3's and PreK

(RE)SET

DATE(S)

March 21-22, 2009

LESSON TITLE

Week 5

OBJECTIVE

Kids will engage in prayer in unexpected ways.

BIBLE STORY

1 Thessalonians 5:17
"Pray continually."

TIPS/SCHEDULE

3's – PreK: Oakley
Saturday
5:30 – Free time
5:40 – Large group in Pod
6:00 – Small Group

Sunday
8:30; 10:00; 11:45 – Free time
8:40; 10:15; 12:00 – Large Group in Pod
9:00; 11:35; 12:20 – Small Group

3's – PreK: Mason
Mason Sunday
9:00; 10:30 – Free time
9:10; 10:40 – Large Group
9:30; 11:00 – Small Group

LEADER PREP

Quite simply, prayer is just talking and listening to God. To have a close relationship with anyone, you must spend time with them, talk to them often and share what is going on in your heart and life. Richard Foster says, "To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us…In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God's thoughts after him: to desire the things he desires, to love the things he loves. Progressively we are taught to see things from his point of view." (Celebration of Discipline, pp. 30) This week simply spend time talking with God--in the car or at the gym. Pray that the kids in your class will come to know God personally and communicate with him regularly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you know...?

A kangaroo can jump 30 feet!
But kangaroos can't walk backwards.

DAILY BREAKOUT

CHECKIN / CHECKOUT

As parents pick up their children, tell them we learned about prayer--talking to God anytime, anywhere, about anything. Encourage them to help their child pray throughout the next week.

LARGE GROUP HEADS UP

Today we're going to discover that we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything. When we're in the car, at the park, taking a bath or hiding under the covers, God is listening and we can talk to him.

SMALL GROUP

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

QUESTIONS

Do this activity as a bigger group. Remind kids that we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything.

1) Hold up the following pictures for kids to see and ask: "Can I talk to God when..."
   I'm riding in the car?
   I'm brushing my teeth?
   I'm playing with my toys?
   I'm eating lunch?
   I'm walking through a store with mommy?
   I'm taking a bath with lots of bubbles?

2) Do I have to talk out loud when I'm praying? (Kids will probably answer yes, but that's ok)

3) Will God hear me if I don't use any words and only use my thoughts? (Of course He will hear me! God knows what we're thinking so we can pray using our thoughts, too)

4) Do I have to close my eyes or fold my hands? (You don't have to always close your eyes. Remember, you can pray anywhere and sometimes you can't close your eyes when you need to talk to God.)

5) Do we have to use fancy words or will God understand us if I talk to him like we talk to any other person? (you can talk to God just like you would talk to mom, dad, a friend or a teacher.

STUFF TO DO, SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

ACTIVITIES

Do this activity at the tables in smaller groups.

Now that we've established that we can talk to God anywhere and anytime, we want to explore what we can talk to God about.

Use the following items, pulling out each item one at a time, allowing kids to think about how that item might prompt them to talk to God.

• Play food item (Pray before you eat to thank God for giving you something to eat. We can thank God for giving us what we need. Pick one person to pray and thank God for giving us food to eat)

• Big Bandage (Pray for someone who is sick. Ask if there is someone they know that is sick and pick one kid to pray for someone who is sick.)

• Item from nature—could be a stuffed animal or something like a leaf (We can tell God how great he is when we see what he has made. Ask if someone would like to thank God for something God has made.)

• Picture of a child being mean to another child. (Sometimes we need to tell God we're sorry when we're mean to someone else or we disobey. Or we can talk to God when someone is being mean to us. Can you think of a time when you needed to tell God you were sorry or a time when someone was mean to you and you needed to talk to God about it?)

DAILY BREAKOUT CONT'D

SMALL GROUP

Play the 'Name Game'
(OPTIONAL IF TIME PERMITS)
It is best to play the 'Name Game' in smaller groups at your tables so that kids don't feel embarrassed to speak in front of a larger group. You may want to play it prior to going into Large Group as a way to prepare the kids for the rest of the hour.

Here's how to play:

Gather kids together in a group.

Explain the game to the kids and tell them there are two reasons we play it:
1. We want them to know that God knows each of us by name (we are special to God)
2. To help us learn each others' names

A volunteer leads the game and begins by pointing to a child. The child says his/her name. Then the entire group says "Jesus loves _____!" Then, the volunteer points to the next child.

Continue around the circle or table until every kid has a chance to say his or her name and hear that Jesus loves him! When the kids are finished, make sure you include the volunteers.

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITY

LARGE GROUP SCRIPT

SPECIAL NOTES

There are several moments in the script where you need to act like you're doing something-driving a car/taking a bath/playing in the park. Kids love it when we act silly and do it over the top. So be sure to ham it up when you're acting out these actions--they love it!

