

A FUN FILLED AFTERNOON FOR KIDS

Based on Four Ways to Pray!



Pray Thankfully

— 1 Chronicles 29



Pray Boldly

— Acts 4



Pray Honestly

— 1 Samuel 1



Pray Willingly

— Matthew 26

Memory Verse:
Colossians 4:2 -

“Devote yourselves
to prayer, being
watchful and thankful.”

PURPOSE:

A fun, faith-filled afternoon for elementary-age children built around four ways we can pray. The activities are designed to keep kids moving, creating, experimenting, and connecting the Bible lessons to everyday prayer.

Suggested length: 3½–4 hours

Age: Elementary school

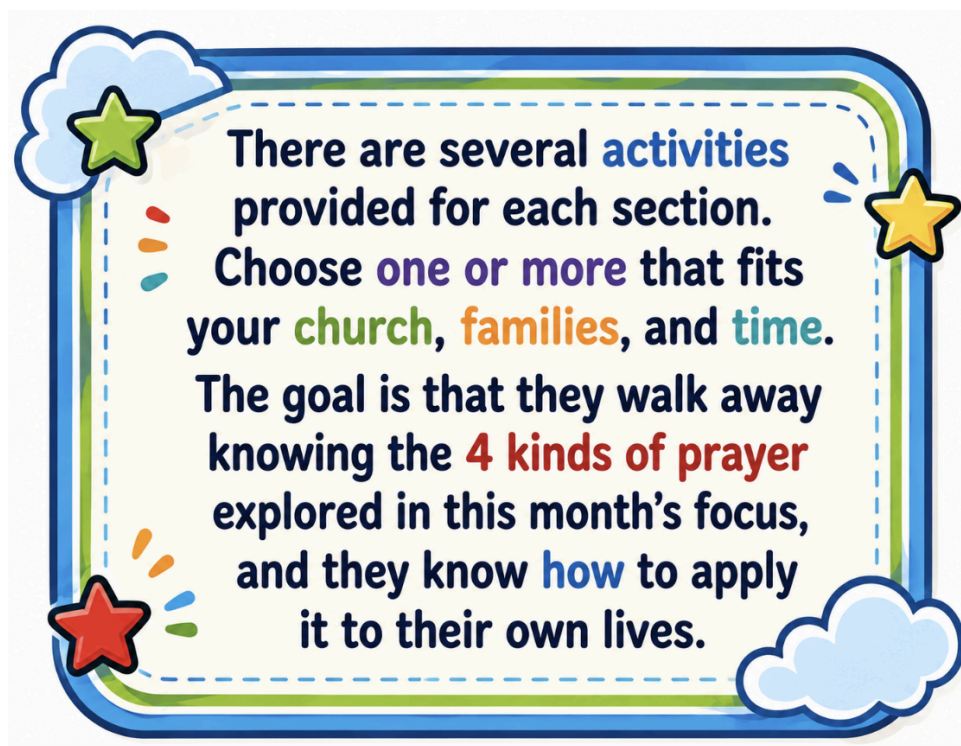
Group size: Flexible

Theme: Learning to Pray

Memory Verse: “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” — Colossians 4:2

Four Prayer Themes

1. Pray Thankfully — 1 Chronicles 29
2. Pray Boldly — Acts 4
3. Pray Honestly — 1 Samuel 1
4. Pray Willingly — Matthew 26





Suggested Afternoon Schedule

TIME		ACTIVITY
1:00–1:15		Welcome + Prayer Adventure
1:15–1:50		Praying Thankfully – Puppet Theater, Craft & Game
1:50–2:10		Thankful Snack
2:10–2:50		Praying Boldly – Story Theater + Obstacle Course
2:50–3:15		Science Experiment
3:15–3:50		Praying Honestly – Story + Emotion Game + Craft
3:50–4:20		Praying Willingly – Story + Game + Snack or Craft
4:20–4:35		Memory Verse Challenge
4:35–4:55		Four Corners Prayer Game
4:55–5:00		Closing Prayer

Suggested Afternoon Schedule

This gives the afternoon a clear progression:

learn it → experience it → practice it → take it home.

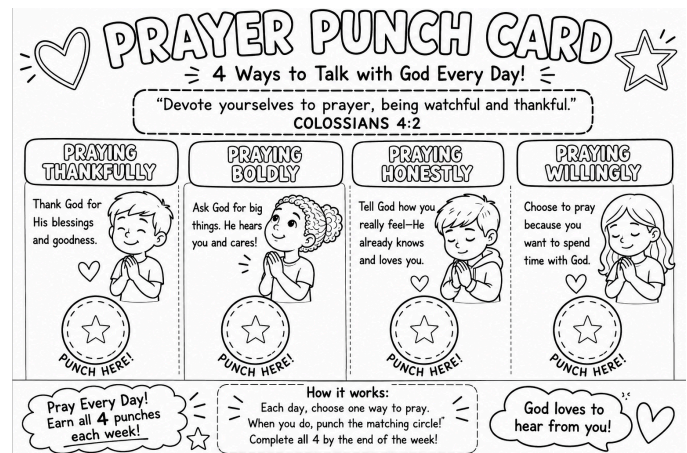
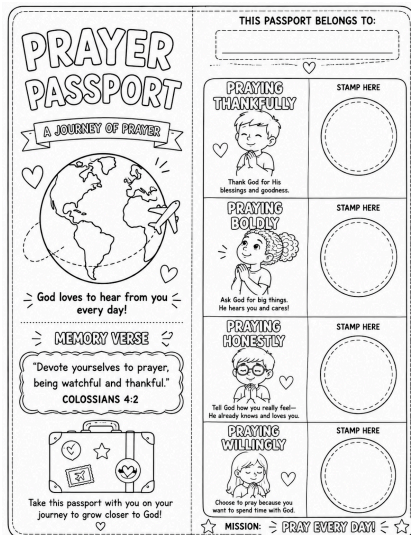
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4:55–5:00	Closing Prayer



15 minutes

Goal: Introduce the four ways we will learn to pray.

As children arrive, give each child a Prayer Passport or punch card with four spaces: Thankfully, Boldly, Honestly and Willingly. Allow children to color or decorate while they wait for the other children to arrive. (These can also be strung and used as nametags on the reverse side)



Copy and paste either of these images to a document to print.

WHOLE GROUP KICK OFF

BEFORE BREAK OUT SESSIONS- Discuss what the goal of today is. This session is designed to set the groundwork for the stations.

Today we're going on an adventure to discover that we can talk to God about EVERYTHING!

The "Silent Phone" Game (3 Mins)

Action: Have two kids try to talk using a toy phone, but one must only speak in a robotic, fake voice, and the other can only repeat a memorized script.

The "Silent Phone" Script

Teacher: "Alright everyone, I need two volunteers for a quick phone challenge! Who wants to come up? *(Pick two kids. Hand one the 'Robot Phone' and one the 'Script Phone'—these can just be toy phones, cups on a string, or just their hands shaped like phones).*

Teacher (To Volunteer 1): "You are **Kid A**. Your job is to talk to your friend about your favorite video game, but you can *only* speak in a stiff, boring robot voice. Give me your best robot beep-boop noise."

(Let the kid make a robot noise).

