

PRAYER WARRIORS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God will reveal his will through prayer.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God reveals his plans for us through prayer.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 26:36-46, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

MEMORY VERSE:

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

In the hour of his deepest need, Jesus prayed that the will of the Father would be done. Kids will learn that when they talk to God they should seek his will.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us your will for our lives. Speak to us when we pray.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

MEMORY VERSE

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

*“Give a lot of time and effort to prayer. Always be watchful and thankful.”
- Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*

LARGE GROUP:

As a group, see if the kids can recite the memory verse without seeing it on screen. Then put the verse on screen and read it once more together.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids partner up and take turns saying the verse to each other.

PRAYER WARRIORS

SKIT

THE PRAYER DOCTOR: GOD'S WILL

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

April- A TV host

Doc- The Prayer Doctor

April and Doc sit in chairs, angled toward one another, like a talk show set.

APRIL: Hello, and welcome back to the Prayer Doctor. I'm your host April and with me as always is the Prayer Doctor.

DOC: Hello, April. Are you doing okay today?

APRIL: Hmm? Yes, I'm fine.

DOC: April, I know you. I know something's bothering you.

APRIL: Let's talk after the show, okay?

DOC: Okay.

APRIL: I have a letter for you from a girl named... Tapril.

DOC: Tapril? That's an unusual name.

APRIL: I'm sure when she's older, she'll legally drop the "T" so she can sound more normal!

SKIT

DOC: O—kay.

APRIL: Tapril writes, “Dear Prayer Doctor, I have a very tough decision to make. I’ve been working with a really nice ministry for some time now, but I’ve had an amazing opportunity to join another. I feel bad leaving the ministry and the minister who has been so very good to me, but I feel like this might be God’s will. What should I do?”

DOC: Wow, Tapril sounds like she has a tough choice to make.

APRIL: Tell me about it!

DOC: You know what to do, don’t you, April?

APRIL: Hmm? What??

DOC: I said, you know what to do.

APRIL: No I don’t! That’s why I—I mean, that’s why Tapril wrote the letter!

DOC: Well, April, our friend Tapril needs to pray for God’s will. She needs to ask God what to do, and God will show her.

APRIL: But what if he doesn’t answer?

DOC: If you’re not hearing an answer, you’re not listening! You need to be on alert and aware to hear God’s still, small voice. Little signs, little hints, little clues will make it clear which way you are to go.

APRIL: You mean which way Tapril should go?

DOC: Tapril, you, me. Anyone who has a tough choice to make can take that choice to the Lord. God will show you the way. Just ask, and then listen hard.

APRIL: Thank you, Doc.

DOC: So what’s the other ministry, Tapril?

APRIL: It’s a puppet show.

DOC: A puppet show?? Awesome!

APRIL: But if I leave your show...

SKIT

DOC: Don't worry about me, April. If it's God's will for you to leave, there's a plan for me too. I'll pray for God's will, for both of us.

APRIL: Thank you, Doc. Join us next time—

DOC: If there is a next time!

APRIL: When we learn the proper way to say thanks for all that greasy fast food. Bye!

PRAYER WARRIORS

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A piece of paper, a rock, scissors

For this lesson, bring each object out, one at a time. Don't give away the point too soon.

How many of you would make a decision with a rock?

What about scissors, do you ever use scissors to make a decision?

What about paper? Anyone? Anyone use paper to make a decision?

Okay, who has used paper, rock, AND scissors to make a decision?

We've all done it. Admit it! Who gets to play on the iPad first? Rock, paper, scissors! Who gets to serve first in ping pong? Rock, paper, scissors! Who gets the last donut? Rock, paper, scissors!

For the little choices in life, paper, rock, and scissors can be a nice, fun way to make a decision. For the big choices in life, only God will do. God knows you and he knows the plans he has for you. When a big decision comes your way, don't leave your fate in the hands of a rock, a piece of paper, or a pair of scissors. Pray for God's will. Be honest and direct. Then listen closely. God will show you the way.

PRAYER WARRIORS

LARGE GROUP GAME

ROSHAMBO!

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose eight players. Have an 8-person tournament in Paper, Rock, Scissors. Single elimination. Pair all eight players off and have them each go three rounds. Best two of three wins. Then pair off the remaining four players. Repeat. Pair up the final two and go three rounds or until you have a winner!

