

Get Ready!

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

By: Betsy Moore



Text

Luke 11:1-10; Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 7:7-11

Key Quest Verse

“Ask, and it will be given to you” (Matthew 7:7a).

Bible Background

Jesus emphasized the concept that God is our Father, that He knows everything about us, and that we are objects of the Father's loving care. Believers approach God in prayer not only as to a living Person who is Creator and Ruler of the universe, but also as to their Heavenly Father who has perfect knowledge, unlimited power, and infinite love.

Five kinds or elements of prayer are: adoration (worship), confession, thanksgiving, petition (supplication), and intercession. In adoration, one talks to God about God Himself and tells Him how wonderful He is. In confession, one tells God about wrong things he may have done and accepts His forgiveness. In thanksgiving, we thank God for our blessings. In petition (supplication), we talk to God about our needs. In intercession, we pray to God about other persons. The five kinds of prayer are related to the three factors involved in the two great commandments set forth by Jesus – God, ourselves, and our neighbors (Matthew 22:36-40).

The prayer that Jesus taught His disciples begins with adoration of the Heavenly Father. Adoration is the highest type of prayer. Adoration may be distinguished from praise. In praise, one tells other persons how wonderful God is. In adoration or worship, he tells God Himself how wonderful He is.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

- Know:** God is always there to talk to.
- Feel:** Closer to God by talking with Him.
- Do:** Talk to God at least four times a day.

Leader's Devotion

It has been said, "To walk with God we must talk with God!" Prayer has no limits! There are no age limits, time frames, locations or number of times in the day we can call on God. Prayer is a time to share our thoughts and hearts with our heavenly Father. It is time to nurture a growing relationship! We need to focus our hearts on Him and listen as well as talk. Jeremiah 29:11-13 explains it all! "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, . . . to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart." Walk with God in prayer and praise.

Get Set!



Option A

FOLLOW THE LEADER/TELEPHONE

Materials: Tape player with Christian music playing to distract during whisper

Procedure: We're going to play a game to see how well you follow and listen. Select one child to be the leader for one trip around the room. The other children should follow the leader and do the actions the leader is doing. (Suggested actions: jump, clap hands, skip, touch the floor, jump to try and touch the ceiling, march, hop, snap fingers, touch your head.) If time permits, allow each child a chance to be the leader. Finally, the teacher will be the leader to play telephone. Let the children know that you will **whisper** a message to one, and they will in turn whisper to the next student until the message has been spread to each student. The last student is to repeat what was heard. The whispered message is "Jesus teaches us to pray everyday even if it's raining and you can't play outside. He will be with us no matter what." Compare what was first said to the message heard by the last student. It may be quite different. **Pretend that we were just talking to God. Do you think He could get the message right? We never have to worry about God being too busy or it being too noisy for Him to hear us. In our story today we're going to learn about Jesus' prayers to God.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

Materials: Root in a paper bag (if possible, a thriving plant and a dead plant)



Procedure: I've got something very important in the bag. I'm going to pass it around and you can shake it and feel it and smell it and see if you can tell what it is. Give each child a chance to listen, feel and smell the object in the bag. This item is going to be very hard to figure out because it is not normally seen or smelled. Does anybody have a guess? I'll give you a few more hints. This item is twisted and dirty. Plants can't live without it. Let children continue to guess and then open the bag and show them. This is a root of a plant. Remember I told you it normally couldn't be seen or smelled? And, it doesn't make any noise so you sure couldn't hear it. God developed the root to anchor a plant in the soil and to give the plant strength and stability. It also nourishes the plant with food and water from the soil. Do you think we're anything like a plant? We are! We need food and water to grow but we also need something else for stability and strength. We must be rooted in God's word and through study and prayer we become stable and strong. Prayer will help us develop strong roots that will hold us strong no matter what comes our way! In our story today we're going to learn about prayer. If you have a thriving plant and a dead one, you can compare and discuss what are lives are like without God and prayer.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Option C**CONNECTION CUP**

Materials: Small paper or plastic juice cup, hole punch, 12” string or yarn, button

Procedure: Punch a hole at the top edge of the cup and attach the string to the cup and the button. **We’ve got a challenge to see if we can get this button inside this cup. We must practice to be able to do it! This is kind of like prayer. We must stay connected to God through Christ in prayer. This button represents us, the string is Jesus, the direct line to God, and the cup represents God who is there to catch us. Even though we may miss, God never misses. He is always there! In our lesson today we’ll learn how to connect with Him in prayer!**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Jesus was the greatest teacher ever to live. A lot of times He taught by telling stories and then letting people know what the story was all about. He taught His friends many things. One day Jesus was in a special place praying. Do you have a special place you like to pray to God? Jesus had several places that were special, but He could talk to God anywhere and anytime. When He finished praying, His disciples were curious. They wondered how they should pray. Jesus let them know that they should talk to God in His name. Have you ever heard someone pray in Jesus' name? He was God's son, and He had lived on the earth and could be the intercessor or advocate to God. That means He can go to God and help us out. Remember how God can't stand sin? Jesus understands why people are the way they are and how they are tempted.

