False*)
- The disciples fell asleep while Jesus was praying. (*True*)
- We need to ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we have done. (*True*)

Expand on these points as you need to. Explain that there are many 'types' of prayer; asking, thanking, saying sorry, praying for others as well listening. Talk about how weird a friendship would be if you never spoke to your friend, or indeed never listened. God is our Father and he longs to hear from us. If we're not sure how to pray then the Lord's prayer is a good place to start...

Bible bit: Matthew 6:9-13

Place the cards with the comedy version of the Lord's prayer faced down on the floor. One person turns a card over and the rest of the group has to try and work out what the real line in Lord's prayer is. Then talk about what the words actually mean for us, do this for each line of the Lord's Prayer. Afterwards look at the child friendly version:

*Our Father who lives in heaven,
Holy is your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,
Lead us not into temptation,
But save us from evil
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Amen.*

Pray

Father, I want to talk to you more. Sometimes it's hard when we can't see you to know how to, so please teach us. Help us to learn how to hear you as well as how to speak to you. Amen

(Again, depending on your group it may be good to have a time of quiet so they can pray/listen for themselves)

Testimony:

Get a leader to share of a time when they prayed and the prayer was answered. Encourage the children to pray.

Response: Graffiti prayer

Cover the floor in wallpaper backing paper. Get the kids to write down prayers whilst you play some worship music. Afterwards the child could have a look at what other people have written. Or if you think your group would prefer to keep it personal, then simply give them a sheet of paper each.

Song & Actions:

This term you could either do 'God's Love is Big' from 'Kids Wanna Praise Rock' CD or 'Deeper' by 'Delirious?' which you can download from Amazon for 69p. Words for both of the songs are on the resources section of the CD.

Game: Balance your bread!

Get the children in a circle. Give two kids a foil cake tray each (you can get these from the supermarket) with a bread roll balanced on top which they have to hold with one hand only. In their other hand they will need a rolled up newspaper taped together, which they have to use to knock the other persons bread roll from their tray (no hitting of body parts allowed!) They first person to loose their bread roll swaps with another child to play the winner of the previous round.

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.