VARIATION:

Add more rounds and players if time allows. Or cut down the number of games played in each round, if time is short.

For extra fun, pick an adult to be your “Ultimate Champion,” and have the winning kid face off with them at the end.

WHAT’S THE POINT?

Don’t leave big choices to chance. Pray and listen for God to reveal his will for your life.

PRAYER WARRIORS

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God will reveal his will through prayer.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God reveals his plans for us through prayer.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 26:36-46, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

INTRO

We've spent the last few weeks learning how God wants us to pray. We've learned the importance of saying thank you. We've learned to pray for boldness so we can stand up for Jesus. We learned last week to be honest. God doesn't want us to hold back when we pray and when we ask him for what we need.

Today we're going to add one more thing to that list. We're going to pray for God's will.

The Bible tells us that God is our Creator, and he knew us before we were even born. God gave us all unique talents and abilities, and he has a special plan in mind for all of us. It's up to us to discover what that plan is, and prayer is the way God reveals his plans to us.

Of course, God isn't going to all of a sudden give us a three-step plan for finding his will. He's not going to talk back one day and say, "Okay, Jenny, I want you to start a new ministry at church to feed the homeless. Here's who you talk to, here's who you recruit to help you out, and here's how you get it started." That's not how God works, and that's not how prayer works.

Prayer is a way of getting to know God. The more we know God, the more we see things through God's eyes. The more we see things through God's eyes, including ourselves, the easier it will be for us to see what God's plan is for our lives.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Today's scripture is a story about Jesus. Jesus was literally hours away from suffering, humiliation, and death. Jesus knew that this was God's will, the reason he had come to Earth. Yet listen to what Jesus says as he prays.

READ MATTHEW 26:36-46

MAIN POINT

We talk a lot about Jesus' divine side. We know he is God's son, that he is perfect, and that he never sinned. Here in this passage, we see Jesus at his most human. He is afraid. He fears the pain and the suffering that is to come. He sounds a lot like we do sometimes when we are afraid.

Jesus models many of the things we've talked about in this series. Even though he knows what he has to do already, Jesus is very bold in asking God to take this cup from him. He is honest and direct when he asks God if there's another way to save the world. And yet, in the end, he knows his Father's mind and his plan. He doesn't like it. He's scared. But he's willing to follow and obey because he knows God's heart. "Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus shows us that the more we know our Heavenly Father, the more we will see His will for our lives. It's a challenging example to follow but one we must follow if we want to fulfill God's plan.

DRIVE IT HOME

Why do we communicate? Why do we talk to other kids at school? Why do we talk to Mom and Dad? Sometimes we talk to ask for things. Sometimes we talk to get on the same page. We make plans, we coordinate, we work together. Regardless of why we speak to other people, there's always one root reason for our communication: getting to know the other person. Whether we're discussing how to make pancakes with Mom, or exchanging Pokemon cards with a classmate, we are getting to know someone else better. The more we talk, the more familiar they become. The better we know them, and the better they know us.

Praying is communication. It's a two-way street, or at least it can be if we take time to listen. It's a chance to get to know our Creator, our God, our Savior. Thanking God for his good works, asking him to make us bold, and being honest with our requests are all a means to an end: getting to know the one who made us.

The more we get to know someone, the more we understand that person. We know what our parents expect of us because we communicate with them and vice versa. We know what our friends expect of us as well. The more we pray, the more we will understand God's plan for us.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God wants us to pray daily. He wants us to thank him, to submit our requests, and to seek his will. And God wants us to listen so that he can reply. The more we give God our time in prayer, the better we will know him. Slowly but surely, we'll get to know God's will so that we can serve him the way he wants.

Ask God to reveal himself to you, and his will. God will do great things through you.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Please give us humble hearts to do your will for our lives and please help us to hear you when we pray.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

PRAYER WARRIORS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What do you want to be when you grow up?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Have the kids partner up and take turns saying the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Play the telephone game with the kids. You start the game by whispering a goofy phrase in the first child's ear. After a couple rounds, talk to the kids about how we really have to listen and pay attention if we want to hear God speak.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 26:36-46

Where did Jesus go to pray?