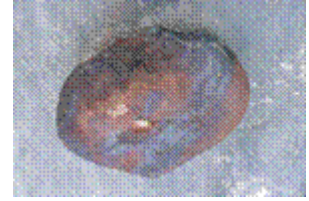
What do you think He told His friends when they asked Him how to pray? He wanted His followers to know what to pray for and who to pray for. Have you heard the Lord's prayer before? That was the example Jesus gave us to go by.

Lord's Prayer

What it means:

“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name . . . that tells us who to pray to.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done . . . that tells us what we're looking forward to.
 On earth as it is in heaven . . . and us accepting whatever God wants for us.
 Give us this day our daily bread . . . Thank You for our food.
 Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors . . . forgive us and others.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil . . . help us be good.
 For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. . . praise God
 Amen . . . that is the ending of a prayer, and means I agree.

Now that we know who to pray to and what to pray for, where do you think we should pray? Jesus answered that question, too! Jesus told the story of two men who went to pray. One man said, “God, I thank You that I'm not like this other man. Look at all I do. The second man was over in a corner with his head lowered and said, “God have mercy on me because I am a sinner.” Now which one do you think God listened to? When you pray, Jesus even suggests to go into a closet and pray. That means, don't be a show-off when you're talking to God. If you are asked to pray a prayer, what do you think you should do? Are you afraid to pray? Let's think about another story Jesus told us about. Jesus was talking to His friends and said, “If one of your children wanted some bread, would you give him a stone? Or, if he asked for a fish would you give him a snake?” If your father that is on earth is kind, just think of how much nicer your Father in heaven is! Jesus also let us know that sometimes we just have to let God know how bad we want something! He told another story about a man who had company come at midnight one night. He went to his friend's house (knock) and said, “Friend, lend me some food, company came and they're hungry, and I have nothing to feed them.” The friend answered, “Don't bother me, the doors are locked and my kids are in bed.” The first man must have kept knocking and asking, because his friend got out of bed and guess what . . . he gave him the food. Jesus says you have to ask and look and sometimes – even knock and the door will be opened to you. God will answer your prayers. Does God always say yes to everything you ask for? Does your father on earth always say yes? Talk to God! He will listen! Sometimes we must be quiet and listen to God, too!

Go!**Righteous Rocks****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: For each student: rock, paper plate, pencil, paint brush, tempera paint, felt, glue, water for clean-up and paper towels

Quest Connection

Spending time with friends and talking helps develop a great relationship. Today, we're going to create a "Righteous Rock" to remind us of the good times we spend with God. Place your rock where it will be seen often, and use it as a prayer reminder.

Procedure: Glue felt on the flattest surface of the rock so it will not scratch the furniture. Using a pencil, sketch something that will remind you of God (sun, flowers, etc.) Choose cheery colors to paint your rock. Stickers may also be used. Allow the rock to dry for 10 minutes.

Close

When you see your rock think of your relationship with God. How can it be better?

Prayer: God, thank You for always being there and listening to me! I want to celebrate Your love for me by serving You! In Jesus' name, amen.

Go!**Prayer Clock****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Paper plate, brad, 2 hands (2" x ½" & 3" x ½"), praying hands sticker and clock from student activity sheets and a hole punch

Quest Connection

Jesus taught us a lot about prayer. We know that we can pray at any time night or day. I'm going to talk to you about how my day begins and if you think I should pray at that time then just stop me and we will practice to know when we should pray and what we should say. I wake up at 7:00. Can everybody find 7:00? As I talk about different times of the day, don't forget to stop me if you think it's a good time to pray. (Thank You, God, for a wonderful new day.) I get up, make my bed, and get dressed. (Thank You for a wonderful home and warm place to sleep and clothes to wear.) Then, I go to the kitchen to eat breakfast. (Thank you for the food we eat.) At 8:00, everybody find 8:00 on their clock, I brush my teeth and get started for the rest of the day. (Dear God, Please help me through the day.) Continue on with your schedule or let the children say what they are doing at 9:00, and what they can pray for, etc.

