

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 2 • Week 3

WE TALK TO GOD WHEN WE PRAY

OBJECTIVE:

To teach that God wants us to talk to Him and that He always listens.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies Needed:

Read With Me Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, 1993

Cellular phone (pretend or real)

Do: Take a cellular phone from your coat or purse and pretend to dial a phone number. Wait a few seconds.

Say: Hello, God? Do you have time to talk to me right now? [Pause.] Do you know where my hamster is?

Ask: Is God ever too busy to talk? What if a lot of people are talking to Him at the same time about different things? How much do you think it costs to use a cellular phone? How much does it cost to talk to God?

Say: God loves each of us and loves to listen to us anytime, even when we are deeply troubled by something. And it's always free! Now I will read you a Bible story about a man in a very serious situation who prayed to God about it.

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Read the story of Elijah and the priests of Baal in 1 Kings 18:20-40 or on pages 201-209 from *Read With Me Bible*.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies Needed:

- Construction paper (light and dark colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pencils or extra fine markers

- Do: Ask each child to say one thing that they are thankful to God for. Have each child say one thing they would like to ask God for.
- Do: Trace both hands of the children on a sheet of white or light colored construction paper. Cut them out. On the left fingers write things to thank God for (use things the students have mentioned: Dad, Mom, family, school, toys, etc.). On the right fingers write things to ask God for (protection, obedient mind, healing, etc.). Glue both hands onto a larger, darker piece of construction paper.

MUSIC:

Teach the song "Thank You God." See the attached word and movement sheet.

MEMORY VERSE:

Philippians 4:6b "With thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

- Do: Prior to class print the memory verse on the chalkboard and underline each word. Have all the students say the scripture out loud several times together and individually. Then erase the last word and leave the underline. Repeat the scripture together filling in the blank. Continue this process until there are no words left on the chalkboard and see how many students are able to recite the entire verse.

THANK YOU GOD

Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

(spoken) Thank you God!

The Sabbath day is here.
The Sabbath day is here.
God made this day for joy and rest.
The Sabbath day is here.

We come to honor God.
We come to honor God.
He gave His only son for us.
We come to honor God.

God listens to our prayers.
God listens to our prayers.
He knows what's best for all of us.
God listens to our prayers.

It's fun to learn together.
It's fun to learn together
About our God's omnipotence.
It's fun to learn together.

(spoken) Thank you God!

SUGGESTED MOVEMENTS:

To begin, join hands to form a circle.

Verse 1: Begin singing as you joyfully circle to the right.

Verse 2: Stop. Continue holding hands. Look up.

Verse 3: Remain standing. Bow heads.

Verse 4: Circle to the left.

Stop. Words spoken with hands raised and heads up.

family activity

THE POINT:

Today we learned that God wants us to talk to Him and that He always listens. We read the story of Elijah and the priests of Baal.

ASK ME...

Who do we talk to when we pray?

Does God always have time to listen? Why? (He's omnipotent—all-powerful—and loves us.)

What did Elijah pray about? How did God answer him?

What should we pray about?

When should we pray?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have a discussion with your child about times you will pray with them. Perhaps make it a family tradition to pray with your child at bedtime.

Members of the family can take turns asking God's blessing at mealtime.

Invite your child to join you to "listen in" during your personal prayers on occasion. (Keep it rather short.)

Share personal experiences of answered prayer with your child.

When your child comes to you with a serious problem, discuss the possible solutions. (Remember, what seems trivial to you may be very serious to a child!) Offer to pray about it with them.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

—cut along dotted line—

(Teacher's note: Please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)