How did Jesus feel about what was going to happen?

What did Jesus ask God?

Why did Jesus accept God's will?

How can we get to know God's will for our lives?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the plans you have for us and the gifts you've given us. Draw us closer to you in prayer so we will know your will for our lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen

PRAYER WARRIORS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What do you want to be when you grow up?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Have the kids partner up and take turns saying the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Play the telephone game with the kids. You start the game by whispering a goofy phrase in the first child's ear. After a couple rounds, talk to the kids about how we really have to listen and pay attention if we want to hear God speak.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 26:36-46

How did Jesus feel about what was going to happen?

Why did Jesus accept God's will?

How can we get to know God's will for our lives?

How does getting to know God help us to know his will?

Have you prayed for God's will in your life? Where do you think he is leading you?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the plans you have for us and the gifts you've given us. Draw us closer to you in prayer so we will know your will for our lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen

PRAYER WARRIORS

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Fill in the blanks.

_____ went into a garden to pray.

JESUS

He took _____ and the two sons of Zebedee, John and James, with him.

PETER

“If it be possible, may this _____ be taken from me.”

CUP

“May your _____ be done.”

WILL

The more we get to know _____, the better we will know God’s will.

GOD

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PRAY WILLINGLY



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

In the hour of his deepest need, Jesus prayed that the will of the Father would be done.

Kids will learn that when they talk to God they should seek his will. Matthew 26:36-46, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Spend some time talking to your kids this week. Ask them what they know about you and your expectations. How can prayer help them to get to know what God wants?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did Jesus pray about in the Garden?
- How does prayer help us to know God?
- How can getting to know God help us know his will?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

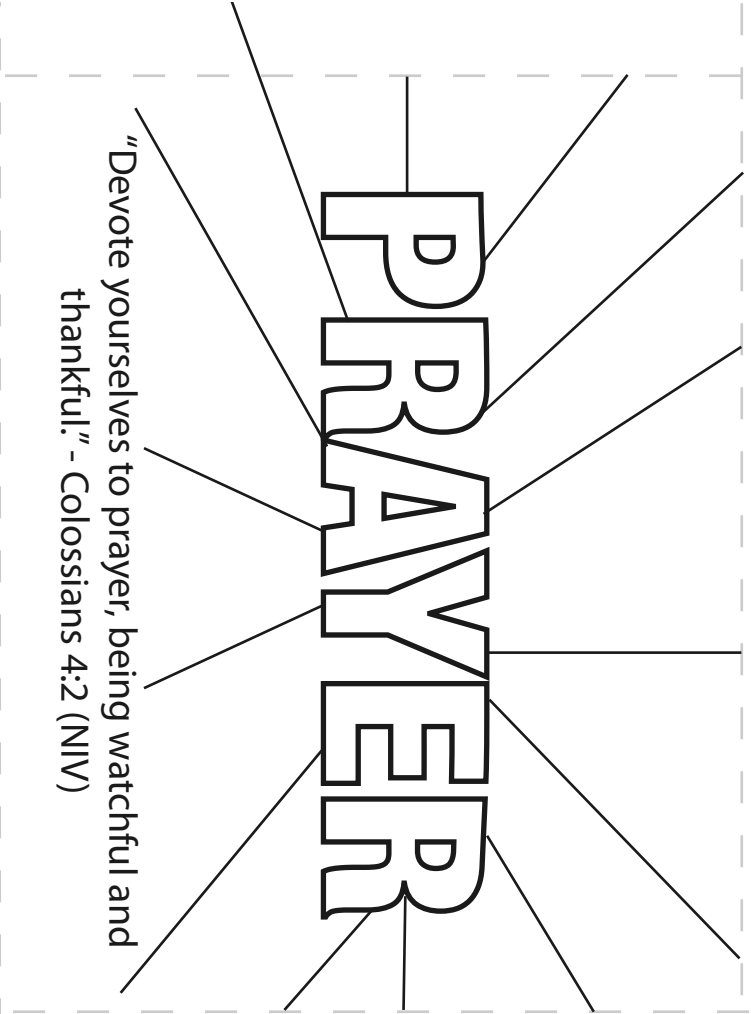
"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