Procedure: Cut out clock face and glue on paper plate. Punch a hole in the center of the clock with a sharpened pencil. Place the 2 hands together and punch a hole at one end. Place the brad through the hands and through the center of the paper plate. Let each child position the hands on the time when they get up in the morning.

Close

Prayer: Thank You, God, for a wonderful time of prayer. In Jesus' name, amen.

Go!

Prayer Game**GAME****Materials:** None

Quest Connection

It is important to talk to God and listen to Him in return. By listening to others pray we can learn to pray.

Procedure: Use this game to increase the children’s ability to know of what to pray for, as well as, listen to others. One person should begin by saying, **I’m praying to God and saying, “thank You for Jesus.”** The second person must repeat what the first person said and could add, **I’m praying to God and saying, “thank You for Jesus, and I’m asking Him to help me in school.”** The third person would repeat and add. This will continue until someone forgets . . . and start over again to give each student a chance to pray in an easy atmosphere.

Close

Prayer: Thank You for listening to our prayers. We love You and praise You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Go!**Finger Game Play****DRAMA**

Materials: 2 hands for each child (God’s taken care of it)

Quest Connection

We’re going to do a finger play to show the different parts of the church.

Procedure: Practice together as a class.

Here’s the church, (place hands with back of fingers together and insert fingers of left hand inside fingers of right hand with knuckles on top and fingertips enclosed inside)

Here’s the steeple, (index fingers in air)

Open the door, (move thumbs out)

See all the people. (wiggle fingers inside hand)

Now they sing, (turn hand over and wiggle fingers)

Now they pray, (bend fingers as if bowing)

Now all the people go away. (wiggle fingers away)

Close

Sing with your class:

“Jesus in the Morning”

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him at the noontime,

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down.

Go!**Sand Casting****SENSORY TABLE**

Materials: Aluminum pie pan, sand, plaster of paris, water, string for hanging

Quest Connection

When you see these hands, it should be a reminder to pray.

Procedure: Give each child an aluminum pie pan. Let each child spoon sand into his/her pan to the top. Have the child gently press his hand into the sand for a handprint. (Make sure it is a good impression of the hand with fingers spread slightly.)

(Adult) When plaster of paris is mixed with water and begins to get warm, gently pour it into the sand hand mold. Place a circular string at the top for hanging. Let dry and remove the hand from the sand. Gently dust any excess sand from the hand.

Teacher Tips: 1. Cover the table with a disposable table cloth for easy clean-up. 2. A pinch of salt and a few drops of glycerin helps prevent the plaster hand from chipping.

Close

Prayer: Thank You that Your Son taught us to pray. Help me to remember to pray each and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Go!**Placemat****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Construction paper, picture place setting or student hands, clear contact paper, Resource Page

Quest Connection

This placemat is to be used at the table when we eat. It will help remind us to thank God for our meal.

Procedure: Let each student choose colored construction paper. Either cut out place settings and glue in proper places or trace student hands. Write, “THANK YOU, GOD” at the top and student’s name at the bottom. Cover the place mat with clear contact paper.

Close

Remind your students how important it is to pray for every meal. **By using this placemat at home, it will be a constant reminder to pray before we eat.**

Go!**Prayer Pail****CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Materials: Pail or bucket and a slip of paper for each child to print his or her name on

Quest Connection

It is important that we remember to pray for our friends. God will strengthen each person throughout the week.

Procedure: Have each child print his/her name on a slip of paper and place it in the pail. Shake the pail up and have each child draw a name. Ask students to look at the name they have drawn and pray for that child every day this week. Ask if there are any special prayer requests from your students. Discuss what can be prayed for.

