

# Alley SG - January 13-14, 2018

**Bible Truth:** Living on a Prayer (Model Prayer) • *Luke 11:1-4*

**Bottom Line:** Practice praying to God.

**Key Question:** How do you pray to God?

**Memory Verse:** "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." *1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

## 1. Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** "Secret Word" Activity Page (one per group)

**What You Do:**

- **Divide** your group into two teams.
- Each team **picks** one kid to be the first "guesser."
- **Shuffle** the "Secret Words" cards.
- **Choose** one team to go first.
  - That team **selects** a card and works together to **produce** a one-word clue to give to the "guesser."
  - After the one-word clue, the "guesser" **guesses** what the word is.
  - If the guesser doesn't get the word correctly, the other team gets a chance to give a different one-word clue.
  - Play continues back and forth until one team's guesser gets the word right.
  - The team to guess the word gets one point.

*Note: You can hint to the students that they should pay attention to the other team's clues and not focus only on their own for 2 reasons: the guesser can use a combination of the other team's clues as well as their own team's in order to figure out the secret word. Also, teams can't repeat each other's clues; otherwise, they forfeit their turn.*

- **Play** another round with a new "guesser" for each team.
- **Play** enough rounds so everyone gets a turn at being the "guesser."
- The team with the most points **wins**.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** "Questions?" Activity Pages (one per child), pens

**What You Do:**

- **Give** each kid a "Questions?" from the activity pages and a pencil.
  - If you have more than 8 kids, divide kids into groups of four or five.
- When you **say**, "GO," each kid **writes** as much as she can to answer the question on her page.
- When you **say**, "PASS," the kids **stop** writing (even if they are in the middle of a sentence) and **pass** their papers to the kid on their right.
- Kids **read** what is on the paper passed to them and . . .
  - **Write** a "!" if they agree with the comments written by other kids

- **Write** a “?” if they are confused by a comment
- **Write** short additional thoughts they have related to the question at the top of the page
- **Continue** until each kid has her original page. Be sure to vary the amount of time kids have each paper to keep interest high and to keep them motivated to move quickly.
- Briefly **discuss** the answers:
  - What did you notice?
  - What did people agree with?
  - Was there more than one answer for the questions? Why do you think some of the questions had more than one answer?
  - What was confusing? Why was it confusing?

### **3. Bible Story Extension**

**What You Need:** Bibles, paper, pens

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids to **brainstorm** situations they should share with God. Examples could be:
  - How I am feeling
  - Difficulties I am having with friends
  - Questions I have about Him
  - What I am grateful for
  - Bad thoughts
  - Good thoughts
  - When I struggle to forgive a mean kid at school
  - Asking for help in sports tryouts
  - Praising God for good things
  - Asking Him for help for difficult things
- **Read** Luke 11:1-4.
- **Encourage** kids to select one of the situations and **write** a prayer to God.
  - They can work alone or in groups.
  - Encourage them to use Luke 11:1-4 as a model for their prayer.
  - Allow them to be creative; perhaps their prayer is a song or a poem or even a rap ballad!
- **Explain** that some prayers are only between you and God. Other times, we pray to God out loud as a group.
- **Ask** students if anyone wants to volunteer to share their prayer with the group.

### **4. Discussion Questions**

- What are things you tell God when you pray?
- When is it hard to pray? What can you do if you don't feel like praying?
- What can you do if don't know what to say to God?

## **5. Verses to Take with You**

**What You Need:** Bible, index cards, pens

**What You Do:**

- **Read** 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and **ask**:
  - How often does God want to hear from you?
  - Why do you think God asks you to pray so often?
  - If you didn't talk to God for a week or a month, what would happen with your relationship with Him?
- **Give** kids an index card and **encourage** them to **create** a list of 7 conversation starters or prayer starters, one for each day of the week.
- They can work together or on their own.
- If they are struggling, refer them to Luke 11:1-4 as a model. Examples could be:
  - Lord, You are . . .
  - Lord, forgive me for . . .
  - Lord, help me to forgive . . .
  - Lord, thank you for . . .
  - Lord, please help . . . (asking for help for others)
  - Lord, today I am feeling . . . because . . .
  - Lord, guide me to be . . .
  - Lord, I need help with . . .
  - Lord, help me focus on You especially when . . .
  - Lord, help me to trust You when . . .
- **Challenge** kids to pray continuously and, if they are struggling with what to say, to use the list they created to help get them started.

*Tip: Explain that how we talk to God depends on how He created us. Some of us love to write and may journal our thoughts to God, and some of us are singers and we may sing our prayers to Him. Some of us are comfortable talking out loud to God, and others are not, so we talk to Him in our heads. However it is you pray, emphasize that the important thing is to pray continuously, to talk to Him often and stay connected to God.*

**Before closing Small Group, PRAY:**

*"Dear God, You know us so well, and You know we need Your Word to teach us, to remind us how incredible You are. Thank You for reminding us to pray to you continuously, to stay connected to You. Even when we can't think of words and don't know what to say, You are still there waiting to hear from us. Thank You for giving us instruction for how to pray so that even when words fail us, we know we can say: Father, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. (NirV) Amen."*

**Hand out "God Time" Sheets, and remind students to bring them back the following weekend for \$3 in Alley Cash.**