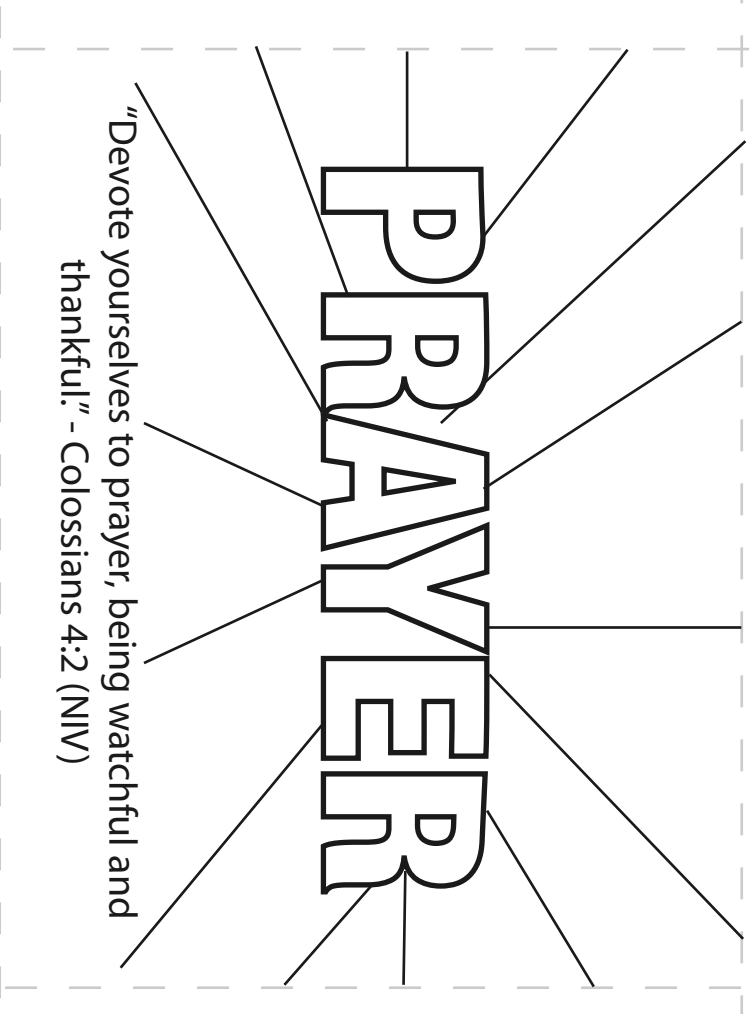
What you need to know:

Prayer is not something we do to get stuff. It's what we do to get to know God. The more we know him, the more we know his desires. Pray for yourself and your children to draw closer to God so that you, as a family, can find his will.