Teacher (To Volunteer 2): "You are **Kid B**. Your job is to answer your friend, but you cannot say anything normal. You can *only* repeat this exact sentence over and over: *'Hello. It is nice to see you today. Goodbye.'* Let's practice it once."

(Let the kid repeat the script sentence).

Teacher: "Perfect. The rest of the class, watch how this friendship works. Go ahead, make the call!"

Kid A (Robot Voice): "HELLO. HUMAN. FRIEND. I. PLAYED. MINECRAFT. YESTERDAY. IT. WAS. EFFICIENT."

Kid B (Script Voice): "Hello. It is nice to see you today. Goodbye."

Kid A (Robot Voice): "DO. YOU. WANT. TO. BUILD. A. VIRTUAL. HOUSE. WITH. ME."

Kid B (Script Voice): "Hello. It is nice to see you today. Goodbye."

Teacher: "And... time! Let's give them a round of applause! (*Class claps, volunteers sit down*).

Teacher: "That felt pretty weird, right? You wouldn't actually talk to your best friend like a robot. It would be super boring, and it wouldn't feel like a real friendship at all.

Well, guess what? Sometimes we treat prayer exactly like that weird phone call. We use fake, fancy words, or we just repeat a memorized script over and over without thinking about what it means. But God doesn't want robot talks! He is a loving, all-knowing friend. He wants a real, honest conversation with you. Today, we are going to learn how to drop the robot scripts and talk to Him for real."

What is Prayer? Let kids share. Can we all agree that **prayer is a conversation with a loving, all knowing friend where you can safely share your true feelings. Prayer is a special way we talk and listen to God.**

The Simple Explanation

"Imagine you have a best friend, but you **never** talk to them. You don't tell them secrets, you don't say thank you when they share their toys, and you never ask them for help. Are you really close friends? Not really!

We pray because **God is our ultimate Best Friend**, and friends talk to each other.

We don't pray because God is keeping score, or because it's a boring rule. We pray for four awesome reasons:"

The 4 Big Reasons Why We Pray

- **To Build the Relationship:** You can't get close to someone without talking to them. Prayer connects your heart to God's heart.
- **To Share Your Real Feelings:** God already knows everything, but He wants to hear it *from you*. He wants to hear your big laughs, your sad tears, and even when you are frustrated.
- **To Get Peace:** When we bottle up our worries, our brains get crowded. When we give those worries to God, He replaces them with peace.
- **To Listen:** Prayer isn't just a one-way megaphone. When we sit quietly after praying, God speaks to our hearts through His peace, and His Word.

Visual Object Lessons (To Help it Stick)

Kids remember what they **see** better than what they hear. Try one of these quick object lessons:

The Sponge and the Water

- **The Object:** A dry, hard kitchen sponge and a bowl of water.
- **The Lesson:** "When we don't pray, our hearts get dry and hard, just like this sponge. But when we pray, we dive into God's love." (Dunk the sponge). "Look how soft and full it gets! Prayer fills us up with God's love so we can share it with others."

How to Pray (10 Mins) (Optional)

Use visual anchors or write these four letters on a board:

T – Thanksgiving (Thanking God)

- **What it means:** Telling God what you are grateful for, even when things are tough.
- **Why:** It changes our focus from ourselves to God and His everlasting faithfulness especially in times of worry. Changes our focus from what we want to what we already have or from what is missing to the blessings God has already given.
- **Bible Connection:** King David praised God's greatness before everyone
- **(1 Chronicles 29).**

B – Boldly (Bravely)

- **What it means:** Asking God confidently for help without being scared or ashamed.
- **Why:** God loves you and always wants to listen to you.
- **Bible Connection:** Peter and John spoke about Jesus with absolute courage (Acts 4).

H – Honestly (Real Feelings)

- **What it means:** Dropping the "polite scripts" and telling God when you are sad, mad, or scared.
- **Why:** He already knows your heart! Being honest builds a true friendship.
- **Bible Connection:** Hannah cried tears of deep frustration while praying to God (1 Samuel 1).

W – Willingly (From the Heart)

- **What it means:** Praying because you *want* to hang out with God, not because it's a chore.
- **Why:** It lets go of control and lets God guide your day.
- **Bible Connection:** Jesus prayed "not my will, but yours be done" in the garden (Matthew 26).

Challenge (2 Mins)

- **Takeaway:** This week, don't pray like a robot. Talk to God like a loving friend. Today we are going to take a closer look at:
- Pray Thankfully — 1 Chronicles 29
- Pray Boldly — Acts 4
- Pray Honestly — 1 Samuel 1
- Pray Willingly — Matthew 26
- **Closing Prayer:** "God, thank you that we can come to you boldly and honestly. Help us to share our true hearts with you willingly every day. Amen."

INTRODUCE THE MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS:

“Devote yourselves to prayer” — hands together

“being watchful” — hand above eyes

“and thankful.” — hands over heart

Repeat it several times, getting faster each time.



40 minutes

Lesson Goal: Pray Thankfully — 1 Chronicles 29:1–20

Goal:

By the end of the lesson, children will understand that **everything we have comes from God**, and they will learn to **pray with thankful hearts**, thanking God for who He is, what He has given them, and the people and blessings He has placed in their lives.

Kid-friendly version:

“I can pray thankfully by remembering that everything I have is a gift from God and thanking Him for His goodness.”

Key Truth

God gives us so much, so we can always find reasons to thank Him when we pray.

What children should be able to do

- **Know:** David thanked God for His greatness and for providing everything they had.

- **Understand:** We don't have to wait for something exciting to happen before we thank God.
- **Practice:** Name at least **3 things they are thankful for** and turn each one into a prayer of thanks.
- **Apply:** Look for opportunities throughout the week to say, “**Thank You, God!**”

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Puppet Theater: “The Thankful King” Based on 1 Chronicles 29:1–20

Bible focus: David and the people praise God and thank Him for everything He has provided.

Use popsicle sticks for puppets or paper bag puppets to tell this lesson. Turn a table on its side as your puppet stage if needed.

Characters

- **King David:** An older, wise king who is full of joy and gratitude.
- **Solomon:** David's young son. He is a bit nervous about his future job.
- **Citizen Caleb:** A cheerful citizen who loves to give.
- **Citizen Mara:** A skeptical citizen who changes her mind.
- **Narrator:** Keeps the story moving.

Props

- A large treasure chest.
- Foil-wrapped coins, fake jewels, and shiny fabrics.
- A tiny toy shovel or blueprint paper for Solomon.

Script

(Scene opens with the Narrator on stage. King David stands next to a large treasure chest.)

Narrator: Welcome, everyone! Today we are looking back in time to the end of King David's reign. David wants to build a beautiful temple for God. But God told him that his young son, Solomon, will build it instead.

(Solomon enters, looking nervous and holding a blueprint paper.)

Solomon: Father? I am so worried. The temple for God must be magnificent, but I am still so young and inexperienced!

David: (Puts a puppet arm around Solomon) Do not fear, Solomon. The work is great because this temple is not for man, but for the Lord God. And guess what? You do not have to start from scratch.

Solomon: What do you mean, Father?

David: (Pats the treasure chest) I have provided for the house of my God with all my might! Look inside here. I am giving gold, silver, bronze, and iron from my own royal treasury.

