

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: God hears and answers our prayers.

Key Question: How does God want us to pray?

Memory Verse: *We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us. 2 Chronicles 20:9*

Overview: Jehoshaphat was a king in Judah. His job was to lead the people to live for God and to fight against the enemies that were constantly trying to come in and overtake them. The Bible describes Jehoshaphat as a good king. He led the people well during his reign. But, he did face one major challenge that tested his faith in God. Messengers came to Jehoshaphat and warned him of an impending attack from not one, but three, different countries. They were marching toward the land of Judah in great numbers. On paper, there was no way Jehoshaphat's army could stand up to these enemies. So, Jehoshaphat had to make some quick decisions. Instead of cracking under the pressure and giving up, he prayed to God for help. Not only that, but he invited everyone to fast and pray that God would do a miracle and save them from the attackers. He prayed to God thanking Him for how mighty and great He was, and that there is no army strong enough to stand up to God. Then, he asked God for help and trusted that God would provide a miracle. God answered! He said, "don't be afraid for the battle is not yours, but mine"! And that's exactly what happened. The armies ended up fighting one another and never attacked Jehoshaphat's army.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.

5 min **WARM UP:** What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? (ex. learn to read, math, play an instrument) How did you get through it? Who helped?

5 min **PREVIEW:** Draw the bubbles on a whiteboard and fill in the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question. (If applicable, have kids fill in their bubbles on the Kids Activity Page.)

20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.

5 min **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide and then answer the KEY QUESTION.

5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#). Why don't we need to worry when we pray? Who will help us when we're scared? Why should we tell God what we're thankful for?

10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.

CLOSE:

- 5 min Share a person you're going to pray for this week.
- Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Allow each kid to share. Be prepared with your own example to get the conversation started. The point- things in life can be hard and we need help to get through it.

Answer: There isn't one specific way we have to pray but there are some elements that should be included in every prayer. The Lord's prayer ([Matthew 6: 9-13](#)) is a great example. But, to keep it simple for the kids, emphasize these three things.

1. Praise God- tell Him things you are thankful for
2. Pray for others- pray for your friends and family
3. Pray for you- ask God to help you with your worries and fears.

Bonus Questions:

K-1st: What kinds of things do you pray about? Do you pray before bedtime or when you wake up?

2nd-5th: How often do you pray? What kinds of things do you pray about?

These are challenging verses. Paul makes it sound so simple and easy-don't worry, just pray. But the reality is, most of us worry long before we pray. But, God wants us to rely on Him, especially in hard times. Our prayers help us focus on Him, not our fears. God promises to take care of us so we should spend our energy on thanking Him for all He has already done. Being thankful helps to remind us that God is faithful and will answer our prayers.

Option #1

Praying Hands

This is a fun craft for kids to think about all the people in their lives that need prayer. Take 2 pieces of construction paper and have each child trace their hands, one on each piece. Then, have the kids cut out their handprints (you may need to assist). Glue hands together below the thumbs (see image below). Take the People I'm Praying For template (template 5A) that has already been printed and cut and have kids glue template to the middle of hands (see image below). Then, encourage kids to write the names of family and friends they want to pray for, one on each finger. (Best to have them use a pen to write names- be prepared to assist with spelling).

**Supplies needed**

- Pre cut template for each child (5A)
- pens/markers
- glue
- construction paper
- scissors

Option #2

Prayer Journal

This craft will help kids pray for specific people in their lives. Take a piece of construction paper and put a piece of white paper on top of it (this will serve as the page to write on the inside of the journal). Fold the construction paper in half, width wise (with white paper inside). Have each child line up their thumb with the folded side of paper, with other fingers together (see image below) and trace their hand. Cut out the handprint, but not along the fold. Then, staple along the fold. You have created a mini journal! Open up the journal and have kids write down the names, or draw pictures, of people they want to pray for and even specific needs they are praying about. Have them decorate the outside of the journal and write the title, "My Prayer Journal". (Write this on a whiteboard so they can see how to spell the words.).

**Supplies needed**

- construction paper
- printer paper
- markers/crayons
- stapler
- scissors
- pencil for tracing

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. The _____, the _____ and the _____ declared war to King Jehoshaphat.
2. Jehoshaphat _____ to God when in trouble.
3. Jehoshaphat knew that _____ was the only hope for his kingdom.
4. God wants to help you in _____ situation.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? (ex. learn to read, math, play an instrument) How did you get through it? Who helped?
2. What do you do when you are in trouble or when someone makes fun of you?
3. How does God wants us to pray?
4. Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#). Why don't we need to worry when we pray? Who will help us when we're scared? Why should we tell God what we're thankful for?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.

