

# PRAYER, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

## Bible Focus – Week One

### Prayer

**Objective:** Kids will be taught the meaning, purpose, and importance of prayer.  
**Subjective:** The kids will develop a desire to pray without ceasing.  
**Scripture:** Acts 12:1-19  
**Verse:** “Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” I Thessalonians 5:17&18

#### Reality Check



A small piece of paper per kid

#### Reality Prep



It is important the secondary-nurturers talk through this activity. There are many possible reactions – be prepared

- Write each kid’s name on a small piece of paper
- Do not be concerned whether or not the kid will be there
- Each possibility is a teachable moment

#### The Activity

- Have the kids sit on the floor in a circle
- Tell them that you are going to hand them a piece of paper with the name of another kid on it
- Their task over the next three minutes is to learn as much as they can about the person whose name they have
  - The more information they get from the person the more KidTrek Bucks they will receive
- If they have known the assigned person for a while, tell them to learn something they’ve never known about the person
- You are to give them no other directions, it is for them to reason what to do
  - There will be confusion because everyone will be trying to talk to someone else at the same time
  - Some kids will have the name of someone who isn’t even there
- Be prepared. They are going to get frustrated because they won’t know what to do. Ask questions. Why do you feel this way? Is there another way you could learn about this person? How? Think about how you have gotten to know your best friend



#### Activity Purpose

Because you are giving few guidelines in asking each kid to get to know one other kid better, there is going to be pandemonium. Read over *Debriefing* now to see where this activity may lead.

- The older kids may become overly aggressive in trying to get their information

### *Debriefing*

1. **What did you think when I told you what you were to do?**
  2. **What did you need to do to learn about the person whose name you had?**  
They needed to talk to the person. They can't learn much by just sitting looking at the person.
  3. **Was this activity more difficult than you first thought it would be? Why or why not?**  
Everybody was trying to talk to someone else, all at the same time. No order was set up. Some may have had the name of a kid who wasn't there today.
  4. **Did anyone get frustrated? Why or why not?**  
If a kid tried to speak to his/her assigned person, but the assigned person was speaking to someone else, it could be frustrating. It would also be frustrating if the assigned person was not there.
  5. **Who learned something new about someone they have known for a while?**  
You want them to discover that, though they have known an individual for a long time, there is always something new they can learn.
  6. **What do you think is the most effective way to learn about someone?**  
We get to know one another by talking to each other. If you want to know more about someone, ask questions that will allow the person to speak of him/herself. You could also ask the person to write you a letter.
- Today we are going to learn how we can get to know God better.**

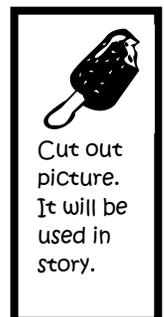
## Hearing the Word



Picture of man in jail, masking tape, 12 chairs, chain, bathrobe

### *Word Prep*

- The script can be read
-  Each secondary-nurturer should know exactly what s/he is to do during the telling of the story.
- Mark X's on the ground with masking tape where each participant is to stand
- Place chairs in the "jail" to represent the soldiers you don't have
- If you are not able to gather real chains, make two chains out of paper rings



Cut out picture.  
It will be used in story.

## *The Word*

- Show the kids the picture of the man behind the bars
- **Where is this man?**  
He is in jail
- **Why does someone go to jail?**  
Because they have broken a law
- **Today we are going to hear the story of a man who went to jail. This man went to jail because he told people about Jesus. The authorities did not want people to know about Jesus.**
- **As I tell the story, the other Trek Team Leaders are going to choose different people to play the different parts.**
- **It is important that you are very quiet and do exactly as your Trek Team leader shows you.**
- **You cannot be a part of the story unless you participate quietly and orderly.**

## *The Story*

**Herod, the king, wanted the people to like him. He knew that, by arresting Christians the people would be happy. So Herod arrested Peter who had been a very close friend of Jesus.**

(Take a boy. Put a robe on him and a crown on his head. Show him the x he is to stand/sit on. Take another boy to play the part of Peter. Wrap some type of chains around his legs and pretend to hammer it into the wall. Use masking tape to tape the chains to the wall.)

**Herod was going to make sure that Peter would not be able to get away. So he sent four squads of soldiers to guard him. Each squad had four soldiers.**

(Each squad had four soldiers in it but you probably won't have enough kids to have sixteen soldiers. Choose four kids – walk them over to Peter. Show each one where s/he is to stand. Use chairs to represent the missing "soldiers" This way the kids can see how many soldiers were guarding one man.)

**We don't have enough people to play the sixteen soldiers so we are going to use chairs to represent the other soldiers. Pretend they are people.**

**While Peter was in jail, the people from his church were praying for him continually.**

(Take a group of kids to a spot and have them kneel in a posture of prayer. Be prepared for kids to get antsy as you set them up. Remind them they want to remember each part of the story so they should be listening carefully.)