(Caleb and Mara enter from the other side of the stage.)

Caleb: (Gasping) Wow! Look at all that gold! The King is giving away his own personal fortune for God's house!

Mara: (Crossing arms) It is easy for a king to give. But what about normal people like us? Times are tough, Caleb.

David: (Turning to the crowd) My people! I have given freely because my heart is set on the house of my God. Now, who else is willing to consecrate themselves today to the Lord?

Caleb: (Jumping up and down) I am! I want to help! I brought these precious stones!

(Caleb drops shiny items into the chest with a loud clink.)

Mara: (Hesitating) I don't know... I worked hard for my shiny things.

Caleb: But Mara, think about it! Everything we have belongs to God anyway. Giving it back to Him is a privilege!

Mara: (Looking at David, then at the chest) You know... you are right. Seeing the King give so happily makes me want to be generous too. Here is my offering!

(Mara drops her jewels into the chest.)

Narrator: The leaders and the families of Israel all gave willingly. The people rejoiced because they had given with a whole heart. King David was filled with incredible joy!

David: (Bowing his head) Let us pray! Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Solomon: Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory!

Caleb: Everything in heaven and earth is yours, Lord!

Mara: Wealth and honor come from you alone; you are the ruler of all things.

David: But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

Narrator: David prayed that God would keep this same desire in the hearts of the people forever. He also prayed for Solomon to have a whole heart to keep God's commands and build the temple.

David: (To the crowd) Praise the Lord your God!

All Characters:

(Bowing together)

Amen!

Audience Participation

Narrator:

David's prayer reminds us that we have so many reasons to thank God.

I'm going to name some things. If you are thankful for them, give God a big
"THANK YOU!"

Narrator:

Family!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

Friends!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

Food!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

Our homes!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

Animals!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

Our church!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

The Bible!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Narrator:

God's love!

Children:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Finale — The Thankful Prayer

Let's pray like David did.

Dear God,

Thank You for everything You have given us.

Thank You for our families, our friends, our food, our homes, and our church.

Thank You for giving us people who love us.

Most of all, thank You for loving us.

Help us remember that everything we have comes from You.

Teach us to have thankful hearts and to thank You every day.

Everyone:

Amen!

After the puppet show, ask:

1. What did David want to build?

2. What did the people give?
3. Why did David thank God?
4. Does everything we have ultimately come from God?
5. What is one thing YOU can thank God for today?

Craft: Thankful Prayer Chain THANKFUL JAR

A thankful jar is a simple container used to collect written notes about the good things in your life. You add a small piece of paper with a blessing, happy memory, or joyful moment whenever you feel inspired, and open the jar later to read and reflect.



What You Need:

- An empty jar or container (glass or plastic)
- Small slips of paper or sticky notes
- Pens, pencils, or markers
- Craft items like stickers, ribbon, paint, twine, washi tape, labels with Bible Verse On one strip write: "Thank You, God, for EVERYTHING!"

Game: Thankful Relay

Divide Children into smaller groups. Children run down and pick up a colorful ball or wad of colorful paper. Return it to their group, answer the provided prompt before the next person can go. To make it competitive, set a timer for 2 mins.

Color-Code Prompt Ideas

- **Red:** Name a person you are thankful for.
- **Green:** Name a place you love to go.
- **Yellow:** Name a food you enjoy.
- **Orange:** Name a skill or talent you have.
- **Brown:** Name a memory that makes you smile.
- **Blue:** Name something in nature you appreciate

20 minutes

Let children make their own Thankful Trail Mix.

Possible ingredients:

- Pretzels
- Bugles
- Cereal
- Raisins
- Popcorn
- Mini marshmallows
- Chocolate chips
- Dried fruit



Before eating, everyone contributes one sentence:

“God, thank You for _____.”

Fun twist

Give each child a small cup and tell them:

“Every ingredient reminds us that God gives us many different blessings.”



Lesson Goal: Pray Boldly — Acts 4:23–31

40 mins

Goal: By the end of the lesson, children will understand that **true boldness comes from the Holy Spirit**, and they will learn to **pray for courage rather than comfort**, trusting God to give them the strength to share His word and stand up for their faith even when they feel scared or face opposition.

Kid-friendly version:

"I can pray boldly by asking God to give me courage to speak the truth and share His love with others, even when it is hard."

Key Truth:

When we face scary or difficult times, we can pray for God's power to make us brave.

What children should be able to do

- **Know:** The early church didn't pray for their problems to go away; they asked God for great boldness to keep speaking His word.
- **Understand:** God answers bold prayers by filling us with his Holy Spirit and presence, helping us overcome fear.
- **Practice:** Identify a situation where they feel nervous or quiet about their faith, and practice praying specifically for God's courage to handle it.

- **Apply:** Look for one moment this week to speak kindly, share the Gospel, or do what is right with a brave heart.

Read Acts 4:23-31

Story Theater — “The Bold Prayer” Based on Acts 4

Theme: Pray Boldly

Length: 10–15 minutes

Main Message

- Peter and John pray for boldness after facing opposition.
- When we are afraid, we can ask God for courage to boldly follow Him.

Characters

- **Narrator** — adult or older child
- **Peter**
- **John**
- **Temple Leader**
- **Ruler 1**
- **Ruler 2**
- **Believer 1**
- **Believer 2**
- **Believer 3**
- **Crowd/Church Family** — everyone else
- **Guard (no speaking)**

Optional: Add guards, priests, and additional rulers.

Simple Props

-  Two chairs for a “courtroom”
-  Simple shawl/robe for Peter and John
-  Scrolls for the rulers
-  Crowns or special hats for the rulers
-  Large paper heart labeled COURAGE
- Sign labeled BOLD PRAYER

SCENE 1 — Peter and John Tell Everyone About Jesus

Narrator: Peter and John were followers of Jesus. They had seen Jesus die, rise again, and return to heaven. Now they were telling everyone the good news about Jesus.

Peter: Jesus is alive!

John: God raised Jesus from the dead!

Crowd: Wow!

Peter: Jesus is the one who saves us!

Narrator: Peter and John were speaking boldly about Jesus. But some important leaders were not happy about what they were saying.

Temple Leader: Stop! Who told you that you could teach the people?

Peter: We must tell people what we have seen and heard.

Temple Leader: Guards! Take them away!

Guards lead **Peter** and **John** to the “courtroom.”

SCENE 2 — The Leaders Question Peter and John

Ruler 1: Who gave you the authority to do this?

Ruler 2: How did you heal that man?

Peter looks toward John.

Narrator: Peter could have been frightened. He knew these leaders had power. But Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Peter stands tall.)

Peter: You want to know how this man was healed? It was through Jesus Christ!

Ruler 1: Jesus?

Peter: Yes! Jesus is the one God raised from the dead.

John: We cannot stop telling people about Him.

Ruler 2: You must stop talking about Jesus!

Peter: Should we obey God or obey you?

John: We cannot stop talking about what we have seen and heard.

Narrator: The leaders were amazed. They realized Peter and John were ordinary men who had spent time with Jesus.

SCENE 3 — “You Are NOT Allowed!”

Ruler 1: Peter and John, listen carefully. You are NOT allowed to speak about Jesus anymore!