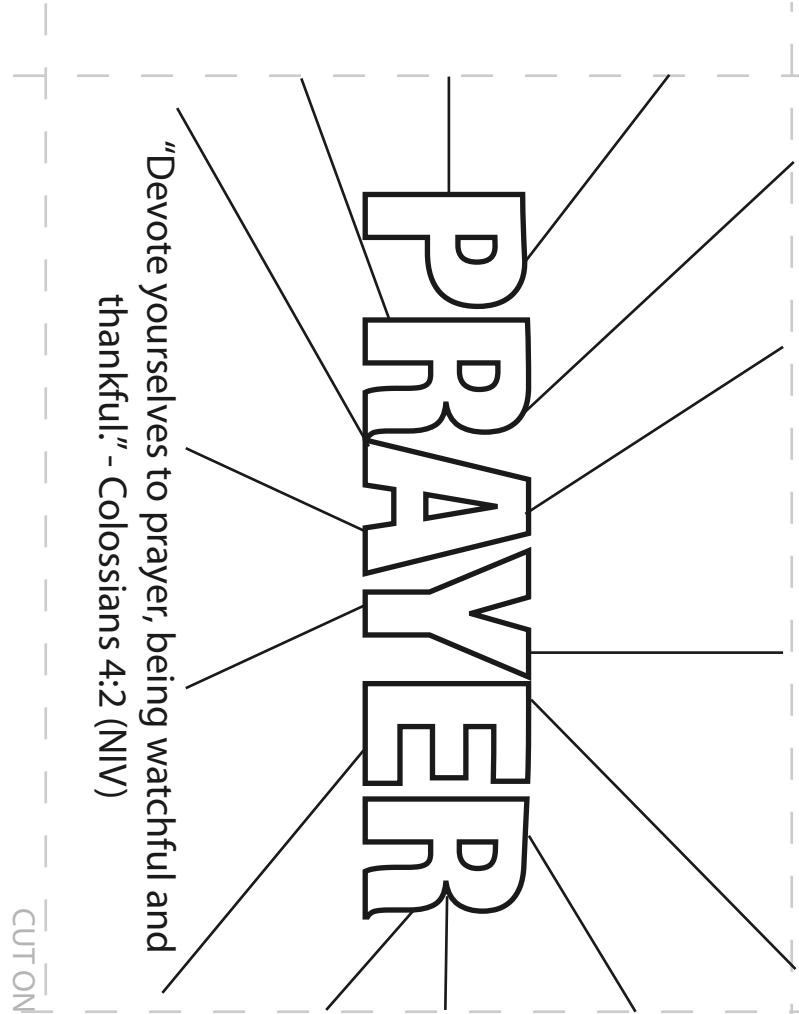
PRAYER

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)



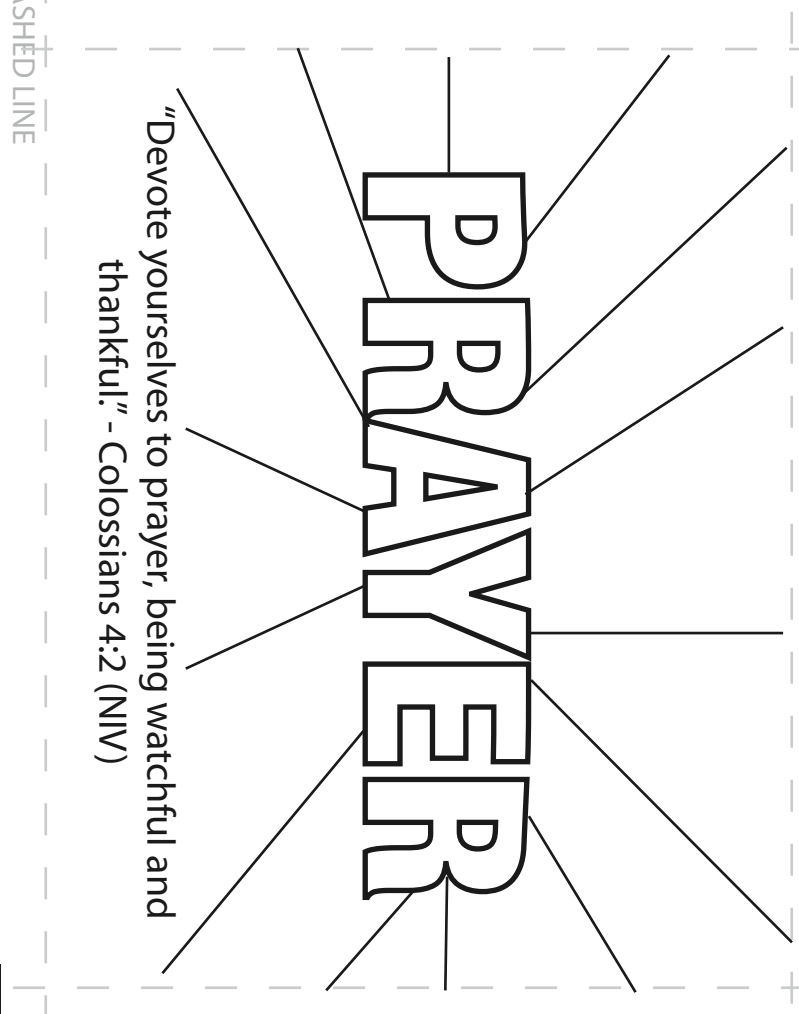
PRAYER

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PRAYER

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

PRAYER WARRIORS

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create a collage from magazine clippings that will remind them of something from this series about how to pray: be thankful, be bold, be honest, and seek God's will.