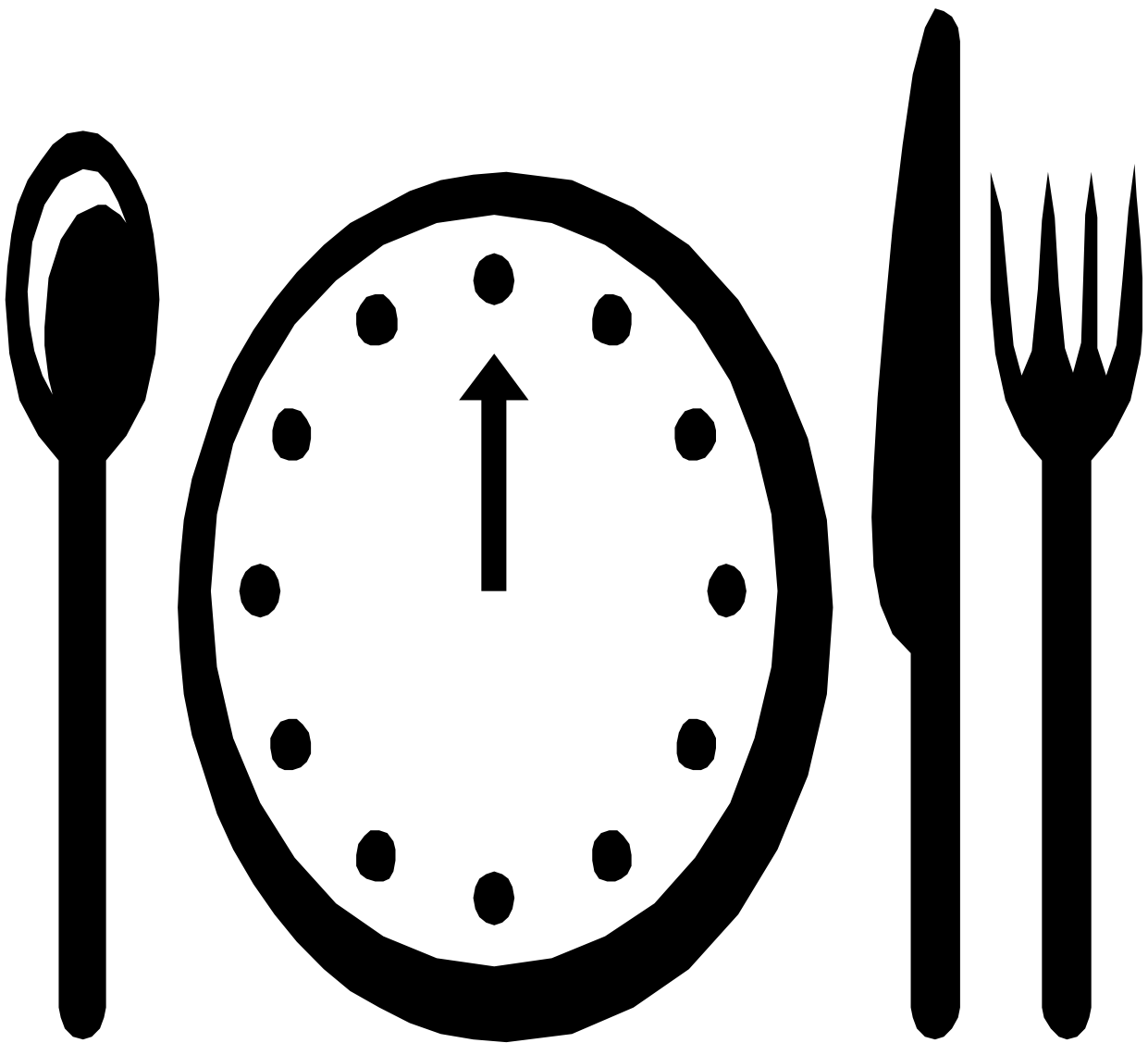
Close

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for each student here today. Please keep (name each student) safe this week. Please help them to remember to talk to You this week about their friends. Help each one be brave and tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Resource Page: Placemat