Ruler 2: Don't teach in His name!

Peter: We will continue to follow God.

John: We cannot keep quiet about Jesus.

Ruler 1: Then you may go.

Narrator: The leaders threatened them and sent them away. Peter and John hurried back to the other believers.

SCENE 4 — What Would YOU Do?

Peter enters with the believers.

Believer 1: Peter! John! What happened?

John: The leaders told us to stop talking about Jesus.

Believer 2: Were you scared?

Peter: Yes.

Believer 3: What are we going to do?

Peter: We're going to pray!

Everyone: PRAY!

The narrator pauses the action.

Ask the Audience:

“If you were Peter and John, what would you pray for?”

Allow children to answer.

You may hear:

- “God, protect us!”
- “Make the leaders go away!”
- “Help us!”
- “Give us courage!”

Continue...

SCENE 5 — The Bold Prayer

Everyone gathers together and kneels.

Believer 1: God, You made heaven and earth.

Believer 2: You are powerful!

Believer 3: You know everything that is happening.

Peter: God, You know that the leaders are telling us to stop talking about Jesus.

John: But we don't want to be afraid.

Believer 1: God, give us courage!

Believer 2: Help us be bold!

Peter: Help us continue telling people about Jesus.

John: Help us speak Your Word without being afraid.

Everyone: MAKE US BOLD, GOD!

SCENE 6 — God Answers

Narrator: And then something amazing happened. The place where they were praying shook!

Everyone gently shakes their hands/body.

Narrator: They were filled with the Holy Spirit. And they continued to speak God's Word...

Everyone stands tall.

Everyone: BOLDLY!

Narrator: God didn't necessarily make their problems disappear. Instead, He gave them the boldness they needed to face them.

Narrator: When we are afraid...

Everyone: WE CAN PRAY!

Narrator: When something is difficult...

Everyone: WE CAN PRAY!

Narrator: When we don't know what to do...

Everyone: WE CAN PRAY!

Narrator: When we need courage to do what is right...

Everyone: WE CAN PRAY BOLDLY!

Peter: God, give us courage!

John: God, help us speak up!

Believers: God, help us follow You!

Everyone: "GOD, MAKE US BOLD!"

Prayer: Have the children stand in a circle.

Teacher: Think of one thing that makes you nervous, afraid, or uncomfortable.

Pause.

Teacher: Maybe it's talking to someone new.

Maybe it's standing up for someone.

Maybe it's telling a friend about Jesus.

Maybe it's doing something you know is right even when it's hard.

Now silently tell God about it.

Pause.

Then everyone repeats after the teacher:

Teacher: "God, You are powerful."

Children: "God, You are powerful."

Teacher: "Give me courage."

Children: "Give me courage."

Teacher: "Help me do what is right."

Children: "Help me do what is right."

Teacher: “Help me speak boldly.”

Children: “Help me speak boldly.”

Teacher: “Help me trust You.”

Children: “Help me trust You.”

Everyone:

“Amen!”

Questions

1. Why were Peter and John in trouble?
2. Were they afraid?
3. What did they do when they were afraid?
4. What did they ask God for?
5. Did they ask God to make all their problems disappear?
6. What did God give them?
7. What is something you can pray boldly about this week?

Have everyone put their hands around their mouths like a megaphone and shout:

“PRAY BOLDLY!”

Then whisper:

“God, give me courage to Pray Boldly!”

Game: Bold Prayer Obstacle Course

Create a simple indoor/outdoor obstacle course.

Be creative. Stations might say:

1. CROSS THE BRIDGE (Balance beam or a piece of tape)

“Pray boldly for someone who is afraid.”

2. CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN (stairs, ladder, loop pool noodles in a “n” shape then place on pegs in ground, paper towels to hurdle, build a mountain with paper cups then jump over them)

“Pray boldly for someone who needs help.”

3. FACE THE GIANT (pool noodle forest, extra large tower of paper towels, bowling)

“Pray boldly about something that scares you.”

4. FINISH LINE (crepe paper ribbon)

Everyone shouts:

“GOD, GIVE ME BOLDNESS!”

These are two different styles of station prompts to choose from. Print the one that works best for your group. Copy and print to desired size.

Option 1:



Option 2:





“Skittles Prayer” — 25 minutes

You will need: A bag of skittles, a plate, hot water (not hot enough to scald, but hot enough to make the colour run!)

This experiment with skittles is colourful, easy and makes a great statement about what we are asking God to do when we pray. In essence, prayers are a way of joining with God and asking him to have an effect on the world and situations around us. We pray because we believe that our prayers, through God's power, will make a difference to the world. In this activity, colour is released from the sweets into the surrounding water, creating a colourful picture, symbolic of how the prayers we raise to God are a way of us joining with Him to release the kingdom here on earth and have an impact.



1. Arrange Skittles on outer edge of plate



2. Pour some hot water onto the plate to cover its surface. Pour it carefully so that the skittles stay in place. Wait and the skittles will gradually release their colour



3. Try an alternative... Cover the surface of the plate with water and ask children to pick up a skittle, pray for a person or situation and place the skittle on the plate.



“Walking Water” — 25 minutes

This works beautifully with the idea that God can move things we cannot see happening immediately.

Supplies: Clear cups, Water, Food coloring, Paper towels, Arrange cups in a row:

Colored water → empty cup → colored water → empty cup

Fold paper towels into strips and place them between the cups so they touch the water.

Watch the water travel up the paper towel and into the empty cups.

Connect it to prayer

Ask:

“Could you see the water moving through the paper towel at first?”

“Sometimes we can't see what God is doing when we pray. Does that mean God isn't working?”

Emphasize:

We can pray boldly and trust God with what we cannot see.





Lesson Goal: Pray Honestly, Tell God How You Really Feel — 1 Samuel 1

40 minutes

Goal:

By the end of the lesson, children will understand that **God cares about our deepest emotions**, and they will learn to **pray with honest hearts**, sharing their real feelings of sadness, fear, or frustration with God, just as Hannah poured out her soul to Him.

Kid-friendly version:

"I can pray honestly by telling God exactly how I feel, knowing that He listens to my sad or messy feelings and loves me through them."

Key Truth

God wants us to talk to Him about our real feelings, so we never have to hide our sadness or worry from Him when we pray.

What children should be able to do

- **Know:** Hannah wept and poured out her deeply hurt soul to God in prayer when she was struggling.
- **Understand:** Praying honestly doesn't mean being disrespectful; it means trusting God enough to show Him our real tears and struggles.
- **Practice:** Identify a heavy feeling or a problem they are currently facing and name it directly in a private prayer to God.
- **Apply:** Remember to go to God first during tough moments this week, using simple, honest words to tell Him how they feel.

Read 1 Samuel 1-2:2

 **Interactive Bible Storyboard: “Hannah Prays Honestly”** Based on 1 Samuel 1

The Story of Hannah: A Storyboard

Key Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1–2

Main Theme: Pray honestly and trust God with your heart.

Give each child a piece of paper, have them fold it so they have 8 panels, you will need something to lead the drawing on a white board, a large piece of paper so that they can see and draw what you are drawing. Do not make it complicated, draw stick figures, basic shapes or whatever you are capable of. Children often find it funny when you are not able to draw. Allow the children to also do their own drawings on their paper. Older kids can add the verses or titles but not necessary.