**One night, Peter was sleeping bound with chains, between two guards. There were two more guards standing just outside the bars of his cell.**

(Move the participants around. It will be faster if each secondary-nurturer is assigned to a participant to move him/her around)

**Suddenly, an angel appeared and a light shone in the jail cell. Imagine that there is an angel standing here by Peter and that there is a bright light in the cell.**

(Do not use any artificial light. Let them use their imaginations. To use artificial light would give the concrete thinkers the wrong impression of light from the presence of an angel.)

**The angel told Peter to get dressed and follow him.**

(A secondary-nurturer takes the chains off Peter and wraps him in a robe)

**Peter thought he was dreaming. The angel led him past the guards to the iron gate that leads into the city. The gate opened as they approached and they walked out onto the street. The angel disappeared. Peter now knew that he was not dreaming. Peter went to the house of Mary the mother of John.**

(Secondary-nurturer leads him to the group of praying people.)

**Peter knocked on the door. Rhoda, the servant girl came to the door. When she heard Peter's voice, she got so excited she ran into the group of praying people and did not let Peter in the door.**

(Choose a "Rhoda" to follow the actions. Peter remains standing at the "door.")

**The people who were gathered to pray for Peter told Rhoda that she was out of her mind. There was no way that Peter could be there. But Peter kept knocking. When they finally opened the door, they were amazed to see Peter standing there.**

(Secondary-nurturer stays with Peter showing him what he should do. Do the prayers follow the story and respond? If not, read it again and remind them to listen and do what is read.)

**Peter motioned to them to be silent. He told them how the angel had come and taken him out of prison. Peter told them to tell the other believers what God had done. Then he left and went to another place.**

(Encourage Peter to do what is read)

**We are now going to meet in our Trek Teams.**



K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Secondary-nurturers  
On the page after the  
Chat n Chew time is a  
page for you to use with  
your kids

## PRAYER, PRAISE & THANKSGIVING Bible Focus – Week One Prayer

**Objective:** Kids will be taught the meaning, purpose, and importance of prayer.  
**Subjective:** The kids will develop a desire to pray without ceasing.  
**Scripture:** Acts 12:1-19  
**Verse:** “Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:17 & 18

### Chat ‘n Chew



Materials: Bible per child, gum, a blank sheet of paper per kid, a pencil per kid

I am going to give each of you a piece of gum. Your participation in our discussion will determine what you do with the gum at the end of Chat’n Chew. If you participate in our discussion, then your gum will go on this chart. Show chart. When the chart is full, the Trek Team will get to choose any dessert they wish.

- Write the name of every person or group of people you can remember being in the story.**  
Herod, Peter, soldiers, people praying, Rhoda, angel. Have them lay their papers in front of themselves so you can see who wrote down what names. Praise them for the names they remembered.
- Who was Herod? Peter? Soldiers? People praying? Rhoda? Angel?**  
Let them take turns telling you what they remember about each person or group.

- How did Peter get out of prison?**  
The people prayed and God sent an angel to break the chains and open the doors
- What do you think praying is?**  
Praying is talking to Jesus
- So why do you think the people talked to Jesus about Peter being in prison?**  
They knew that Jesus could get Peter out of prison.
- Do you think this is the first time they had talked to Jesus?**  
The fact that the Bible tells us they were in a prolonged (vs. 5) time of prayer tells us that they were used to praying and they expected an answer.
- When we pray, we build a relationship with God. Remember when you were supposed to learn more about someone in the group? What did you have to do to learn something new about him/her?**  
S/he had to talk to the person. If s/he didn’t talk to the person s/he wouldn’t get to know him/her. God wants us to talk with Him as we go through our day.
- There is a big difference between God and humans. God can talk to everyone at the same time. Whenever you speak to Jesus He will hear you. You can talk to Him throughout the day. In a group, we bow our heads so we aren’t distracted by other people. But you can talk to Jesus with your eyes open. When are some times you can talk to Jesus?**  
Let this be a brainstorming time. Basically lead them to discover that they can speak with Jesus continually, anywhere and anytime.
- How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus wants you to speak with Him continually throughout each day?**  
Close with prayer. Let them talk to Jesus about anything they desire. This is the introduction to prayer. The teaching will continue in Life Skills and Crafts.

K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Secondary-nurturers  
Give this sheet and a pencil to each child. You read the names slowly. They are to circle each name they remember as being in the story.



**Rhoda**

**James**

**Esther**

**Peter**

**Angel**

**John**

**Jesus**

**Herod**

**People praying**

**Soldiers**

**Rhoda**

**James**

**Esther**

**Peter**

**Angel**

**John**

**Jesus**

**Herod**

**People praying**

**Soldiers**