PRESENTER TIPS

A great way to regain your group's attention is to change the inflection in your voice. Get excited and overly animated or reduce your voice to a whisper. This will help you grab their attention and keep it a little longer.

SCRIPT

Presenter: Hi everybody! Thank you for coming to Kids' Club. My name is _____ and I'm so glad you're here today! Did you know that you can talk to God? That's right! You and I can talk to God anytime, anywhere and about anything! Before we discover how we can talk to God, let's go over NORP! NORP is our code for helping us make the right choice here in Kids' Club!

(Go over NORP, but do so quickly—no more than a minute should be spent on NORP)
NORP:
What does the N in NORP stand for?
N - No talking out of turn
What does the O in NORP stand for?
O - Obey your leader
What does the R in NORP stand for?
R - Respect others and their things
What does the P in NORP stand for?
P - Put things away

Now that you know what NORP means, we're going to practice talking to God and one of the ways we can talk to God and tell Him how we feel about him is through a song. Let's stand together now and sing because it's a great day to tell God how great He is.

Sing: Great Day

Great job singing and telling God how great he is. We're going to learn how to talk to God. Does anyone know what it's called when we talk and listen to God? (Pause for responses.) That's right!! It's called prayer! Did you know that you can talk to God anytime, anywhere,

SCRIPT CONT'D

ABOUT anything!?! I can talk to God. Can you say that with me? (Repeat with kids: I can talk to God.)

That makes me think…can I really talk to God anytime, anywhere, ABOUT anything? What if I'm in the bathtub? (Hold up a rubber ducky.) Can I talk to God while I'm scrubbing behind my ears and in between my toes? (Pretend to wash behind your ears and pretend to wash your hair.) Do you think God can hear me through all of those bubbles and with all of the splashing? (Pause for responses.) Yeah--I can talk to God!

What if I'm riding in the car (pretend like you're steering your car through traffic, making fun car noises.) and I'm going to a place where I sometimes have a hard time being away from mommy or daddy—maybe someplace like school or Kids' Club_____ (insert church or ministry name here)? Can I talk to God and ask him to help me while I'm away from mommy and daddy? (pause for responses) Yes--God is always with us and he wants us to talk to him when we're afraid.

What if I'm playing in the park, having lots of fun on a beautiful sunny day? (Pretend to run around or skip while playing at the park) Can I thank God for making all of the beautiful things I see? (pause for responses) Yes--thanking God for what he has made is a way to pray.

What if I'm at home and all of the lights go out and it's really scary? What if I hear scary noises coming from my closet and I'm hiding under the covers? (Hold up blanket and pretend to hide behind the blanket.) Can I talk to God and tell him how great he is for always being with me, even when I'm afraid? You're so smart—of course I can still talk to God. I can talk to God!

I sure am glad that God is always around and he is always there for us to talk to. He never gets tired of hearing us talk to him and he wants us to talk to him. Remember, we can talk to God anytime, anywhere about anything! Let's remind ourselves by saying "I can talk to God." Are you ready?! Repeat I can talk to God with the group several times.

Pray: Let's practice talking to God right now. Remember, we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, ABOUT anything.

Lead kids in the following prayer, breaking it into smaller phrases:

God, you're great! Thank you for letting us talk to you anytime, anywhere, about anything. We love you! AAAAAAAAAMEN!!!!!

Did you know that singing songs to God is like singing a prayer to Him? We're going to sing some prayers to God right now because I can talk to God!

Sing: Thank You Lord

Presenter: Say this with me: I can talk to God (allow kids to repeat this with you several times). This week, remember that you can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything!

Dismiss the kids back to small groups.

SCRIPT CONT'D

NAME

PREP NEEDS

SMALL GROUP SUPPLIES

Coloring pages
Pictures of the following (postcard size and 2 sets of pictures per room): car, someone brushing their teeth, child playing with toys, someone eating lunch, child walking through a store with mommy, bubble bath
Bag filled with the following (2 bags per room): food item, big bandage, item from nature, picture of one child being mean to another child

LARGE GROUP SUPPLIES

Rubber ducky
Blanket

A/V NEEDS

NORP slides

SPECIAL ROOM SET-UP

CONNECT QUESTIONS

Where can you talk to God?
What can you talk to God about?

PARENT PAGE

Today we discovered that we can talk to God anytime, anywhere and about anything. Encourage your child to talk to God as you go throughout the week--and pick some unusual places to talk to God (bathtub, in the car, at the store, on the way to church next weekend, etc.) Encourage them to use normal/natural language.