1 Hannah Is Sad  1 Samuel 1:10 Hannah was deeply distressed, wept bitterly, and prayed to the Lord.	2 Hannah Goes to God  1 Samuel 1:10 In her deep sadness, Hannah turned to the Lord in prayer.	3 Hannah Makes a Promise  1 Samuel 1:11 Hannah made a vow to the Lord, promising to dedicate her son to Him.	4 Eli Sees Hannah Praying  1 Samuel 1:12-16 Eli watched Hannah pray and misunderstood her until she explained her sorrow.
5 Eli Blesses Hannah  1 Samuel 1:17-18 Eli told Hannah to go in peace and asked God to grant her request.	6 God Answers Hannah's Prayer  1 Samuel 1:19-20 The Lord remembered Hannah, and she gave birth to a son named Samuel.	7 Hannah Keeps Her Promise  1 Samuel 1:24-28 Hannah brought Samuel to the house of the Lord and dedicated him to God's service.	8 Hannah Praises God  1 Samuel 2:1-2 Hannah prayed and rejoiced in the Lord, praising Him for His strength and holiness.
♥ Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 1:27 “I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.” ♥			

Panel 1-Hannah is Sad

(1 Samuel 1:10 — Hannah was deeply distressed, wept bitterly, and prayed to the Lord)

Draw: Hannah wanted a baby, but she could not have children. She felt very sad and cried.

Panel 2 - Hannah Goes to God

(1 Samuel 1:10 — In her deep sadness, Hannah turned to the Lord in prayer.)

Draw: At the temple in Shiloh, Hannah prayed to the Lord. She poured out her heart to God.

Panel 3 – Hannah Makes a Promise

(1 Samuel 1:10 — In her deep sadness, Hannah turned to the Lord in prayer.)

Draw: Hannah promised that if God gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord for his whole life.

Panel 4 – Eli Sees Hannah Praying

(1 Samuel 1:12–16 — Eli watched Hannah pray and misunderstood her until she explained that she was pouring out her heart before the Lord.)

Draw: The priest Eli saw Hannah praying silently. At first, he misunderstood her, but Hannah explained that she was praying because of her deep sorrow.

Panel 5 – Eli Blesses Hannah

(1 Samuel 1:17–18 — Eli told Hannah to go in peace and asked God to grant her request.)

Draw: Eli told Hannah, “Go in peace,” and prayed that God would grant her request. Hannah left with hope and faith.

Panel 6 – God Answers Hannah’s Prayer

(1 Samuel 1:19–20 The Lord remembered Hannah, and she gave birth to a son.)

Draw: God blessed Hannah with a baby boy. She named him **Samuel**, meaning she had asked the Lord for him.

Panel 7 – Hannah Keeps Her Promise

(1 Samuel 1:24–28 — Hannah brought Samuel to the house of the Lord and dedicated him to God’s service.)

Draw: After Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to the temple and dedicated him to serving the Lord.

Panel 8 – Hannah Praises God

(1 Samuel 2:1–2 — Hannah prayed and rejoiced in the Lord, praising Him for His strength and holiness.)

Draw: Hannah rejoiced and praised God for His faithfulness. Her story reminds us that **we can pray honestly, trust God, and praise Him for His goodness.**

Ask children:

- “How do you think Hannah felt?”
- “What do you do when you’re sad?”
- “Do we have to pretend we’re happy when we pray?”
- “Can we tell God when we’re angry, scared, disappointed, or confused?”

God wants us to bring our REAL feelings to Him.

Game: Emotion Charades

Think of a heavy feeling or a problem that you are currently facing and name it directly in a private prayer to God.

Put emotions into a basket:

- 😊 Happy
- 😞 Sad
- 😡 Angry
- 😱 Afraid
- 😟 Worried
- 😌 Peaceful
- 🥳 Excited

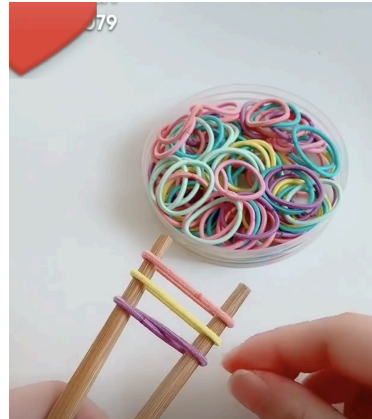
Children choose an emotion and act it out.

The group guesses it and then gives an example of an honest prayer.

Example:

“God, I'm worried about my test. Please help me.”

Craft: Connection Bracelet



Our emotions can feel messy and tangled, much like a pile of unmapped rubber bands. When we bring our raw feelings to God, He weaves them together into a beautiful relationship built on trust and grace. Each layer of this bracelet reminds us that we can layer our real feelings before God every single day in prayer.

Craft Direction Sheet: Finger Rainbow Loom Bracelets

Follow these steps to weave your honest prayer reminder using only your fingers and rubber bands.(<https://pin.it/7BkCwZBIK> Video instructions.)

1. **Sort your bands:** Group your rubber bands by color so you can easily choose your next piece.
2. **Make a figure-8:** Place your first rubber band over your index and middle fingers, twisting it in the center to form a figure-8 shape.
3. **Add a second band:** Place a second rubber band straight across both fingers directly above the first one. Do not twist this one.
4. **Add a third band:** Place a third rubber band straight across both fingers right above the second one. You should now have three bands on your fingers.

5. **Loop the bottom band:** Pull the bottom band (the figure-8) up and completely over the tip of your index finger. Repeat for your middle finger so it sits wrapped around the middle of the top two bands.
6. **Check the center:** Verify that the looped band rests neatly between your two fingers.
7. **Add another band:** Place a new rubber band straight across both fingers on top. You should always have three bands on your fingers before looping.
8. **Repeat the loop:** Take the new bottom band and pull it up and over the tips of both fingers into the center.
9. **Continue weaving:** Repeat steps 7 and 8, adding one straight band and looping the bottom band, until the chain reaches your desired wrist length.
10. **Finish the bracelet:** Slide the remaining loops off your fingers and secure both ends together using a plastic connection clip or tie it together.



Lesson Goal: Pray Willingly — Matthew 26:36–46

40 Minutes

Goal:

By the end of the lesson, children will understand that **God's plan is always best**, and they will learn to **pray with a willing heart**, choosing to say "Your will be done" even when doing what God asks is difficult, scary, or different from what they want.

Kid-friendly version:

"I can pray willingly by trusting that God's way is the best way and asking Him for the strength to obey Him, even when it is hard."

Key Truth

When we want our own way, we can pray for a willing heart to follow God's plan instead.

What children should be able to do

- **Know:** Jesus felt deeply sad and overwhelmed, yet He prayed three times for God's will to be done instead of His own.
- **Understand:** Praying willingly means letting go of what we want because we trust that God's plan is safer and better than ours.
- **Practice:** Think of a rule or a situation where they struggle to obey, and practice praying: "God, help my heart want to do what is right."
- **Apply:** Catch themselves this week when they want to complain or argue, and choose to pray for a willing attitude instead.

Read Matthew 26

Interactive Bible Story: “Not My Will, But Yours” Based on Matthew 26

Bible focus: Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane and submits Himself to God's will.

