



Here We Come!

Play a game of “I See It!” Take turns naming things in the room represented by color or size. “I see a book with blue on it.” “I see someone wearing red.” “I see a toy bigger than my hand.” If necessary, add to the clues, reminding the children to “listen” for more hints.

Scripture Words and Worship

Print the words “awesome” and “God” on colorful paper. Cut out the letters U and R to represent the first two words of the scripture. Hide the words in the pages of Psalms. Talk about that book as one where people say wonderful things about God. Let the children tell you what the word “awesome” means to them. What does it say about God?

Up and at 'Em

For an action activity, use the song “Awesome God” *NS 4*. March around while singing. Play rhythm instruments. Clap and dance.

Hear Jesus Pray

Jesus talked to God and we can too.

Scripture Words

You are awesome, God!—Psalm 68:35
NIV adapted

Moving Music

- The song “Awesome God” (*NS 4*) is short and repetitive. Children can learn it and be able to sing along in worship services. They will probably assume “reigns from heaven” means rain showers.
- “Jesus Loves Even Me”

Jesus Loves Even Me

Phillip F. Bliss

I am so glad that Je- sus loves me,
 Je- sus loves me, Je- sus loves me. I am so glad that
 Je- sus loves me, Je- sus loves e- ven me.

There We Go

Ask the children to share with their family the praying hands they made. The family can take turns praying for each other.

Live and Learn

John 17:1–11 takes place during the last supper. John gives a more detailed account of the experience than the other Gospel writers. In this part of the story Jesus had said comforting things directly to his disciples. Now he addresses God in their presence, with a thankful heart. A simple version follows for use with the children.

The disciples had been together in the upper room for several hours. They had eaten a meal together and talked about many things. Jesus had said prayers. He had asked God to bless the bread. He had asked God to bless the wine. Now he asked God to bless the disciples.

Jesus looked up to heaven and began to talk to God.
“Thank you, God, for all you have done for me.
Thank you for my disciples. (Name each of the children.)
I know you, and now they know you too.
I have told them what you wanted me to say.
I told them what you are like.
I told them how much you loved them. (Name the children again.)
I told them how wonderful it is to live with you forever.
I have enjoyed this time being with my disciples. (I like to be with... names of children.)
Someday I want them to come with me to where you are.
I want all of us to live together forever and ever.
Until that time, please watch over them.
I know when they pray to you in my name, you will hear them.
I want them to remember the things I taught them and be kind to each other.
I want them to learn to live together, sharing and being happy.

Would you like to hear Jesus say a prayer for you? What do you think he would say?

Offer thank-you prayers to God and Jesus.

Story Talking

- When you need something you can't get yourself, who do you tell?
- When you like something, who do you tell?
- When you feel sad or happy, who do you tell?

Most of the time, the one you tell is probably a parent. We like to talk to our parents and share things with them. Prayer works the same way. It's how we talk to God about things that we need or like or feel. Let the children tell you what things they pray about.

Sometimes we pray for someone else. We hear about a friend who is hurt or sick, and we ask God to be with them and help them. Maybe our friend doesn't know we prayed, but God does. Take turns praying for each one in the class. Use starter sentences such as, “God, thank you for my friend, _____.”
I really like her because she _____.”

Sense-ations

Sometimes people say prayers and we listen to what they say. It helps to think about praying and who the person is talking to. We can listen to the words. Listening is like praying along with that person.

Sometimes things distract us when we are listening. It becomes harder to hear. Do some activities that involve hearing. Have children close their eyes. Ring a bell and tell them to raise a hand when they hear it. Add other sounds such as music playing or the radio going that will make it harder to pick out the sound of the bell.

Experiment with the ears. Have someone begin to read a story. Demonstrate how to cover your ears with your hands to shut out the sound. Begin a list of ice cream flavors. After two or three, cover the ears. When the list is complete, ask the children to name the flavors they heard mentioned.

Play music. Cover the ears and remove the hands quickly, experiencing the expansion in volume that occurs. Depending on the age of the children, they may also be able to notice a difference when they cup their hands behind their ears and then block the sound with the hands in front of the ears.

For a craft activity, use the pattern for praying hands (page 8). Trace the outline on tagboard and punch holes around the edges. Tape one end of a piece of yarn to form a point, and use it to lace around the shape.



Jesus taught us how to pray.