

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	1	2	WORSHIP	Talking to God	15: Praying for Others

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes
(Mod.= Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Musical M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us and hearing us when we pray. Help us to learn to talk to you every day, in every situation. Thank you for answering our prayers and helping us to please you. We love you and praise you for all you've done. Amen.

Starter:

Each child gets a piece of paper and draws a prayer request, fold the paper into an aeroplane, then stands in a circle and flies the planes towards someone in the group. Each child picks up an aeroplane. Arrange the children into groups of two or three and pray the request on the paper or ask the child that has drawn it to say what is the prayer for and they say the prayer together.

Learning objectives:

To learn that Jesus has prayed for His people and we, as children of God, we are called to pray for others.

To understand that praying for others is giving God the power and glory that are His, as well as loving our neighbour.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that God desires to have a relationship with each of us, and an important part of any relationship is to communicate. God has established prayer as a means for us to communicate with him. Through prayer, we can praise God, ask for forgiveness, thank God for all he's done, and let our requests be made known to him. Prayer allows us to open our hearts to God and let Him know our thoughts and desires.

In praying to His Father, Jesus prayed for His people. Intercessory prayers can be made for every "good gift" from God for the sake of our salvation and of others. Such prayers can include petitions for every kind of blessing, both for the body and the soul. The teacher will explain to children that God tells us to pray and that they can pray to God any time. Children will also be explained that praying is talking with God. Children will be shown pictures of places where we can pray. The pictures will be used to help kids understand when and where we can pray.

Learning to pray for others is one of the first things we learn as Christians. The teacher will invite the children to think why we pray for others and why we ask others to pray for us (we pray for our friends because we love them, we desire their good, we desire their growth). As children of God, in whom His Spirit dwells, we too are called to pray for others. In prayer, we live out the reality that all good things come from His hands, that our lives are in His hands, that all things happen in conformity with the purpose of His will. Praying for others is as much about giving God the power and glory that are His, as it is about loving our neighbour.

2. Ideas for creative prayers

Thank you, sorry, please - teaspoon prayers: Use the three words "thank you", "sorry", "please" as a simple way of structuring a prayer. Have a short time of chat and discussion focusing on what the children might want to say to God using these three words. Finally have a short time of open prayer or ask a leader to weave together all the topics mentioned, in a closing prayer. TSP, the first letters of "Thank you", "Sorry", "Please", remind us of the recipe book abbreviation for teaspoon. It can be helpful to give younger children a plastic teaspoon to take home to remind them of these three basic categories for prayer.

Three envelopes: Some children like start out by being shy about praying out loud. We can therefore pin up three envelopes labelled "Thank you", "Sorry" and "Please" and let children write/ draw their prayers on slips of paper and put them in the appropriate envelope. Check the envelopes from time to time to let everyone share in the joy of the "thank you" prayers and to find out how the "please" prayers have been answered.

Prayer paper chain: Give each child a strip of coloured paper and encourage them to write a one line thank you prayer. Fasten all the strips together to make a festive paper chain that you can hang across the room. If you have a small group, you might want to give each person two or three strips of paper or add to the chain week by week. The prayer paper chain is particularly effective on special occasions like Christmas, Easter and church anniversaries when a long chain can be made.

Hand prayers: Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to draw around and cut out the shape of their own hand. On the fingers they should draw: something to praise God for, something to thank God for, something for which they would like to ask God's help, something they would like to say sorry about. A leader should conclude by praying for the group, leaving pauses for people to bring their own prayers to God silently.

Resources: pictures of places where we can pray, pictures that illustrate children saying their prayer, prayer book, envelopes, pencils, teaspoon, strips of coloured paper, plain paper

Review: We pray for others so that they can be blessed by God.

Follow Up: Think about 5 people you can pray for throughout the following week.