

I CAN HELP OTHERS WHEN I PRAY



Week 5 – Preschool Additional Resources for Parents

ACTIVITY: Telephone Toys

INSTRUCTIONS: Give the kids a variety of toy telephones, old telephones, and mobile phones to play pretend with. When we talk on the phone, we talk to someone like our mom or dad or a friend. When we pray, we can talk to God. We can pray for someone to get better or pray for God to give someone the things they need. You can help others when you pray.

ACTIVITY: On the Go Prayers

INSTRUCTIONS: Give the kids toy cars and blocks to play with. Help the kids build a church building and a house with the blocks. You can pray wherever you go. You can even pray when you are in the car. God wants us to pray everywhere we go.

THE BIG IDEA: I can help others when I pray.

I can (Point two thumbs to your chest.)

Help others (Point to the other people in the room.)

When I pray (Get on your knees and hold your hands together.)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 12:1-17

Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison

12 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. ⁴After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

¹² When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

¹⁵ "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

¹⁶ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

Peter was telling people about Jesus, which was a good thing to do. But some people did not like that. They put Peter in jail. Peter's friends didn't know how to help. So they gathered together and prayed. God heard their prayers and sent an angel to set Peter free! Everyone was so happy that God answered their prayer!

When we pray, we talk to God. The Bible tells us to pray, asking Jesus to help us and to help other people.

You can ask Jesus to help someone who is sick. (Hold your stomach)

You can ask Jesus to help someone who is sad. (Rub your eyes)

You can ask Jesus to help someone get the food they need. (Pretend to eat from a plate)

You can help others when you pray.

ACTIVITY: Catch a Prayer

INSTRUCTIONS: Toss a ball to each member of the family. When the person catches the ball, they can name someone who they can tell God thank you for. Make sure every person gets a turn. Thank You, God, for [name]. (Toss the ball to a different person)

ACTIVITY: Pray Like This

Let's stand up and raise our arms up to the sky.

We can pray like this, with our arms up high. **What is prayer?** (Prayer is talking to God)
Now let's sit down and hold our hands out.

We can pray like this when we hold our hands out. **Who can you pray for?** (Mom, dad, someone who is sick, etc.)

Now let's kneel on the floor and put our hands together.

We can pray like this when we kneel down low. **Will God help people when we pray for them?** (Yes, God will)

ACTIVITY: Hold My Hands in Prayer

INSTRUCTIONS: Fold a sheet of paper in half and trace the child's hand on the front of the paper. Cut out the hand shape so you have a card with two hands that fold together. Let the child color their hands.

You can hold your hands together when you are praying. When you open and close your card, you can remember to pray.