Jesus was facing something incredibly difficult. He honestly told His Father how He felt, but He also chose to trust God's plan.

Today I have items in my box that will help me tell you the story of Jesus Praying in the garden. To make this more interactive with the kids, have each item in a separate box and let the kids open and share what's in the box.

Jesus in the garden is the powerful final night of prayer in Gethsemane where Jesus accepts his suffering just before his arrest.

Here is how you can tell this story using simple everyday props:

Props Needed:

- 1 An olive branch (or any green leaf/branch)
- 2 A small, empty cup (mug or paper cup)
- 3 A sleeping mask (or a small pillow)
- 4 A flashlight

(Open **Prop 1**: The Olive Branch and hold it high.)

Teacher: Imagine a quiet, dark night. The air smells like fresh rain and crushed leaves. Jesus and his closest friends have just finished their last dinner together. They walk down a hill and enter a quiet grove of olive trees.

(Wave the branch gently, then set it down.)

This place is called the Garden of Gethsemane. Gethsemane means "oil press." It is a place where hard heavy stones crush olives to squeeze out their oil. Tonight, Jesus is about to experience a crushing weight in his own soul. He

looks at his friends and says, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

(Open **Prop 2:** The Cup. Hold it with both hands, looking down into it.)

Teacher: Jesus walks a little farther into the darkness. He falls to his knees, completely alone. He looks at the invisible weight of what is coming next—the betrayal, the pain, the cross.

(Hold the cup out in front of you, as if offering it up.)

He prays, "Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me". Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed and says, "Yet not as I will, but as you will." He chooses to drink the bitter cup for us. Think of a rule or a situation where you struggle to obey, and pray: "God, help my heart want to do what is right."

(Set the cup down. Open **Prop 3:** The Sleeping Mask. Hold it over your eyes for a second, then pull it down.)

Teacher: After praying, Jesus goes back to his friends, looking for comfort. But instead of praying with him... they are fast asleep.

(Drop the mask onto the table heavily.)

Jesus wakes them up and asks, "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" This happens three times. Every time Jesus finishes a painful prayer, his disciples have fallen asleep again. He tells them, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He is completely alone in his hardest hour.

(Keep the lights dim if possible. Open **Prop 4:** The Flashlight. Do not turn it on yet.)

Teacher: Suddenly, the quiet garden is filled with shouting, marching footsteps, and clanking metal.

(Click the flashlight ON. Shine it around the room brightly, then point it toward the audience.)

Torches light up the darkness! A crowd armed with swords and clubs arrives. At the front of the crowd is Judas, one of Jesus' own disciples. Judas walks up to Jesus and kisses him on the cheek to show the guards exactly who to arrest.

One of Jesus' friends pulls out a sword to fight, but Jesus stops him. Jesus doesn't run away. He doesn't hide. He steps right into the bright light of the torches and lets them take him away. He surrenders his freedom so that we could be set free.

(Click the flashlight OFF. Pause for a moment of quiet.)

Same information in a brief summary Prop 1: An Olive Branch (The Setting)

- Hold up the branch: Imagine a grove of ancient, twisted trees under the dark night sky.
- The Action: Jesus walks into the Garden of Gethsemane with his close friends, the disciples, right after the Last Supper.
- The Meaning: The word "Gethsemane" means "oil press." Just like olives are crushed to make oil, Jesus is about to face heavy emotional crushing. He tells his friends, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

Prop 2: A Small Cup (The Prayer)

- Hold up the cup: Picture an empty, bitter cup in your hands.
- The Action: Jesus walks a little farther away, falls to the ground on his face, and prays. He says, "Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me." Think of a rule or a situation where you struggle to obey, and pray: "God, help my heart want to do what is right."
- The Meaning: The "cup" represents the intense suffering, pain, and separation from God he is about to carry for the sins of the world. But Jesus finishes his prayer with total surrender: "Not my will, but yours be done." He is deeply distressed, yet he chooses to obey.

Prop 3: A Sleeping Mask or Pillow (The Tired Disciples)

- Hold up the mask: Place it over your eyes or set it down to show sleep.
- The Action: Jesus walks back to find Peter, James, and John fast asleep. He wakes them up and asks Peter, "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?"
- The Meaning: This happens three times. Jesus is fighting the spiritual battle alone while his closest friends are too weak and tired from grief to stay awake. Jesus gently warns them that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Prop 4: A Flashlight (The Arrest in the Dark)

- Turn on the bright light: Shine it across the room to mimic torches and lanterns flashing in the night.
- The Action: Sudden noise breaks the quiet. Judas arrives, leading a large crowd holding swords and clubs. Judas walks up to Jesus and kisses him on the cheek as a sign to the guards.
- The Meaning: One of the disciples pulls out a sword and cuts off a servant's ear, but Jesus stops him and heals the man. Jesus does not fight back. He steps forward into the light of the torches, surrenders to the guards, and allows himself to be arrested to save humanity.

Snack: Flower Garden



What You'll Need For These Flower Garden Graham Crackers

- **Graham Crackers** – You could use regular, chocolate, or cinnamon-covered. We just had regular ones on hand, and they worked great. You could also make your own if you don't have any and feel ambitious!
- **Cream Cheese or Frosting** – Cream cheese is the base to stick everything else on the graham cracker. I like that it creates a white canvas to work on, but you can also use nut butter, jelly, or even frosting.
- **Chocolate Cookie Crumbs** – The “dirt” is made from chocolate cookie crumbs. Any cookie will work, and your graham crackers will still be beautiful even if you don't have any cookie crumbs on hand! Crackers would work, too!
- **Pretzel Sticks** – I used pretzel sticks for the flower stem, which worked great. If you don't have any on hand, get creative and work with what you have!
- **Fruit/Nuts/Seeds** – I'd gone to the grocery store before I made these, so I happened to have lots of fresh fruit to play with. We used strawberries, pineapple, and blueberries. We also used dried fruit and nuts. There are so many options for what you can use to decorate your Flower Garden Graham Crackers!

Game: “Your Choice!”

"Stay Awake, Watch and Pray" (High-Energy Tag)

This game brings to life Jesus asking Peter, James, and John to keep watch while he prayed, only to find them repeatedly falling asleep.

- **The Setup:** Designate a large playing area. One or two players are "**The Distractors**" (it). Another player is the "**Prayer Partner**". The rest of the players are "**The Disciples**".
- **The Action:** The Disciples run around trying to avoid being tagged by the Distractors.
- **The Sleep Rule:** If a Disciple is tagged, they "fall asleep" by lying completely flat on the ground.
- **The Rescue:** To wake a sleeping player up, the **Prayer Partner** must run over, high-five them, and yell "**Wake up and pray, Not My will !**"
- **The Twist:** The Prayer Partners cannot be tagged, but the Distractors will try to guard the sleeping players to keep them from waking up.
- **The Lesson:** Discuss how hard it was for the disciples to stay awake and alert, and why we need God's help to stay spiritually strong. This week when you want to complain or argue, choose to pray for a willing attitude instead.

