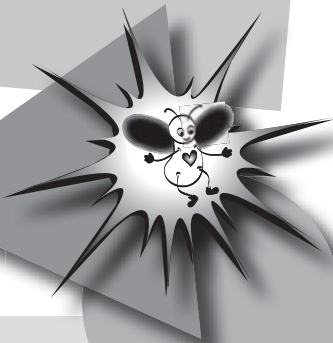


Pause To Pray



MATERIALS

- HELLO, GOD**
phones
- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**
Doctrine and Covenants
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
dolls/stuffed animals
- JESUS IS OVER HERE**
blanket
or masking tape
- A PRAYER FOR YOU**
clip clothespins with names
prayer can
- FAMILY PRAYER CANS**
coffee or dry drink mix cans
construction paper
pre-cut hands
glue sticks
marker
clip clothespins
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**
offering basket
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**
take-home pages

HELLO, GOD

Have a variety of phones on the table for children to play with as they arrive. Talk about how phones allow us to talk with people who we cannot see. With a phone call we can talk to someone all the way around the world. Relate this to how they talk to God. You cannot see God and you cannot pick up the phone and call God. To talk to God we pray!

SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY

Write each word on a hand shape and let the children find them in Mark.

**Jesus
prayed.
—Mark 1:35**

SCRIPTURE STORY

There are two stories in the text from Mark 1:29–39. Create a setting for the story (*page 20*) to help children visualize the scene.

Let children tell about times when they prayed for something or about something. Use the following questions for a guide:

- What kinds of things do children pray for?
- Where to they go to pray?
- What do the children do when they are sick?
- Who do they call to help?
- What part do parents play? doctors? the elders?
- What else can we talk to God about?
- Why is it important to take time each day to pray?

GOD IS RIGHT THERE

Round: 2 part

Traditional

No mat ter where I may hap pen to be;

God is right there with me, God is right there with me,

God is right there with me, close as can be.

Jesus Is Over Here

When people heard about Jesus, they would follow him anywhere to hear his message. That was one reason Jesus would get up early to pray. Sometimes he needed to be alone with God.

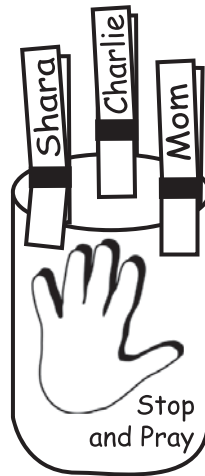
Spread a blanket on the floor in a large area, or mark off an area on the floor with tape. Place the children at various locations around the blanket/tape. Explain that this is the Sea of Galilee. You are going to walk around and whisper in each child's ear. Most of the time the whisper will just be "Buzz buzz buzz buzz." But one child will hear the message, "Jesus is over here!" The child hearing those words repeats them out loud. All the other children run around the shore of the sea to get to where Jesus is. Careful! No stepping in the water or bumping into someone else.

A Prayer for You

Write the names of class members on individual clip clothespins, and arrange them around the top of a decorated prayer can. As each child is prayed for, their clothespin is dropped in the can. Then it's easy to see who didn't get to come, so prayers can be offered for them.

Family Prayer Cans

Wrap a can (coffee or dry-drink-mix cans) for each child with construction paper. Help the children trace and cut out two hands from different colors of paper. (Hands can be pre-cut to save time.) Have children glue their hands onto the can to represent praying hands. Add the words, "Stop and Pray." Write the names of each child on clothespins. Provide extra clothespins for other family members and friends.



Echo Prayer

Use the following prayer, which is adapted from the Lord's prayer, as an echo prayer with the children.

"Teach Us to Pray"

by Janice Townsend

Jesus' friends said,
Teach us, Lord Jesus—
teach us to pray.
Teach us to talk
to God every day.

So Jesus taught his friends to say,
Great God in heaven,
we honor your name.
May all earth obey you
and in heaven—the same.
Please give us our food,
and help us be strong;
help us feel sorry
for the things we do wrong.
Help us to try
to do what is right,
for, God, you are good;
you are love . . . you are light.
Amen.