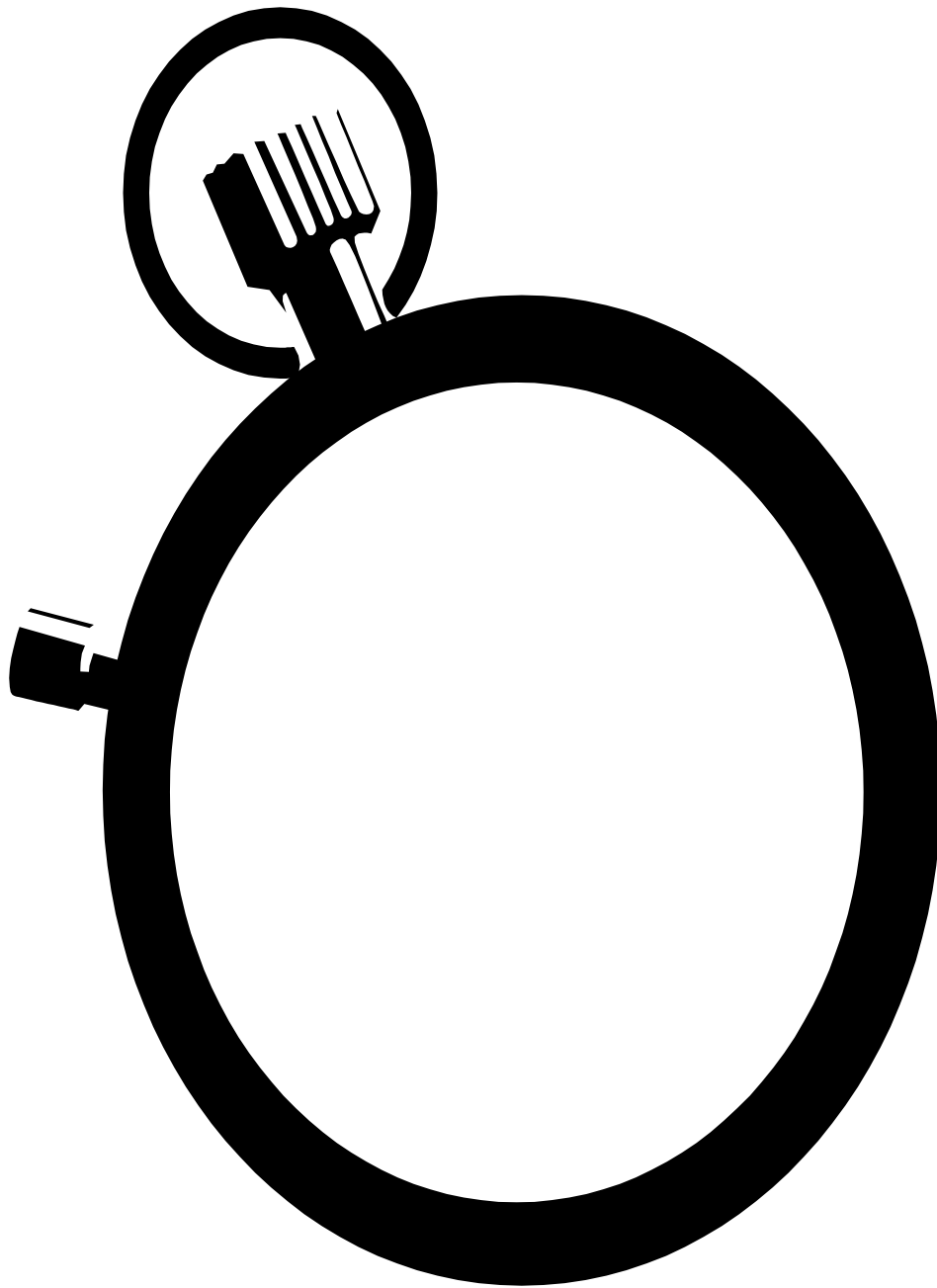
Either cut out place settings and glue in proper places, or trace student hands to remind them to pray.

Thank You, God



Journal Page

We can talk to God anytime. Think of one time during the day that you usually pray, and draw a picture inside the watch to show what you are doing.



"Ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7a).

Journal Page

I like to pray at my church. Draw a picture of your church where you like to pray.