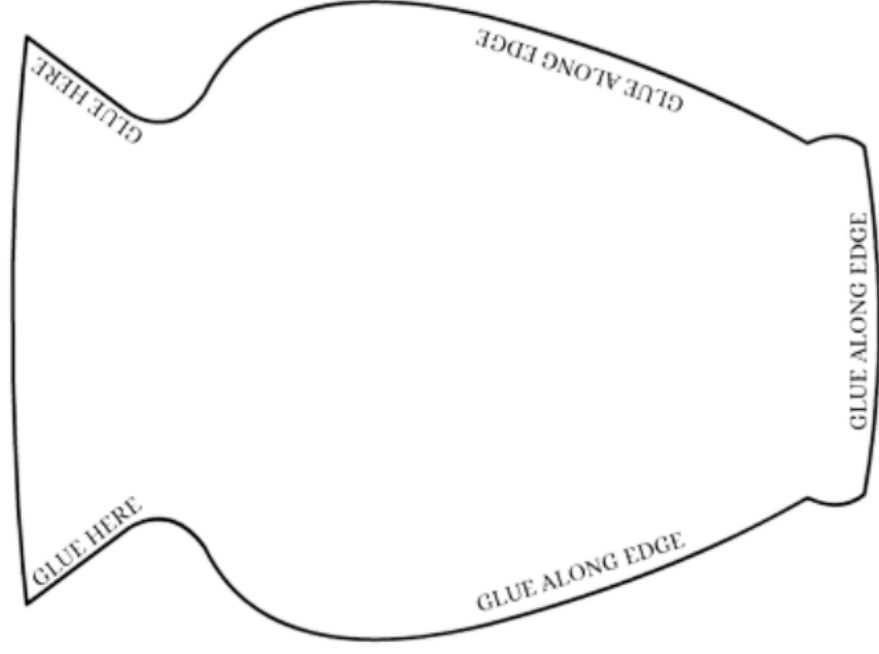
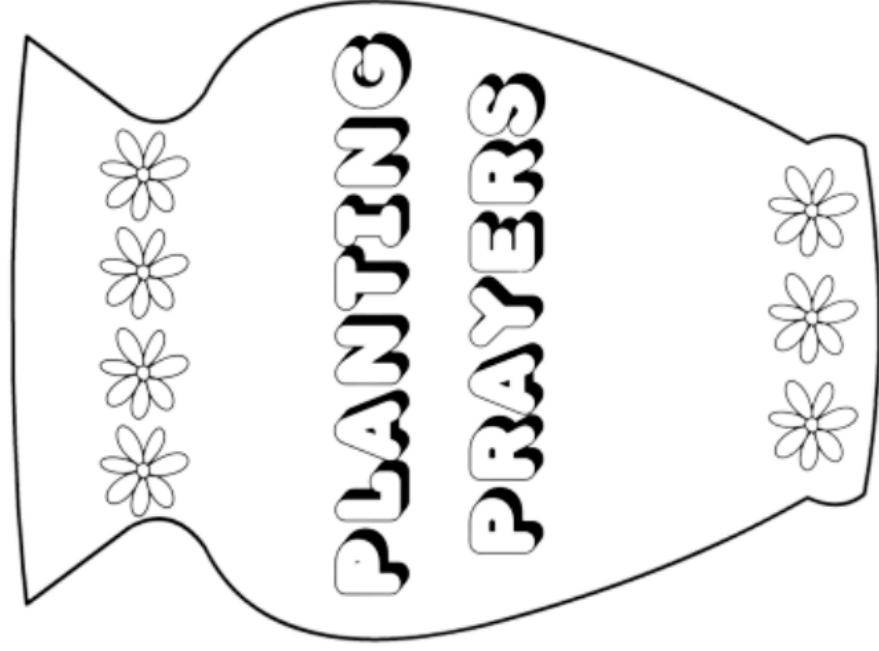
Craft: Garden of Gethsemane Flowers

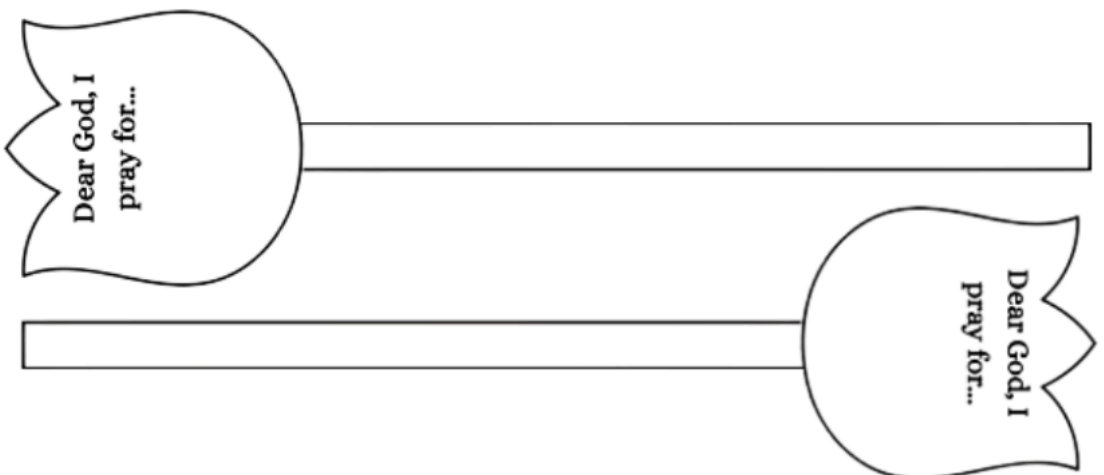
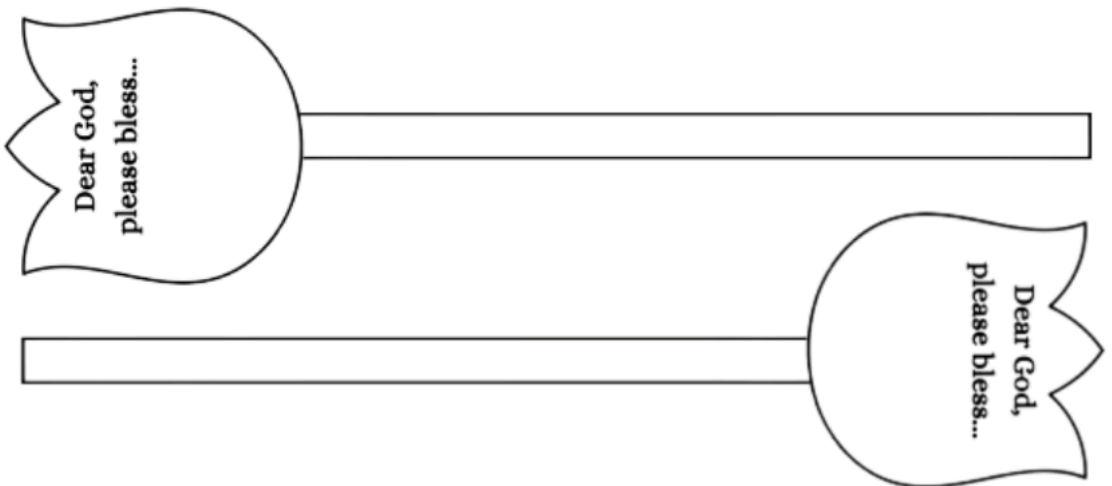
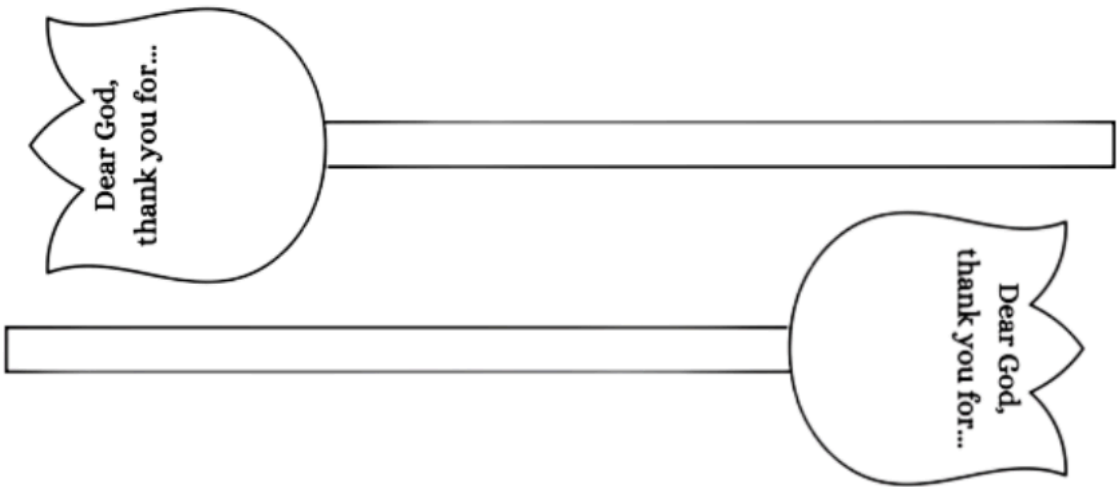
Praying willingly means letting go of what we want because we trust that God's plan is safer and better than ours.