Prayer Walk

Children learn to pray by watching others, being taught by parents and teachers, and practicing prayer. There are many ways to pray and all should be encouraged. Take a prayer walk. Stop at different spots to pray. Thank God for . . .

- kitchen—food
- water fountain—water to drink
- window—birds, trees, etc.
- sanctuary—a place to worship
- pastor's office—the pastor
- front door—all who enter
- church seal—our church
- piano—the gift of music
- pulpit—for today's speaker

"Sharing Generously"

Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.
In faith we give because we care,
Sharing generously.
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,
See our money helping others,
bringing love to one another.
God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.



Disciples' Generous Response

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."

Family Connections

Make copies of the Family Connections (page 20) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.

Jesus' Visit to Simon's House by Marge Nelson

Jesus and the disciples had been to the synagogue. After the service, Jesus, James, John, Simon, and Andrew all headed to Simon's house for the noon meal.

Simon's wife greeted them at the door. She told them her mother was very sick in bed. She had a fever and everyone was worried about her. Jesus asked where she was. Simon's wife took him to the room where her mother lay sick in bed.

Jesus smiled at her. Then he took her hand in his and gently pulled. Simon's mother-in-law sat up in bed. Everyone was surprised! Her daughter went over to the bed and touched her mother's forehead. It was cool! The fever was gone! Jesus was still holding her hand. He helped her get out of bed and stand on the floor. She smiled at him and took a few steps. Then she kept going right on out to where the food was being prepared for the guests.

The disciples could hardly believe their eyes. Simon's wife and her mother were working together to serve the dinner. This was the second time in one day they had seen Jesus make someone well. The disciples stayed all afternoon. It was nice to visit and talk and hear Jesus tell stories. By evening, people were coming from all over town to see Jesus. They brought their friends and family who were sick or needed to be made well. Jesus helped them all.

Simon's wife and mother-in-law found places for the guests to sleep that night. It was very early in the morning when Jesus awoke. It was so early the sun wasn't up, and it was still dark outside. Jesus slipped quietly out of the house, walked through the empty streets, and headed out onto the hillside.

Jesus found a quiet place among the trees and knelt down to pray. He always liked to talk to God, but it was especially nice early in the morning when the earth was just waking up. He had so many things to talk to God about.

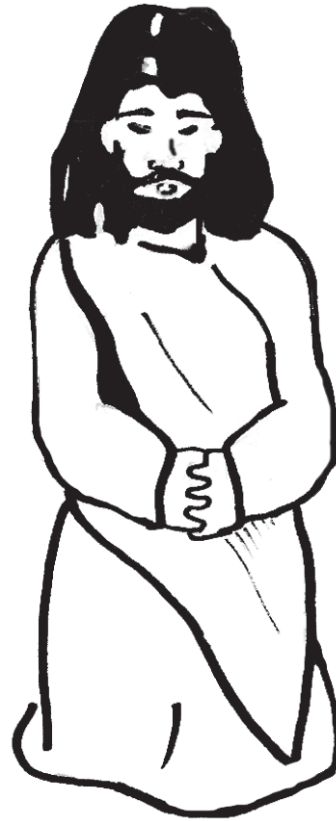
Jesus was still praying when the disciples found him. "Where have you been? We have been looking all over for you!" said Andrew.

"Yes, and not just us," added James. "Everyone is searching for you."

Jesus sighed and shook his head. He knew people wanted to find him and see him do more miracles. But Jesus had other people to reach and teach.

"Let's go on to the neighboring towns so I can tell them what God wants them to know. After all, that's what I came here to do." Jesus and the disciples left the place of prayer and headed out to walk through Galilee. There was much work to do.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS



- **Let's read today's story together.**
- **Pray with me before bed and meals.**
- **Let's take a prayer walk in our house. I will find things for us to pray for.**
- **We can use my "prayer can" to help us pray for family and friends.**