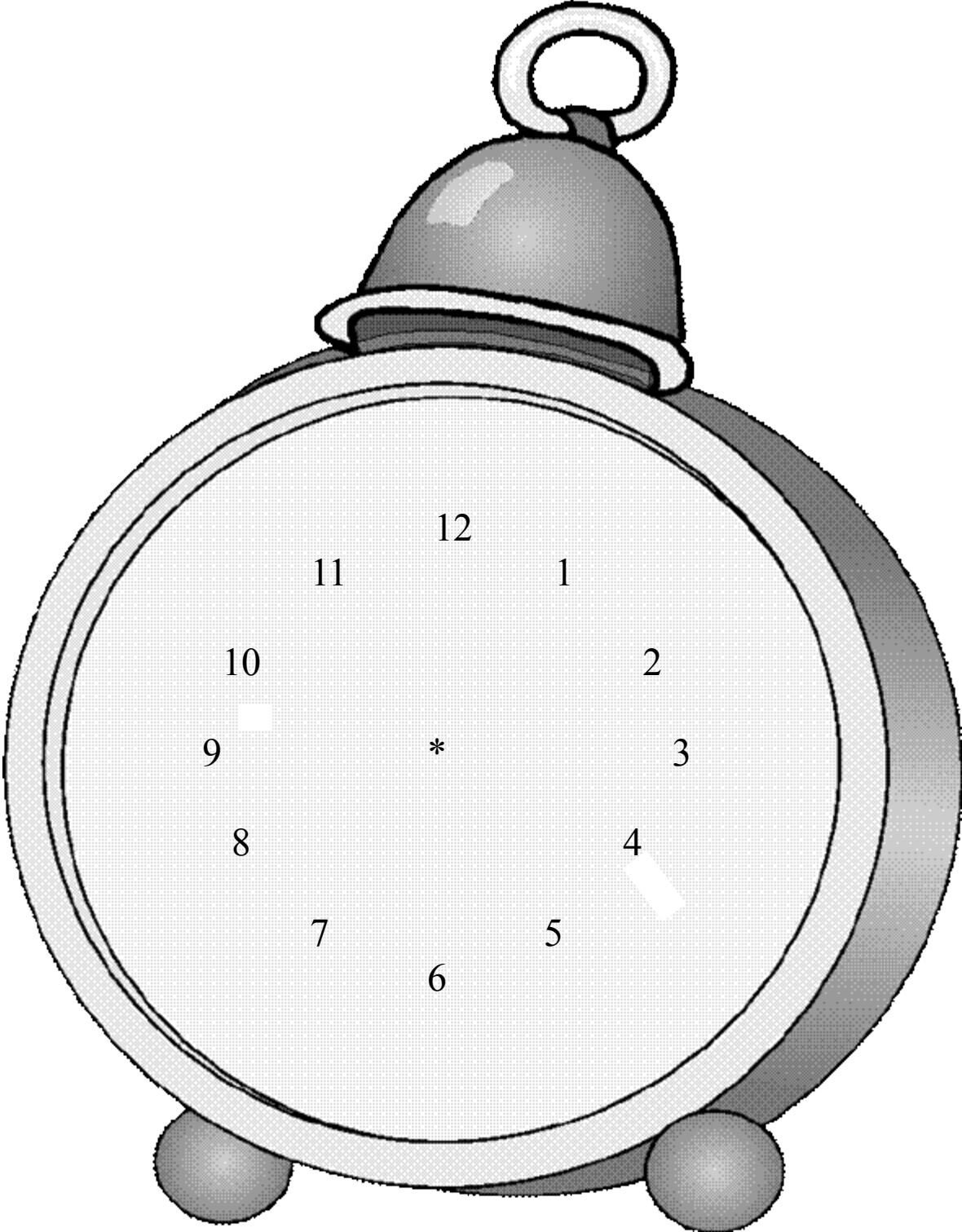
My Church



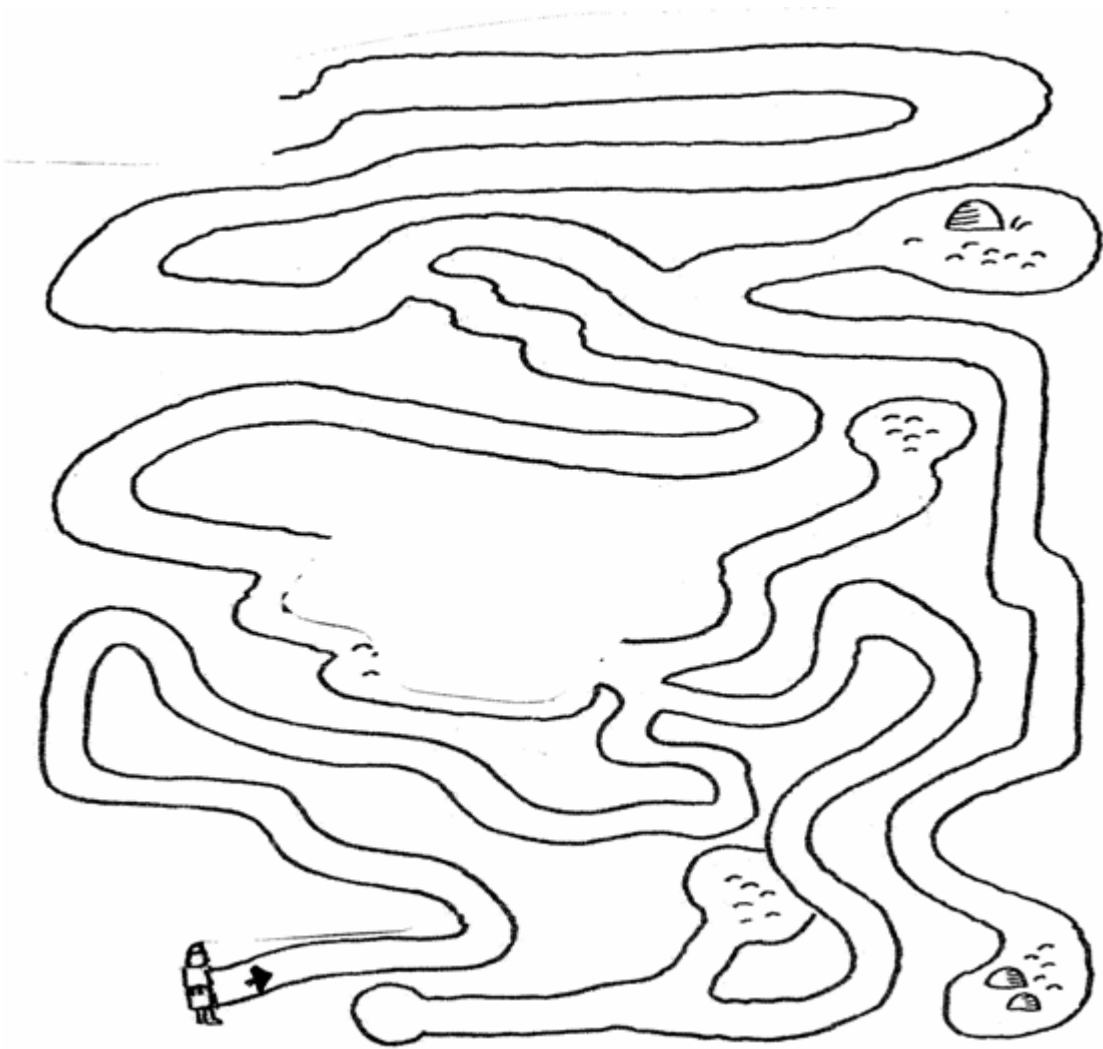
Name: _____

Date: _____

Resource Page: Prayer Clock



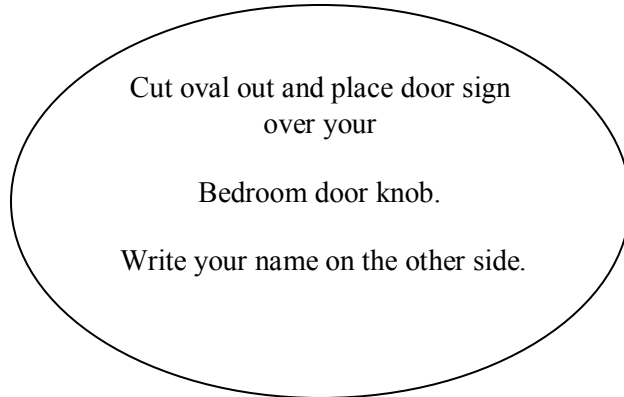
Maze: When we pray to God, we must pray in Jesus' name. Find your way to God through Jesus.



Door sign:
Many motels have door signs that read: "Do Not Disturb!"

God is always listening!
Your door sign should have your name on one side and the message from God on the other.

For added fun, use pre-cut sticky, alphabet letters, and let children design with them.