2 Chronicles 20:9



NAME: _____

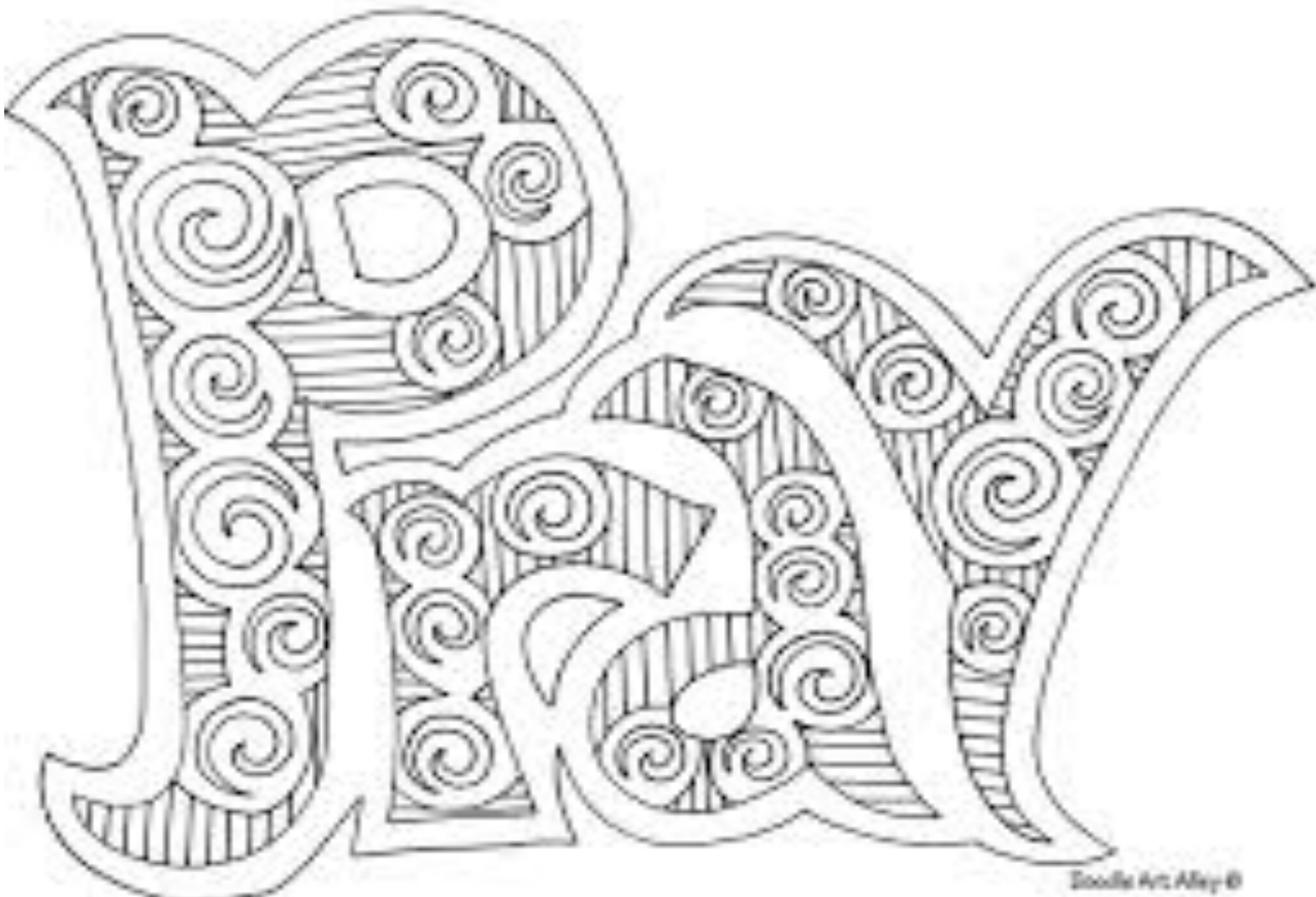
BIG IDEA:

God hears and answers our prayers.

MEMORY VERSE:

We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.
2 Chronicles 20:9

Instructions: color the picture.



Doodle Art Alley ©





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