

*Prayer (Lesson 1)*  
**Why Pray?**

**LESSON OBJECTIVE**

This first lesson of a series of three will introduce children to the importance of prayer in their daily lives.

**AS KIDS ARRIVE**

Display the following items on a table:

**Telephone, Newspaper, Letters & Envelopes, a Road Map, and a radio**

As the children arrive, give them a sheet of paper and ask them to list what they think the items on the table have in common. Just before class starts let the kids know that all the things displayed on the table are used to communicate with each other. Today our lesson is about another way we communicate. How we communicate with God.

**OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISES**

**MEMORY WORK**

**“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” Jeremiah 29:13**

Write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a group several times. Then erase one word. Have the kids say the verse correctly again with the missing word. Then erase another word and say the verse again. Continue erasing words until the kids can say the entire verse without seeing the words.

**SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:**

Today we will learn that prayer is communicating or talking with God. We may not be able to call God on the telephone or send Him a letter, but prayer is just as real as e-mail or newspapers. Why should we pray? Because it makes our relationship with God stronger. Could you imagine trying to have a best friend without communicating with them? Prayer is seeking God and His direction for our lives. Praying also helps keep us out of trouble. Jesus told us to pray, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Matthew 26:41)

**James 5:13-16 (The Prayer of Faith)**

Have the kids find James 5:13-16 in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the passage or if you prefer read the passage to the children yourself.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is prayer?
2. Can you pray when you are in trouble?
3. Can you pray when you are happy?
4. What is another name for happy prayers? (*Praises*)

5. What are some of the examples of why to pray mentioned in James 5:13-16? (*When you are in trouble, when you are happy, when you are sick, to show faith, for confession of sin, and to pray for others*)

6. What else can we pray for?

7. Is the prayer of a righteous man powerful? Is it effective?

### **CLASS EXERCISE**

#### **So Don't Worry (Activity)**

### **APPLICATION**

Why pray? It's simple, to talk with God and to get His direction for our lives. God is so good and will help us when we are happy, sad, sick or even when we're in trouble. God will give us wisdom, strength and understanding if we only ask Him. In fact God is willing to give us many good things as long as we ask for them in accordance to His will. God answers our prayers with signs, the Holy spirit and His word, the Bible. When we pray our relationship with God grows.

# So Don't Worry

*Worrying tears away at being able to enjoy the many pleasures life brings.*



## **Preparation:**

Before class, make copies of the handout below for each child.

## **What you will do:**

First, give children a copy of the handout, and have them examine the pictures. Explain to the class that everything on the page is something enjoyable. Having a happy birthday, getting a shiny new bike, being able to play in "the big game of the season", going to the circus and of course, getting a new little puppy. Ask the children "Which of these would you like to have or do?" Explain that worrying can take away from having the ability to enjoy these things to the fullest. "What kinds of things do you worry about?"

If the children do not offer examples of things they worry about, you can suggest the following:

1. Worrying about getting a good grade on a test
2. Worrying about whether other children in the neighborhood will like you
3. Worrying about you mom or dad finding out you did something wrong
4. Worrying about what others will think if you do not do well at sports
5. Worrying about the way you look

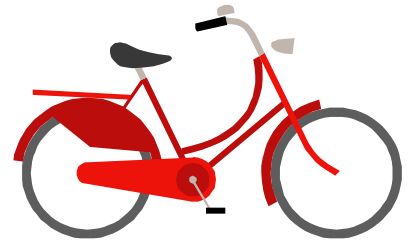
As you share the first example of something the children might worry about, have them tear off the Birthday cake from the handout, and toss it in the trash. Give another example and have them tear off the bicycle and toss it into the trash. Repeat giving examples and tearing away at the pictures on the paper until the children have nothing left.

Explain that worrying can be like this. If we spend too much time worrying, or if we worry about too many things, what should be enjoyable is not any more. So what should we do when something happens that might cause us to worry? The Bible says, "Cast all your worries upon Him, because he cares for you" (1Peter 5:7) so let Jesus do the worrying, so you can enjoy the things God gives you.



**A Happy Birthday!**

*A shiny new bike!*



**A NEW LITTLE PUPPY**



**Playing  
in the  
big game!**



# **A Day at the Circus!**