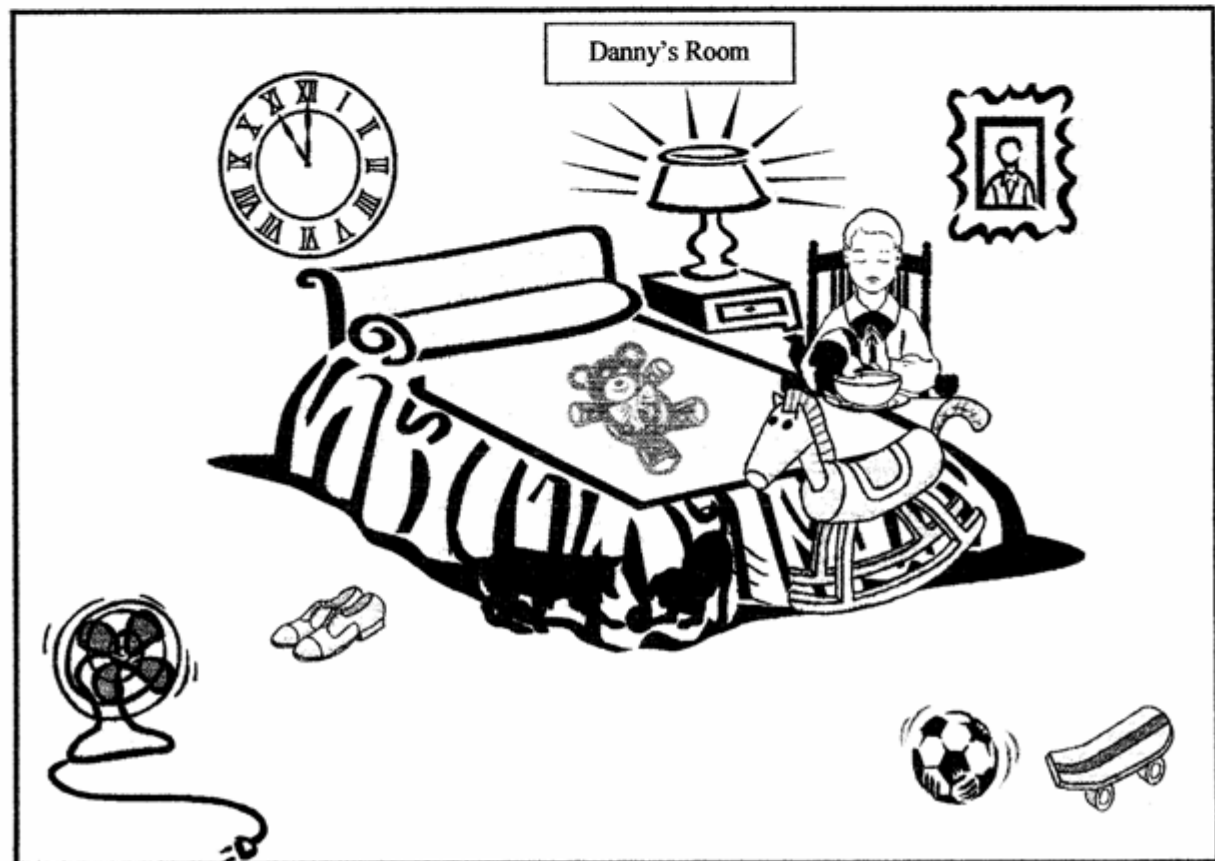
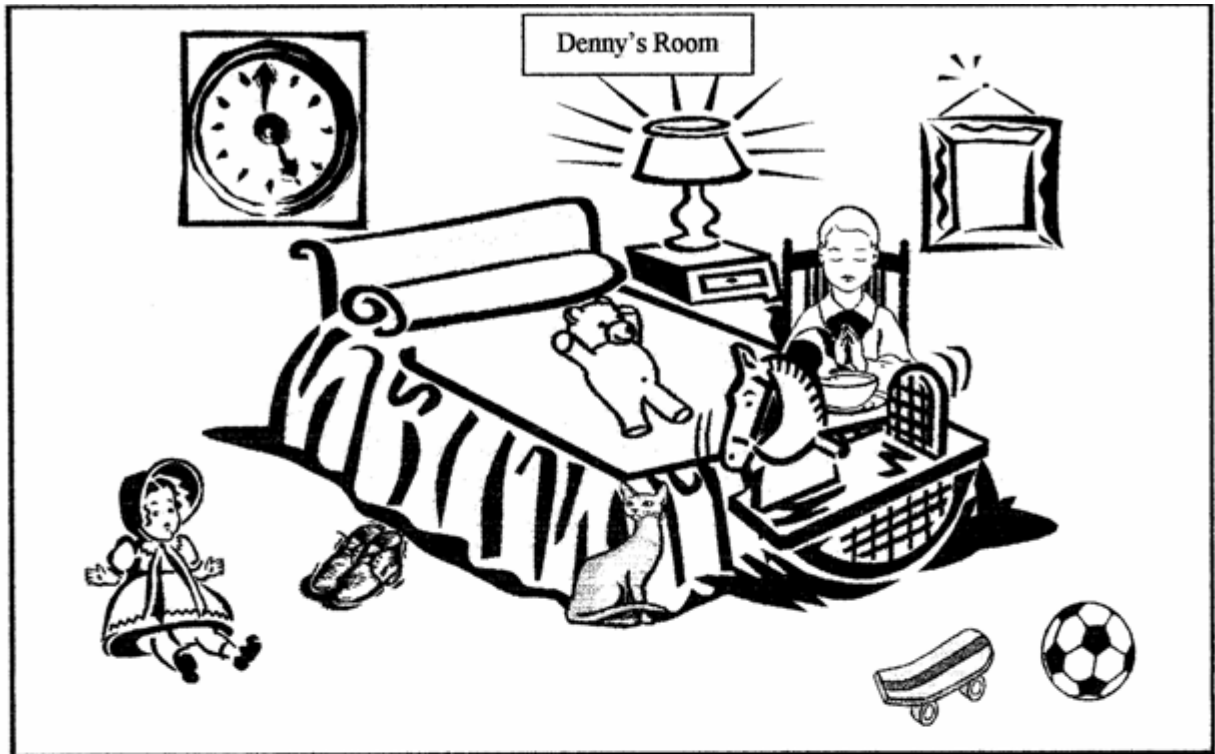


“Ask,
and it will be given to you;

seek,
and ye shall find;

knock,
and it shall be opened unto you”
Matthew 7:7

Denny and Danny are twin brothers praying their bedtime prayers. Can you find the differences in their rooms and X and O them?



JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

Jesus went up to the mountain to talk to God. Color the picture and draw another tree.