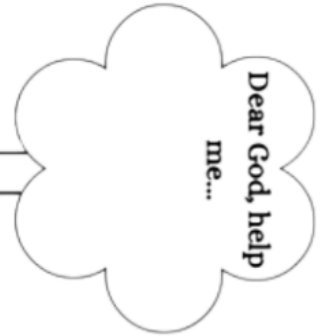
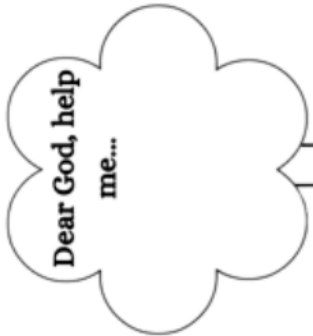
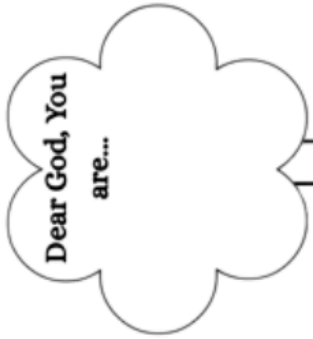
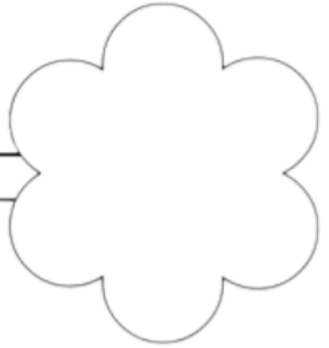
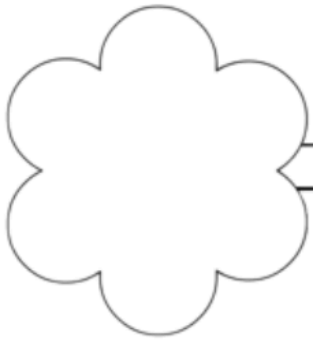
1. Color and decorate the flower pot and flowers.
2. Fill in each flower.
3. Carefully cut out the flowers and the pot. (For time or younger children pre cut)
4. Fold the sides and bottom tabs on the pot.
5. Glue along the edges only to form a flower pot.
6. Place the flowers inside the pot.
7. Arrange and glue them in place if desired.



PLANTING PRAYERS









20 minutes

Put four signs around the room:

THANKFULLY - BOLDLY - HONESTLY - WILLINGLY

Read one of the situations below, choose them randomly from below. Kids run to the prayer response they think fits best. Count down from 5. There can be more than one correct answer—use this to discuss why.

THANKFULLY

- You got a new pair of shoes you really wanted.
- The sun is shining after a week of rain.
- You passed a hard math test.
- Your grandma made you your favorite meal

BOLDLY

- You want to share your faith with a new friend at school.
- You need to say "no" to something you know is wrong.
- You have to read your report in front of the whole class.
- You're scared to stand up for someone being bullied

HONESTLY

- You accidentally broke a plate and need to tell your parents.
- You feel lonely and left out at recess.
- You are angry at God because a pet got sick.
- You're really upset because your friend hurt your feelings

WILLINGLY

- You give your last snack to a sibling.
- You clean up a mess you did not make.
- You share your toys with a cousin who visits.
- Your parents ask you to help someone you don't want to help.

Honestly

Willingly

Thankfully

Boldly



15 minutes optional bounce house

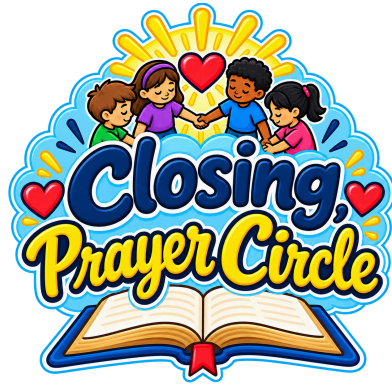
Colossians 4:2

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Write the verse one word per ball.

The verse is written out on small round balls that are thrown into the bounce house or scattered around the room. Break your group into smaller groups. One person from each team goes and tries to find the first word of the memory verse. The second person will go after the first person has returned, they find the second word. The group must work together to get all of the pieces of the verse in the correct order. Then recite it as a group.





15 minutes

Bring everyone together. - Place four objects in the center:

- ❤️ Heart — Thankfully
- 🦁 Lion — Boldly
- 🪞 Mirror — Honestly
- 👐 Hands — Willingly

Explain: *“Prayer isn’t just something we do at church. Prayer is how we talk with God every day.”*

Have four children lead the four prayers.

Child 1 — Thankful

“God, thank You for...”

Child 2 — Bold

“God, please give us courage to...”

Child 3 — Honest

“God, I want to tell You that I feel...”

Child 4 — Willing

“God, help me to follow You when...”

Finish with everyone saying:

“We will devote ourselves to prayer!”

☀️ Take-Home Challenge

Give each child a “4 Ways to Pray This Week” card (Two options):

≡ 4 WAYS TO PRAY ≡

PRAY THANKFULLY	PRAY BOLDLY	PRAY HONESTLY	PRAY WILLINGLY
			
Thank God for who He is and what He has done.	Ask without fear knowing God listens and cares.	Talk to God about how you really feel.	Choose to pray and trust God's plan.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

≡ PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING! ≡



THANKFULLY**BOLDLY****HONESTLY****WILLINGLY**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2